



# Mildmay Matters

October 2009

No. 285

## LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE – *Mildmay version.*

A jolly outing to the lovely village of Dedham was enjoyed by some twenty members, partners, and friends last month. We all met at "The Sun" inn for an Italian style meal which accommodated the whole party round two enormous tables - the ideal arrangement for some rather noisy fellowship in the true Mildmay tradition!

After a very lengthy meal the party separated to enjoy their own choice of activity - some walking along the banks of the Stour to Flatford where they saw Maureen Lipman painting at the mill studio!, whilst others strolled round the village. The prize for taking full advantage of what Dedham has to offer must go to Richard and Penny Pilbrow who spent their time rowing on the river, and furthermore avoided falling in - well done!

Apparently everyone arrived home safely and with no reported ill effects and thanks to another fine day weather-wise the day was a great success.

*...and a hearty vote of thanks to Mike Savill for his exemplary arrangements*



The Pilbrows going for Gold!



Maureen Lipman – artist?

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## CHARITY LUNCH AT LEE FARM – THE OTHER FACE OF SUMMER!

By way of demonstrating the contrary nature of our so-called summer the Charity Lunch at Lee Farm organised by Foundation Chairman John Wolfenden and his Committee took place under canvas and heavy skies instead of under sunshades in the garden. Despite all this gloom £488 was raised and the Foundation Committee will decide at its next meeting who or what will be the beneficiary. A special thanks are due to Eileen and Tim Roper for the use of their lovely home and for all their hard work in setting things up.



Welcome to the Cotswold Water Park and the Four Pines Hotel. Externally not a place you would be over thrilled with but inside very comfortable and very well run. It was a hotel that as you got to know it you were pleased with its position on the edge of the lake. We were welcomed with coffee and biscuits, as many cups as you wished.

No commitments Friday evening other than a comfortable dinner in casual dress. Good meal and leisurely served, no rush. Dinner was followed by an evening with Richard Digance. A very good evening's entertainment, with a few songs, a few stories and a few jokes, a real mixed bag and some very good company.

Saturday morning and John Banks open the Conference with the Object of Rotary read by Geoff Player. A warm welcome to the Cotswolds by the Chief Executive of Cirencester Town Council, Rotarian Andre Tubb. He was followed by the Chairman of Inner Wheel Beryl Balls. She spoke to us about old fashioned courtesy and related the story of the man on the bus who stood up and offer his seat to a lady – she fainted. When she came too she accepted the seat and said, 'Thank you' – he fainted. The strength of Rotary lies in its variety in the membership. The wheel is a good tool but laying on the side of the road it is of no use, however, used in its proper manor it is very productive. Bear this in mind, "yesterday a lesson, today an action, tomorrow a hope".

A message from R.I. representative from District 2410, his theme was language and communication. In Sweden a man drove up in his car and spoke to two Swedish men. In English he asked the way to Stockholm. They did not understand. He asked again in French, they still did not understand and finally in German but still no response. He drove off. One young man said to the other, "perhaps we ought to learn a foreign language." The other replied, "Why, he knew three and they were of no use to him."

The communication he brought from R.I. President John Kenny was that

Clubs need to achieve a membership net increase of one.

Clubs to achieve a membership retention of 80%.

Clubs to increase its % of membership of those under the age of 50 years.

Clubs need to increase its % of classifications.

We need more Rotary in our Rotarians. What is your Dream? Are you achieving it?

A message from David Fowler brought to us by Alan Jagger in a very lively talk with many jokes. They had in his district a "Clint Eastwood look alike" competition and they invited John Banks. John came second; a Bradford bus driver from Jamaica won the competition. To survive we need to change. With the species, it is not the strongest that survive, it is not the most intelligent - it is those who can adapt to change.

Next came Geoff Mackey and if you haven't heard Geoff Mackey well you have missed a lot. His opening sentence in a broad Irish accent, following Alan Jagger who had spoken in a broad Yorkshire tongue, "I will now speak to you in English." His subject was Membership. His question. Why Join Rotary? Tell people what we do. Pinch other Clubs ideas if they help to promote your Club and attract new members. What excuses do you use? Accept we have a challenge. Make a plan. In business we think of recruiting talent – what about Rotary.

Peter Gibbs and climate change. He began by showing a number of picture of glaciers and the way they had changed in size and shape from 1906 to 2003. It illustrated the effects of the changes taking place with the ice. It reflects the heat and assists in keeping the earth cooler. Water absorbs the heat therefore one can easily work out the effects of changing ice into water. He then went on to show details on a number of graphs and although I understand graphs fully without knowing the details of the axis it was hard to understand what he was trying to explain.

We had a short presentation on Life Education. Since Conference the Club has had a presentation from the members of Maldon Rotary Club. They advise us that the Gloucestershire unit was available for members to see.

This was follow by a very enthusiastic talk from Peter Osbourne on literacy. Rotary had purchased 241,000 of the special dictionaries. 10% of children leaving primary school cannot read and texting and twittering is making matters worse. He picked on the point of letters and sounds in the alphabet:

Latin has 20 letters and 19 sounds.

Italian has 21 letters and 21 sounds.

French has 22 letters and 22 sounds.

Spanish has 26 letters and 24 sounds.

English has 26 letters and 44 sounds.

How many variations are there of the sound of the letter "a". He then went on to make his strong case for learning phonetics.

He outlined an experiment that had been conducted on the two forms of teaching "look & see" v "phonetics".

He alleged that after a short a time of 6 months children learning with phonetics were three and a half weeks ahead of the others and after 6 years they were three and a half years ahead.

This brought us to the conclusion of Saturday's business. Members then went their separate ways. There was an organised coach tour of the Cotswolds but I chose to walk around the local area. The evening was time for the formal dinner followed by "dancing" (jigging about) to a group called Locomotion.

Next day, Sunday started with a formal presentation of a "thought for the Day." The business then continued with a short presentation from Frank Tuck on the subject of Brentwood-a-Becket's Club's running of their charity race. I was not aware that they were recognised by B.R.R.A. He stated that in 2008 they raised £35,000 and in 2009 they raised £55,000 that netted down to £27,000. He went on to stress the benefits of P.R. from the race but highlighting the presentation of cheques was not beneficial.

Now we were to hear from Geoff Mackey once again and this time he was stressing communications. He made the point that he realised that this morning Alan Jagger would be speaking after him. The taking of those chances that come available and whilst talking completely ignoring the screen behind him that showed a mouse, dressed in a crash hat looking at a piece of cheese in a mouse trap. He went on to pick up on the opportunities that occur. This time on the screen is an antelope running a full speed, he hurtles into a tree and falls down immediately in front of a pair of lions, who just lay there and missed the opportunity of a meal. This is how in his speeches he makes his poignant points.

Bob Barclay now introduced the subject of Conference 2010 at The Barcelo Hotel Hinckley on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2010. The price looks very good at £185. The Secretary has booking forms if you wish to attend, numbers are limited. This was followed by a short presentation about R.I.B.I. Conference at Bournemouth in April 2010.

Spotlight on Youth, presented by Peter Dowse. The District's target is to have at least four young persons on Youth Exchange this coming year. Currently we have one planned but are looking for three more. Candidates should be between the ages of 15 to 19 and able to go for a three to four week stay. The young persons would be with only one host.

Information will be sent to Clubs in the spring about "Camps & Toys" a one to two week camp anywhere. Cost will be met from funds but some money may need to be raised to cover fares to the venue.

The morning concluded with a talk from Diana Moran better known as the "Green Goddess." A very entertaining chat telling us of her experiences in life. How she started work, as a journalist in the west of England, how she moved on to become the "Green Goddess," some of the places she conducted her exercise classes how her life was changed by cancer. One thing you cannot accuse her of is being a prude. She is now around 70 but by golly she did look good.

**All Rotarians ought to try and attend District Conference just to see what it is about. Once you have been I am sure you would wish to attend again.**

(part three of Conference Report next month – you have been warned! – Ed.)



**TWINNING WITH THE ROTARY CLUB OF KLERKSDORP, SOUTH AFRICA  
AND LESOTHO**

**from Pat Gaudin**



The seed was sown at the September Foundation lunch when one of our members said he thought it was disappointing that nothing had come of the connections I had made when leading a Group Study Exchange to South Africa and Lesotho. That got me thinking – of all the clubs who hosted us in District 9320 the one that has kept me in touch for the last three years on a weekly basis is the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp. And yes, they do produce a weekly bulletin – and occasional snippets have been pinched for Mildmay Matters! They are also the club that were first to send us down a gold mine. (A never to be forgotten experience!) This year they have their first female President so there's further empathy there! Twinning can be as much or as little as we make it. It's about increasing understanding, sharing information through our newsletters and might lead to e.g. support of projects or even exchange visits. Council has already discussed and asked me to pursue with a view to bringing to our club at our next Business Meeting. I'm aware that our members may not wish their email addresses to be sent to South Africa for circulation of the Klerksdorp newsletter but am sure that we can make the necessary arrangements between our respective webmasters. I should add that Klerksdorp are very enthusiastic about twinning with us and going through a similar process in taking to their board. From a personal point of view I think that it gives us an opportunity of knowing what is going on internationally in just one part of the Rotary world, and if we can support each other in any way so much the better. Check them out at <http://www.rotaryklerksdorp.co.za/>

Klerksdorp is the Town and principal centre of the Klerksdorp-area goldfields, North-West province, South Africa. It lies approximately 80 miles (130 km) southwest of Johannesburg. The "old town," which was founded in 1837 on the Schoonspruit River near its confluence with the Vaal River, was the first Boer settlement in the Transvaal. Opposite, on the eastern bank, lies the "new town," dating from 1888. An important grain-producing, mining (after 1932; gold and uranium), and industrial centre, Klerksdorp expanded greatly in the second half of the 20th century, with new industrial development and residential suburbs. Today, Klerksdorp is the centre for a large mining and agricultural economy and has the second largest grain co-operative in the world.

**PS** my host in Lesotho is next year's DG – another good reason to be in touch!

# PROGRAMME

DATE	SUBJECT/SPEAKER	DUTY
<b>November</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Amani Sedoyeka -Growing up in Tanzania	Alistair Simpson
10 <sup>th</sup>	Business meeting Object of Rotary	David Thompson Tony Barker
17 <sup>th</sup>	Club council is organising this date	Roy Thorne
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sabina Jesudason - the work of Water Aid	John Tilsley
<b>December</b> 1 <sup>st</sup>	Business meeting Object of Rotary	Michael Vandome Andrew Britter
8 <sup>th</sup>	Amani Sedoyeka – Computers for Tanzania Project	Alan Willis
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b>	John Wolfenden
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fellowship	Nanette Wright
29 <sup>th</sup>	NO MEETING	

## DIARY DATES

<b>November</b> 26 <sup>th</sup>	Club Council	<b>February 2010 contd</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Rotary Day
<b>December</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Matchstick Club	26 <sup>th</sup> Race Night .....Great Baddow Village Hall
<b>January 2010</b> 29 <sup>th</sup>	Club Council	27 <sup>th</sup> Chelmsford Clubs' main fundraising/ awareness raising day
<b>February 2010</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> / 28 <sup>th</sup> Purple Pinkie/ End Polio Now week		<b>March 2010</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Purple Pinkie Dinner

A man owned a small farm in Arkansas .

The Arkansas Wage & Hours Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his help and sent an agent out to interview him.

"I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them", demanded the Agent.

"Well," replied the farmer, "there's my farm hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$400.00 a week plus free room and board. The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$300.00 per week plus free room and board. There's the half-wit. He works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10.00 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of Bourbon every Saturday night. He also sleeps with my wife, occasionally."

"That's the guy I want to talk to, the half-wit", says the Agent.

"That would be me", replied the farmer.

*From John Bucknell – who says this applies to British farmers as well!*