



Cuttings



*The newsletter of the Rotary Club of Cheam
May 2007*

From The Editor:



Again we have to make apologies for the late arrival of Cuttings. Those who are kind enough to respond to the pleas for materials please accept my grateful thanks, to the rest, and you know who you are – maybe next time! I'm afraid that I need electronic copies of reports; it is hard enough to get material out of people without having to type them out again. We have had our AGM since the last copy of Cuttings therefore this copy is pretty much dedicated to our activities highlighted at the AGM. As I am sure you are all aware and are fed up with, I am a keen supporter of Harlequins Rugby Union side. To give you some ideas of how keen please equate me to a certain Crystal Palace supporter in our midst. I have 4 season tickets to the Quins and was very pleased in early April to be able to take two Rotary colleagues with me to the game against London Irish. A great time was had by all of us and topped off with a thumping win over the Oirish. I must also mention that this was followed up at the next home game (the last of the season) with an even bigger win (49-0) against Sale (last season's champions).

President's Notes:



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The year started with a bang... or should I say bangers, when Liz and Fintan hosted an excellent barbeque. Fun was had by all including the children. Many thanks to all that contributed salads etc. We managed to raise £230 for community projects.

Membership has remained static although Peter and his committee have tried hard to find new members. We were delighted to welcome two new honorary members, Helen Rees and Brendon McWilliams. We haven't achieved any raids on other clubs this year but a number of members have done make-ups and of course Mike Hurley has been a frequent visitor to Fareham.

I have enjoyed the Sutton Six and the area meetings, very good relationships have been built up between our clubs. Some of us have attended Sutton and Sutton Nonsuch quiz nights and Helen and I participated in the Sutton Strollathon. Thank you to all who sponsored me to the amount of £45 which was donated to the Royal Marsden. Helen and her family also raised sponsorship by completing the course.

We have been fairly short on fun events this year but a theatre visit was arranged by Members Service to see 'The Woman in White' and Mike Thorn organised the Christmas Pantomime to Richmond Theatre when we took ten young carers along.

Peter has managed to organise speakers for all the appropriate Tuesday's for which I thank him as I know what a difficult job this is.

International and Foundation have organised a number of fundraising events and I'm delighted that our project in India is almost complete. We are now raising money for a project in Botswana. Many thanks for Hatim for continuing to fill and send off Aquaboxes.

Christmas collections were very successful raising £4000. My thanks go to Jean and Fred for organising these and to Jean and Mollie for all the mince pies. The money raised was split between Banardo's and Sutton and Croydon Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre.

Gordon has tried to get 'Message in a bottle' off the ground but until recently, when two members of the Ambulance service visited the club, it was unclear how we could help. As District is continuing this project next year hopefully we will be able to carry Gordon's work over.

Our 50 club contributions have gone towards next year's project, 'Young Carers Abroad'. The Hurley and Lewis families somehow seem to win the jackpot nearly every month!

At the beginning of April we have a Vocational visit to POST in Banstead when Tony Tobin talked about being a Chef and Restaurateur, an enjoyable time was had by all. We were joined on this occasion by Sutton and Ewell Rotary Clubs.

Many thanks to all of you for your support throughout the year; particularly to Geoff who has been my 'rock', keeping me on track and making sure the meetings have run smoothly.

International Activities:



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Our Indian project has expanded to provide audio visual equipment for the school library which we have been equipping as part of the overall project. We are hoping that as the project is virtually finished we may at last get some pictures of the activities so that we can get some much needed publicity for our involvement in this project.

The Botswana project continues well on both the fund raising and actual project progress front. Progress has been good with the land and an existing building, which will need to be renovated, being purchased through the good auspices of Barclay's Bank (Botswana). The Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Programme has agreed to run the centre once it is finished. This is very good news because the big worry with a project like this is always what happens once the outfitting and renovation project has been completed. We and The Rotary Club of Selibe Phikwe have started putting the information together for a Matching Grant Application to Rotary Foundation.

Our fund raising activities have netted just under £1100 since the last copy of Cuttings; £420 from the Quiz evening at the end of March, £110 from a Week-enders evening run by Helena Daniels in mid April and £565 from a Chinese evening run at the Dragon Inn Restaurant in North Cheam. For the latter event our grateful thanks must go to Mrs Fiona Cheung of The Dragon Inn who, collected donations at her bar prior to the event and supplied goods for sale and auction during the event.



Some strange bloke and Mrs Cheung

Our French colleagues from Denain Bouchain visited on 27th March when we held a lunch time meeting at the Prince of Wales. A great time was had by one and all witness the pictures below.



After the meeting the French wrote to Gordon as below:
Cher Gordon,

Dear Gordon

C'est avec plaisir que je t'envoie ces quelques photos qui témoignent à l'évidence de la joie que nous avons eu de nous retrouver ensemble ce 27 mars 2007.

It is with great pleasure that I am sending you a few photographs which show the obvious pleasure with which we were able to meet with you again this 27 March.

J'ai bien reçu ton texto cet après-midi mais je ne pouvais y répondre de suite : le travail a repris ! Mais quelle belle journée ! Je pense que c'est à refaire et je ne suis pas le seul de cet avis ...

I did indeed receive your text message this afternoon but I was unable to reply immediately: we're back to the grind! But what a fantastic day. I think that we need to do it again and I'm not the only one who thinks so....

Merci encore pour votre accueil chaleureux.

Thanks again for your warm welcome.

Bien amicalement au nom de tous les membres qui ont fait le déplacement mais aussi de ceux qui pour des raisons professionnelles ou malheureusement de santé n'ont pu se joindre à nous.

With sincere friendly greetings from all the members of our club who made the journey and also from those who, for work reasons or sadly due to ill-health, were unable to join us.

François

Ron Daniels

Sports Report:



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In the District Sports Marcel's and my defeat by Epsom (the defending champions) in the snooker ends the clubs interest in this year's District Sports except for ten pin bowling. However we did manage to take their money off them in the charity match. In the 10 pin bowling our A Team (Geoff, Alan B, John and I) scored 1019 points which was enough to get into the final, whilst the ladies (Jean, Anne, Kay and Jean's daughter (Sharon)) scored a respectable 776 points.

Steve Cunningham

Member Services:



2006/7 was my first full year as a Member of Cheam Rotary Club (having previously been a member of Carshalton Beeches which I left in 2004). I was very pleased when President Elect Jill asked me early on in 2006 to chair Members Services during her year - particularly as I had never done this before.

I think it's fair to say we have had a bit of a mixed year with some things that have gone very well and others where we might have done better.

The other members of my committee – Alan L, Howard, Marcel, Chris, Steve, and Mike have provided me with great support throughout the year and this has been particularly helpful as I was not able to devote as much time to Rotary as I would have liked due to pressure of work and a course that I have been doing in the evenings during my spare time.

We started the year in gambling mood with the usual trip in July to Epsom racecourse (where some of us – no names mentioned – did rather well)! In September we had a most enjoyable Sunday lunch at the Haweli in Belmont and in November Alan arranged a trip to the theatre for many of us to see Evita which was thoroughly enjoyable. I would also like to thank Alan and Mollie for putting on a superb New Year's Eve party for many of us.

On the membership front we have not managed to recruit any new members – though not for want of trying. Alan Lewis and I trod the streets of Cheam in August visiting virtually every shop where we dropped off a Cheam Rotary leaflet and chatted to the manager. Hopefully we increased our presence in the Village but it unfortunately did not lead to any new members. We have been working closely with the Sutton 6 on publicity and membership and I am pleased to have been a member of the group chaired by Mike Thorn (in his capacity as AG). We put together an excellent leaflet for the

Sutton 6 which also gives coverage to each individual club and all of us are able to use this in the never ending drive for membership. The group has also organised a joint Sutton 6 recruitment evening in May and the invitations to prospective Sutton 6 Rotarians have just been posted as I write.

Alan has come across several individuals who have expressed an interest in the Club and he has invited them to a meeting in May. I would like to thank Alan for all his efforts and hard work on looking for potential new members. As we all know getting new members in Rotary is a really hard graft and we can never do enough. Whilst we are hopeful that the Sutton 6 will produce some leads, each of us needs to continually think about individuals we know who might be interested in Rotary and invite them along to meetings. We also need to be much better at involving our honorary members in the club's activities (some of them may eventually become members), and following up individuals who come along to meetings. In February a few of us met for a brainstorming membership meeting in Julian's house which produced some very good ideas which hopefully can be taken forward next year under Howard's leadership.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that I think we've had a range of interesting speakers this year (which is here I have directed most of my efforts as committee Chair) and I hope they have provided you all with some entertaining and enjoyable meetings.

Peter Thomas

Community and Vocational

In some respects, Community Service has not had an outstanding year since the choice of projects from the RIBI menu that was distributed at the District Assembly a year ago was already being addressed by others. The "Message in a Bottle" initiative would have been a good vehicle to galvanise local clubs, businesses, the Health Authority perhaps

and other voluntary organisations. It would also have provided an excellent shop window for Rotary in that the beneficiaries of the scheme and their families would have been more aware of our existence.

Euroscola might well work next year as my acquaintances in our Twin Town, Minden are keen on this type of youth project and will be keen to join in with us, I think.

The main areas of activity have been concentrated on actual involvement with helping others to do things and that is probably a good thing for Community Service to develop. The most important single activity is the Christmas Collection organised by others for the committee in a traditional way, which raises substantial funds for deserving charities. The May Fayre will do a similar thing, of course, as will to a lesser extent the Cheam Carter Fayre.

Other than that, the significant contribution made by Club Members to the Children's Trust Concert at the Fairfield Halls has enabled that event to continue to bring exciting on-stage opportunities to hundreds of children and students, to provide entertainment to the friends and families in the audience and to raise a goodly sum for The Trust also. This is, I feel the true sort of community service when members roll up their sleeves to do some of the work! One must not forget also that the concert itself would not happen without many hours of dedicated preparation and committee work behind the scenes in the months leading up to it and two members of the Club are now regular committee members. The outstanding effort made by Fred in organising the programme is an associated benefit for us.

Ron was also an admirable father Christmas at the Children's Trust Christmas Fair and I hope some of us will manage to help at the Wheels of Steel bike ride later on 13th May.

Gordon Drane

Youth Opportunities

This year was quite busy with a number of events being staged.

Youth Speaks at the Children's Trust in Tadworth

This entertaining evening was organised with a slightly different format this year. There were 2 separate events taking place concurrently with 6 Intermediate teams and 5 Senior teams. The Intermediate competition was won by Wilsons Grammar School and the winner of the Senior competition was won by Wallington Grammar School for Boys. The ever improving standard of speakers this year performed well to an audience of Rotarians, Guests, Parents and Judges and the questions asked from the floor were skilfully and adeptly answered.

Surrey Schools Concert at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon

This ever-increasing popular event was held for the second year running at the Fairfield Halls, where this year we sold over 900 (out of a possible 1200) tickets. This year's show we flew the Rotary flag, together with members from other clubs. Groups of young musicians from local schools were performing a variety of different acts ranging from choral to jazz to classical. A good time was had by all.

RYLA week-end at Avon Tyrrell, New Forest

This is a chance for young people to take part in a residential training week-end to test their interactive confidence building by taking part in various activities such as communication games and adventure activities such as archery, canoeing and rope challenges. As last year we sponsored 2 teenagers for this ongoing annual event.

Kids Out at Chessington World of Adventures

This wonderful day is organised by Rotary Clubs in the south east of England and is a chance to give numerous children who need special care a memorable day out. I will again be representing the Sutton 6 and final planning is under way now.

Julian Bridge

Chez Sumo Ingredients



2 handfuls of parsley
100ml extra-virgin olive oil
4 large cod fillets (from the centre of the fish), each about 220g
3 tablespoons of sunflower or vegetable oil
50g butter, diced
A few rosemary leaves to garnish
Salt and pepper
250g green lentils (preferably lenticchie di Castelluccio)
1 white onion
1 carrot
1 celery stalk
1 small leek
4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
100g piece unsmoked pancetta
Sprig of rosemary
Small bunch of sage
2 bay leaves
1.5 litres vegetable stock
Handful of parsley chopped
50g butter, diced

Method

Prepare the lentils: soak them in water for half an hour, then drain. While they soak, finely chop the vegetables.

Heat half the olive oil in the pan and add the chopped vegetables and the piece of pancetta. Cook for 5-10 minutes, until the vegetables are soft, but not coloured. It is important that the vegetables are soft, so that they release all their sweetness, flavour and moisture into the lentils.

Add the lentils, together with the herbs, all tied together, and cook for five minutes, stirring until everything is well mixed and the lentils start to stick to the bottom of the pan. Don't season at this point, as the lentils will make the lentils harden.

Add around a litre of stock (to cover the lentils by about a finger) and keep the rest hot on the hob in case you need it. Bring the contents of the lentils pan to the boil, turn down the heat and simmer for forty-five minutes until the lentils are soft, add more stock if they begin to get dry. Remove the pancetta and keep the lentils on one side, but keep the stock hot in case you need it to loosen the lentils before serving.

Put the two handfuls of parsley into a food processor with the olive oil and blitz as quickly as possible until you have a bright green sauce.

Season the fish. If you have two non-stick pans, heat them at the same time and divide the sunflower/vegetable oil between them. When the oil is just beginning to smoke, put in the fish, skin side down, and keep pressing down and checking underneath – the skin should turn crispy and golden brown. You will see the flesh beginning to turn opaque. When it has turned white almost all the way through, turn it over. Divide the butter between the two pans.

While the butter is foaming, put the pan of lentils back on the heat – the lentils need to be the consistency of a risotto, not 'soupy', or they will be too loose after you added the butter: so, if necessary, drain off a little of the liquid. Add the parsley and stir in the butter. If, on the other hand, the lentils are not loose enough, you can add a little of the reserve hot stock. Check the seasoning and adjust if necessary.

Spoon the lentils onto the plates, with the parsley sauce on the side. Tilt each pan containing the fish towards you so that the buttery juices collect in one spot, then spoon over the fish. Lift the fish out and serve on top of the lentils.

Giggle number 1

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From the desk of Marcel Markan some true (supposedly) Smart Arse Answers

SMART ARSE ANSWER #6

It was mealtime during a flight on Alaska Airlines. "Would you like dinner?" the flight attendant asked John, seated in front.

"What are my choices?" John asked. "Yes or no," she replied.

SMART ARSE ANSWER #5

A flight attendant was stationed at the departure gate to check tickets. As a man approached, she extended her hand for the ticket and he opened his trench coat and flashed her. Without missing a beat, she said, "Sir, I need to see your ticket not your stub."

SMART ARSE ANSWER #4

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store but she couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead."

SMART ARSE ANSWER #3

The cop got out of his car and the kid who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. "I've been waiting for you all day," the cop said. The kid replied, "Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could." When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

SMART ARSE ANSWER #2

A truck driver was driving along on the freeway. A sign comes up that reads, "Low Bridge Ahead." Before he knows it, the bridge is right ahead of him and he gets stuck under the bridge. Cars are backed up for miles. Finally, a

police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says, "Got stuck, huh?" The truck driver says, "No, I was delivering this bridge and ran out of gas."

SMART ARSE ANSWER OF THE YEAR 2006

A college teacher reminds her class of tomorrow's final exam. "Now class, I won't tolerate any excuses for you not being here tomorrow. I might consider a nuclear attack or a serious personal injury, illness, or a death in your immediate family, but that's it, no other excuses whatsoever!"

A smart-ass guy in the back of the room raised his hand and asked, "What would you say if tomorrow I said I was suffering from complete and utter sexual exhaustion?"

The entire class is reduced to laughter and snickering. When silence is restored, the teacher smiles knowingly at the student, shakes her head and sweetly says, "Well, I guess you'd have to write the exam with your other hand."

Giggle number 2

MALE VS. FEMALE AT THE ATM MACHINE

A new sign in the Bank Lobby reads: Please note that this Bank is installing new Drive-through ATM machines enabling customers to withdraw cash without leaving their vehicles.

Customers using this new facility are requested to use the procedures outlined below when accessing their accounts."

"After months of careful research, MALE & FEMALE Procedures have been developed. Please follow the Appropriate steps for your gender."

MALE PROCEDURE:

1. Drive up to the cash machine.
2. Put down your car window.
3. Insert card into machine and enter PIN.
4. Enter amount of cash required and withdraw.
5. Retrieve card, cash and receipt.
6. Put window up.
7. Drive off.

FEMALE PROCEDURE:

Unfortunately, most of this part is the Truth!!!!

1. Drive up to cash machine.
2. Reverse and back up the required amount to align car window with the machine.
3. Set parking brake, put the window down.
4. Find handbag, remove all contents on to passenger seat to locate card.
5. Tell person on cell phone you will call them back and hang up.
6. Attempt to insert card into machine.
7. Open car door to allow easier access to machine due to its excessive distance from the car.
8. Insert card.
9. Re-insert card the right way.
10. Dig through handbag to find diary; with your PIN written on the inside back page.
11. Enter PIN.
12. Press cancel and re-enter correct PIN.
13. Enter amount of cash required.
14. Check makeup in rear view mirror.
15. Retrieve cash and receipt.
16. Empty handbag again to locate wallet and place cash inside.
17. Write debit amount in check register and place receipt in back of checkbook.
18. Re-check makeup.
19. Drive forward 2 feet.
20. Reverse back to cash machine.
21. Retrieve card.

22. Re-empty hand bag, locate card holder, and place card into the slot provided!
23. Give dirty look to irate male driver; waiting behind you.
24. Restart stalled engine and pull off.
25. Redial person on cell phone.
26. Drive for 2 to 3 miles.
27. Release Parking Brake.

I was asked to pass this on to a man who needs a laugh and to women you think can handle it. It came from my step daughter – she clearly thinks I need cheering up. As for passing it on, I guess we all need cheering up, and Jean, Chris and Jill, recognise any of this? Can you handle it?

Finally this edition a couple of pictures to cheer you all up



Again courtesy of my step daughter and the RHS Gardens at Wisley. She really must think I need cheering up!