



## MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE

Readers could be forgiven for thinking that this Club of ours has something going about wine. In our last edition the "Last of the Summer Wine" outing to Dedham took the headlines; this time it's flogging wine in Chelmsford High Street in aid of the Mayor's Charities. But wine and Mildmay are the only common factors in the two events with the weather changing from the idyllic warmth of Dedham to the wintry blasts of the County Town. The Editor has taken the liberty of plagiarizing and the following is Community and Vocational Service Chairman Richard Pilbrow's note of thanks to his team.

*What a funny old day it was! Nothing by way of trade in the morning. Then, around lunchtime came the rain and the wind - hardly a member of the public to be seen, just a group of Rotarians huddled around the gas burners! Rain stopped, customers appeared, and we had a sudden burst of trade such that we nearly ran out of mulled wine to sell!*

*During the early afternoon it got very quiet again. It is difficult to get customers to tipple in the mid afternoon! Must get them to develop more typical European mainland habits when out shopping. Some even asked us if we had tea or coffee for sale! "Well sir, if you close your eyes, take a deep breath and sup this, you can imagine it is herbal tea, with an alcoholic kick, and for only £2 you get a mince pie too". The sales tactic did not work and business continued to be slow until after 4:00pm. Then all hell broke loose. We were producing the stuff as fast as we could and only just keeping pace with demand. As switch on and Fireworks time approached, our part of the High Street became deserted. Peter Watson (Rivermead) and I pondered, is that it? Will we catch people making their way out after the Fireworks? We decided on a pot with half the usual quantities. Public began moving again, brisk trade began - "Shall we risk another half brew and use up the rest of the wine?"*

*We did, all sold, and in the end we were having to turn a few customers away. We got through 4 dozen bottles of wine which when made up as mulled wine equates to about 290 servings. Reasonable we thought, given that the weather forecast seemed to keep a lot of potential customers off the High Street until late in the day, and the fact that our stall was right at the end of the line. The crowd was down the High Street towards the Town Sign; we felt disappointed not to have been allocated a better pitch.*

*Thanks to all who participated. Some I am sure, wondered if their presence achieved anything, but at least there was some good fellowship! Those who were busy in the last session of the day did feel it was worthwhile and I have now heard from John Watkins, Chelmsford Club President who organised the Backnang Square stall and totted up the money for both stalls, that we achieved between the two stalls in excess of £600 net for the Mayor's charities.*

*Not huge, but a useful contribution. Thanks again, Richard.*

.....and many congratulations to Richard for all his efforts.

.....and we shouldn't forget President Richard's appearance at the event only a matter of hours after he had had a heart pace maker fitted. We're all delighted to see Richard getting back to his old self and wish him a continued good recovery!

Over the page there are photos of the day - again with thanks to Richard P, for his camera work this time .....

## MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE (contd)



Above – The High Street – and the lights are on!



Is Alistair Simpson expressing his appreciation of the mulled wine or President Richard's attendance so soon after the fitting of his pace-maker? Rotarians Jackie Rose, Robert Cappin and Martin Fee seem in agreement.



David Harper and Andrew Britter are ready to serve! - with such fine beards they should have no problem doing Santa! On the left – Has no body told the BBC's Pudsey Bear that Children in Need took place last week!.....



*Or perhaps Pudsey was in Chelmsford looking for that other famous bear – you know the one who is looking for a name. You don't know... then read on.....*

No Name Bear is sad and lonely as not only does it not have a name but it also doesn't know where it will live now that it is old enough to leave the family den and live somewhere else on its own. It has arrived in Chelmsford because it has heard a rumour that its name and its new home will be revealed in February 2010 in a place called Town Centre, Chelmsford and it will also then know where it is going to live.



Meanwhile it's been befriended by some very kind people called 'Chelmsford Rotarians' who are looking after it and in return it is going to help them raise awareness of the need to finally eradicate the scourge of Polio worldwide. No Name Bear wants you to keep a look out for it and, if you do meet it, to come and say hello - but don't be surprised if it asks you for a donation and the chance to help it find its name!

Some claim this same bear with purple and pink ribbon has been sighted –perhaps you are one of the lucky ones- but if on the other hand you are wondering what this is all about read on more.....

**Purple Pinkie week: 20-27 February 2010: End Polio Now / Thanks for Life**

Several activities are in the planning stage for this week and most are progressing well. At this stage Pat Gaudin and Ken Buck simply ask that you make a note to be available in that week. More about this vital campaign in January. If you are new to all this or need reminding the following says it all.....

### **BILL GATES CHALLENGE**

Rotary has been involved in the eradication of polio since 1985 and we are now on the last leg of a long journey. As you are all aware, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have given us a total of US\$355 million for our End Polio Now project, as a condition of which we have to raise US\$200 million. The timescale is up to June 2012 and so far we have raised US\$99 million, just under the half-way mark.

## **GATEWAY**

As all members are aware, due to the weekly announcement by our esteemed secretary, each week the club provides three cars for taking individuals to the Gateway Club at Westlands School. Of the thirty nine members of the Club only fifteen members help out with this activity. This increases the "burden" on those who do help. It is appreciated that Thursday evenings may not be convenient to all members. In fact it is not convenient to me as I like to play bridge on this evening. However on every sixth evening I forgo the bridge for Gateway. If you have not considered helping out on a Thursday and have some time, even if not on a regular basis, I should be grateful if you would let me know. We have recently lost two of our team and I would not wish it to get any smaller.

David Pond - Gateway Club Co-ordinator

## **PROTECTION UPDATE**

I've had so many members ringing me up clamouring to hear the latest on the protection of children and vulnerable adults (!) that I thought you might like a general update note. You'll probably have heard through the media of government proposals to extend and increase the stringency of the existing statutory CRB vetting scheme. It appears that the Government's proposals have met widespread opposition from the voluntary sector and at the present time it is still not clear exactly how ultimately the regime may alter. I'll update the Club further when I have any better information.

In the meantime, don't worry. There is nothing the Mildmay Club normally does which requires a CRB check. In the light of current RIBI guidance I have discontinued the former precautionary practice of seeking a clearance for each member. If, however, you are a Committee Chairman or are otherwise involved in planning an event or a new activity which may involve vulnerable adults or people under 18, you need to ensure that at the earliest possible stage you consider whether CRB checks may be needed for any Rotarians expected to be involved. Generally this will only be if Rotarians will spend significant time alone with one or more of the people protected, or will be with them frequently. Be aware that checks previously done on Club members are unlikely to cover new events or activities, and note that if a CRB check is indeed needed it can take months. As always, if you're in any doubt, give me a ring and I'll be pleased to advise!

Alistair Simpson - Club Safety and Protection Officer

.....as you prepare for Christmas please take heed of the following advice provided by Pat Gaudin

### **The Rocking Song**

*Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;  
We will lend a coat of fur,  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:*

Fur is no longer appropriate wear for small infants, both due to risk of allergy to animal fur, and for ethical reasons. Therefore faux fur, a nice cellular blanket or perhaps micro-fleece material should be considered a suitable alternative.

Please note, only persons who have been subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check and have enhanced clearance will be permitted to rock baby Jesus. Persons must carry their CRB disclosure with them at all times and be prepared to provide three forms of identification before rocking commences.

### **While Shepherds Watched**

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around*

The union of Shepherd's has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided, therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Shepherds have also requested that due to the inclement weather conditions at this time of year that they should watch their flocks via CCTV cameras from centrally heated shepherd observation huts.

Please note, the angel of the lord is reminded that before shining his / her glory all around he / she must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.

.....and in case I forget - "Do have a safe and bureaucratic Christmas"

# PROGRAMME

DATE	SUBJECT/SPEAKER	DUTY
<b>December</b>		
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	
<b>January 2010</b>		
5 <sup>th</sup>	BUSINESS MEETING	David Almond
	Object of Rotary	Ken Buck
12 <sup>th</sup>	Brian Piccolo - Friendship Exchange	Mike Ardley
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Smith MBE - Cycling Granny	Mike Ashton
26 <sup>th</sup>	Ambassadorial Scholar	Tony Barker

## DIARY DATES

<b>January 2010</b>	
29 <sup>th</sup>	Club Council
<b>February 2010</b>	
20 <sup>nd</sup> / 27 <sup>th</sup>	Purple Pinkie / End Polio Now week
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rotary Day
<b>March 2010</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	District Purple Pinkie Dinner

### And here's a little puzzle to fill a quiet moment at Christmas

Enter by the bottom red path and end on the centre grey square. You may retrace your path but may not make a U-turn on a pathway. You must follow the paths in the order red, blue, yellow and then red, blue, yellow again, as needed, changing colour on the white squares.

