

# Kingfisher Chronicle - 2007-2008

September 2007

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## Presidents Ramblings

For most of September we again used our temporary venue of Steps Bar/Restaurant as the Moat House was still very far from ready to cater for our return.

On 4th September Brian Carpenter gave us an interesting talk about the schemes for Youth Opportunities and Youth Exchange available to Rotary Clubs in the District. He particularly emphasised the Youth Opportunities aspect of his work as the District Chairman of this Committee. There is great scope for encouraging local schools to participate in such competitions as Young Chefs, Musicians, Photographers etc. Our own club is involved in the Young Chef Competition through our Youth Opportunities Officer, Keith Lea.

Encouraging parents to attend competitions in which their children are taking part is a way for Rotary to improve its' contacts with the local community and is another avenue for increasing Club membership.

The District Governor (John Quinton) visited us on 11th September and gave us a very informative talk about the two charities he was promoting during his year as DG. There were DebRA (for people with the genetic skin blistering condition EB) and RNLI (in 2006 RNLI lifeboats rescued more than 8,000 people, an average of 22 people per day! - running costs average around £330,000 per day.)

He emphasised that new fund raising should be sought each year especially in co-operation with other local clubs - as much more could be achieved. John also promoted the idea of trying to get new members for the Club by more involvement in local communities and projects.

Sunday 16th September saw a group of us (including wives) on the Severn Valley Steam Railway lunch trip where we all enjoyed a good meal and excellent fellowship. The weather was beautiful and we had a few laughs about the short return journeys from Kidderminster to Bewdley (3 in all), as the following picture shows.



On Tuesday 18th September we hosted Round 1 of the District Quiz against Droitwich Saltway. We came second on the night! We always seem to progress satisfactorily until the final buzzer round and at that stage we loose the plot - perhaps we should have practice matches using buzzers to improve our reaction times.

For our meeting on 25th September we moved our venue to the Westmead Hotel at Hopwood near Alvechurch. Our special guest speaker was Julie Kirkbride, the local MP for Bromsgrove, and we had an excellent turnout of 41 (including wives) for this event.

Julie gave us an outstanding talk on her work as an MP without any mention of party politics. She explained that she had been a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in 1982/83 at the University of California in Berkley where she had studied journalism. As a result of this she duly became political correspondent at the Daily Telegraph which led in due course to her being adopted as Conservative candidate for Bromsgrove in 1996. She won the seat in 1997 and in the two general elections held since has increased her majority on each occasion.

Julie ended the evening by answering the numerous questions put to her by an audience that was both impressed by her energy and sincerity.

For your information the Club Programme over the next few weeks is as follows:

October 2nd J Cottle to arrange. Discussion about future temporary venue  
October 9th David C Baxter (Surgeon) Speaker  
October 16th D Field to arrange  
October 23rd K Lea to arrange  
October 30th Arthur Allen (Diving) Speaker

## Youth Exchange

Email received by Bryan Carpenter  
Good morning Bryan!  
Just updating you on a few things!!  
Flight wasn't as long as I expected. I met a friend. He was Australian, and thought it would be funny to keep me up all night. He looked after me and made sure I was okay. He also helped me get my next flight to Cairns.  
So I finally arrived to loads of people at the airport!! They actually woke up to meet me at five in the morning!!  
I have set up my bank account in Australia which was really easy. I have also bought a new sim card. The number is 0431740924 in case you need it.  
Been into school, but won't start for another two weeks as they have exams going on. Also have my uniform, which is horrible!!!!  
My family is lovely!! Everyone is lovely in Australia!! Also went to a rotary meeting last night. Was brilliant. Everyone seemed very interested and found me quite funny.  
I think that's it, but if you want to know anything then..... just ask!!!!

Christine x x x x x

## From the DG

The District Website is located at  
<http://www.rotarydistrict1060.org/>

You can use this web site to find out what other Clubs in the area are doing so please make regular use of it. You may find that your Club projects overlap other Club projects so if you share your knowledge you may well be able to provide a better service overseas. At our Conference in Harrogate this year we are arranging for Clubs to show us what they are doing in our 'Rotary Showcase'. At Harrogate we have managed to obtain 4 keynote speakers in Michael Portillo, George Alagaih, Kay Alexander and Don MacLean. We also have an all female GSE team from District 4100 in Mexico.

The announcement that District 1060 has been asked to hold the 2009 RI Convention, which will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Birmingham, came as a pleasant surprise and is something we can all be proud of. It will be a case of all hands to the grindstone for the next 2 years.

## Rotary Shortbread

The Rotary Club of Forres, District 1010 sells Rotary Shortbread to raise funds for The Rotary Foundation. The well presented traditional Scottish shortbread is made for the club by an award winning local bakery, using a traditional family recipe. Priced at £18 per case of 6 drums, with free delivery in the U.K. mainland & Scottish islands, the Rotary Shortbread makes an ideal small gift, a small raffle prize, a gift for a Club Guest Speaker or just a nice treat for yourself and your friends. As it says on the label: "***It is nice with a cuppa and grand with a dram.***"

Perhaps we could sell Needles!!

## Missing newsletters

If you are wondering what has happened to the newsletter recently then so am I. So few contributions have been received that it has not been worth the effort to produce a few line Chronicle. I suppose that's good for me as I do not have to get up early each Sunday to get on with the publication. So if you want me to have a well deserved lie in please do not send any articles to me, but equally don't expect a newsletter. (Bored Editor)

## Thought for the day

Old Telephone Directories make ideal personal address books. Simply cross out the names of people you don't know.

## Duties this Week

Meal collection – Colin Smith  
Grace – John Scott  
Vote of thanks – John Savigar  
Reserve – David Saunders

## Raffle

Both Jenny and Jim Cottle won the raffle last week, so it's a boozy weekend at their house!

All contributions to this newsletter welcome by email to [J.scott@btopenworld.com](mailto:J.scott@btopenworld.com) or even snailmail will do.