

Mildmay Matters

March 2008

No.269

PLAY PUMPS

.....from Tony Budgen



On the 12th February John Bridges came and talked to us about "**Play Pumps**". Recently the African Presidents met to discuss matters in general but never mentioned water. If 6 jumbo jets were to crash a day, each with 190 people on board, there would be numerous questions, restrictions and enquiries. Five to six thousand people a day die because of water, some from not enough but mainly from dirty water. John offered members a drink of water from a bottle he had but for some reason no one took him up on his offer.

Currently most water is gathered and carried by the young women and children over considerable distances. Only when it is very close by do the men do any carrying.

All over the desert areas there is plenty of water available, clean water, all they need to drink and use. It just needs finding and a simple pumping device manufactured by a non-profit making company which uses children's play to pump water is the answer.

Our meeting of the 19th February was our guests' meeting when four members brought along guests who heard a presentation by Ken Buck about Rotary. Our need now is to follow up the people who have visited us in recent weeks and do all we can to persuade them to become members. But we must also continue to search out potential members – and do remember the Classification criteria are now more flexible. If you think a friend or associate would make a good Rotarian a way for him or her to be admitted can usually be found

A day's work is usually all it takes to locate water. It exists under people's noses at a depth of about 120ft. These pumping facilities are easy to build and easy to maintain. Simple problems are solved on site by a local person who has had training; major problems are solved by the company.

Only £7,000 is needed to supply and install a "play pump". If ten Clubs each donate £700 then we have another play pump. Once installed their maintenance is paid for by advertising on the sides of the tank. As part of the installation there is a children's round-a-bout. The children play on the round-a-bout and this is attached to the pump and they provide the power to pump the water into the tower.

The arrangement is that money raised in this country goes out to Africa where there is a reliable body to look after the finances and arrange for the survey and the installation.

A project of this nature could qualify for a Rotary matching grant. What about it!



RNIB

On 26th February, Howard Bodger gave us a presentation on behalf of R.N.I.B. **Question-** when was it formed? The organisation was formed following the First World War. There are many pictures of soldiers walking in single file with one hand on the shoulder of his comrade in front of him. Currently there are 378,000 registered blind.

With free eye tests for the over 60's many more problems are found although not all those entitled to benefit take up the offer.

Awareness of the charity increases the registration of more blind persons

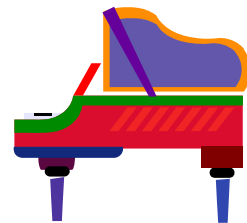


Work with children in "Sunshine Homes" from 2 – 10 years old with special books is helping to improve education standard in "the Blind". There are now listening books and every year more books are produced. The main problem is readers. Many actors give their time of 2 – 5 days to produce a CD. The R.N.I.B. supply the person with a special CD player to get the best out of the book; it also caters for bookmakers in order that the listener can carry on from where they left off, instead of starting again at the beginning, cost about £200 each. The aim is to produce 140 books a year at a cost of £2,500. The subscription for "Talk Books" is £127 per year.

The service is run purely on donations – the spend money very wisely and the R.N.I.B. aim to give value and get value.

Tony Bugden

Music Awards



The final of District 1240 event took place in Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 1st March for the third time.

Again this event was organised by Ian McMeekan of the Colchester Club and Her Majesty's Lord - Lieutenant, Lord Petre was present to present the awards.

An audience of approximately 200 comprising of Rotarians, parents, and supporters were treated to a high standard of music by ten competitors who displayed their talent via Voice, Saxophone, Flute, Piano, Violin, Cello and Bassoon.

The Adjudicators Toby Parr, Janet Brook and Rotarian Colin Freeman must have had a very difficult job in selecting a winner and finally selected Tasmin Kaye who played the Bassoon.

Tasmin entered via a regional event run by the Southend Rotary Club and is a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

The entrant from The Rotary in Chelmsford Young Musicians event Sasha Millwood gave an excellent performance on the piano playing music from Liszt and Miriam Hyde.

Closing remarks were made by The Lord – Lieutenant, Lord Petre and Rotary DG – Elect Ken Buck.

A very enjoyable evening and next years event will again be held in Chelmsford Cathedral on 28th February.

Refreshments were provided by Chelmsford Rivermead Rotary Club.

On a sad note Richard Rose, President of the Rotary Club of Colchester 2002 – 2003 a supporter of the Music and Dance Festival and who financed for many years the Musician of the year award passed away early on Monday 3rd March. Richard was in attendance of the Finals on Saturday 1st March.

Mike Ardley



In 2006 & 2007 Rotarians from **Chelmsford Mildmay**, along with other **District 1240** Rotarians, volunteered their time to collect discarded Tents & Sleeping Bags from Hylands Park immediately following the V Festival.

This was organised as a "District" International project with the original aim of sending the Tents & Sleeping Bags overseas via the Red Cross... to be available for international disasters.

This has been a highly successful project, in that not only were literally hundreds of virtually brand new Tents & Sleeping Bags collected each year... but also locally Rotary received very good PR.

Although the intention had been to send the Tents & Sleeping Bags overseas, in practice most ended up going to more local organisations such as the Scouts & Guides.

Clearly this is no longer purely an International project... the V Festival project now has a life of its own and crosses both Community & Vocational and International.

Accordingly District would like one – or more – local Clubs to take on the project. As Hylands Park is in Chelmsford, it seems to me that this is an ideal project for the 4 local Clubs to organise as a

Rotary in Chelmsford project... plus, of course, volunteer Rotarians from all 1240 Clubs.

In 2008 we have an opportunity to make the project even more worthwhile.

Virgin – who organise the V Festival – do not like glass bottles on site... and are planning a glass bottle amnesty, just like they organised in 2007 at the V Festival sister site in the Midlands. As Festival-goers arrive on site, the plan is that they will be offered the chance to pour any drink that they have brought with them in glass bottles into 1 litre plastic bottles supplied by Virgin.

Virgin has asked Rotary if we could man the amnesty point and organise the sale of the plastic bottles and collect the glass ones. The organisers will supply 7,000 plastic bottles and the means of disposing of the glass ones... at no cost to us – **and Rotary keeps 100% of the proceeds!**

The proceeds could, for example, go to the Rotary Foundation Polio Eradication project.

Make no mistake; this requires a major commitment on behalf of local Rotarians... as we will need about 40 volunteers per day for 4 days!!

However, this is in my view a very worthwhile project that we should earnestly consider. As agreed at our recent Business Meeting, I will discuss with the other Chelmsford Rotary Clubs how we might now pursue this idea... and I will let you know as soon as I have anything further to report.

Keith Webb

Youth Opportunities..... From Penny Popham - reference the R.Y.L.A.

As you know we had our selection day for this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards last Monday, and again it was a tremendous success. 29 RYLAees came along (unfortunately 5 didn't make it on the day for various reasons, i.e. illness), and this year despite the misty start we actually had very pleasant weather.

The standard was again excellent and, difficult as it was, we did choose 12. Their details are: **Nicholas Lipscomb - Albany School...Charlie Wakelin - Belfairs...John Reid - Belfairs...Joshua Brewer - Castlevew...Frankie Dowler and Andrew Downey - Cornelius Vermuyden...Sarah Shoyeju and Jamie Cooper - Furtherwick...James Oliver - Passmores School...Simon Stevenson, Emma Bedford and A-Jay Crabbe - Tendring College**

I hope to be putting together an article about the day in the next week, and will make sure this is forwarded to all the clubs in the District. Photos were taken on the day and I shall look into the best and easiest way to make these accessible to everyone.

Again thank you to all those clubs that contributed, we had a wonderful response and huge support from the District. I will be in touch with you all soon with further details.

Rotary around the World.....

At 11:31AM on 13 February 2008, **Simon S.K. Sagala-Mulindwa,PHF, President, Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, Uganda D-9200** wrote: How about all able Rotarians going on to the streets of their towns/cities at a given time (depending on time zone) wearing Rotary attire and waving Rotary flags/banners for a given number of minutes, followed by a small activity like polio immunisation or blood donation or distribution of water purifying tablets, etc... to needy communities within their vicinities, so everyone gets to know it's Rotary's Birthday that we are celebrating? Our Club will be participating in a 10-Kimometre WORLD PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING CHARITY WALK organised by and on the initiative of the Rotary Club of Kampala North, under the theme "2008-WPU-WALK FOR HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION," to raise funds for the different participating Clubs' Humanitarian Community Projects.

Programme

DATE	SUBJECT/SPEAKER	GRACE/DUTY
March 2008		
11 th	Peter Hesketh – Young Peoples Monitor	Keith Webb
18 th	Les Sparrow – My youth in Great Baddow	John Wolfenden
25 th	Richard Oscroft - Scouting	Mike Ardley
April		
1 st	Business Meeting	Grace Object of Rotary
		Mike Ashton Alan Duchars
8 th	Sarah Fleming	Tony Barker
15 th	Alan Hill	Andrew Britter
22 nd	St George's Day Lunch (John Wolfenden)	Lieonorah Chinduta
29 th	TBC	Adam Copsey
May		
6 th	Business Meeting	Grace Object of Rotary
		Alan Duchars Jimmy Eaton
13 th	Races Meeting	Pat Gaudin
20 th	Pat Gaudin - South Africa	Vic Gowers
27 th	Laura Grant – also South Africa	Ron Gregory

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

March

14th Chelmsford Club Bridge Night – Great Baddow Village Hall
27th **CLUB COUNCIL**

April

7th Club visit to Burnham on Crouch Rotary Club

May

6th **AGM**
7th Club Visit to Bardfield Vineyard (Chelmsford Rivermead Quiz Night)
10th District Assembly – all incoming Chairmen should attend
18th **GREAT BADDOW RACES - BE AVAILABLE !!!!!!!**

June

10th CLUB ASSEMBLY (Evening Meeting)
11th Matchstick Club
22nd **PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON**