

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF
FOLKESTONE**



PRESIDENT MIKE SIMMONDS

FEBRUARY 26th. 2007

The Rotary club of Folkestone newsletter is edited
and produced monthly by Noel Tatt

On behalf of all the Folkestone Rotary Club members, I extend a very warm welcome to our guests on this very special day for us. Not only are we celebrating our 84th birthday this week but we are delighted to be welcoming over a dozen guests to our lunch meeting this week at The Grand.

You will have been personally selected for invitation by one or more of our members. This could be because they feel you have the potential to join our Club and enjoy the company of the 40 or so members as we quietly go about our Rotary activities, or perhaps in recognition of the support you have given us (or may in future be able to give us) in our fundraising activities for the numerous worthy causes we support both in this country and all over the world.

Our guiding principle is 'Service above Self', which broadly means giving our time, skills and energy to help those who are less able to look after themselves. Most notably, our Christmas

Collection during two weeks early in December raises enough money every year for us to distribute 250 or more parcels of groceries to the poor and needy in our own community. Worldwide, Rotary is committed to international projects including relief from the effects of disaster when it strikes, and those who watched, or read about in the Herald this week, the Town Centre Pancake Race will be aware of the Rotary Shelter Box scheme - only one of very very many initiatives whereby the Rotary Movement works to alleviate distress within our global community.

It is a great pleasure to be a part of Rotary and I am privileged to be President of the Folkestone Club this year as we invite you to join with us today to find out more about the work we do, the many ways in which we give something back to our communities, and the friendships we and our partners form in doing so.

Finally, please remember that there are three 'F's in Rotary - Fun, Fellowship and Fundraising. I do hope you enjoy your day, and that we will see you again soon so we can tell you more about all three.

Yours in Rotary

Mike Simmonds

**Welcome
to our Guest Day!**

By club Secretary John Barber

My father, an active member of the Lions Club, asked me why I was joining Rotary. The simple truth was that a Rotarian in Tonbridge, where I lived and worked, asked me!

I had no real idea of what Rotary was or did. I attended my first Rotary meeting as a young thirty-nine year old, remember coming away having enjoyed meeting a number of new people, eaten an average meal and listened to a speaker on a topic that was mildly interesting. *Whether the time spent was really worthwhile was another matter.*

Maybe you will feel the same today and will wonder why you would ever want to join a "club" that is 87 years old and an organisation that is over 101 years old. Personally I was very busy running a thriving school and certainly had no time to spare on such frivolities. ***Yet I joined and have never regretted the decision. I have chaired a number of committees, enjoyed my year as president in 1999-2000 and am now the Club Secretary!***

You will hear today part of the object of Rotary, which is divided into four avenues of service – Fellowship, Vocational, Com-

munity and International and includes Youth Opportunities and our Rotary charity, The Rotary Foundation.

Rotary may waffle a bit but it does give service, it does contain members who do. It is involved with the Community in a practical way; it is not a hand in pocket type of service – indeed the less of that the better.

Our club makes numerous donations to many worthy causes, both to individuals and groups, and has supported Food Stop, Christchurch Children's Project, Handicamp, Kid's Out for disabled children, Life Education Caravan, Christchurch Tower Memorial Garden, Kent Air Ambulance, Kent Hospices, Demelza House and many more.

Fund raising exercises include such things as Race Nights, Rotawalk, golf tournaments, Wine & Wisdom evenings, Jazz Nights, annual Christmas collection complete with float over ten evenings prior to Christmas.

The Club also has very strong links with our contact Clubs and has formed a Quadrangulaire with Lille, Liège and Köln, meeting once a year.

That is why I am still a member some 18 years later. But it is not all one sided. The final toast at events is "Rotary and Peace the world over". Wherever you go, from Russia

to Argentina, from the Gambia to Japan, you will be greeted by Rotarians, who will be delighted to welcome you as a friend. I know that from personal experience.

On a final note our Club voted some years ago to invite ladies to join our ranks. Not because they are ladies but because we know they make good Rotarians too.

JOHN HAS WRITTEN OF THE OBJECT OF ROTARY. EACH AVENUE HAS A COMMITTEE AND A CHAIRMAN. THE FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS FROM THOSE CHAIRMEN COMMENCING WITH

CLUB SERVICE

As Vice President of the club and Chairman of the Club Service Committee I see the role of my committee as ensuring the future wellbeing of the Club. That may be simply looking at how we run our affairs, and ensuring that the membership is happy with the way the Club is run - that it's right for them.....

It may be a question of ensuring that new members are integrated and made to feel welcome. It is almost certainly about looking at the longer term wellbeing of the Club, bringing in new ideas and new blood, to ensure the long term survival of the Club, and the good work we achieve in the

local and international community.

That's what today is all about - it is an opportunity for existing members to be reminded about the ideals of Rotary Service, and of what the Club is doing, but more importantly, it is one of those occasions when we tell an invited audience what Rotary and the Club is all about.

We hope our guests feel welcome - they have all been carefully hand-picked by the membership - all members will be hosting and answering any questions they may have, so make the most of our potential new members and friends, and help to make today a resounding success.

Roger Joyce

OUR CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Community Service is the largest of our club's committees and is responsible for organising most of the club's fundraising activities for the general community. During the year the following events are arranged:

Rotawalk in June – this year in aid of The Kent Blind; Our Boot Fair in July; The Folkestone Half Marathon in October and our Race Night in November.

In December we all take part in our Christmas Collection with our

Rotary Father Christmas float visiting all parts of Folkestone. A major event raising many thousands of £'s for good causes. Interspersed with that we help collect funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care and McMillan Nurses and support Stroke Awareness Day in April.

In one year from these events we raise some £12,000 and distribute several thousands to chosen Charities. Our prime objective is to help local people and in 2006 we distributed some 300 food parcels at Christmas, provided a day out for disadvantaged children and supported a number of individual projects.

Shortly we are undertaking building works for a woman's refuge, taking Lympne School to Legoland following their traumatic experience of seeing their school burnt down and supporting Citizens Advice Bureau. A wide variety of good causes - unfortunately never enough money to help everyone.

Whilst Community Service may organise these events nearly everyone within the club supports and helps. Seeing the kids' faces at their windows when the Father Christmas float goes round is so very rewarding and makes our efforts utterly worthwhile.

Andrew Beggs

OUR INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

Hello and welcome. The International Committee concentrates its efforts in making an impact on international humanitarian issues where they are needed most.

Aids has been sweeping across the African continent. Much needs to be done to educate its people about this deadly disease, and in the prevention of it spreading. As a committee and club, we have been working away quietly, in a small way, with our partners in doing just that.

The programme that I concentrate on in the short term is supporting the developing work of a team of German Rotarian Doctors at St. Dominic's Hospital, Akwatia, Ghana, in helping to stop the spread of Aids. Their work involves working with mothers who carry the Aids virus and the prevention of them passing it on to their unborn children.

Last year in the small town of Akwatia where the programme is in its infancy over 100 babies born to mothers carrying the virus were born aids free. I find that incredibly encouraging and something I would like us to continue pursuing. Rotary is indeed doing wonderful work all over the world. Luckily, my committee and club are all in agreement that we should continue down this path, maybe only just scratching the surface

of the problems facing those who are less fortunate than ourselves, but nevertheless making a valuable contribution to those who need our help most.

And just in case you think its all work and no play, I can assure that nothing could be further from the truth! We are fortunate in having three 'contact' clubs in Lille, Liege and Cologne with whom we collaborate on projects such as the one I have mentioned, and we also meet annually when one of the clubs will host the others in a weekend celebration of fun and fellowship. Last year we went to Liege, this year it will be Cologne in October and next year, 2008, it will be Folkestone's turn again. Come and join us and have some fun!

Peter Lapham

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Following the success of the Junior Chef Competition, the Vocational Service Committee is very much involved with other youth activities.

We are actively pursuing the proposal of holding a Young Instrumentalist Competition to be held in March 2008 and are in the process of obtaining more information and the possibility of obtaining funding from outside Rotary to assist in the financing of the project.

A meeting was held in November of all the four Rotary Clubs in

Shepway under the title of " A working Initiative on Youth" attended by representatives of all the relevant Clubs and two senior Rotarians are part of a working group to go further into the matter. The aim of the group is to identify children in need of aid and who would benefit by being involved in community activities with all Shepway Clubs co-operating in the project.

Visits have been arranged to view the workings at Church and Dwight (formerly Carter Wallace) on 23rd March, late morning with a visit to a suitable restaurant afterwards for lunch to add to the other interesting assistance such as school mentoring, interview training we give during the year

Harry Wald

The Rotary club of Folkestone was formed in 1923. There are four Rotary clubs in Shepway: The Channel, Hythe and Romney Marsh being the others and all have between twenty five and fifty members.

Folkestone and Hythe clubs meet generally at lunchtime, Romney Marsh and The Channel during the evening All meet weekly except Folkestone which is fortnightly meeting

OUR SPORTING SIDE

We have eight regular golfers . But we would welcome more! We play as a club in a number of Rotary and other charitable golf

competitions and have had a number of successes in recent years with wins - both individual and team - in our local Rotary area annual event, and even more prestigiously in winning the Rotary S/E District 1120 (90 clubs) annual championship twice in the past five years.

These last wins got us to the national finals where five years ago we came third. Additionally we regularly go to our twin club in Lille to play in their annual event. Last year for the first time we played in an event in Cologne - another one of our three twin clubs.

All new members who play golf are most welcome to join in all these events – all they have to do is be nice to the Sports Officer, who is yours truly,

Dennis Baker. Sports Officer

AND OUR TREASURER:

Potential members might like to know that in the last three years to 30th June 2006 the Folkestone Rotary Club has raised through various means a little over £72,000.

We have spent out on charitable good causes a little under £70,000 in the same three years.

The main fund raising activity is our Christmas Collections which in last year's Accounts show income of over £7,000. With this income we make up food parcels for the old and needy in our town

which averages some 250 parcels. Included in our income for the last three years has been tax refunds under the Gift Aid Scheme totalling £3,380.

Barry J. Booth

THE INNER WHEEL CLUB OF FOLKESTONE

In 1923 The Vice-President of Rotary International, addressed a Manchester Rotary Meeting including Wives where he suggested that a Ladies Club be formed to run along Rotary lines but not to be called Rotary. This in turn led to an initial meeting on January 10th 1924 when the first President was elected and The 'Inner Wheel' was 'born'. Word quickly spread and other unofficial groups of Rotary wives joined in. By 1934 there were 79 Clubs including Folkestone.

Today there are over 100,000 members around the world and membership is open to female relatives of Rotarians. Inner Wheel members are compassionate people but we are also enthusiastic and fun loving, we have the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile and of forming firm and lasting friendships locally and throughout the world. New members are always most welcome and through **Friendship, Service and International Understanding** we really do make a difference and help to change lives for the better.

Doreen Cooke-Davies