

LOOKS EAST

The Newsletter of The Rotary Club of Ipswich East
Edition 22-2020 : 29th September 2020

CLUB OFFICERS—2020/21
President: David Chittick
Sen V. President: Jo Banthorpe
Jun V. President: Steve Runnacles
Secretary: Tony Baker
Asst Secretary: Martin Westlake
Treasurer: Neil Hewitt



October
Ewan Dodds
Kate Higgs
Bob Dunnett
Stuart Cooper

Club Zoom Business Meeting
Tuesday 29th September starting at 6.30pm
No duty Rotarians required

Our Guest Speaker on 15th September was Michael Strand who gave us good tips on encouraging wildlife into our gardens.

Michael is County Fundraising Manager of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. He grew up in Suffolk and is a regular contributor to BBC Radio Suffolk on Mark Murphy's Friday morning programme. His subject was "How to improve Garden & Park Wildlife".

We were given some details of Suffolk Wildlife Trust which is 60 years old. It is the largest landowner in Suffolk, has 65 employees and 1,300 volunteers. Access to its nature reserves is for all. Not only does it maintain and develop those with the purpose of encouraging more species but, before Covid, held 800 events educating all ages about the county's wildlife.

He gave five points to encourage wildlife in gardens.

1. Create a pond or some water even if small. All animals need water.
2. Leave a fifth of your garden to go wild. He made the point that not only does that attract and encourage numerous species but makes the gardening easier!
3. Connectivity. Create lines of cover so that wildlife can more safely travel between areas.
4. Diversity. Provide different spaces those could be a rockery, a compost heap, a pile of old wood or changes in planting structure. All encourage different species.
5. Put the right plants in the right places so that they flourish and hopefully result in a long a season as possible.

Overall - get out in your garden. Some things will happen. Hold your nerve since many take time for you to see the results. But enjoy it!

The subject attracted lots of interest from the 27 members who attended. Lots of questions followed and Michael fielded them well.

What had been the effect of Covid on Suffolk Wildlife Trust? Some staff had been furloughed. Now some smaller scale events starting and there are now some requests for schools.

Please give us your view of urban foxes. Michael said that he feels any increase in wildlife in towns and cities is good.



Would you like to comment on the introduction of natural predators? This needs to be done after careful research and it is important to engage the relevant communities

How do we encourage hedgehogs in a garden? Make opportunities for nests and ensure that boundaries have gaps 5 inches wide & high so that they can come in. There is additional information on the Trust website

Is there much stealing of birds eggs in Suffolk? Michael had not heard of many cases.

How do I encourage owls? Barn owls hunt over grassland which has not been cut too short. For Tawny owls it is best to put up boxes in trees. Both species feed on small rodents

In conclusion the overall the message is create the right conditions and wildlife will find it. He recommended us to visit their site at Carlton Marshes near Lowestoft.

The vote of thanks was given by John Button.

John Clements



Where are they all?

The picture above is a screen grab taken on the evening. The varied lighting in people's houses and the movement of people on the screen makes it difficult to get a flattering picture.

What is missing from the picture? The answer is 40 or so members.

The club council are very keen to know what they need to do to attract them to join in.

Is it the time of day? Is it the speakers? Is it because meetings are held on zoom?

Another matter of concern is low engagement with the club newsletter.

The email for the last newsletter was sent to 74 people, 57 people opened the email and 44 of them clicked the link to read the email. The one before was opened by 62 of 74 and the newsletter read by 50. Before that it was 56 and 49. Looking back further we see 59 and 46, 59 and 54, 60 and 52. It's safe to say that around a third of members are not reading the newsletter - that seems a lot.

What are we doing wrong? The cynic would say it's doubtful we shall find out because the people who are missing are not going to read this.

A surprise for someone at Club Council

Club Council met (on zoom of course) on Tuesday 22nd September. There was a surprise item on the agenda...

Here we see a somewhat stunned Neil Hewitt after being awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship by President David Chittick. Neils wife Helen was waiting outside the door for her cue to surprise Neil with the Paul Harris pin following this citation which President David read aloud.

It is my pleasure to make an award this evening to a member of the club who has been a constant on Club Council and is now into his 7th year as our treasurer. Past treasurers will tell you that the most onerous job in the club is that of being treasurer of the largest and most active club in the district. The job has been exacerbated in recent years by the number of comings and goings of our club membership and addressing the changes to our catering arrangements. Added to that is the administration of our Benevolent Fund which is larger than the monies administer at District level.

Recent months have seen Neil Hewitt dealing with even greater pressures as he wrestled with the rigours of organising and managing a large company addressing the difficulties imposed by the Covid crisis. Throughout his term of office, Neil has provided the financial acumen that ensures that the club remains on a firm financial footing.

I therefore have pleasure in awarding a Paul Harris Fellowship to Rotarian Neil Hewitt.

Now Neil, if you ask your wife nicely, she may have something for you.



The next day Neil wrote to Hon Sec Tony Baker to say:

Dear Tony

Can I please ask you to pass my thanks onto club for the presentation of the above award yesterday evening.

This was very welcome but completely unexpected as I am not sure that I am fully deserving of this. However I am very honoured and proud to feel that my fellow Rotarians have put me forward for this award.

Thank you
Regards, Neil



Forward Programme of Meetings

Tuesday 13th Oct 6.30pm	Zoom Club Meeting - Guest Speaker TBA <i>Duty Rotarians: Stuart Cooper (VoT), Des Cunningham (notes)</i>
Tuesday 27 th Oct 6.30pm	Zoom Club Meeting - Guest Speaker TBA <i>Duty Rotarians: Janet Dillaway (VoT), Ewan Dodds (notes)</i>
Tuesday 10th Nov 6.30pm	Zoom Club Business Meeting plus Special General Meeting and presentation of recommendations of Grants Committee <i>Duty Rotarians: none required</i>
Tuesday 24th Nov 6.30pm	Zoom Club Meeting - Guest Speaker TBA <i>Duty Rotarians: Janet Dillaway (VoT), Ewan Dodds (notes)</i>
Tuesday 8th Dec 6.30pm	Zoom Club Meeting - Guest Speaker TBA <i>Duty Rotarians: Tony Dodds (VoT), Jack Earwaker (notes)</i>
Tuesday 22 Dec 6.30pm	Zoom Christmas Meeting - Speaker/Quiz TBA <i>Duty Rotarians: Nigel Farthing (VoT), Karen Finch (notes)</i>

Speaker Finder Steve Jones would love to hear from you with ideas for future speakers.

Welcome Miss Isla Runnacles

JVP Steve sent in this photograph of Miss Isla Runnacles being carefully protected by her brothers Jacon and Finley.

Steve quipped, "This takes our grandchild count up to six and makes for a very expensive Christmas!"



An Invitation from the Rotary Club of Ipswich Wolsey

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Ipswich Wolsey I am pleased to extend an invitation to you and your club members to join our Zoom meeting mentioned above regarding two forthcoming Rotary competitions.

We have two speakers, Dorothy Pulsford Harris who will be giving a brief talk about Rotary Young Chef competition and John Thorpe who will be giving a similar talk on Rotary Young Restaurant Server competition. They will be taking any questions. The meeting starts at 7.00pm and the first speaker will begin at about 7.05-7.10pm. I would ask that your club members leave the meeting after the presentations as my club will continue with our business matters.

John Quarmby is our meeting host and will be able to provide the Zoom meeting Id and Password to your members who wish to join for the talks and any questions. To help John, would one of you from your club please let John know names of those who wish to attend the meeting so that he can let them join the meeting. John will provide the meeting Id and password to that person and they should communicate this direct to their attending members.

Please address any queries to either John Quarmby or Robin Wraight.

Kind regards to you all,

Tony Box [Programme Co-ordinator, Rotary Club of Ipswich Wolsey]

To Join the Zoom meeting use EITHER this URL or type in the Meeting ID and Passcode shown

<https://zoom.us/j/97015149085?pwd=Z29XOERrL1JIYThWVlZDZzJnbEIHUT09>

Meeting ID: 970 1514 9085

Passcode: 443236

Details of Ipswich East Club Meetings via Zoom

Catherine Forsdike is the Zoom 'host' and will open the 'room' at 6.15pm so the early-birds can freely chat and admire members' virtual backgrounds.

Please don't wait until exactly 6.30pm to try to get into the room.

At 6.30pm a bell will ring so that President David can call us to order and give the customary announcements.

It's important that we can still talk in small groups as we would round a table for a meal so we will be divided into 'breakout rooms' for around 10minutes.

During the meeting please use the 'chat' facility to put your questions by selecting 'Alan Forsdike' rather than 'Everyone'. Alan will field the questions directly to the speaker when appropriate..

The meeting will end with the final toast 'Rotary and Peace the World Over" at 7.30pm

The 'room' will remain open for informal chat between members (or questioning of any speaker) until 7.45pm just as we would after a physical meeting.

A reminder of the link to access the meeting will be sent in an email from Tony Baker on Sunday evening and is also in the covering email to this newsletter.

[If you can't find it, it's the same as the one for the previous meeting.]

Another exciting episode in the story of a young firefighter...

Tony Baker continues with tales from his early days in the job.

After last time's fascinating but rather harrowing story, here's a humorous one...

Where's the Hucking Fire?

Call sign A08 was a brash townie. He was a good fire officer in the towns but never really adapted to fire fighting in the countryside. In the middle of the night he was turned out to a farm fire in the village of Hucking which sits on the North Downs between Maidstone and Sittingbourne. There are many folds in the downs which can hide places such as farms, especially on a dark night.

A08 arrived in the village of Hucking and was able to see a distant glow. He drove up the lanes and he drove down the lanes but he could not locate the farm. Rural maps were anathema to him and he became very annoyed.

Eventually he could not contain his vexation anymore and he picked up the handset of the Brigade Radio and gave a most unusual message, "I've been up the Hucking Road and I've been down the Hucking Road and I cannot locate the Hucking fire. Directions please!"

The radio remained unusually quiet. Eventually a very subdued young voice said "Stand-by A08". The radio sparked up again. The young voice asked "A08, what is your location?"

A very terse and abrupt response came, "Outside the Hucking Church!" All went quiet again.

Hucking Church sits on the top of the downs but the folds of the hills and the night hid A08's intended destination.

A mature voice of authority spoke up. "A08, proceed in a southerly direction from the Hucking Church along the Hucking Church Road towards the Hucking Hook and Hatchet Inn [pictured].

At the Hucking T Junction, just past the Hucking Hook and Hatchet Inn [pictured], turn right into Rumstead Lane.

After one half mile turn sharp left into Coldblow Lane, then after a quarter of a mile take the left hand fork into Coldharbour Lane.

Follow the dead-end lane for about half a mile to the farm."

"Then," said an emphatic voice, "if you look hard enough A08, you will find your Hucking fire."

A triumphant voice finalised the discourse with the usual salutation; "KF OUT!!"



Heather Hearne is now our Attendance Officer.

Please update your Club Directory to show the sole method of booking an attendance or making an apology. The method of contact is an email - heatherattendanceofficer@gmail.com

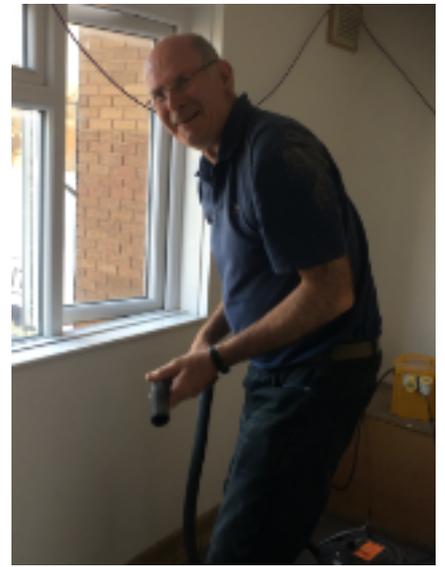
Photographic Memories of a Jolly Club Evening

Club Photographer Richard Porter has been dipping into the archives again and shares these lovely photographs of the 2009 Clay Pigeon Shoot and Strawberry Supper at Station Farm.

Happy Days - Some of us haven't changed a bit!!







Warning - Wet Paint

President David writes, "We spent an enjoyable morning on 17th September doing some DIY at the Winter Night Shelter. We were each allocated a room to do some painting in but were able to have a chat from time with our fellow Rotarians from Ipswich Wolsey Club. On the right is a photograph of the flowers I delivered on behalf of the Club to Sally Patient who was delighted to received them."

