



JULY 2009

ROTARY CLUB OF BATTERSEA & CLAPHAM

www.battersea-rotary.com

Our leaders for the Rotary year 2009-2010



Derek Downham President Rotary Club of Battersea & Clapham

Derek, a former member of the Clapham Round Table was inducted into the Rotary Club of Battersea in 1996 and was President in 2001-2002.

Lynne and Derek have three children, James, Emma and Charlotte and all five are sport minded. Tennis being the main interest, but Derek occasionally enjoys a game of golf. However one sport that Lynne does not partake in is sailing, which Derek enjoys as part of a crew frequently sailing across the channel.

Our President's charity for the year is "Help for Heroes" and their aim this year is to allocate the first £8M raised to provide a new swimming pool and gym complex at DMRC Headley Court. The designs have been submitted to planners and all being well, work should begin in November this year and the complex will be completed in the late autumn of 2009.



Martin Gudde District Governor 1130 2009-10

Martin was born in Bishop's Stortford but was raised in North London.

When a member of the Rotary Club of Snaresbrook canvassed new businesses his partner became a member. In 1981 the Rotary Club of Redbridge was chartered and Martin at the age of 35 years became the youngest of the Founder members.

Martin was President in 1989/1990 and a year later was asked to join the District PR committee followed by membership of the District Club Service committee on which he served for five years. The late Norman Cooper, PDG invited Martin to become Chairman of the District Community Service committee. From there he was elected Assistant Governor serving both East and North areas. Martin was New Club Development (Extension) Chairman and during that period four new Clubs were inaugurated in the District.

In 1968 he married Estelle and they have two daughters who are both happily married, and have five grandchildren. Martin joined Victim Support and became a bereavement counsellor. He has also been a trustee of a children's respite care organisation.



RI President John Kenny

John's theme is "The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands", He says "The future of Rotary will not be shaped at RI headquarters — it will be shaped in each and every Rotary club, because it is for each of us — as Rotarians — to do what is necessary to keep Rotary strong."

He acknowledged that foundation established by past Rotary leaders and that the responsibility for building upon that success rests on every Rotarian. "Each one of us is standing on the shoulders of generations of Rotarians past, and it is our responsibility to determine Rotary's future."

"The goals we set, whatever our action plan, is in our hands to accomplish or not, everybody has to be involved."

The President emphasized that every Rotary club is and must be autonomous. "Everything begins and ends with our clubs, our clubs can and do work together; they work through their own districts, in cooperation with other clubs and districts, and with the support of our Foundation.

"But at the end of the day, everything that we accomplish is done through the strength of our clubs. And so each club must have autonomy to serve where and how it can serve best."

At the same time, Kenny highlighted the importance of the RI Strategic Plan, adopted by the RI Board of Directors, as an essential tool in providing continuity.

John often quotes a favorite saying from his homeland, Scotland: "We must look beyond our own parish pump". It means that we must look beyond our own home and our own community, we must look beyond our own needs, and we must be aware that ours is only one community, of one country, of the many communities and countries in this world."



President RIBI David Fowler

David Fowler is RIBI President for 2009-2010 Rotary year.

David retired in 2003 from the civil and structural engineering practice of which he was senior partner. He is a fellow of the Institution of Structural Engineers and past chairman of its local branch.

He has also been a member of the UK-based Association of Consulting Engineers.

A Rotarian since 1984, David is a member of the Rotary Club of Edgbaston Convention. He has served RI as district governor, committee and task force member, literacy resource group general coordinator, Institute chairman, and RI training leader (2 years). He has also been a Council on Legislation representative (four times), club charter president, RIBI and district conference chairman.



FRIENDS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BATTERSEA & CLAPHAM

We invite you to become a Friend of our Rotary Club to support us in any way that you can in service to the local community and worldwide



we will forward to you a copy of our "News & Views" which publishes information on our club activities, future dates, speakers, news and opinions



we extend to you an invitation to be a guest at any of our social events or weekly lunch meetings which are held on Wednesday's 1.00 - 2.15 pm at the Windmill on the Common, South Side Clapham Common SW4. The cost of lunch is £10.00 per head

Name _____ (Mr/Mrs/Ms)

Email address _____

or if preferred by mail to my address _____

Post code _____

Future Vision Plan - Pilot District

The Trustees of the Rotary Foundation have confirmed that District 1130 has been selected to become a "Pilot" District under the Future Vision Plan. What does this entail?

The Rotary Foundation Future Vision Pilot is a three-year test of the new grant structure offered in the Foundation's **Future Vision Plan**. Approximately 100 districts will participate in the pilot.

Pilot districts will have a unique opportunity to help refine the new grant structure by providing

input and will receive specialized Foundation support and service. Pilot districts will be able to use up to 50 percent of their District Designated Fund (DDF) for district grants, and also access global grants, which are matched by the World Fund.

Districts participating in the pilot must agree to follow the new grant structure throughout the pilot and to not participate in any of the current Foundation programs, with the exception of PolioPlus and the Rotary Centres for International Studies. Participating districts also must appoint a district Rotary Foundation chairman who will serve for the three years of the pilot (2010-13). The district governor for 2010-11 may choose to extend the current DRFC chairman's term or appoint a different Rotarian.

Participation in the pilot requires a firm, three-year commitment from the district. Once a district enters the pilot, it cannot withdraw. Districts will need to be patient and flexible because we are certain that as our program moves forward, there will be changes that were not expected at the beginning.

Summer Programme

July

Wed 1st Delegates report on RI Convention
Wed 8th TBA
Thur 9th **District Council**
Mon 13th Club Council
Wed 15th Business Meeting
Wed 22nd District Governor Martin Gudde
Wed 29th Club Meeting

August

Wed 5th Club Meeting
Wed 12th Club Meeting
Wed 19th Club Meeting
Wed 26th Club Meeting

September - INTERNATIONAL MONTH

Wed 2nd Club Meeting
Monday 7th **First Monday of the month Meeting**

New club meeting times

Starting in September the Rotary Club of Battersea and Clapham will meet at 7.00 pm on the first Monday of each month, when the first Monday is a Bank Holiday we will meet at 7.00 pm on the following Monday. The remainder of our meetings will be on Wednesday 12.45 for 1.00 pm, except when there are five Wednesdays in the month and the President has the option to change this to an Evening Meeting.

The intention is to attract new members, particularly those that cannot make a regular lunchtime meeting and to cater for those who ever since they joined Rotary have met at lunchtime.

One of the dangers is that we become two clubs, but this need not happen under this arrangement. On the other hand members who only attend on the Monday at 7.00 pm (in theory) will only achieve 25% attendance, but bearing in mind that they will have opportunities each month to carry out an act of Rotary Service this should be no problem.

The club is very keen to bring the age group of our club down considerably and introduce younger people to Rotary. This, as many members stated at the time will not just happen because we have started something new, it does require a tremendous input from everyone of us to make the object successful.

Still to be discussed is the place to meet. We have the offer of the conservatory at the Windmill on a Monday, but many of us appreciate the facilities we have enjoyed at the Lodge Hotel, Upper Richmond Road. Unfortunately Alberto cannot help us on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays for on these nights he has regular bookings.

Donations made this past year

Rotary Foundation (Bill Gates Challenge)	£550.00
Oak Lodge School	£250.00
Rotary Club of Battersea Park Christmas Day Lunch	£200.00
Mrs C Oulton (purchase of Saxophone for son)	£100.00
Gateway Club	£100.00
Senior Citizens Musical Evening	£550.14
British Legion	£40.00
Community Transport	£65.00
The Spire Centre	£100.00
D Harward (VSO)	£150.00
Wandsworth Young Person of the year	£100.00
Disaster Appeal Villiers Plouich	£100.00
Trinity Hospice	£250.00
Mant's'ase Children's Home	£500.00
Rotary Foundation	£792.00
Half Triathlon Sponsorship for Afganistan project	£100.00

Stan's Valedictory

Ladies, guests and fellow Rotarians, as this Rotary year ends it is my task to look back over the year 2008-9.

Let me start by paying tribute to two fellows who moved to Higher Service during the year; Eric Newell, an active member, and Jack Vowles one of our Honorary Members. Both contributed much to our club over the years.

It was my intention to devote the past twelve months to leading this club into the future and in some ways I feel reasonably satisfied that we have broken new ground.

We have had interesting visits, many social gatherings and enjoyed a new venue for our evening meetings. Notably, we enjoyed lunch as guests of the Surrey Cricket Club at the Oval. The tour of the new Vauxhall Stand at the Oval was an example of what is possible; raising the wherewithal enthusiastically, overcoming objections, and achieving a complex that will be enjoyed by the community as well as cricket enthusiasts for many years to come.

Three theatre trips gave an insight for us that things can be done well, yet still be innovative and different. At the Orange Theatre we mingled with the actors who literally walked among us but thankfully we managed to resist the props of theatrical wine on tables beside us.

The next visit was to a production starring Francis. His own amateur group achieving high professional standards, performing in their own theatre. A derelict building that they acquired solving a Council's dilemma and by hard work, fund raising over the years from enthusiastic members it has become a local treasure.

Finally to the Rose Theatre, a new theatre with innovative ideas in concept, seating, facilities for the disabled and catering for the deaf and the blind. Each were the result of brave ideas, people giving their time and talents for the good of the community. I must pay tribute to Francis who recommended and organized each of the theatre trips.

Attendance at our weekly meetings has been higher, normally between 12 and 17. Time after time speakers and visitors have remarked to me, what a wonderful atmosphere, a very nice room, good food, (if sometimes exotic), and they would like to come again. I really must pay tribute to Derrick Whiting who (though giving me some anxiety) has excellently fulfilled the task of speakers secretary.

I get some satisfaction from the fact that attendance at Club Council has been exemplary, and at this point I pay tribute to all Council members. They have supported the club at every event, willingly accepted challenges, and participated in lengthy discussions on strengthening the club we all cherish.

It is right for me to thank our secretary Francis for all his unswerving support, who at last succumbed to that dreaded Desert Island! What a wonderful evening that was at the home of Jean and Bob Knight.

During the year we probably donated more to worthy causes than in most years. We contributed money to assist local people to fulfil their ambitions. Notably Lucy Caslon who has devoted her young life to helping an orphanage in Lesutho; a young boy learning the saxophone; and Hugh Wild a young aspiring actor who attended a course at the National Theatre.

Altogether we donated to sixteen good deserving courses.

The Clapham Young People's Music Festival was an excellent example of Rotary at work, in that we were able for the second year running to pay all the expenses of the evening, thus relieving the organiser of any financial anxiety. Fellows and guests if we repeat this again next year we really must make an effort to attend the Festival. It shows that young people *can* achieve high standards when led by enthusiastic leadership.

We must not forget that we have hosted our Foundation Scholar Sara during her second year, dutifully counselled by Charles Ijaz. We also paid \$1000 as our contribution towards matching the donation by the Bill Gates Foundation, in addition to our levy to foundation of £792. I am a great supporter of the Rotary Foundation. It is the largest Educational Charity in the world, runs a complex of programmes of which the 3H (alleviating Hunger, inHumanity and poor Health) and Polio Plus are tremendous. But in addition it supports post graduate scholarships giving young people the opportunity to study in another country and matching grants to clubs undertaking combined projects. Lesser known is the Youth Exchange School Year Exchange programme whereby a young person can take their final year at school in another country.

Support from club members at the District Conference was as usual excellent, as indeed, was our representation at the fantastic RI Convention at the NEC in Birmingham over the last four days.

Ladies, friends and fellow Rotarians in any twelve months there will have been ups and downs in any club. If you look back over the previous year, though we had a good number collecting at Clapham Junction Station at Christmas, only four or five collected at Sainsbury's in Clapham High Street. In fact this collection was manned mainly by Derrick Whiting and Charles Ijaz. At the quiz night only eight out of a club of twenty-two supported Derek and Lynne Downham who ran an excellent evening. Indeed we were out numbered by guests from the R C Tooting.

This was the second fund raising event run by our Incoming President for previously he had organised a Bridge evening for local people that contributed a significant sum to our charity fund. Alas only a handful of members attended.

Another example of lack of support is that Charlie and Stella Parrish arranged a garden party to raise funds for charity which was cancelled because of lack of support. Although Charlie would not admit it, I feel that he was utterly devastated by having to cancel the Blood Pressure Day at the last moment.

As President, the task is to take these knocks and come up smiling, but not so members who aspire to make this a truly active Rotary Club. Charlie's disappointment after so much planning and making arrangements with Asda is still possibly showing.

I must say thanks to my friend, Treasurer Bob. What a tower of strength he is to this club. He works tirelessly and is totally committed to the Rotary Club of Battersea & Clapham. Whatever task needs doing, he readily volunteers. From telephoning around seeking your attendance, backed up by the support of his family, to ensuring that whatever the club attempts runs smoothly. Also Bob has kept the finances of

the club diligently recording every penny and who on the sad death of our Attendance Officer Eric Newell, said *"I'll do it, no problem, because I keep details of who attends club anyway"*.

There is one other exceptional Rotarian. Bruce Cameron travels all the way from Oxford to attend our meetings, he collected at Christmas at Clapham Junction, he has been to various events and is a regular member. It takes him sometimes four hours to get to club and four hours to return . . . it also costs him at least £12 in petrol . . . but he arrives with a smile and a welcome to all, but most of all, his word is his bond. When he says he will do something he does it, we always receive his apology for absence, usually accompanied by news of a visit to a local breakfast club in Swindon.

At my church I organize the men's group. We have outings, speakers and occasional meals but most of all we carry out work days keeping the church and its gardens tidy. I was aware that the younger fathers cannot undertake the afternoon or all day outings, but they are the first to volunteer when there is a job to do. I gathered a few together and put it to them what other activities would they like the group to do. They responded *"We thoroughly enjoy working together, it is the comradeship, friendship and fun, that is the best type of activity."*

That is exactly how Rotary started in 1905. The younger generation don't want the razzmatazz, the formality, but give them a job and they consider that time well spent. Have we really travelled so far from our roots, feeling comfortable and become only a dining club to many.

Our new format to be introduced by our Incoming President will provide the opportunity for younger energetic young people, wanting to get together once a month, but most of all to serve.

I personally do not feel that we made any progress as an active Rotary Club fulfilling the object to serve. What did we achieve last year . . . an old people's musical evening with a minor role for most of us, collecting elderly people in our cars. In fact without the help of friends, young people, past members, Wandsworth Community Transport, a group of first class entertainers and more importantly our wives preparing the food. Our real contribution was woefully poor.

I believe that we should not solely be a fund raising organization . . . To paraphrase the Object of Rotary . . . we are a "Service Movement" . . . *a club to develop acquaintances as an opportunity to serve . . . using our occupation as an opportunity to serve society . . . the application of the ideal to serve . . . a world fellowship of persons united in the ideal of service.*

I ask the time honoured question: *"Would the Rotary Club of Battersea & Clapham be missed by this community if it was not here"*. If your answer is "No" lets switch of the lights and go home. If the answer is "Yes" support our incoming President Derek, be prepared to make a personal sacrifice and aspire to make a difference. There is so much rotten in the leadership of our country today, we must rise above that for the sake of our fellow citizens in this community.

But my final thanks go to my wife Jean, without her support I could not have been your President for the last twelve months.



RI Convention 2009 Birmingham Top left: Jean discusses with PDG Alan Coleman a water aid project; Second left: Tregaron Welsh Choir entertain in House of Friendship to a packed audience; Top right: One of two computer stations in continual use all day; Lower top: A Carosal another part of the House of Friendship; Bottom left: Our lunch table, Rotarian on left from Paris, Centre couple from Barbados, DG on right from Phillipines who when visiting her clubs needed an armed escort; Bottom Centre: The Battersea mob entertain Una Morgan incoming President of Ledbury, Past President of Battersea, lady bottom left from USA trying to complete her mailing; Bottom right; another lunchtime in the sun. Background picture: crowds walking from the LG Arena back to the House of Friendship; Below left; Excellent coverage by the BBC and local newspaper every day; Below: Evening at Warwick Castle

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Birmingham welcomes 20,000 Rotarians

Thousands of Rotary members from all over the world are arriving in Birmingham for the 100th Rotary International Convention from 18-24 June '09. Who are they, what do they do and what will it mean for the city?

We've all seen them shaking tins outside of supermarkets collecting money. We've all heard of The Rotary - now it's time to find out just who they are and what they do.

Rotary International

Founded in Chicago in 1905
First Convention held in 1910

Rotary came to Birmingham in 1913
Birmingham hosted the 75th convention in 1984

Birmingham and the West Midlands have 67 clubs with 1,855 members

Rotary has 1.2 million members

The 2010 convention will be in Montreal, Canada

Who are they?

Rotary International is a volunteer organisation of business and professional people who provide humanitarian services and help to build goodwill and peace in the world.

They're non political and after often described as 'the mini United Nations'.

Founded in Chicago in 1905, there are more than 33,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries, with membership exceeding 1.2 million people.

What do they do?

Rotary clubs address critical issues at home and abroad, providing health care and medical supplies, clean water, food, job training, youth development and education to millions of people.



Twenty thousand Rotarians including partners attended the Convention from over 100 countries throughout the world.

The event was extremely well organised with 6,000 visiting Warwick Castle supplying cooked food, medieval entertainment and arranging for over 130 coaches taking the delegates back to their various hotels dotted in outlying areas of Birmingham, some as far as Coventry.

As large as the LG Arena is, the opening ceremony was held in two sittings and speakers included Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, the RI President Dong Kurn Lee. The final session late on Wednesday afternoon was a spectacular event ending with excerpts from the British Musicals, sending all the delegates back home delighted with having had the opportunity to attend probably one of the best conventions ever.