

Rotary Club of Epping

NEWSLETTER Issue 206 August 2009

FOR YOUR DIARY

9 August – Peter Padfield’s “At Home” Day.

22 September – Evening Meeting ; spouses and friends welcome.

23 September - Tour of Middle Temple approx 11.15 to 2.00pm ; make your own way there; cost £18.50 or £20.00; contact Len Stace.

27 September – Copped Hall Fun Run ; really important that Club members make themselves available for this event; Richard Hunt in overall charge.

15-18 October - District Conference at Eastbourne; always a very enjoyable occasion ; Duncan Whitehouse has details.

24 October – 6.00pm ; dinner/show/dancing at Brick Lane Music Hall ; all tickets sold; contact Len Stace for details.

25 November – another Charity Bridge Drive at Theydon Bois Village Hall; contact Anne Sydenham.

7 December – Christmas collections start !

8 December – Christmas Evening Meeting ; spouses and friends welcome.

24 December – Carols on the Green, 3.45 pm.

17 April 2010 – Charity concert, St Johns Church; Thames Valley Chorus, and William & Tricia Thomas; contact Duncan Whitehouse.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Can anyone host a male Group Study Exchange student from Boston from 4th to 10th October ? Essentially room and breakfast , within walking distance of a Central or District Line station. Let Andrew Pirie know asap.

Colin Tankard, our new Webmaster, wants to revamp our website, making it as interesting and useful as possible. As a start , he wants to know whether/how Club members use it. So he put round a short questionnaire at the end July lunchtime meeting. Please do reply to Colin, whether in writing or by email. The questionnaire is reproduced at the end of this Newsletter.

And a repeat request from the Newsletter editor(s) – do let Ivan or Sue Harris have any information or requests about upcoming events, accounts of recently held events, interesting stories or anecdotes, summaries of speakers presentations, handbook updates, etc. It is just not possible for the editors to get to know all these things in good time without your help !

RESULTS IN BRIEF.....

The Club welcomed several senior students and teaching staff from St Johns School to an evening meeting in March. The Service to School Certificate was presented to Anna Green, who had particular responsibility for the environment. The Service to the Community Certificate went to Georgia Halstead , reflecting her involvement with Guides, Carols on the Green and St Johns Church. Proceeds from Carols on the Green were formally presented to the school, to assist their music department.

A new initiative, a sponsored walk, took place on 10 May. Turpins Trail was a circuit through Epping Forest from High Beach Visitor Centre. The weather was kind and everyone really enjoyed their afternoon out. A total of £1400.00 was raised for wind-up foetal monitors for use in South Africa , part of the inter-Club Making Tiny Dreams Real campaign. Fewer people took part than the Youth Committee would ideally have liked to see – perhaps an even greater sum might be raised if a sponsored walk is repeated in future. Nevertheless, it was a very good result , so thanks are due to John Eaton and the members of the Youth Committee, and to Rotarians and their families who took part !

The 2009 Charity Golf Day on 28 May was very successful, attracting both good weather and nearly as many teams as last year. The participants enjoyed their day, not least a team from Hadham Engineering who emerged as winners. The event raised a net total of nearly £9,000, a fine sum despite the prevailing difficult economic circumstances and reduced income from the auction. Well done the organisers, and thanks to Club participants.

A substantial contingent from the Club enjoyed the District Sports Dinner at the usual Radisson Hotel venue in London on 2 June. You will know that the Club retained the Fellowship Cup – and members came back with various individual and team trophies, putting carrier bags at a premium !

DID YOU HEAR?

It is worth repeating what was said by invited speakers in recent months about two well known national charities. One talked to the Club at the end of March about the RNIB.

The Institute was started in 1914 – for civilians – and was complemented by St Dunstons at the end of the First World War for military personnel. Today there are 380,000 registered blind in the UK, and it is thought another 20% who are not registered. It is estimated that 100 people lose their sight every day. Regular eye tests – and hence early detection of sight problems – are important.

The aim of the RNIB is to help secure an independent lifestyle. The popular Talking Books service is run from CDs, using readers who are professional broadcasters. An audio description service to accompany TV programmes has been introduced.

And how much does it all cost ? The annual RNIB service cost is £6.5m. The membership subscription of £73 pa has to be set against the average cost of £123 per head. The shortfall has to be made up from other sources eg donations and legacies.

The second speaker, in mid May, was Ann Goddard, daughter of Duncan and Dorothy. She spoke about the McMillan Cancer Support Network.

The organisation was originated by Douglas McMillan in 1911. Today there are two million people living with cancer, 880 new cases every day. The numbers reflect longer life expectancy and earlier diagnosis. Media campaigns encourage prompt requests for help.

McMillan cares for the “whole” person in practical and emotional ways, supporting both sufferers and carers. There are 3,000 McMillan nurses in the UK, 98 in Essex. It calls upon doctors, psychologists, and occupational therapists, working with other agencies. It offers help with form filling and finance. Advice is available via helplines and local support groups. A website enables experiences and information to be shared.

The sum of £184 buys one nurse for one day, over and above NHS provision. The organisation’s supporters provide 99% of it’s income in the form of legacies, collections, and fund raising events (eg Big Sports Day, sponsored walks, World’s Biggest Coffee Morning).

EXPERIENCES IN ETHIOPIA.

Ruth Bird was sponsored by the Club as the 2009 student medical elective placement abroad, working in a main hospital in Awassa in the fields of Maternity surgery and Anaesthetics, and at a small rural village health centre providing emergency care for the community.

Ruth writes : “In the main hospital I was able to assist the doctors on wards , clinics and in the operating theatres. The rural centre is staffed only by trained clinical nurses, essentially working as GP’s. I was quite apprehensive, being the only “doctor” for a population of 70,000, two hours from the nearest hospital. My advice was often sought about really sick patients. The consequences of my decisions were on my head. I no longer had the safety and security of being a medical student.

The experience reinforced the idea that medicine is a career of lifelong learning, and was a reminder of the benefits of the NHS and a high standard of “specialist “ medical care. I saw how a patient’s socio-economic background and cultural beliefs affect their health. I was also able to improve my clinical, communication and surgical skills in a challenging environment. I not only learned a great deal, but also made a useful contribution to a country short of trained professionals. Thank you for making possible such a wonderful experience.”

ROTARY OUTINGS

These are proving to be popular ! Len Stace organised two trips to London shows earlier this year, and to two fascinating country houses at the end of July. Other trips are planned for 23 September and 24 October (see Diary). And watch this space for further trips in 2010. Thanks are due to Len.

Epping Rotary Website Questionnaire – Replies to Colin Tankard.

1 Do you visit the website ?

2 If yes, what do you use it for ?

3 Do you look at other Rotary websites ?

4 If yes, which ones, and why ?

5 What content would you like on our site ?

6 We would like to add comments on why members enjoy Rotary – so please give your comments !

7 Any funny stories from Club events/meetings that could be published ?