

THE ROTARY YEAR 2010 -11.

This year has been another successful year for the Vale of Belvoir Club and I'm proud to have had the opportunity to have been its President.

July and August- The year started as usual in early Summer at Radcliffe Carnival where we helped set up the bar and raise some cash with our Key Box and our new partner, 'Splat the Rat', a device beautifully engineered by Trevor and Sandra. Our speakers gave us an insight into the organisation of the Paralympics and undertaking voluntary surgical work in Africa and we enjoyed a guided walk around Bottesford.

The early part of the year was taken up by our nomadic existence trying to find a suitable venue for our meetings. When it eventually came to voting on the venue we were thankfully saved the intricacies of the Alternative Vote or the Single Transferable Vote options as The VOBI won by the tried and tested 'first past the post' system. Well done to Duncan and Alan for getting us a home at last.

September was 'International Month' where Mary gave us an insight into 'Teaching in Jamaica', Tony Waltham entertained us with his experiences in North Japan and we hosted a great team of GSE characters from Chennai, introducing them to the highlights of British culture – the National Trust, village pubs and the game of skittles.

October saw us getting involved in our first 'Vale's Got Talent' with 42 acts auditioning for the competition. Many thanks to the Committee for working so hard to get the event off the ground and for everyone else for supporting at the semi-final and Final stages.

Conference was at Southport and we took over a small hotel near to the Conference Centre, enjoyed some good dining and danced the night away on Saturday. I would like to thank those members and their wives who supported me at Southport and made it such an enjoyable weekend for Marjorie and myself.

November is M&S Fashion Show time and while numbers were slightly down on previous years it still proved to be a very successful evening and we presented cheques of £750 to the Nottingham University Hospital Prostate Cancer Appeal, the Alzheimer's Society, Marie Curie and Wish Upon a Star.

December saw us return to M&S for the bag packing fund raiser. Santa's Sleigh performed well, despite the need for a new battery. Given the economic situation it was great that our collections at these events maintained the levels of previous years.

Our decorated Christmas tree again appeared to much acclaim at St Mary's Church in Bingham.

Duncan and Alan organised a lovely Christmas Dinner at Ashmores and Marjorie and I hosted an open house drinks and nibbles evening between Christmas and New Year.

We were sorry to lose Simon Honeybourne, mainly due to his work commitments but he has an open invitation to return to Club should his situation change.

In **January** we had an excellent evening with Mark Edworthy the 'Tiger Moth' man and we challenged West Bridgford, Mapperley, Newark Castle, Bingham and Carlton Rotary Clubs to a Frog-Race Olympics, an event won by Newark Castle. We cancelled our first ever meeting in 21 years due to predicted heavy snow falls in our area – which never materialised. I wouldn't mind but the Met Office has one of the most expensive weather forecasting computers in the World.

February saw us taking on the Stock Market with only Jack's team making any real 'monopoly' money out of the very entertaining event presented by Mike Storr. This was followed by our first Valentine's Night' extravaganza where the men (largely) created the food for the ladies. A great event organised by Duncan and Alan (plus their wives). Some very novel games played and I can't remember who won the Musical Chairs as I was too busy trying to get the creases out of my trousers

and massage some feeling back into my thighs. I didn't know Jane weighed so much! The month ended with the secrets of Rome being exposed by Jen Cresswell and our District Governors visit.

In **March** Marjorie and I hosted the Pot Luck Supper on 26th, which did mean I had the perfect excuse to get everyone out of the house before midnight, otherwise I would have had to include them all on my census return. This was followed by another very successful Community Quiz and an excellent talk by the ladies of Balfour Beatty providing an update on the A46 road programme

Just avoiding April Fools Day, Roy Morledge joined us on 31st March to become the 5th member of the Cropwell Mafia.

In **April** we cancelled the Frog Race. It was rumoured that this was because no-one would commit until they knew if Doug was going to have the small or large Fish & Chip Supper.

May started at a pace (well at a walk actually) when we joined with the two Newark Clubs on our jointly organised sponsored walk for the local Rainbows Children's Hospice. An excellent first attempt supported by much hard work by Sandra, Ian, Doug and Derek G with funds raised for Rainbows at £6,000 and rising.

Our Charter was held at The Country Cottage Hotel in Ruddington which is about 3 miles from Trent Bridge as the crow flies. Luckily it was a clear night and from Room 17 you could just see the top of the Trent Bridge cricket ground floodlights (if you stood on your tip-toes), so it wasn't all bad!

June was once again 'outside events' month with our annual Boules competition (won by John Spence), and the Treasure Hunt (won by Team Taylor / Valentine), the first of the village fairs at Bingham and East Bridgford and the Rotary Showcase event held in Slab Square Nottingham, supported by a number of acts from the various Talent Competitions organised by Rotary in our District over the past 2 years.

The 350+ 'Dictionary's 4 Life' arrived for distribution to Year 6 children at junior schools in our catchment area, thanks to a District Simplified Grant matching our own donation.

Donations: Club has also made donations to support Bridge2Aid, Sight Savers, Shelter Box, Aqua Box, the Nepal Project, the District Governor's India Project, Life Education and Polio Plus. Donations from the Community Fund included individuals involved with the National Youth Theatre, the Downs Syndrome European Swimming Championships, World Challenge India, the 2nd Radcliffe Rangers, Kings Village Project Ghana and the Bingham and District Audio scheme.

Thank You's:

I would like to acknowledge the hard work put in by committee chairs and their members. Everyone's commitment has again contributed to a successful and rewarding year.

Thanks to the Youth Team who have had a brilliant year supporting initiatives at Bingham Toot Hill School getting teams through to the area final in Hull (Youth Speaks) and the Nottingham final (Young Enterprise).

Thank you to those of you who supported me at Charters throughout the year.

I would also ask you to please pass on my gratitude for the support provided by your wives (and husband Keith) in the various fund raising and social events we have undertaken.

Congratulations once again to Rob and Gordon M as very deserving recipients of Paul Harris Fellowships.

Finally, many thanks to Duncan for his unflappable support and for Alan for providing an excellent programme of events and speakers as well as all the other things they threw themselves into. Can I wish them and Ludwig all the very best for the coming Rotary year.

Denis Bacon, IPP