



# The Bulletin

## News from THE ROTARY CLUB OF LEWES

Summer 2011

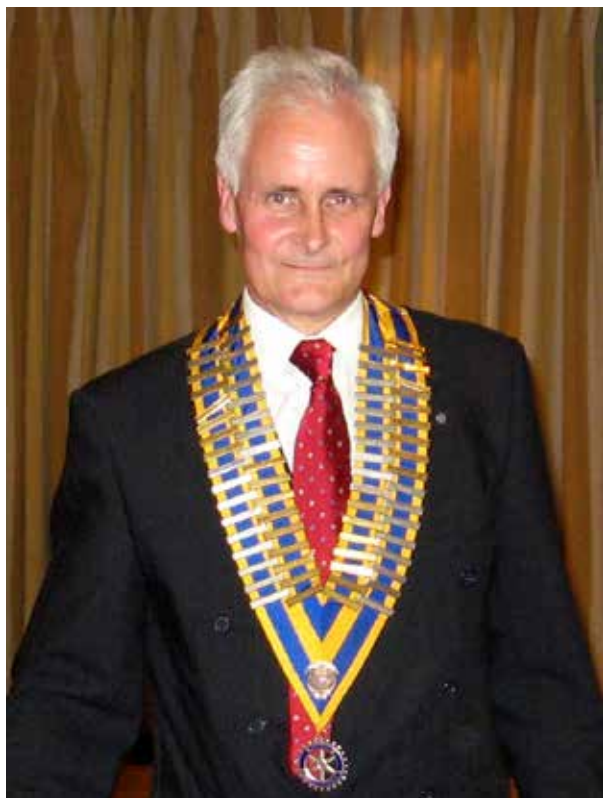
Editor : Mark Barrett

The views expressed in this Bulletin are not necessarily the official views of the Club or the Editor.

The Editor welcomes contributions and letters.

### HATFIELD'S HAPPENINGS

Welcome to our new Club President Jim Hatfield who will say a few words.



I am relieved that a number of Members have been able to continue in key posts. We have a superb team for this year and we are very lucky that so many energetic Rotarians are prepared to be so proactive. My particular thanks are due to

Peter Gartrell and Graham Kirker who have taken on new roles as Club Secretary and Treasurer.

At the Club Assembly, we were able to run through the Club Programme. On the basis of *'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'* there are only a few minor changes of emphasis planned. These are:-

- Inviting business speakers with a view to sourcing new potential members.
- Further encouragement to invite friends and business acquaintances to Rotary as guests and possible future members.
- Because the District Conference is in Eastbourne this year, it would be good to arrange a Club presence for the Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October at the Conference.
- Evening meetings with the Ladies.
- Occasional Club 'Raids' to other Rotary Clubs.

I am delighted and honoured to have been elected President of The Rotary Club of Lewes for the year and I shall do my best for the Club. Thank you.

I have been a member for 21 years. The Club was formed in 1923 and will therefore be 88 years old this October. From my perspective it seems to go from strength to strength.

As we all know the Rotary motto is 'Service above Self'. This is amplified by the four Objects of Rotary which I think merit regular re-reading in addition to the monthly reading of them at Business Meetings. I would hope that, as a Club, we can continue to make a difference to the local community and the wider world.

This year's Rotary International President is Kalyan Bannerjee from India. His motto for the year is 'Reach Within to Embrace Humanity' and we shall have an opportunity to see a short video and talk from him on this subject.

The Rotary Club of Lewes achieves a huge amount in the form of good deeds and funding, a few examples of which include the Public Speaking Competition, the International Polio Plus Campaign, the Ambassadorial Scholarship Scheme and the Twilight Evening for the elderly. The Club Members raise funds from a variety of events including the Skittles Competition, the Bridge Evening, the Golf Day and the Christmas Tree of Goodwill. They are involved in so many activities I cannot list them all here, but it is apparent that it takes the total involvement of all members.

I would like to thank Julian Dawson, Peter Oldfield and Peter Boyse and their teams of Committee Chairmen, Club Officials and Committee Members for a brilliant year and for leaving the Club in such good shape.

Of these, Membership is paramount. When I joined the Club there were 65 Members. There are now 51 Members of whom only 48 are active. We must therefore reverse this slow decline in numbers.

As a Club we are astonishingly successful. According to the accounts for 2009-2010, we raised a total of £31,526. This figure fluctuates from year to year. Of this figure, £26,392 was for the Charitable and Benevolent Fund.

On the basis of a Club income of between £30,000-£35,000 per year, this means that each Member raises around £700 per annum. This makes The Rotary Club of Lewes a major player in terms of charitable fund raising, quite apart from the practical and proactive help we give in addition.

This brings me to the question of the President's Charity. This year I have four charities I would like to be considered:-

- The first is St Peter & St James Hospice which I have supported for many years and which has provided help, comfort and dignity to friends and relatives at the end of their lives.
- Secondly, I had direct experience last year of the effectiveness of the First Responders service who are volunteers attached to the South East Coast Ambulance Service.
- Thirdly, the Sussex Heart Charity and their educational programme for resuscitation 'Heartguard'.
- Finally, and unrelated to humanitarian aims and objects, I would like to be able to offer £1,000 to the Bluebell Railway's Charitable Trust to be earmarked for assisting them in their final land clearance to reopen the line to East Grinstead. This is a major project of significance to us in that it forms part of the original Lewes and East Grinstead Railway and is, of course, another matter close to my heart!

I should like to thank everyone in the Club for the tremendous fellowship and support they have shown me.

Having dispensed with the formalities on 30<sup>th</sup> June, my first outing as President was to extend the Club's welcome to the new President of Inner Wheel, Joan Fowlie, at her inauguration. It will be a pleasure to work alongside Inner Wheel which has an equally impressive record of support to so many people.

I am really looking forward to what I hope will be an eventful and interesting year's work on behalf of the Club.

Jim Hatfield

## Skittles Report – July 2011

As usual, we had a successful and enjoyable skittles tournament. Despite the unsettled weather, we got through all the evenings without the need to “bring the covers on to the pitches” or suspend play.

Team entries at 140 was a little disappointing after a high of over 150 a year or so ago and without the World Cup distractions of last year. Although we evidently have a solid core of supporters, we need to attract new players. Hopefully the designated web site [www.lewes-skittles-tournament.co.uk](http://www.lewes-skittles-tournament.co.uk) (which did attract some responses) will be better known and more established on Google by next year. Nigel will be spending some time updating the site content. We may also try Facebooking and Twittering. The banner over the Cliffe could have worked, but it was up very late (for reasons beyond our control) but again if displayed earlier next year it should help. The committee will be looking at other ways to raise our profile.

We also need to use the club manpower more effectively. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get members to sign up to fill the duty slots. The committee will be looking at ways we can slim down the support staff needed for each evening (and that remark is not aimed at Ashley with his 4 burgers an evening!). Any suggestions?

The Mark II Burger Hut worked well although it was not used to the full lockable potential by Inner Wheel. The bar and other arrangements worked efficiently. The Finals night test-run for the ice-cream man also seemed to attract some business eventually.

Eileen Russell, the Chairwoman of LDC, came along for the Saturday prize presentation and not being from Lewes, she was impressed and surprised with the scale and atmosphere of the event. She is keen for LDC to link up with Skittles to run a joint Jubilee celebration next year and her preference is for something with a schools orientation. The committee will be discussing that with a view to taking the idea further with LDC. A Saturday afternoon Schools tournament has been suggested, although we need to work out the format. Whether that is a one-off or start of a regular sub-event remains to be seen. It could encourage the next generation of skittlers.

Overall finances are yet to be finalised but net income should be some £6,000 plus.

David Clarke

## DISTRICT DARTS

For the second time, the A team (squad - Clarke, Mason, Rowland, Price, Boyse and Lawrenson) fought their way through with a string of decisive 3-2 victories, to reach the District Finals. We played Oxted at the Black Horse. We previously played Oxted away in the 2008 final and lost. They are a strong team and retained the title in 2009.

With Ashley again called away on onerous local governmental duties, a difficult selector's decision promoted John from his drinks waiter duty to be a playing substitution, a tough choice but Boyse's form chalking was much more reliable

The first two legs games were very close but Oxted's clinical first-time check-outs made it look like it would be a very short evening. In the third leg, John justified his place and finished what looked like a consolation leg to avoid the white-wash. But in the fourth leg, Lewes toyed with Oxted on the double-1 before checking-out to take the final to sudden death. In the last leg Oxted stormed away but couldn't finish before nerves and beer got the better of both teams. There were many wire-width misses from both teams before Lewes clinched a miraculous recovery to take the cup.

I am please to say it was my finishing darts in the last two legs "wot won it", although they were thrown by the hero of the night, Nigel, who had borrowed my spare set of arrows.

David Clarke





## **Rotary Club of Lewes Barbican**

**The Barbican Club now meet at 6.30pm on Mondays at the  
Lewes Arms**

## INNER WHEEL

May

The May Inner Wheel Club meeting was held at the home of P.P. Gail Elhinn. A buffet supper was provided by members and husbands/partners were invited to come along too. The evening was organized by P.P. Joan Craggs, Chairman of the Overseas Committee, and monies from the evening were being put to the Overseas account.

President Christine thanked all involved in the evening which was a most enjoyable occasion.

June

The June meeting of Inner Wheel was held at the Dorset Arms, Lewes. President Christine welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Candle of Friendship was lit by P.D.C. Audrey Sholl, who also read the Aims and Objects of Inner Wheel.

The A.G.M. followed and officers' annual reports read and approved. Officers for the year 2011-2012 were confirmed.

The usual Club meeting followed and included reports of visits made to the District Rally held at King Edward School, Witley, Surrey, and to the premises of the Knowle's Tooth Charity which the Club has supported this year.

P.P. Lore Simmonds announced that the response for help in running the 'Burger Stall during the Rotary Skittles week had been very good. It was also pleasing to acknowledge that a number of wives/partners of Rotarians had offered their help too.

V.P Joan Fowlie reminded members of her Coffee Morning (to include a raffle, cake stall, and bring and buy stall), scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 10 a.m. -12 noon at "Farthings" North Road, Ringmer. All Rotarians, wives/partners and friends are welcome.

Sylvia Rimmer – Club Correspondent

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## POLIO PLUS

You will all by now (save those on leave of absence) been given some Wilkins [ ] Tomato Sauce. The idea is to fill these with coins (preferably 0.20p pieces), just like the Smarty collections of old and fond memory. The aspiration is to collect at least £5 in each bottle and hand them in to Jim Hatfield by June.

(WARNING: You are advised to empty the contents onto a giant beefburger first and then clean out the bottle before putting the money in)

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# Rotary Club of Lewes

## Attendances January – June 2011

	%		%		%	#
M.Barrett	69	P.Howard	100	G.Shuttleworth	45	
R.Barrett	50	A.Jackson	27	A.Snell	85	
Ned Binks	92	M.Keeping	31	P.Spence	77	
Tim Birch	69	G.Kirker	85	M.Sword-Daniels	65	
P.Birkbeck	88	S.Lawrence	73	G.Thompson	50	
P.Boyce	62	J.Lawrenson	46	C.Tompsett	85	
K.Bridger	81	I. Loughborough	62	R.Wilkins	65	
M.Brown	69	B.McCarthy	85	A.Woolnough	42	
J.Burfoot	88	C.Mann	96			
R.Butler	92	N.Mason	50			
D.Clarke	85	P.Newman	100			
M.Craggs	54	P.Oldfield	73			
J.Dawson	96	A.Powell	50			
G.Elhinn	92	R.Powell	92			
T.Fogden	77	P.Pratt	65			
G.Fowlie	77	A.Price	65			
P.Gartrell	81	J.Rawlins	88			
D.Gooding	58	D.Rimmer	88			
R.Goodman	62	P.Rowland	58			
J.Hatfield	96	T.Sholl	77			

Qualifications:  
 (a) attendances  
 (b) visits to other clubs

Excused attendance:  
 G.Midmer  
 D.Thrush  
 R.Webb

# a/f 21.04.11

### Monthly Attendances (%)

January	84	75
February	82	79
March	75	74
April	75	73
May	65	72
June	65	68

Average attendance Jan-June 2011      74%

Visits to other clubs Jan-June 2011      13

J.D.R.



Roy & Jessie Butler celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary - many congratulations !

## NEWS FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

### International

The International Committee will be having its first meeting for the Rotary year on the 9th August at 6.00 pm at Abergavenny House. A welcome letter has been sent to all committee members as a basic introduction to the new members.

We intend to run with the following activities:

- Keep an eye on the water project with the Rotary Club of Mubende
- Welcome the Rotary Club of Herentals in April 2012
- Pursue our relationship with the Rotary Club of St Valery
- Organise another student's day with the University of Sussex
- Continue with the Bridge Evening
- Arrange a cheese and wine party as a social activity
- Consider putting on an other event by the end of the summer.

We always have active meetings and we hope to be kept busy as the year unfolds.

*Marcus Brown*

### Community Service Committee Report

The first meeting for this Rotary Year was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

The Aims and Objectives of our committee are to provide help and assistance to those in need within and around the Lewes area covered by our club.

The committee's next main fund raising event will be the Christmas Tree of Goodwill which will run from the 8<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011. Planning for this will start very soon.

We have received a number of requests for financial assistance which included:-

A pledge of £200 towards the £372 required to send a disabled 88 year old man from Lewes on a respite break.

A request to assist with funding towards a communication device for a 27 year old Lewes man by the name of Liam who has Cerebral Palsy, this device will enable him to communicate.

The committee also agreed to pledge £ 100 to the District Com Voc sports day which will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012, without sufficient funding from our District the sports day could be cancelled.

We are also in the process of purchasing a cooker for a mum and her two young children who have been found refuge accommodation in Lewes, the club agreed £150 for a reconditioned electric cooker.

My thanks must go to Tony Woolnough for his work in arranging a £245 donation from Waitrose via their token system.

*Brian McCarthy*

## Youth Activities Committee – August 2011/12

The Programme for 2011/12 will include all the successful features of the last year.

In November, we will again run the Youth Music Concert in the Town hall, jointly with East Sussex County Council's Music Service.

In early December the Senior 'Youth Speaks ' public speaking competition will see a local school or college selected to go forward to the Area and District finals, usually held in Chichester in February.

The Young Writer's competition will be held in the Spring and nominations will be sought for young people to receive Citizenship Awards.

During the year, outstanding young people with Musical, sporting or caring skills will be considered for possible financial support.

A possible joint venture with the Skittles Committee and Lewes district Council would offer a junior competition.

Our first Committee meeting to explore all these events will be on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

*Bob Wilkins – Chairman YAC*

## Foundation Committee

The committee last met on Tues 07 June. We discussed the Auction of Promises, which raised £2,765. £700 was passed to The Victoria Hospital and another £700 to the Hospice of St Peter and St James with the remainder to be divided equally between the Clubs charity account and the Foundation Committees charity account. £1,300 was passed to Rotary Foundation and £450 to Polio Plus. It was agreed to continue with the Heads and Tails, Sweepstake, Christmas cards and Quiz evening. There is a problem with arranging the Music Evening but this will be discussed by the Committee when it next meets on Tues 09 Aug at 6.15 pm in Marks board room

*Richard Powell*

And don't forget.....

If you are unable to attend a Thursday Meeting, please make a note in the Blue Attendance Book or advise the Secretary (Peter Gartrell). If you need to be absent at very short notice, please phone The White Hart direct (01273-476694). Duty Rotarians should please be at The White Hart by 12.30pm but if you are unable to undertake your duty, please arrange a substitute and advise the Secretary.