

Association of Past Rotarians

PROCLAIM

AUTUMN 2011

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ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S AUTUMN REPORT

A great deal of water has gone under the bridge since the last edition of Proclaim, and whilst we may have thought that we have plenty of time to brood over matters and give some thought to the future, I can assure members that the Association Council have not been sitting idly and have been very active indeed. It might be said that Council members have not ignored their responsibilities in any way.

The minutes of the Council Meeting held in July were self-explanatory and circulated. The planning process for the Forum in October and the Conference in May, 2012 have been under way and the Charter Night for the Past Rotarians Club of Watling Street has now past. The possibility of a further new Club is under way and we have had several enquiries from other interested parties. These inquiries need nurturing and encouragement and Council Members work hard to their success.

It was with sadness that we heard during the summer of the sad and sudden death of President John Tucker of the Past Rotarians Club of Abertillery (Wales No. 1). He had shown himself to be a man of great energy and enthusiasm and his passing will be a great loss to this worthy Past Rotarians Club. I wrote personally to his widow, Gaynor, and the family expressing my own and the Association's sympathy at this very sad time. He has been succeeded by President Ray Jones another worthy member of the Club.

As I intimated at Conference it would not be my intention to visit every Club this year but promised that we would make every effort to visit those who would like us to visit them. On 6th September, Enid and myself were able to pay a return visit to the Thanet and District Club, where despite the weather, we had a most enjoyable visit and very warm welcome from President Michael Shipley and the Members of the Club. It was lovely to be amongst old friends and I cannot but mention Past Association President Peter Hodson and his wife, Hon. Association Vice President Cicelie Tonybee, all of whom were in fine fettle. Also amongst those present was Association Council Member Malcolm Armstrong. Due to the atrocious weather that we had all experienced over the previous days I was very proud to see how many were able to turn out and enjoy the fellowship. Keep up your good work in Thanet and District.

On 13th October, 2011, accompanied by Enid, I was conveyed by Association Treasurer Roy Limb and his wife Olive to Whippsnade, where we met up with Alan Norman Baker, a most enjoyable evening of fellowship was enjoyed by all. Past Rotarian Neil Munro and the officers of the Club are to be congratulated for their efforts in making it such a successful evening, during which the President was presented with the Bournemouth Loving Cup by Past Rotarian Richard Collins representing the President of the Past Rotarians Club of West London, the previous holders of the Cup, charging them with their responsibility to keep it in good order until they are called to pass it on to the next Past Rotarians Club to be Chartered. With a membership of 22 this will be a Past Rotarians Club worth watching in the future.

The Association Presidents' Forum was held at Cheltenham on 27th October, when I had great pleasure in welcoming no less than 9 Presidents or their Representatives, an improvement on last year, and despite promises made that Conference in May there was a disappointing absence of representation from several Clubs, which to me is much regretted. It was a very constructive and productive event and I hope it can continue with improved representation in the years ahead.

At the Association Council Meeting on the evening before the Forum, Council were pleased to accept and approve the application for a new Club to be known as the Past Rotarians Club of Stansted which will be hopefully chartered during 2012. Details of this new Club will be notified by the Association Secretary as soon as possible. We will all be proud to welcome them into the Association and our special fellowship.

Roi Thomas
Association President



President Roi & Derek Poole-Adams details page 12.

Alan Walmsley. BA., BSc., TSSF

Following a three year period of study, prayer and direction. Alan made his final vows and became a fully professed member of the Third Order of St. Francis, at a service in Lincoln, on 1st October 2011. Alan is also an authorised Lay Minister, based at St. Peter's Church, Cleethorpes.

TWINS report by Peter Hiley

Bournemouth member Dr Lord Morris Mendoza's wife Stephanie gave birth to twin boys on 12th August and mother and babies are all well. Born fit and healthy: Levi Samuel (7lb at birth) and Isaac Benjamin (6.5lb).

I saw Morris yesterday and he told me that according to the district nurse he is, at the moment, the oldest new father of twins in the country. After complimenting him, she asked what was the secret. He said, blandly: "I was taking Viagra?". She asked where did he get it. Again, looking serious, he joked "From a Viagra plant in my garden." "Wow! Where did you get it from?" to which he replied straight-faced: "From the local garden nursery." She was stunned for a moment until she realised Morris was joking.



Mendoza twins practicing fellowship

Message from Brazil

The following message was received after the publication of the last Proclaim:

<http://www.pastrotarians.com> from Diandrajosias@mma.com.br

Never seen a better post! ICOCBW Tony Scott

I was amused when I found out ICOCBW means or may be not

DEATHS

We are sorry to report the deaths of the following members.

JOHN TUCKER

President Roi reports No. 1 Club President, John Tucker died from a major heart attack. John took over from Peter Williams last winter and was very enthusiastic as to the future. I was only speaking to him the weekend before. He was their first member to die.

NICOLAS GRENFELL

From the Falmouth Club Nicolas Grenfell joined in January 1992. He lived in Truro and leaves his wife Margaret who is involved with the Red Cross.

PETER FENTON

Joined the Falmouth Club in September 2007. He was a Hotelier, School Governor and a Magistrate. He leaves his wife Janice.

BOURNEMOUTH THREE NEW MEMBERS report by Peter Hiley

AGM day at Bournemouth Past Rotarians Club, normally just regular business, turned out to be exceptional. Three new members were inducted before the start so that they could attend the AGM and enjoy the fellowship of the members over lunch.

As it happened, all three were chartered engineers, none of whom had met the others before that day.

First to be inducted by President Donald Ferguson was Poole Rotarian and Club Past President Kenneth Oxford (also Poole Rotary Secretary for seven years), followed by Michael Rushden and Derek Lee. Kenneth's father had been a founder and President of Poole Past Rotarians Club, now sadly no longer in existence.

In his application, Kenneth wrote: 'I feel that after 35 years service in Rotary it is time to move on and make way for younger members' - an ideal phrase that supports our objective to help Rotary to lower its age profile and so attract more active members.

Former Christchurch Rotarian Michael Rushton, Chartered Engineer and Naval Architect and Derek Lee, a Chartered Mechanical Engineer who had worked on nuclear power research, had both attended Club events and met members and ladies. Needless to say, the three engineers immediately have sparked off a friendship between themselves.

ABERTILLERY WALES report by Peter Williams

Since our Charter in 2004 we have tried to uphold the Aims and Objects of Past Rotary. We have tried to sign up new members however we remain at seven.

Unlike a lot of clubs, Rotary does not recognise us, we are outcasts to . They cannot grasp that there is a connection to Past Rotary.

We decided to follow the practice of Rotary and pay a monthly standing order. This allows us to pay National Subs, meals and to have and ready cash for any surprise increase in subs.

Our charity efforts have continued to enable us to give. We organise a sponsored walk each year. So far we have given not only to local charities but also to National and to International disaster funds plus our local cancer and cardiac centers.

We set out to be a club of fellowship and as our visitors, latest National president and Enid will tell you this ethos survives.

We have attended 3 Conferences etc., gatherings and taken an active part!!!

Our ladies join us 3- 4 times a year for dinner and we also organise various watering holes. Our efforts to recruit will continue who knows Rotary might one day recognise us.



Abertillery Past Rotarian's Club (Wales 1) and the Pontlottyn (Wetherspoon's, Abertillery) joined forces on a sponsored walk to raise funds for Clic Sargent. The walkers consisted of Past Rotarians, their wives, family members and a number of Wetherspoon staff including Jane Merralls (the Manager). The walk, commencing at the Pontlottyn, took in the new bicycle track from Abertillery to Aberbeeg and raised £600.00 for the Clic Sargent Appeal. At the end of the walk, Sunday lunch was enjoyed at the Pontlottyn especially by the youngest walker, Joan Cook aged 3 years.

Past Rotarians Club of Watling Street Charter Night.

On Thursday the 13th October the Past Rotarians Club of Watling Street received its Charter from the Association of Past Rotarians President Roi Thomas together with his wife Enid. The event was held at the Old Hunters Lodge in Whipsnade, Bedfordshire and attended by other Council Members including Extension Officer Alan Walmsley with wife Margaret, Roy Limb Treasurer with wife Olive, Association President Elect Allan Wordsworth with his wife Anne and Richard Collins Secretary of the West London Club and his wife Jill.

President Roi opened the proceedings by kindling the Flame of Friendship and remarking that as the club was registered May 2010 the Jubilee year of the Association, it is known as the Jubilee Club. Norman Baker received the Charter from President Roi and was formerly installed as the Founder President of the Club by the presentation of his Jewel and Collar of office. Club Members were then each presented with their Lapel Badges. The club has twenty members of which thirteen were present for the ceremony. Norman responded with a few words recalling the history of the club and the events that lead to joining the Association of Past Rotarians. He thanked Alan Walmsley for the contribution he made by attending an initial meeting to explain the working of the Association and providing support and information on an ongoing basis ever since.

President Roi spoke of the Association's beginnings at Bournemouth in 1948 and presented a pocket history written by a member covering the first forty years, but as the Association is now into its fiftieth year there is addendum to come. Roi went on to mention the Dutch connection and how they operate. He passed round for inspection the small trophy presented by the Dutch comprising three hands of significance. He concluded by emphasising that all members of the Association are a team working together in service and fellowship.

President Norman responded and proposed a toast to the guests. The Secretary of the West London Club Richard Collins then recalled his own club's formation last year and the reasons behind their decision to leave Rotary. He then presented the 'Loving Cup' to Norman to hold until the next new club is chartered, which won't be far away it seems.

Alan Walmsley rose to offer greetings from President Rex Manders and the Cleethorpes Club. He was pleased that the culmination of a years work has resulted in a new club joining the Association. He concluded with a joke which we won't repeat here he may want to use it again sometime.

Finally, President Roi extinguished the Flame of Friendship and the evening closed with a final toast 'To lasting friendship' by President Norman



Lighting the Flame of Fellowship



Presentation of the Charter

**Federatie van clubs van Past Rotarians
Celebration Day - 21st September 2011.
Report by Allan Walmsley**

It was 6.30 pm on Monday 19th September when Margaret and I boarded the 'Pride of Hull' ferry in Hull, for the twelve hour overnight journey across the North Sea to Rotterdam (Europort). Our ultimate destination being 's Hertogenbosch, a medieval city in the south of Holland, to represent President Roi and the APR (UK) at the 'Federatie van clubs van Past Rotarians' celebration day.

We were met in Rotterdam by the Dutch Federation President, Jan de Bonth and his wife Wils. They drove us the 80 + kms to our Hotel in 's Hertogenbosch – known locally as Den Bosch – and for the next three days we were entertained lavishly and treated like royalty.

I had the good fortune to represent the UK, as Association President in 2007, at a similar event that was held in Dordrecht. President Dr. Henk van Dijkhauizen was the then President of the Dutch Federation. The format of the occasion for their 'celebration' is somewhat different to that of our conference. The event takes place over one whole day and members freely attend, representing their clubs.

The Dutch Federation of PR clubs is approximately ten times larger than ourselves. They currently have 150 clubs and a total head-count of 2500 members. They enjoy a much healthier relationship with the Rotary movement than we do, and this is reflected in the number of their members holding dual membership. Dual membership is actively encouraged by Rotary which allows for a more uninterrupted and 'free-flow' movement across the 'boundary' line.

Wednesday 21st September was the actual day of the celebrations. Members arrived at the venue – a redundant church that had become re-incarnated into a 'Culture Centre'. The day began with coffee and scrumptious cream buns smothered in chocolate. During this set period of gastronomic indulgence, there was much friendship and fellowship expressed. I met up with friends – Henk and his wife Franjie; Bob Lodder and his wife; Paul Burgers and his wife Jos – all of whom send their very best wishes to all of us, here in the UK.

The programme of events runs true to form. The morning is taken up by speeches given first by the President, then an invited speaker who was then followed by a Rotary official. It would have been a bonus to have had an interpreter, as all the speeches are in Dutch. However, because of the positive reaction shown by members to some of the comments made by the Rotary official, I did ask what the gist of his speech contained. I was told that he was very positive about PR and that he was delighted to renew the 'agreement' that existed between PR and Rotary. In addition, he also told them that Rotary was offering them [PR] the administrative facilities of their office in Amsterdam. What would we give to have a relationship such as that with RIBI ?

Following a convivial lunch, members were given the choice of accessing one of three planned tours of the city. The choices were museums or a boat trip. The boat trip would take passengers through the sewers or 'Binnendieze' of the city. We chose the boat trip, as indeed did a good number of others. These electrically powered boat trips on the 'Binnendieze' are a unique experience. One can enjoy the many historical buildings, ancient walls and bridge archways that alternate with contemporary buildings. The waterways are very narrow at certain parts of the journey, and we learned that the average depth is some 1.25m. In 1822 a canal crossing the city was dug thus making the harbour superfluous to requirements. Circa 1874 onwards, the fortification of the city was no longer necessary and so people were allowed to build, work and live outside the city walls. As the infrastructure of the city improved so the importance of the 'Binnendieze' decreased. It still remained in use as an open sewer by some 800 households, but the stench from it became unbearable.

In 1964, the city council decided to close all waterways, but before they could do this they had to provide a completely new sewage system. In 1973, this unique and extensive restoration work began. The work was completed in 1998 at a total cost of €20.500.00. Originally there were 12 kms of waterways with 20 crossings and more than 100 bridges, all within the city walls. Today, only 3.5 kms remain of which one third are covered and flow under the houses.

At the end of the afternoon tours. The celebration continued in the City Hall, where the delegates were entertained with canapes and drinks provided by the Burgomaster and his council. The Burgomaster delivered a speech to the assembled group and after he had completed his speech. President Jan called upon me to deliver a short address to the Dutch Federation. I limited my comments mainly to thanking them for inviting Margaret and myself to their celebration day and saying, quite genuinely, how much we had enjoyed the event and indeed their hospitality. I delivered the good wishes of President Roi, together with that of the entire membership of the APR (UK) and spoke a little about the joy of our continuing relationship with them, through friendship and fellowship.

's Hertogenbosch currently has a population of 80,000, there are in excess of 80,000 bicycles. Buses and motor cars are conspicuous almost by their absence. It seems that everyone, young and old travels by bicycle or 50 cc motor scooter. Purpose built underground cycle parks are accessed from the city streets. The air that one breathes is virtually pollution free. Anyone who has Holland on their radar as a place to visit, would not be disappointed to visit this interesting city.

On Thursday afternoon, Margaret and I were taken back to Rotterdam, by President Jan and his wife Wils, to board the overnight ferry returning to Hull. We had certainly enjoyed an action packed three days, and as we said our good-byes, President Jan de Bonth told me that he and his wife Wils would be delighted to attend our conference in May 2012, at 'The Abbey Hotel', Great Malvern.



Abbey Hotel Great Malvern
The venue for our next conference.
Friday and Saturday
the 18th and 19th May
Hope to see you there.

Full details and forms to be completed by 1st February 2012.
They will be with your Club Secretary by the end of November.

RECRUITMENT Report by John Harrop

INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION LED BY APP. PETER HILEY

During the Forum.

President Roi welcomed our journalist expert, who had many years experience as a Past Rotarian and until recently had been our Editor of "Proclaim", for the second time!

Peter began his address by saying that the magic for recruitment is based on hard work, imagination and determination. He then posed the questions:

- a) how to find new members:- by invitation of guests by members, publicity and leaflets, notices in libraries, supermarkets etc, coffee mornings, W.I. Inner Wheel.
- b) retaining club membership by involvement (taking office), contacts with Rotary, local newspaper entries, dual membership with Rotary.
- c) why clubs fold:- apathy and lack of enthusiasm and interest in continuing the club for future members. d) web site opportunities to publicise your club, but must be kept up to date.
- e) go for quality in all you do from letter headings to recruitment of members with interest and enthusiasm and a willingness to take office and become involved.

To close he challenged each club to gain 2 or 3 before the 4th April, when the annual returns are due.



President Roi with Peter

EDITORIAL

by Tony Scott

The last meeting I attended was the Forum your club secretary will have received the minutes by now, so please ask to read them. The meeting was productive and there were some good ideas put forward. We had some members offer their services for the future:- John Harrop as 1st Vice President (Fylde), 2nd. Vice President John Stacpoole (West London), Honorary Secretary Richard Collins (West London). Allan Wordsworth agreed to continue as Almoner, Roy Mills would consider taking on the position of Archivist. They will need to be elected at the AGM.

We have had a slight mix up with the cover the list of officers has put Peter Hiley as editor again I have put my contact details at the top of page 1.

I have been told that Bluefin who kindly donate the cover have provided some members with excellent insurance quotes recently worth trying them when you renew your insurance.

My own club Fylde has had some new members join. Our policy of a dinner once a month with our ladies seems very popular. Our coffee morning once a month for the members to manage our business also works well. At that meeting one of us gives a five minute talk mainly about their life experiences we really have an interesting membership.

Photos from the Forum and other events are or will be on the website.

To conclude my best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

PRESENTATION TO INTERIM STANSTED & DISTRICT CLUB

President Roi presented the boxed Gong with hammer to President Derek Poole-Adams and members of the interim Stansted and District Club kindly given by APP Bill Braide and members of the old Worthing Club (the second club to join the Association) for the use of the latest interim club in the Association.

PHIL & GWEN PHILLIPS by Dal Turner

I thought it may be of interest to our association members, through "Proclaim" that one of our members Phil Phillips from Cleethorpes & District Club who with his wife Gwen have both recently celebrated their 90th birthdays.

Lecturing and photographing wild flowers has been their hobby for many years. They have given numerous talks to varied clubs and organisations over the years. I read in our local newspaper they are giving an illustrated talk on "Orchids" and their habitats" at an open garden event this August.

I think Gwen and Phil are an inspiration to us all.