



# Watchkeeper's Log

The Rotary Club of Hunstanton and District

## Sky High Kite Festival



Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2008

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### For your diary:

- 10/11/12th October District Conference
- 29th October CHARTER NIGHT
- 30th November 'Le Strange Arms Hotel' Christmas Fair
- 17th December Christmas Luncheon

Items for inclusion in the next Newsletter should be handed to Mike Darlington by 30th November 2008. Articles should be of no more than 350 words long.

Hunstanton enjoyed one of its most successful kite festivals to date when rain relented and gave way to sunshine on Sunday the 17th August.

Around 5,000 visitors attended our main fundraiser of the year, doubling those attending last year, when this popular event was hit by terrible weather.

Club treasurer David Dobby stated that the money raised for local charity and raised by partaking charities will top the £9,500 mark.

He said the club members were "absolutely delighted" with the result, especially considering the wet weather first thing in the morning

"At 7.15am it was looking pretty forlorn but by late morning the rain stopped, the sun came out and the crowds flocked in. By afternoon the place was absolutely manic and we had to find more car parking space than we've ever had to provide before."

**More pictures inside.....**

# Hog Roast at Peter's



In the most disappointing summer that Watchkeeper has recorded the club was lucky with it's choice of Sundays to hold a family fun day. Members gathered in the baking sunshine with families and guests on Peter and Mary's lawn to enjoy a day to remember. The club probably missed the chance of earning a fortune by not selling "HELLO" the exclusive! The photographs speak louder than words.

We have been impressed by the approaches taken in Lewisham to achieve imporvment in standards in schools.....

Extract from a letter from Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Schools to Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham, 31./07/08

taken from **Private Eye** No. 1218

## More from the Sky High Kite Festival



## Are you in New York in November?

### The UN Secretary-General will attend the 2008 Rotary-UN Day

Rotary members and their guests are invited to attend a landmark Rotary Day at the United Nations on 8 November in New York City, USA. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will give a special presentation at the annual event. The meeting, scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at UN Headquarters, will include presentations and panel discussions addressing key humanitarian issues such as water, health, literacy, and hunger. Registration forms are due 24 October. In addition to Secretary-General Ban, other key presenters will include UN senior officials, representatives from key non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Rotary International leaders. The day-long event is sponsored each year by the RI Representatives to the United Nations in New York. There will be a separate youth programme for students of high-school age. For additional information, contact Brad Jenkins, RI Representative to the United Nations in New York, at: [bradjenkins@att.net](mailto:bradjenkins@att.net) or +1 908-766-4790.

## WIN A COUNCIL HOUSE Rtn David Dobby

Good morning and welcome to a brand new edition of 'ASYLUM'.

Today's program features another chance to take part in our exciting competition: **Hijack an airliner and win a council house!**



We've already given away hundreds of millions of pounds and thousands of dream homes, courtesy of our sponsor the British Taxpayer. And don't forget, we're now the fastest growing game on the planet.

Anyone can play, provided they don't already hold a valid British passport, and you only need one word of English: '**ASYLUM!**'

Prizes include all-expenses-paid accommodation, cash benefits starting at £180 a week and a chance to earn thousands more begging, mugging and accosting drivers at traffic lights. This competition is open to everyone buying a ticket or stowing away on one of our partner airlines, ferry companies or Eurostar.

No application ever refused reasonable or unreasonable. All you have to do is destroy all your papers and remember the magic password: '**ASYLUM!**'

## THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER IN THE PAST Rtn David Hall

Oh, to have lived in Britain in the good old days. It's not precisely clear just what time in the past actually was so good, says Mark Lawson, but everyone seems to agree that life was better then. Which all goes to show the fragile nature of our collective memories. By almost any measure, people born here in the past 50 years "have won the historical lottery". The 1930s witnessed a credit crunch that puts ours in the shade; the 1940s were spent in bloody warfare; the 1950s were an "anaesthetised period in which, if you wanted to progress in most professions, it was wise to be

Only this week 140 members of the Taliban family from Afghanistan were flown Goat Class from Kabul to our international gateway at Stansted where local law enforcement officers were on hand to fast-track them to their luxury £200-a-night rooms in the fabulous four star Hilton Hotel. They join tens of thousands of other lucky winners already staying in hotels all over Britain

Our most popular destinations also include the White Cliffs of Dover and the world famous Todington Services area in Historic Bedfordshire.

If you still don't understand the rules, don't forget there's no need to phone a friend or ask the audience, just apply for legal aid. Hundreds of lawyers, social workers and counsellors are waiting to help. It won't cost you a penny, so play today; it could change your life forever.

Iraqi terrorists, Afghan dissidents, Albanian gangsters, pro-Pinochet activists, anti-Pinochet activists, Kosovan drug-smugglers, Tamil tigers, bogus Bosnians, Rwandan mass murderers, Somali guerillas...**COME ON DOWN!**

Get along to the airport, get along to the lorry park, get along to the ferry terminal. Don't stop in Germany or France. Go straight to Britain and you are guaranteed to be one of tens of thousands of lucky winners in the softest game on earth.

Everyone's a winner, when they play '**ASYLUM!**'

male, white and posh". Would you really want to go back to any of those times? Most Britons today have never had to worry about invasion or TB. If walking the streets is a tiny bit more dangerous, the roads - thanks to breathalysers and seat belts - are undoubtedly safer. But the thing about Jeremiads is that they seem to assume the world should be an earthly paradise, and they get affronted when things aren't perfect. So enough of this gloomy nostalgia. Count your blessings. The truth is that "in almost every way, we are lucky to be living now". Taken from **THE WEEK** 9 August 2008

## MADEIRA and the Navy

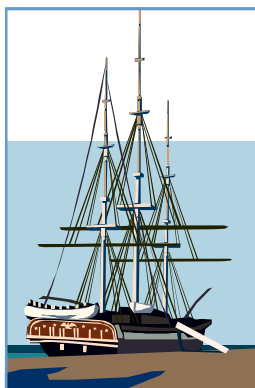
(taken from September's Edition of the Bosun's Chronicle)

Towards the end of dinner, Royal Navy officers traditionally pass decanters of Port and Madeira around the table, always to the left!

Historically, barrels of Madeira were often taken aboard Naval ships to be exposed to heat and air on long sea voyages. The process caramelised the sugars and oxidised the wine, enhancing the flavour.

The modern-day replica of Cook's "Endeavour" called at the island of Madeira in December 2003, where she took on board a special cask of Madeira which was stored in the ship's hold. After sailing around the Atlantic for almost twelve months "Endeavour" returned to Portugal in November 2004 where the cask was taken ashore for storage. The wine was bottled in 2008 and tasted at a special fund-raising event at the Australian National Maritime Museum earlier this year.

Much favoured among officers of the Royal Navy, Madeira was also popular in other navies.



The iconic US naval frigate "Constitution" was baptised with Madeira wine.

The Danish Navy claims a special connection to Madeira. Up until the First World War, when the Danish colonies in the West Indies were sold to the United States, there was a Danish naval presence in the Caribbean. En route back to their home port, Danish ships, as did their

British counterparts, called at Madeira for re-provisioning of food and water - and Madeira wine. During the 1870s, a couple of naval cadets from a Danish frigate went ashore and "lifted" a few vines. These were carefully nurtured aboard and later planted on Danish soil, where they thrived. Several years later, the Madeira wine industry was practically destroyed by disease. A Danish diplomat who happened to be visiting Portugal at the time, and who knew about the cadets' vines, sent urgent word to the Admiralty in Copenhagen who promptly dispatched some vine cuttings to Madeira - and thus secured the future of a very special beverage...

## The Great Portuguese Barn Find hoax debunked but still going

Watchkeeper received an email from a fellow member following our successful Kite Festival and Classic Car Rally about an amazing discovery.

It was the story of a New Yorker's retirement gift to himself – a house on a few acres in Portugal. The house he found had been vacant for 15 years, the owners having passed away leaving no heirs. The property was being sold to pay back taxes owed, and besides the house, there was also a large metal barn on the land with its doors welded shut. Nobody took the time to see what was inside, so the property was sold as is. When the new owner and his wife arrived, they got to work opening up the barn and found - the barn find of the millennium. Inside the structure sat around 200 dusty classic cars. What an unbelievable bit of luck for the new owner!

And Watchkeeper does mean unbelievable. Of course the whole thing was a net hoax, but some people still want to believe it is true, and so the story con-



tinues to circulate. After all, there's a whole gallery of dusty classics sitting in a dark warehouse that's pretty compelling. How could it be a lie?

**Here's the real story, source 'Old Cars Weekly' :**

Old Cars Weekly just tracked down the story behind the story, and the real explanation is almost as good as the hoax. What we are actually seeing in those pictures is the collection of an automobile dealer who over the years has added many vehicles that caught his fancy. He just drove them to the barn and parked them there, presumably waiting until he decided what to do with the lot of them next. About a year ago he sent in a photographer to document the collection, and *those* photos are the ones circulating the internet, helping to create and sustain this myth. So now you know the truth behind the Great Portugal Barn Find, and you all can stop sending Watchkeeper tips to cover it. Okay?

THE ROTARY CLUB OF  
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### Aims of Club's Trust Fund

The main purpose of its Foundation is defined in the Deed of Trust made on twenty ninth day of November one thousand nine hundred and ninety three.

The Trustees shall hold and apply both capital and income thereof to or for the relief of the poor and needy or to or for such other charitable purpose, institution, society or object as Hunstanton & District Rotary Club shall, in duly constituted meeting from time to time direct.

## 100th ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



The 100th Rotary International Convention will be held in Birmingham in June 2009—for most of us this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience first hand this exceptional spectacle. The Host Organising Committee is working hard to ensure that this will be the best Convention ever. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase these islands to the world and to demonstrate the best hospitality and friendship that the Rotary world can offer.

The Convention is being held at the NEC with its world class facilities as well as host events in the city of Birmingham. The House of Friendship will be in a Victorian garden setting with an English pub.

The entertainment will be of the highest professional stan-

dard and there is no doubt that this is an occasion not to be missed.

### What is going on at the Convention?

Pre convention meetings will include—The Institute, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, Peace Studies, Foundation Alumni Celebration and an RYLA Camp.

### The Concert of Concerts

This will feature Katherine Jenkins and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

### A Mediaeval Spectacular

An evening at Warwick Castle for a once in a lifetime experience of what life was like in Old England a thousand years ago. The ticket price will include a voucher for a Pig Roast, Barbecue or Vegetarian Alternative with plenty to eat for everyone.

**Register early for the Convention** [take advantage of special prices]

**First deadline:** 15th December 2008

**Second deadline:** 31st March 2009.

Register on-line at **Rotary.org:Convention** - it's convenient and secure and your Conference material will be e-mailed to you. Or download the registration form. **Host Events:** Purchase tickets on-line at [www.rotaryconvention2009.com](http://www.rotaryconvention2009.com) through a secure service; or download the ticket order form.