

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Thursday 23rd February

Greyhound Racing at Monmore Green Stadium Wolverhampton. £22 incl. dinner **Paul Rhodes**

### Saturday 25th February

Collecting at Tescos, Wellington Retail Park **Tom Farmer**

### Thursday 8th March

Sportsmen's Evening . Speaker **Graham Poll** International Football Referee with comedian Graham Stiles (son of Nobby Stiles ex Man U.) President **Mike Dorricott**



### Thursday 15th March

Tree of Light Presentation evening. Hadley Park Hotel. **Peter Seaward**

### Thursday 3rd May.

Bon Voyage dinner. GSE team leave for Canada. Buckatree Hotel. THERE WILL BE NO CLUB MEETING ON FRIDAY 4TH MAY.

### Chris Yates, Mike Heath

#### Saturday 12th May

In aid of Polio Plus. Hadley Orpheus Male Voice Choir conducted by Robyn Davies. At Ercall Wood Technology College. **Roger Mitchell** Wrekin Rotary Club

### Thursday 17th May.

Helping Hand Concert. Methodist Hall, Wellington. Shifnal Male Voice Choir. **Venn Davies**

### Thursday 24th May.

Visit by coach to Bletchley Park the Code Breaking Centre. Cost including lunch £48 per person. Deposit £10 pp to **David Tomlinson** by 10th February. **Ken Whitcombe**

**Friday 1st June.** Club Assembly. Chairmen of the next Rotary year's committees set out their plans for the members to hear. District Governor's representative is present.

### Saturday 16th June

Stroke Awareness Day. Town Centre, Wellington **Venn Davies**

### Sunday 16th September to Thursday 20th September .

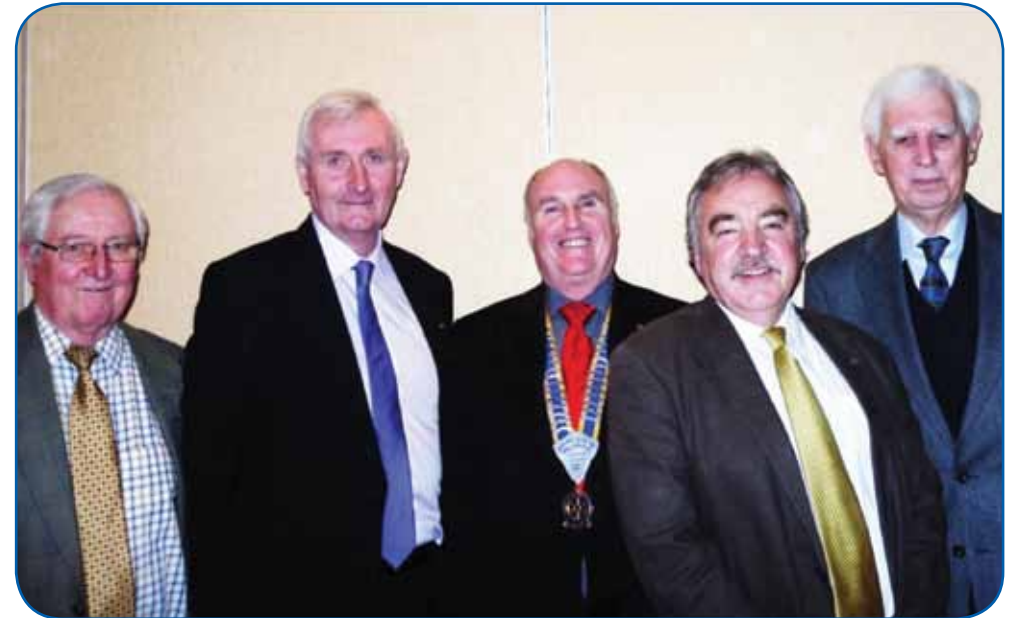
Club visit to Bonn, Germany. Numbers now required to enable flights and accommodation to be booked. **Dick Bailey**



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## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

President **Mike Dorricott** provides his thoughts for the day

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. The Christmas Lunch at the Buckatree was a first class event and thanks to **Chris Yates** for undertaking the arrangements. We had excellent fellowship and entertainment but the highlight was the way that we managed to present a Paul Harris Fellow to **Bob Redwood**. He did not see it coming and was nearly speechless when we made the presentation, which was thoroughly deserved. **Tom Farmer** was presented with an early birthday card signed by all the Rotarians and guests for his 80th birthday. The Rotary choir was active during December at Abbeyfields and Farcroft. Father Christmas was also very busy at this time giving out presents at Farcroft on Christmas day. He was helped by a number of Rotarians. The staff of Farcroft also presented him with a cake on his birthday. My thanks to all that made December a busy and at the same time a happy month. We now have 2012 to look forward to and I am active in obtaining good numbers for Sportsman Night on 8 March. Speaker is ex referee Graham Poll supported by John Stiles.



## EDITORIAL

**Rotabilia** is edited by **Don Woolford** and **Peter Llewellyn**. It is printed with the compliments and assistance of **Telford Reprographics**. Photographs in this edition are by **David Lovatt, Alan Armitage, Peter Seaward** and **John Rice**

*Cover picture is of our two new members. Robert Evans is second left with his sponsor Norman Quin and Mike Theobalds with his sponsor Graham Reedman. President Mike Dorricott has somehow wandered into the happy occasion. Full details of our new members are on page 9*

## YOUTH NOTES

New Generation officer **Peter Seaward** sends this picture from the Young Innovator competition at Blessed Robert Johnson school



*Catherine, Paige and Harnimrit, students representing Oscar Romero College with President Mike Dorricott*



*Runners up team (William Brookes School, Much Wenlock) at Youth Speaks, Charlton School, 24th February*

## INNER WHEEL NEWS

Club Correspondent **Margaret Seaward** sends her report

Before I rush into the New Year I would like to thank the Rotary Club for the varied social occasions we in Inner Wheel have enjoyed with you over the past months. 2012 is the Chinese Year of the Dragon who is described as 'Magnificent, Lucky and Regal', let's hope it will be a good one for all of us.

At our January meeting President **Dette Frain** welcomed your friend and ours, D.G. **Barry Preen**. Barry gave an entertaining speech on 'The story so far', about his year in office. January 23rd. saw a group of us meet at **Ann Lewis'** house to start some craft work for Overseas Charities and also to eat cake! Well it was **Margaret Williams'** birthday so we had to eat it really.....honest.

Along with other members of Inner Wheel I attended the Youth Speaks Competition at Charlton School. We were impressed with the students' confidence and passion. They obviously appreciated this opportunity provided by Rotarians.

A presentation was made to **Tom 'Santa' Farmer** in anticipation of his impending 80th birthday and proceedings ended with Alec Owen's grandson Oliver singing his own version of one of Aimee's songs "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas". And with that sentiment we ended a mammoth but splendid meeting at 3.15pm

### Christmas Morning

Many learned authorities state that Santa Claus has been around since the 4th century but what we knew for certain on Christmas Day was that ours was only 80. It was, of course, **Tom 'Santa' Farmer** who came with **Maureen** to Farcroft to make his usual distribution to the residents and found himself the recipient of a birthday cake. Gnomes and elves in attendance included **Jim Tranter**, **David Lovatt** with Margaret and grandson Jack, 5, sounding the "Santa's coming" bell. **Barrie Carter**, President **Mike Dorricott** and **Graham Reedman** were also present to make up a happy, giving, morning.

### TREE OF LIGHT 2011

A record sum of £36,312 was collected for this year's five charities. It edged above the

previous record figure of £35,800 achieved in 2008. The charity nominated by our club, Hope House Hospice will receive £4,539. As our representative on the committee **Peter Seaward** explained it had required more widespread and greater publicity than ever before to generate this year's record income.

### BURNS NIGHT

The popular Burns Night held on 25th February at Madeley Court Hotel was organised by President **Alan West** on behalf of the Telford Centre club. A packed gathering of 125 (including 17 of our own club led by Chairman **Mike Dorricott** and **Lynne** and **DG Barry Preen** and **Dorothy**) heard the Selkirk Grace in the vernacular and the Haggis addressed and piped in. Afterwards the Immortal Memory was proposed and the reply given on behalf of the Lassies. Proceeds of the evening, £1,500 was donated to Lifestraw and Shropshire Disability Network. Then the dancing and the piping began in earnest which was when one Sassenach was seen to slide quietly away into the peaceful night leaving behind a night to be remembered.

## CHRISTMAS 2011

In December carols were sung at Abbeyfields and Farcroft by our sizeable (in terms of numbers, that is) Rotary and Ladies' choir, much to the residents' delight. More than 30 singers on each occasion were accompanied by our friend **Stephen Watkins-Kazan** and his wife **Antoaneta** with their electric. Stephen also accompanied his own songs on guitar as did our own multi-talented **Rod Kirby**. Others to perform were **Arthur Thomas** with a contemporary 'Twas the Night before Christmas', **Brian Lewis** with two monologues including the famous "Uppards". **Chris Yates** with songs definitely not from Gilbert and Sullivan and **Barry Preen** (with sounds off by **Dorothy**) reciting amongst other pieces the traditional 1822 version of 'Twas the Night before Christmas'. More tradition followed with mince pies and festive drinks which were served by the staff and shared with the residents.

### Christmas Lunch

The busiest and biggest ever luncheon gathering for Christmas found 111 of us with our ladies and friends meeting at the Buckatree on 16th December for a meal splendidly organised by Chris Yates. After lunch was over President **Mike Dorricott**

asked our local Methodist Minister, **Revd Peter Clarke** to address us. He spoke particularly about the gifts of Christmas and then our own well known alto Aimee Lake sang two delightful songs, followed by two Christmassy songs later in the proceedings. A highlight was the award to **Bob Redwood** of a Paul Harris Fellowship for his many years' service including major club offices and outside community work. Much deserved and much applauded.

Christmas gifts were presented by President Mike to staff member **Sue Rew** and head chef **Rosemary McLean** to everybody's delight. The **Graham Reedman** crossword puzzle competition results came next. Graham announced that no fewer than 17 correct entries had been received and from the hat was drawn the winner's name – **Jim Tranter**. Next was the photographic caption competition for the **Ken Jackson** trophy. The judge was **Christine** who picked **Lynne Dorricott's** photo of husband Mike entitled "Dedication to Duty" a worthy winner. **Bernadette Frain** brought greetings from the Inner Wheel members and an award was made to **Rod Kirby** for more than 30 years' service to the Abbeyfields Society.

*Continued on page 10*

## HAPPENINGS

### President in Waiting

The good news from the SGM on 9th December was the election with acclaim of **Venn Davies** to be next year's Junior Vice President. The editor assumes the election was greeted with acclaim because he was not present. Venn will become the club's 86th President in 2014/15.

### Great Canal Walk 4th January

*Appropriately enough Scott Walker provides a report*

A select party set off from the 4 Alls pub at 09:30 heading for Market Drayton. **Alan** and **Isabel Armitage** had organised the event and other participants were **Elfed Jones, Jim Udale, Jeremy Eatough, Paul Davies, Josie and I, Maureen Powell, Margaret Williams** and **Peter Seaward**. We were joined by 10 Rotarians from the Market Drayton club. Past the golf course we went, up the hill to a very modern pub which was also the home of Joules Brewery. After coffee and a few beers it was turn left out of the pub and down

the hill to the canal. To get up to the tow path means climbing 35 steps then turning right. About an hour later we were back in the 4 Alls meeting up with **Mike** and **Sonia Heath, Graham and Bridget Reedman, Megan Bailey, Rod and Ann Kirby** and **Aileen Jones**. There we enjoyed a very good carvery in nice surroundings and a good time was had by all.

### Ten Pin Bowling

An all-conquering team led by **Captain Mainwaring** beat the Wrekin 571 – 481 at Telford Bowls on 10th January to go through to the next round. The remaining heroes were **John Davies, Venn Davies, Andy Kaleta, Peter Llewellyn** and **Jon Towler**

### Quiz Teams

Varied fortunes were announced. **Venn Davies** of the B team (himself, **Chris Yates, Jim Tranter** and **Peter Murray**) found the questions "difficult" at Ludlow and came 6th with 122 points. The A team at Cheadle (**David Lovatt, Peter Martin, Richard Studd** and **Rod Kirby**) found the questions "very difficult" but mustered 141 points to come top of their group.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome two new members and wish them and their wives many happy years of friendship and service with the club. Details for your handbooks are:

**Michael Theobalds (Diane)**  
44 Barrow Street, Much Wenlock,  
Shropshire,  
TF13 6ET  
01952 727891  
michael.theobalds@btinternet.com  
Education consultant

**Robert Evans (Virginia)**  
Church Farm, Rowton,  
Telford TF6 6Y  
01952 7701  
church-farm@tiscali.co.uk Rural  
Enterprises

And while you are bringing up to date your handbooks please change **Jim Tranter's** phone number to 01952 770323

### YOUTH SPEAKS

*Organiser Venn Davies reports on the 24th January event at Charlton School*

Teams, supporters and Rotarians attended this annual public speaking competition for 14 – 18 year olds sponsored by Telford's five Rotary Clubs.

It was pleasing to have six teams this year in what turned out to be a dramatic evening as one of the contestants collapsed to the floor while giving his talk! He quickly

recovered and wanted to carry on immediately, but was persuaded to take time out. It seems a lack of food and the occasion caused him to faint. He and his team gave their talk again later in the evening, which showed courage on his behalf.

Thomas Telford School triumphed with 'I blame Disney', a talk centred on the pressures on young people to conform to physical perfection. William Brookes School (returning to the contest after many years' absence) were runners-up with 'The Olympic Dream: can the country cope?'

Both teams now compete in the District Final at Market Drayton 22nd February.

Our Club provided tremendous support on the evening with 21 members plus partners attending. They included Organiser/Compere **Venn Davies**, Timekeeper **Peter Seaward** and Judge **Richard Studd**.



*The winning team from Thomas Telford School*



*Our choir at Farcroft*



*The Great Walkers (p 4)*

*Our newest Paul Harris Fellow, Bob Redwood with President Mike Dorricott*



*“No, it wasn’t me guv’nor”*



*“So, who’s 80 then?”*

*“Happy Christmas!”*



## Fairbourne Fund Family Holidays



*Thank-You card  
from Joe, Jay and  
the children.*

10 year old Callum sent this delightful thank you note.

*Myself, my Mum and Dad,  
and little brother and sister  
had a wonderful holiday in  
Cornwall.*

*We played on the beach  
and went to an Otter and Wild  
Life Centre. They were so cute!  
We had fun at a Theme Park  
on big roller coasters and went  
to King Arthurs Castle".*



Hoseasons Bodmin 13/8 - 20/8

Rotarian member

*We received this very appreciative letter from Barry and his daughters*



"Many, many thanks for your kind donation towards our holiday camping in Tywyn, North Wales. Jade, Kyra and myself had a fantastic time and the break did us good, although at times Jade and Kyra said we wish Mom and Donna were here. But I have to say we all enjoyed the break and we wish to thank you all, as it was most needed"

Camping at Tywyn 6/8 - 13/8

Social Worker Severn Hospice

*Shameen and Josh had a wonderful time at Butlins and have sent their thanks to the club. They have been unable to send photos as it was technically too difficult for them.*

Butlins Minehead 28/8 - 4/9

Social Worker

*The thank you letter from Mel and Connor who went on a Butlins Holiday at Skegness*

"Thank you and the other board members for our wonderful holiday at Bullins. We had a fantastic time and was perfectly timed around Connor's birthday which made it extra special. Connor really enjoyed the break and it gave us a real chance to bond, his favourite activity was the swimming, so I have had to promise to take him more now that he's home."

"We did all sorts of things, crazy golf, laser quest, go karting, bowling, played pool and went to the cinema there. We spent our evenings in the room reading as Connor didn't like the noise but we loved just chilling out together.



"Thank you all so much for this amazing gift. We are extremely grateful and had the best time. Please pass on our thanks to the other members also."

Butlins Skegness 25/7 - 31/7

Wrekin View School

*Mr R thanked us personally for the holiday for himself, wife and four children and although he told us he would be sending a thank-you letter /e-mail to the club nothing has been received.*

Hoseasons, Rhyll

HLC Children's Centre.

*Toni, partner and two young children thank us for their holiday at Pontins, Brean Sands*

I am writing to thank you for the holiday to Pontins, Brean Sands. Myself and my family needed the break as a family and really enjoyed it. My two daughters loved meeting the characters from Pontins and going to the beach for the first time. As a family we made sure we had a wonderful time. We are very grateful for the funding and I am sure many families in the future will enjoy the holidays as much as we did. Please thank everyone on our behalf

Pontins 25th July (week)

Social Worker

*Mrs Richardson, Chris & Tom completed their trips on Sat 29 October. No communication yet.*

Elcocks Day Irips

Social Worker