



ROTAGEN

The Bulletin of the Rotary Club
of Letchworth Garden City

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November 2009

TFL SCOUT EXPO 2009

Earlier this year we gave a local Scout Joe Hartley a donation towards the cost of a Scout venture to Swaziland. Some 60 Hertfordshire scouts and leaders travelled to Swaziland from 29th July to 13th August to an international Scout Camp TFL (Thirst For Life). Joe. and Matt Hart, also from this scout district, gave an illustrated talk about their experiences to some 40 people at Letchworth Hall Hotel on 11th October. This is a report of that meeting.



The Kingdom of Swaziland is a land-locked country about the size of Wales bordered by South Africa to the north, south and west, and by Mozambique to the east. It is a poor country: some 75% of the population are employed in subsistence farming, and 60% of the population live on less than US\$1.25 per day. Growth has been hampered by the effects of HIV and Aids, the prevalence of which is the highest in the world at 26.1%. The TFL campsite was 8km from the nearest main road.



Joe Hartley:

Each of the scouts had to raise £1350 for the project. The scouts were preceded by a large 40ft container which was shipped out some three

months earlier and which contained, among other things, 117 bicycles. The camp included scouts from the USA, South Africa, Germany and Singapore. After the opening ceremony, the scouts were divided into 3 sub-camps. Their aim was to build two new accommodation huts, a climbing frame and swings, and generally to leave the site better than when they arrived. Joe's team visited local NSPs (Neighbourhood Support Projects) and local primary schools where they handed out T-shirts. The contents of the container were distributed to the NSPs and to the schools.

They also got involved in an off-site building project, rebuilding a house for a disabled man whose home had been destroyed in a storm. Local scouts showed them how to build with the local materials!

Joe's team had two 2-day trips out of the camp, one to the Kruger National Park where they camped outside overnight, and one to Mozambique, for shopping, where the border crossings proved to be very frustrating.

They made many new friends, within their own group of scouts and with the local scouts, to whom they donated their tents at the end of the fortnight. On health and safety issues the group suffered only 3 scorpion stings, none of which proved to be fatal!

Matt Hart:

A lot of hard work was carried out, in spite of the locals having no concept of time! Four projects per day was the aim. The trip was taken in the winter season in Swaziland, winter being their dry season. However, they experienced the worst rainfall for 15 years.....! Matt was in a different group from Joe, and when in Mozambique visited the Mozambique Scout HQ. On their "day off" they visited Piggs Peak, a mountainous tourist area in the north of the country.

There they visited an orphanage for 100 young people. On their visit to the Kruger National Park Matt noted that all guns had to be sealed on entry into the park, to prevent illegal hunting. Partly because of the weather, the scouts were unable quite to complete the two accommodation units, leaving the local scouts to complete the roofs. The 40 ft container was left for the local people, who now use it as a secure storage facility, for example for the bicycles, which would otherwise "disappear".

Matt also remarked on how the local people made maximum use of the daylight; "early to bed, early to rise" was the rule of the day. He also remarked on how, despite all the deprivation, the local people always appeared happy, especially the babies.

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

13th October 2009

- Publicity was given to the Usborne Illustrated Dictionary which is an ongoing project of the Rotary Club of Tooting. The dictionary normally retails for £9.99 but Rotary Clubs can purchase them for £3.40 each. There is a minimum order of 32 (£108) - the normal class size. Clubs are encouraged to give these to schoolchildren in Year 6, for them to take on to their new secondary schools. Orders need to be placed before December for delivery in May 2010, i.e. before the end of the current school year. So far this year, clubs in 1080 have purchased just over 1,000 books: some districts have purchased more than 7,000. The dictionaries can also be delivered overseas. Details can be found at www.dictionary4life.com.
- DG John Samuel is still awaiting feedback from 66 of the 76 clubs in the district as to how Rotarians think the annual District Conference could be improved. (We have responded).
- On a vote, it was agreed that in future years the District Directory will be provided to clubs by electronic means, and hard copies will not be printed or distributed. This will give a substantial financial saving and enable details to be updated throughout the year.
- DG John Samuel gave the results of the post-Conference questionnaire which attendees to the District Conference at Lynford Hall had been asked to complete. 30% of the attendees completed the questionnaire (106 returns). On a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) the Conference overall scored 4.4. Others included value for money (4.4); venue (4.0); car park (4.3); easy access (4.2); lunch (3.2) and prior information (3.8). Four of the speakers scored over 4.5. The time allocated for questions only scored 3.5.
- As part of the "Thanks for Life" campaign centred on Rotary Day, 23rd February 2010, there will be a dinner at St Andrew's Hall, Norwich on that day. PDG John Gillespie hopes for an exciting speaker.
- The 2011 District Conference will be held on Saturday, 8th October 2011 at the Holiday Inn, Norwich.
- The next PETS day will be on Saturday, 6th February 2010 at Mildenhall Junior School.

The next District Quiz will be held in March/April 2010. The elimination heat for the west region will be in Royston on Wednesday 17th March. The final will be in Norwich on 14th April.

AAADD – Know the symptoms

Thank goodness there's a name for this disorder

Somehow I feel better, even though I have it.

Recently, I was diagnosed with AAADD– Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. This is how it manifests itself.

I decide to water my garden.

As I turn on the hose in the driveway I look over at my car and decide it needs washing.

As I head towards the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I picked up from the postman earlier.



I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.



I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the recycling box under the table, and notice that the recycling box is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the recycling first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the postbox when I take out the recycling paper anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my cheque book off the table and notice that there is only one cheque left.

My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the cup of coffee I'd been drinking.



I'm going to look for my cheques, but first I need to push the coffee aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

The coffee is getting cold, and I decide to make another cup.

As I head towards the kitchen with the cold coffee, a vase of flowers on the worktop catches my eye—the flowers need water.

I put the coffee on the worktop and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I'd better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I put the glasses back down on the worktop, fill a container with water, and suddenly spot



the TV remote control. Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realise that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.



I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor.

So, I put the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:
 the car isn't washed
 the bills aren't paid
 there is a cold cup of coffee sitting on the counter
 the flowers don't have enough water
 there is still only one cheque in my cheque book
 I can't find the remote
 I can't find my glasses
 and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all damn day, and I'm really tired.

Don't laugh - if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

(Submitted by Rtn John Moys)

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE

A team from District 1080 will be going to Bangalore in India on 31 January for 4 weeks. The incoming team from Bangalore will be arriving in 1080 in May. The Norwich clubs will host them for the first week, but hosts are needed for the following weeks.



AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARS

We now know that there are 6 scholars here in 1080 this year, all in Cambridge. This should enable us to hear from at least one of them while they are here.

“TRAID AID” BOXES

First, there were Aquaboxes; then there were Shelterboxes; now there are Traid Aid boxes. In 2006 Terry and John Asher and his wife Brenda decided that there was a need for a “new” box which would support the development needs of remote communities in Africa. The concept was enthusiastically supported by the Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven. Six different Traid Aid boxes are now available:



A Business in a Box

Builder : Blacksmith : Carpenter :
Mechanic : Teacher : Tailor/Seamstress

Each box, filled with a selected collection of brand new tools and equipment, is fully sealed and self-contained. It is provided with a set of wheels and a handle for easy movement and will provide the recipients with all of the basic requirements they need to support a local business that can contribute to the regeneration and development of themselves and the whole community.

Traid Aid is working with the Hope and Homes charity to provide boxes that are helping to transform the lives of desperate families, some of whom are headed by children and young people. The Traid Aid boxes provide them with the means to become self-sufficient and to face their futures with hope and confidence.

Boxes have been sent to Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, Romania, Nepal, China and India. Traid Aid has been approved by RIBI. Trevor Baylis, the “wind up” inventor, is their patron. It costs £399 to fill a box and send it out to the required country. The Grantham Kesteven Rotary Club, who had a stand in the Hall of Friendship at the recent District conference, would be happy to send someone to speak at one of our meetings. Further details can be found at www.traid-aid.org.

Zambia





Inner Wheel Club of Letchworth Garden City



President : Jane Bewell (01462 672380)

Secretary : Jane Pavey (01462 813179)

Programme

December 1st
December 9th

Christmas Lunch at Letchworth Hall Hotel 12 for 12.30
Christmas Coffee Morning at St Hugh's Church Hall
in aid of **Canine Partners** (*see below*)

Wives or partners of Rotarians would be most welcome to join us for a meeting at the Broadway Hotel or at any of the other events. *Please contact either of the Janes!*



Some of the tasks a trained Canine Partner can carry out include:

- **Opening, loading and unloading a washing machine**
- **Retrieving items such as keys or crutches**
- **Picking items off supermarket shelves**



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**Tickets for our coffee morning on 9th December
are available from Rosemary Mitchell (01462 686954)**



We warmly welcome our newest club member, Chris Nicholson, who was inducted by President Alan Goodwin on 21 October. Chris and his wife Jenny live in Letchworth. Chris' classification is "Sales & Marketing".

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS

Duty Rotarian	Speaker Finder	Speaker
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November (Rotary Foundation Month)

4 Nov	David Green	Alan Goodwin	DG John Samuel
11 Nov	John Elliott	Roger Buckley	David Grainger “Norton Way Motors”
18 Nov	Peter Harkness	Alan Goodwin	District Conference review
25 Nov	Tim Jeeves	BUSINESS MEETING	

December

2 Dec	John Hillson	Nigel Downes	Prof. Robert Tregay “Climate Change”
9 Dec	Bob Mills	TBA	
16 Dec		No meeting	
23 Dec		No meeting	
30 Dec		No meeting	

January (Rotary Awareness Month)

6 Jan	Sam Thakur	Brian Marshall	Brian Marshall “Overacting as a hobby”
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Advance warning

Our Christmas meeting this year with Letchworth Howard will be at the Broadway Hotel on **Monday 14th December, 6.45 for 7.15 (black tie)**.

The Business Meeting on 25 November will include a Special General Meeting for the election of club officers for 2010/2011, for the election of voting delegates for the RIBI conference in Bournemouth next April, and for the approval of the club accounts for the year ended 30 June 2009.



CLUB COUNCIL
The next meeting
is on
Tuesday 17 November
at 6 pm at
The Settlement

