

HUNS'TON MARDLE



Hunstanton Rotary Club
Autumn 2010



hunstanton-rotary.org.uk

Mardle #3

Here we are with the third edition of Huns'ton Mardle, in all its glory. Remember, this newsletter is for the club by the club. We welcome contributions from as many members as possible. Please send your stories, anecdotes, future activities, etc, etc, etc to David in the first place. Email is the much preferred method since it avoids re-typing. (Please don't submit in pdf format). David's email is :

davidjeanhall@hotmail.com

Roger's email is :-

roger.hoverd@sky.com.

Please bombard us with your submissions and ideas. As a member, it's your newsletter and, like your country, it needs you.

You may or may not have noticed, but the noun and verb "photograph" together with the noun "picture" are slowly but surely disappearing. In this computerised and digital age they are being replaced by "image" (imaging, imager, etc). To show that Huns'ton Mardle is truly with it and up to date, henceforth "image" will be the preferred option within these pages. *Roger*

The Ranfurly Library

Mike Meakin reminisces his experiences of a book collecting project in 1987

The Ranfurly library was a charity created in 1954 by Lady Hermione Ranfurly to collect and send second hand books to developing countries and was widely supported by Rotary Clubs. Books were taken to a warehouse in south London. At first they took any books but

the cost of disposing of unwanted books caused them to concentrate on educational books.

We were delighted to be offered surplus books from the Wells Junior School library and I went with a large estate car to collect them. A human chain of small boys filled the car with books at which point I discovered I had four flat tyres! With 25 psi extra in each tyre I made it to Ron Connor's house at Holme where the books were sorted.

In due course Ron and I took a load of books to London. As we had lunch I noticed the sapling outside seemed to be trying to escape. We came out into a London devastated by storm. We had picked the day of the 1987 hurricane.

Shop blinds had blown down; alarms were going off and numerous umbrellas were impaled on railings. Near Lords Cricket Ground about 50 metres of 6ft wall had collapsed flat across a pavement, remarkably without hitting anyone. It took us a long time to get home with many roads disrupted by upturned lorries. The rest of the books were sent down to London in Chris Swain's van.

A few days later I was called to the police station to pick up three boxes of the books. Someone forgot to shut the back door of the van!

Today the Ranfurly Library has changed its name to Book Aid International and deals only with new books. It serves 12 sub-Saharan countries. Details are on www.bookaid.org

Hunstanton Rotary

“In Action” or “Inaction”?

By President John Hornsby-Bates

Another summer nearly out of the way, and for us in Hunstanton Rotary it has been a good one. BBQ - Norton Hill and Kite Fair. All successful and what rewarding times we have had.

I was extremely proud, and very happy to take part in the presentations for Smithdon this year. An event I have not attended before, but to put “Rotary” in the frame it is a very important event. It was very well attended by most of the local “who’s who”. Such a pleasure to present the award for the Rotary Young Citizen to Matthew Baxter. He was a pupil of the school until last term and during his academic year achieved such a lot. He was always first to offer his services to the school, became involved in virtually everything that moved and proved to be a very worthwhile student. Some two hundred people attended, and this year’s presentations were punctuated with Musical Interludes, which were very nicely performed. The confidence of some of those pupils is tremendous, and a joy to see. The Rotary Endeavour cup went to Tom Finney. Who, amongst others gained the best GCSE results in the year group. What set Rotary apart is the fact that we attended and presented. There were also prizes from Hunstanton Round Table and “Probus”. This was a special event and very well organised.

I am so pleased with our achievements. Yes, they match last year, and, fortunately for us, the standards are being maintained. Well done to all those taking part, and others offering suggestions and support.

We have had some changes, perhaps the largest being alterations to our weekly programme. *Weakly* in some respects because our evening meetings have not worked out for us as we had hoped. It appears that the change did not result in any increase to our membership, and evening meetings were poorly attended necessitating

those important changes being made. My view is that it was well worth trying so that we could show that all efforts are being made to improve Rotary for Hunstanton.

We are always planning ahead and at the moment our calendar is changing on a monthly basis. I am always grateful to receive any “sensible” suggestions for improvement at future meetings. Quite often what members are happy with is a “Status Quo”. No, not the rock group - the situation of having lunchtime meetings, with the odd outside event thrown in. A recent example is of course the putting event which proved very successful. The weather was fine, the putting great, followed by lunch at the le Strange Arms Hotel. It was also nice to see partners taking an avid interest, even if one particular partner went off with the top prize. Fortunately it was a member of my team so I was able to see that there was no cheating, even if some shots looked iffy. I nearly managed to down a seagull with a very precise and calculated shot. Nearly winged a ‘wing’ might be said.

I have some ideas in mind and would very much like to run the “Waddo” event again. Considering it was an evening event, it was very well attended and the venue, parking and food were some of the best we have chosen. All agreed the catering at that event was superb. With the raffle we came out on top. I believe that Waddo himself made no charge for his input. I hope to visit a few of the King’s Lynn clubs soon, and when I catch up with Waddo shall see how he is fixed. November might be a good idea to run that one again.

On speaking to some of you it would appear that locality is the thing to bear in mind, particularly with the onset of winter. People are not happy to travel very far, and quite understandably so in respect to Rotary, therefore, for “Inaction” to change to “In Action”, it needs to be reasonably local, interesting, good venue and good food. Also to be reasonably priced. I know we shall come up with something to suit all and hope that with your continued support we shall continue to have a great time in Rotary.

Earlier Days

In an exclusive interview with David Hall, Michael Thomas – truly one of the ‘great & good’ of Hunstanton and a founder member of our club – considers days gone by.

David: “As a youngster what notable things do you recall about your schooldays?”

Michael: “I remember the smell of coke fires, ‘Digging for Victory’ on the school allotments and the damp air raid shelter. Later, I felt it a great privilege to follow my brothers to Uppingham School with so many amenities and opportunities. One of the school mottoes was "Ora et Labora" - Pray and Work - I have been doing it ever since!”

How did you get involved in your career?

I am a 5th generation showman and I was expected to follow the family tradition. However, on leaving school I wanted to become a doctor. But, it was inevitable I joined the family firm because after all "There is no Business like Showbusiness"; and I would probably made an awful doctor because I faint every time I give blood!

What did you do in your local community as a young man?

As a young man I worked for and supported national and international children charities (50 odd years on I am still President of the Local Branch of Save the Children.)

I vigorously campaigned for the retention of the Kings Lynn/Hunstanton railway line, which led to my election to the local council and the Magistrate's Bench. (40 years as a Councillor, Mayor 4 times and over 20 years on the Bench.)



Michael in 1991 during his third term as mayor of Hunstanton.

Who or what was a major influence in your life?

Without doubt my father! He was a clever, hard working humble man who led by example. He was the perfect role model!

What activities do you carry out with your family these days?

I am a keen supporter of my 9 grand children. I encourage them and become involved in their sport, drama, music and education. Our family Christmas lunch (about 25 of us) is always a very special event.

What interests' hobbies or sports do you pursue as you get older?

My playing and coaching days are over, but I am still passionate about England cricket, hockey, soccer and rugby and can't wait for the 2012 Olympics. I enjoy reading and playing chess (against the computer if I can't find an opponent, I can beat it on level 1 and 2, but not on level 5!)

You have been around a while as a club member. What features of our club would you highlight if you were talking to someone about Rotary?

Excellent fellowship which cements lasting friendships. We have a diverse cross section of members which stimulates healthy debates, but we have a common goal - we are a caring institution.

Who invited you to be a founder member and what attracted you to join?

Nick Dunford, our first President invited me to become a founder. I had just reached the age limit in Round Table, the aims and objects of the two organisations are so similar, it seemed a natural transition to move from Table to Rotary.

Thank you so much for talking with us.

Ecky the pig

By Woody - a prominent club member who wishes anonymity

I once knew a pig. A holy pig. I used to work in a rehabilitation home and we had a smallholding. We kept pigs – because pigs are very good for people.

In one of the litters that were produced there was a little piglet that was different from all the rest. Poor little fellow, he was smaller than any of the others, but - far worse for a pig - his sense of smell wasn't very good. He had a purple patch over part of his head. Putting it bluntly, he wasn't all together there. All the other piglets used to push him around. He became a pet of mine. I called him, 'Ecky Thump'. We were very good friends.

One thing you could say about Ecky was that he was very fast on his trotters. At first we had to feed him with a bottle because none of his siblings would let him near the sow. The first time I fed this litter, the food went into the trough and up came Ecky with the speed of lightning. Now at the side of the trough was a large concrete post. Ecky's sense of smell was so bad that he missed the food completely, and bang, went straight into the post. By the time he'd recovered all the food had gone. We had to feed him by sticking his head into a bucket. I called him Ecky Thump because he'd hit his head on the post, but he soon got to know his name – if I used the right ear.

I wanted to see if I could actually train him to get his own food. He hit the post time after time. So I thought that if I moved his food and put it next to the post, he'd just have to get it. 'Come on, Ecky,' I shouted. He went straight through the opening of the sty, bang into the wall at the back. If we had been in business, he'd have been put down at birth – a mad pig.

I knew that sometime he'd have to go. The holy pig brought a lot of pleasure to a lot of people. He even gave us a laugh on his way out – he missed the eight foot opening into the wagon and fell off!

I shall remember this good for nothing, mad, holy pig for one thing – the very beautiful

miracle he helped to perform. He made a mentally handicapped girl of nine smile for the first time in her life – and she kept on smiling even though there were tears at times.

In this way, this nearly blind, almost deaf, some would say, stupid little pig changed my life. Some would say euthanasia would be the answer. This little pig taught me something different, something for which I can say 'thank you' – where perhaps I would not say 'thank you' had I not encountered Ecky.

Autistic Society Presentation

At the evening meeting of 25 August a cheque for £500 was presented to the Autistic Society



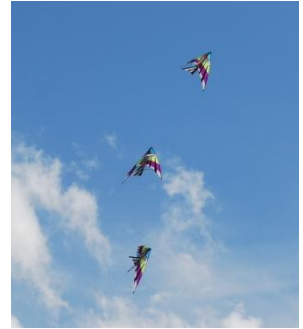
Image by Phil Mayer

President John presents the cheque to Delores Williams of the Autistic Society

Man driving down the road
Woman driving towards him
They pass each other
The women shouts out of the window, "PIG"
Man replies "BITCH"
Man drives round corner, crashes into
HUGE PIG in the middle of road and dies

Thought for the day :-
If only men would listen!

Kites, Cars, Scooters & People The Kite Festival through Phil's camera lens



Images by Phil Mayer

Another Norton Hill Steam Railway Special

By David Hall

There is something quite quintessential about the Norton Hill Steam Railway Rally that is totally English. The two day event organised by our Club under the watchful eye of James Lowe captures the joy and quaintness of a bygone era that can only be England of a hundred years ago.

Perhaps it is the hand-operated roundabout full of laughing youngsters, the smell of steam as the small gauge steam engine and rolling stock, full of happy laughing folk, roll pass the railway crossing with a warning hoot and a friendly wave. It could also be the tombola stalls, the lucky dip, the Whisky Galore stall or the treasure hunt operating all around the small meadow, each operated by local charity groups. You can't ignore the BBQ and the soft drinks counter. You can't pass by the cakes with their delights of cream and jam and chocolate and colourful tops.

Close by there are tables and chairs where the elderly can sit and chat or watch their grand children laughing and shouting as they indulge in the delights of a village fête of yesteryear. I think it is the sound of laughter and the sheer feeling of joy that sets the atmosphere for a perfect English garden party on a perfect English day. Nothing can beat it - it has a feeling that is quite unique to this country.

To try and capture it on camera is impossible - it is something you can only experience by being there. Thanks for a glorious event and thanks to all members, friends and relatives of Rotary and Inner Wheel for putting it together so beautifully.



President John enjoying a lazy Sunday afternoon at Norton Hill

Poems Please

From Lisa Powell :-

Now a Rotarian I am so proud,
To be respected as one of the crowd.
To do good deeds and not think of self,
And to find helping others as a form of wealth.

I shake my bucket with gusto and glee,
For Tesco shoppers to pretend not to see.
I show off the booze at Norton Hill,
With the hard liquor tempting my weakening will.

I scoff the meals after paying my wedge,
And moan about the ever hard veg!
I wonder if I will win the draw,
As I clench the ticket in my little paw.

Weeks go by and I feel more secure,
As another speaker takes to the floor.
I look around at every face,
And know I have found my "happy place".

From Roger Hoverd :-

A satsuma has no sense of humour.
But a fig'll giggle

(better said than written)

From John Harris :-

CASTLE RISING
Upon the hill, against the sky,
Your silhouette stands proud and bold;
Of splendid story sung in glory
And of myst'ry dark, untold,
Your sturdy walls, your murky halls
Through ages long have been
The glad or sombre scene.

What armoured knight hath ventured forth
From out your portals, 'gainst foul foe?
What maid forlorn on some sad morn
Hath wrung her hands in wretched woe?
Your secrets ever-yield them never!
Safe within your keeping
The centuries now sleeping.

Socially acceptable

By David Hall

Just another busy day in the social diary of busy Rotarians.

Date : Wednesday 28 July 2010

Location: Anchor Park Snettisham.

Weather mixed - wet but clearing - warm and humid. It started with a downpour. Club funds Raised £180.50.

Nice work.

It doesn't really matter what the conditions are when two or three or more Rotarians gather together with friends - it is guaranteed a good time will prevail.

As Janet Coombs said 'I enjoyed that' echoing the feelings of the 29 members, relatives and friends who attended the 'Fun and Games' social evening held at the home of Ronan Leslie.

It was all very simple really - a few games at 6.15pm followed by a fish & chip supper and a few drinks - all very jolly with a few laughs along the way. The games included - outside - Target Bowls and Petangue - indoors - darts and dominoes. Prizes were presented for winners and runners-up (and some losers.) A raffle completed the evening. Thanks to Ronan and friends, Bob Wright and friends, and of course James Lowe.

Food for thought

More from Woody

They persecuted the black people.
I wasn't black, and I said nothing.

Then, they persecuted the Native Americans.
I wasn't a Native American and said nothing

Then, they persecuted the Jews.
I wasn't a Jew, and I said nothing.

Then, they persecuted the asylum seekers,
I wasn't an asylum seeker and I said nothing.

Finally they turned on me -
But there was no one left to say anything.

Neologisms

Submitted by our New York correspondent, these definitions originally appeared in The Washington Post

Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.

Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.

Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.

Gargoyle (n.), olive-flavored mouthwash.

Flatulence (n.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.

Testicle (n.), a humorous exam question.

Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.

Pokemon (n.), a Rastafarian proctologist.

Oyster (n.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.

Frisbeetarianism (n.), The belief that, when You die, your soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

International and Foundation Committee

by John Harris, chairman

I am delighted to have become, within eighteen months of joining Rotary, the chairman of this committee and feel that my lifetime's career in languages and my experience as chairman of two twinning associations (for eight months concurrently recently!) will stand me in good stead. I am particularly pleased that my committee contains good friends, one of longstanding, who I know will work well with me.

My first responsibility as chairman was to approve, along with the President, the donation of £480 from our emergency fund towards the Pakistan Flood Relief Appeal, and this amount has immediately been transferred back from the club's other funds.

We have already held our first meeting, at which I appointed Phil Newell as vice-chairman with particular responsibility for the Foundation aspect of our work, as he has had considerable experience of this side of things in his previous club in Bakewell. Phil gave us an interesting and instructive talk, from which we gained considerable insight into Rotary Foundation and what may be involved for us in the time ahead.

At the first council meeting I attended, colleagues were not surprised, and I believe my fellow Rotarians will not be so either, to learn that I would very much like to look into the possibility of twinning our club with one abroad, or at least establishing a link, as I understand several other clubs in our District have already done. Council has asked me to prepare a paper on this matter and I shall hope to circulate this in good time before 27 October when our after-lunch discussion will be devoted to this subject.

I should also like to emulate my predecessor's resolve to set a target of £500 (well surpassed at the enjoyable supper and entertainment evening held at Sedgeford village hall in the spring) to be attempted at a fund-raising event before the end of our President's year next June. What I have in mind is a 12-hour non-stop sponsored Talk marathon along the lines of the Music marathon of the same duration which I have presented in Heacham every March for the past twenty six years. We have provisionally set the date for this as Saturday 14 May 2011 and I shall be pleased to announce further details and ask for support in due course.

Muriel's last council meeting



Were they all like this?

Silly Poems

I must go down to the sea again,
To the beautiful sea and the sky.
I left my shoes and socks there,
And wonder if they're dry.

Hickory dickory dock,
Two mice ran up the clock,
The clock struck one
The other one got away!

Tall story

A penguin wondered into a church one day and said the Verger "Have you seen my father?" To which the Verger replied "I don't know, what does he look like?"

Maurice Hughes

As the magazine goes to press we learn of the death of Maurice Hughes, "a truly Christian gentleman". Known, loved and respected by many, Maurice's passing will be felt in all parts of our community. A full tribute will be published in the next issue of the 'Mardle' acknowledging the life and times of a club founder and dedicated Rotary member.

Let's hope as many members as possible are able to attend the Service of Thanksgiving on 6 October, 1.20pm at St Mary's Heacham

Hunstanton & District Rotary Club – 2010/11

Changes since the last Huns'ton Mardle are shown in **red**

Club Officers

PRESIDENT

John Hornsby-Bates

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

James Lowe

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Brian Devlin

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Muriel Motley

SECRETARY

Maggie Ponder

TREASURER

David Dobby

CLUB SERVICE & MEMBERSHIP

James Lowe

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ron King

VOCATION

Bob Wright

INTERNATIONAL & FOUNDATION

John Harris

COMMUNICATIONS

David Hall

ATTENDANCE

Phil Mayer

PROGRAMME

James Lowe

QUARTERMASTER

Ben Warnes

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES & PROTECTION

David Hall

OFFICIAL IMAGER

Phil Mayer

Committees

FOUNDATION & INTERNATIONAL

John Harris

Ben Warnes

Gerald Salter

Brian Devlin

Michael Meakin

Phil Newell

'JOHN WITTON' COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ron King

Peter Brooke

Janet Coombs

Lisa Powell

Roger Hoverd

John Hunt

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Bob Wright

Ronan Leslie

Michael Thomas

John Connolly

Maggie Ponder

Phil Newell

COMMUNICATIONS

David Hall

Muriel Motley

Ron King

Roger Hoverd

John Harris

James Lowe

MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT

James Lowe

David Hall

Ron King

ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Ron King

David Hall

Phil Mayer

Muriel Motley

KITE

John Hornsby-Bates

James Lowe

David Dobby