

HUNS'TON MARDLE



Hunstanton Rotary Club
Summer 2010

hunstanton-rotary.org.uk

Mardle #2

Here we are with the second edition of Huns'ton Mardle – a little bit later than intended but as soon as possible.

Here then is #2 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. *Roger*

From the Outgoing President

It would have been nice to continue for another six months, now that I am completely comfortable with the role of the President. This year has gone by so fast - we have done so much and now I am enjoying it more and more. My visits to other Clubs - meeting their Presidents and their members have been fascinating, enjoyable and very enlightening - it is amazing how every club is different and still able to meet the objectives of Rotary in their own special ways. *Muriel*

Thank you, Muriel, for a very busy year - for your leadership, direction and energy which we appreciate must have been difficult at times. It has been a good year.

From the Outgoing Secretary

I am never sure that Rotary should go through an annual ritual of changing the President and other major officer holders. I always think that it takes a year to learn the duties of each post and become proficient in the job when – bang – it's all change again and a new team has to learn a whole new range of tasks.

Perhaps one of the benefits of our recent review and major change is that we are able to introduce, in advance, a planned calendar and programme. Thus we are able to introduce some continuity and long term policies to our work. Let's hope that works.

The job of the Secretary usually runs for five years but I must confess that three years was long enough for me. It is a demanding task and there are deadlines to be met. It has also been a time of considerable change with the mass introduction of emails and computer technology. I found that if I were to respond to all calls made of the secretary the post could easily become a very busy part time job.

Responding to the increasing demands of RI, RIBI and District it is surprising how much extra time is needed especially when new procedures are being introduced and everyone has to develop new skills to cope. And servicing the Council is no mean task.

I have enjoyed the task. It has been a lot of fun. I only hope that I have done it effectively. I hope that Maggie will soon slip comfortably into the role.

I look forward to being a back bencher again.

David

From the Incoming President

John Hornsby-Bates shares his thoughts with us.

Thoughts, I have many, but perhaps it would be better if I were to go back a few years when in the latter part of 1994 I joined Rotary at Hunstanton. Having been to quite a number of meetings, and getting to know all our members, it was at a social function that I became impressed with our organisation. Impressed with the then much acclaimed talent that was in great abundance. Members had put on their own entertainment and the quality of such was so professional, and the fun and laughter prevalent, I was encouraged to join and have not looked back ever since. Prior to joining I had little knowledge of Rotary, and no idea that its roots originated in America. However, my main reason for joining was to really continue to enjoy myself and share the company of many others. I was also drawn to the charitable side of Rotary and encompassed this with interest and enthusiasm. Fresh out from my initiation I began to feel my way around when it was soon "foisted" or perhaps "*dumped*" on me to become Chairman of Kite. I resisted fairly hard at the time, but the persuasive attitude of the club soon sorted that out. That for me has been a great learning curve as through that, **our most challenging fund raiser**, it has not only become my main theme in Rotary, but I have also managed to understand our members a whole lot better. Having worked with you all, I have a fairly good idea who is prepared to do what, who is not, and who are happy to remain on the sidelines for a variety of reasons. If you want to know people better, then take charge of a Committee, you will soon find out.

Along the way I have encountered a myriad of problems, each one great to deal with. Whatever the outcome it has to be done to the best of my ability.

It has stood me in good stead to pave the way for my Presidency. I feel much stronger to take over the Chair of Rotary, and, as I said in my speech at our last club assembly, I hope very much to enjoy a year as President of Hunstanton Rotary. There is little I ever take seriously in life, and I hope very much that President of Hunstanton Rotary will be no



President John indulging one of his many talents

different. To all our members, it is important that you enjoy yourselves at our meetings, feel totally relaxed, and that we all appreciate and respect each other for the people that we are. I hope that we shall have a very friendly club which will be an attraction to other potential members, and who knows one day perhaps I too will be able to re-appropriate the Chairmanship of Kite to some poor and unsuspecting new member!!.

In the way of plans ahead, nothing changes from those outlined by me in "club assembly" The future is already carved out for us, which I know we shall all support the best way we can. The relaxing of the way we run our meetings will also accord with the relaxed air that I hope prevails. There will be no "Jackets may be removed". That is now a matter for personal comfort, and you members have that decision to make. Formality will relax, although we shall continue with the set procedure, which has always prevailed at meetings. Of course, that is so long as I can remember. The control of meetings rests with me, and I shall do my best to make sure that standards are kept. Respect for each other at all times is all I ask, the rest shall follow.

So members of Hunstanton Rotary, I close with my good wishes to you all for a hopefully lovely, enjoyable and happy year ahead in the annals of Hunstanton Rotary.

Thoughts of an incoming secretary

Here's what Maggie Ponder is thinking . . .

First thought is "what have I let myself in for?" - HELP!

My husband thinks that anyone having me as a secretary is either desperate or mad as although I think he will acknowledge that I can



be quite organised and efficient I cannot spell for nuts. However, I have mastered spell-check on my computer so maybe I will get by without too many mistakes. Luckily you won't need me to

read a map because I'm very bad at that too.

There seem to be many things to remember and as a fairly new Rotarian I have little knowledge of the Rotary ways of doing things. I need everyone to help.

- I have been warned that my email box will get jammed with information from the district and national organisation and that I will have to sift through it to see what I should pass on to the rest of you. If you find you get too much or too little, tell me.
- If the council minutes don't make sense, tell me.
- If I forget things, tell me.
- If you don't receive things you are expecting, tell me.

I will do my best and together we will get by.

Thoughts of a new Rotarian

More thoughts – this time from new Rotarian Lisa Powell

I became aware of Hunstanton Rotary Club some ten years ago. I began attending some events and talking to long-standing Rotarians.

By talking to these wonderful people I realised that the motto

"*Service Before Self*" is something genuinely held strong in the heart of each Rotarian.

Approximately three years ago I was invited to a Rotary Luncheon and made to feel extremely welcome. I began to help out at some of the events. I often thought about joining, but, like everyone else, life seems so hectic - you wonder where the time would come from. Then one day a member told me about his experience on the Mercy Ships and the atrocities he had encountered. During this conversation he became very emotional and soon tears began to fall. We talked for a long time and soon started laughing at the funnier side of Rotary.

It was then that I decided that if I tried very hard I could be one of those Special People – a Rotarian! I am proud to say that I am now one of Hunstanton's newest Rotarians.



Procrastination may work

A medieval French king had a horse of which he was very fond and a jester of which he was not quite so fond. One evening the jester failed to amuse the king. He sentenced the jester to immediate execution.

"Sire," the jester implored, "I know you regard your horse as your best friend. Wouldn't you love your horse to talk to you? In a year I could teach him to talk, would you then let me live? If I fail to teach him in that time, then I deserve to die." The king so loved his horse that he willingly agreed to this arrangement.

A friend of the jester asked him why he had proposed such a deal. "Well," replied the jester, "In 12 month's time, I might be dead anyway, or the king might be dead, or the horse might talk!"

The Future of the Club

David Hall muses on our Action Plan

If you were to review the goals we set to modernise this club you would be pleased to see that most of the recommendations have already been implemented. A few are still in their infancy as we all adjust to new ways of working together.

Congratulations to all for taking some tough decisions and working steadfastly to make them a reality. It is only when talking with the other clubs that you realise how important the review has been and how the consequences of our actions will influence the future of the club. Interestingly other clubs have been impressed, surprised and curious. Copies of the report have been widely distributed. Most respond with "How did you manage that?" Especially when we declared cutting fees for joining and membership subscription.

Well we have done it. We now have a blueprint for operating differently and productively for the immediate future. Well done, Hunstanton and District Rotary Club. It is a fine example of our motto '*Service Before Self*' being put into operation.

Medical Corner

It seems to be that time of the year - a time for aches and pains and operations - and other maladies. To all those who have been suffering in any way we send our best wishes and hopes for a speedy return to better health.

If you are not well or you know of others who are unwell please call Maurice Hughes and let him know how you are progressing so that he can share your news with other members of the club. Our best wishes go to Janet Nudds who we know has recently been in hospital. Get well soon, Janet.

A very nice invitation

Inner Wheel, Rotary & Gurkhas

We had known for some months that we would be sharing a Wednesday lunchtime meal with our sister organisation Inner Wheel. On Wednesday 19 May we shared a meal at the Le Strange hotel on the occasion of the Inner Wheel Charter Lunch. Our Club was well represented. It was a large gathering of friends, guests and visitors from as far away as Watton, Norwich, Ely, Cambridge and Cromer.

After a warm welcome from Inner Wheel President, Hazel Evans, and a response from our President, Muriel Motley, three candles were lit - representing the 'the past, the present and the future'. Everyone enjoyed a super lunch geared to a lovely day. It was Sunny Hunny at its best.

The after-lunch speaker was Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Taylor of the Gurkha Trust. He spoke for about 30 minutes delighting his audience with background details of the Nepali people, the original Gurkha fighters and how they became attached to the British and Indian armies. It was fascinating to hear how they fought fearlessly alongside the British troops and gained a reputation for loyalty, bravery and ruthlessness.

We discovered how through a quirk of history they didn't gain the recognition or rewards they deserved for their dedication. We heard how the Trust is spending something like £10 million annually to provide pensions, education and community services for retired soldiers, their families and communities not only in Nepal but throughout the world.

Inner Wheel and Rotary were pleased to be able to present two cheques to a total value of £500 to Chris Taylor for his Trust Fund, knowing full well it would be wisely used to support the Gurkha people. A most enjoyable well-organised event shared by our two organisations. As Muriel said at the time, "Let's do it again."

A strange language

What a strange language we speak! In what other language could you use words in this versatile manner?

Time flies like an arrow.

Fruit flies like a banana.

The decanter

Here is a picture of a very fine decanter. The picture was taken by Phil Mayer. It's not just any old decanter - it's a very fine looking piece



of crystal and is also a special award. Mike Darlington and the club received this decanter for our newsletter 'Watchkeeper' last year. You will recall that Mike produced 'Watchkeeper' for us for a number of years so it's an award presented for the best newsletter in District 1080. And we won it - well Mike did! And this is a picture of it We'd thought we kept it forever, but no! It has to go back for presentation at the next conference. Sad but at least we have a picture of it thanks to Phil. It really is beautiful - thanks Mike.

Hunstanton Carnival

Sunday 27 June was a glorious summer day for the Carnival. As a result of hard work put in by Ron King and a small team of members we managed to pull together the equipment, food stuffs and displays to present an attractive presentation for the Barbecue and Tombola., Inner Wheel organised 'Wine and Water'.

The new gazebos with new displays, together with chairs and tables looked smart and attractive. It proved to be a very busy day. The barbecue was always popular. It was a long, smoky and tiring day for the small team who worked hard with few breaks to serve a never ending queue of people. Well done the cooks, servers and food preparation team. Also thanks to Lyn Devlin who looked after the tombola stall.

Ron King reports the takings, not finalised, to be just under £800, a good result for a hard day's work.

Charges for Meals

Members are once again asked to telephone apologies in advance if they are not able to attend a meeting, lunch or activity. We say this because the hotel needs to plan our meals in advance and needs to know the numbers attending. It is vital for them to save money and yet offer a good service. At present they do not charge us for absentees who do not notify them in advance - but they will in future if people don't phone in.

We do not wish to reach a position whereby if members don't apologise in advance and don't show up we have to charge them for the meal.

We also ask members not to request a change to their meal during the mealtime - the Hotel give us the menu in advance - James Lowe publishes the details in his programmes - we know what is to come. If you wish to change your order because of medical reasons or personal choice please notify the hotel in advance so that the chef can make the appropriate changes.

Changeover

Who was it who said 'Constant change is here to stay?' Well - Wednesday 30 June was our big change around. Welcome and congratulations to John Hornsby Bates - President for 2010 - 2011. We wish him every success in completing a new programme with a new team. With all the recent reorganisation he ought to feel the scene is set for an exciting and productive year.

At the same time *changeover* gave retiring President Muriel an opportunity to reflect on the successes of her year and to thank her team for their support. She inducted Roger Bowman as the latest new member. That makes four new members in her year - more evidence to show that the club is well on target to meet the many goals that it has set for itself. 31 people attended the dinner of which 17 were Rotarians.

Poems Please

In an attempt to introduce an element of much needed culture to this newsletter, we're going to have a poetry section – hopefully featuring poems what you the members have writ. To start us off here are two poems by John Nudds.

Let's have more from other members.

Oh England!

Oh England with your pastures green
For cows and sheep to chew their cud
Where trees and fields there to be seen
A park and rosehips with their bright red bud

Oh England with your flinted churches
Standing there with turret top
And baby christenings being nurtured
Where life starts and also stops

Oh England with your mansioned houses
Making others look quite small
Whilst girls who wear their pretty blouses
Work in office blocks so tall

Oh England with tradition grand
Watch bandsmen drool with such precision
And in the park you hear the band
With odd notes dropped through indecision

Oh England where your rivers flow
To find their way down to the sea
Where fishermen in boats will row
And car-parks charge a hefty fee

Oh England, England proud, defiant
Righteous in your ways and deeds
Defending like a mighty giant
When there's cause and when there's need

Oh England you are mine forever
King of countries and domains
Close community together
And hopefully will so remain.

The Dinner Party

Oh Jenkins where are the beetroot?
They don't seem red any more
The tomatoes are all soft and soggy
Potatoes we really need more
Good gracious look at the sweet corn
There's really no corn-on-the-cob
Now there's something I smell burning over
We've now a day's work cleaning hob
Is the silver all set on the table?
Are the glasses already for wine?
Have we ten or is it twelve that are coming?
You think it could be only nine

Don't the flowers look nice on the table?
I always think roses look sweet
Jenkins now stop what you're doing
Go through to the kitchen for meat
The pheasant is smelling quite gorgeous
I've cooked it in brandy tonight
The recipe came from the Forsyths
She seems to get most things near right
My goodness there goes the doorbell
Jenkins let them in right away
Hello my darling how are you?
How handsome you're looking today

Oh Sally how lovely to see you
Sorry to hear of your fall
They tell the horse just stopped in his tracks
And you finished over the wall
How frightfully wicked of Reptile.
Has he done this to you before?
I see the arm is still bandaged
It must be awfully sore
Please excuse me I'll mix with the others
Lavinia how pretty you look
Charles have you something to drink my dear
Have you finished writing your book?

Oh Jenkins I'm glad it's all over
You don't realise just how many jobs
There are coping with all of these people
And let's face it - they really are slobs.

Goodbye heavy marquees

In tents excitement

Saturday 26 June may have been just another busy day for members of our club preparing for Hunstanton Carnival. But for Scout leader Tom of the 1st Dersingham Scouts it was a little more exciting. Rotarians David Hall and Ron King together with the photographer Phil Mayer were pleased to present two marquees to the troop for use during their camping season and for their fund-raising activities.

We used our new lightweight gazebos and tables for the first time at Carnival. We are all pleased the old Marquees, that have served us for many years, have found a new home. They were getting too heavy for us to handle but that will be no trouble to the Scouts who were short of large tents for their activities. The Scout Group were delighted to receive such a handsome gift from the club.



Tom, Dersingham Scout leader, helps load the marquees at our new Heacham storage facility.

Photo : P Mayer

Hunstanton taxis

In the last edition we promised to keep you up to date with developments regarding the vexed subject of taxi ranks in Hunstanton. Surprise, surprise, nothing has happened, so the best we can do is repeat the previous report.

Hunstanton still has a taxi rank in Greevegate. It's never used but continues to occupy what would be two very useful car parking spaces. Meanwhile a sign at the bottom of Westgate remains forlornly directing would-be taxi users up the hill to a non-existent taxi rank. If we couldn't see the funny side to all of this we might be depressed by the sheer incompetence behind it.

Rapid recovery recorded for Rotarian

We are delighted to report that, after a long delay, Bob Wright received a telephone call from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on 23 June to say that he had to appear there at 7:30am next day for his long awaited operation. It was with some relief that Bob accepted the invitation and duly reported to the hospital. Surprise, surprise! He thought he was going to the theatre at 10.00am but he didn't even have time to unpack his bags as he was placed on a trolley and immediately wheeled up to the operating theatre. He was the first job for the day.

He was back at home next afternoon and taking telephone calls. Well he was up but horizontal - full of life and in fine form.

The doctors have operated on his spine relieving much of the pressure on his nervous system. They have also manipulated some of his vertebrae. This procedure should relieve the pain and pressure on other parts of his body particularly his hips and legs.

Well done Bob. He is recuperating for a few weeks but knowing Bob we will see him around very soon. We look forward to that.

A really helpful exercise routine for Rotarians

Begin by standing on a flat comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room on each side. With a 5-kg potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-kg potato sacks, then 25-kg sacks and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 50-kg potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level now.)

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each sack.

Hunstanton & District Rotary Club – 2010/11

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

David Hall

PUBLICITY & PRESS

John Harris

ATTENDANCE

Phil Mayer

PROGRAMME

James Lowe

WELFARE

Maurice Hughes

QUARTERMASTER

Ben Warnes

YOUTH OPPORTUNITES & PROTECTION

David Hall

PHOTGRAPHER

Phil Mayer

KITE

John Hornsby-Bates

NORTON HILL

James Lowe

Committees

FOUNDATION & INTERNATIONAL

David Hall

Ben Warnes

Gerald Salter

Brian Devlin

Michael Meakin

John Harris

'JOHN WITTON' COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ron King

Peter Brooke

Maurice Hughes

Janet Coombs

Roger Hoverd

John Hunt

Lisa Powell

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Bob Wright

Ronan Leslie

Michael Thomas

John Connolly

Maggie Ponder

Phil Newell

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

The club meets every Wednesday at the
le Strange Arms Hotel, Old Hunstanton.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month :-

Lunch at 12.30 pm

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month :-

Dinner at 6.00 pm

Keep up to date with future events
visit hunstanton-rotary.org.uk

Remember, as far as anyone knows we're a normal club.