

LOOKS EAST

The Newsletter of The Rotary Club of Ipswich East
Edition 24-2020 : 27th October 2020

**Club Zoom Meeting
Tuesday 27th October starting at 6.30pm**

Guest Speaker Estela Faria (RYLA)

Duty Rotarians : Janet Dillaway & Ewan Dodds

'Mr RYLA' Robin Wraight will be giving the VoT leaving Janet and Ewan to take notes for this newsletter)

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

Bob Dunnett

Stuart Cooper

November

Geoff Ramsdale

Steve Flory

An Important Message from Your President

Dear Members

Your Club Council held a meeting via Zoom on Tuesday last specifically to discuss the ongoing challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions which are making it impossible for the club to fulfil its principal purposes of fellowship and community service.

The official minutes of this meeting will be circulated by our club secretary as usual but I particularly want to send you this brief summary of its key points. They fall under two headings, Acknowledgement and Action.

Acknowledgement

- The COVID-19 crisis has deeply affected the lives of all our members.
- Ipswich East's Club Council and fellow members will be here as a constant part of your support network during these uncertain times.

Action

Four action points were agreed at the meeting:

- To review club subscriptions and the budget.
- To explore how the club can better serve the local community now in ways that fully comply with government regulations/guidelines.
- To increase the appeal of our Zoom meetings aiming for a larger audience by reviewing style and content.
- To circulate a questionnaire seeking members' views, needs and concerns.

I send my very best wishes to you all for these coming months of continued restrictions on our lives. Let's look forward to the day when we can all meet again in person and resume the full activities of our wonderful club. Until then, stay well and do please feel free to engage with our current limited activities as much, or as little, as you're able.

We're here for you!

David



Our Guest Speaker on 13th October was Dr Karen Purnell, the Managing Director of ITOPF (International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd.)

‘A Life Scientific’

Karen Purnell developed an interest in Chemistry when she was at school. In Truth it was her chemistry teacher who she had a crush on that led her to developing a career in Chemistry. She left school at 16 to work in a laboratory before going on to university. She was the first in her family to do so and came away with a PHD in chemistry from Bristol.



Karen has worked for a period in the Nuclear Industry, where she specialised in nuclear/toxic waste management and environmental remediation. It was while working there that she met Chris Buxton, a physicist. There was a chemistry between them, and they continue spark off on one another as husband and wife.

Karen chose the less well-paid job as a technical advisor for ITOPF in 1994. It promised to be a varied one where she could make a difference in environmental oil pollution. The experience of managing oil spills over the years has meant that the company is called in to assist all over the world. She has travelled widely. Meeting local people to try and address their losses, including women in Japan who dived down to the floor of the ocean for shellfish has made the job interesting for her.

We heard an upbeat message that oil spills from tankers have markedly declined. ITOPF is a trusted organisation which mediates between governments and the tanker owners to develop a strategy for limiting damage to the environment and provide compensation to those whose livelihoods are affected. The job is not without its risks, given the highly emotional and politically charged nature of the crises she has found herself in. She has been charged by three countries for crimes relating to oil tankers!

Karen has worked her way to be the Managing Director for ITOPF and shares with her work colleagues a passion for science. Her hope for the future is for children and girls in particular to choose science subjects at school and make their careers in physics, chemistry and biology which she has found so fulfilling.

The talk was rounded off with a fun quiz which stimulated us to think about the different tankers that ply our oceans, what kinds of oils and fuels are spilt into the ocean and what damage they cause. It appears that mangroves are the most vulnerable to oils spills. In this country it is marshland.

Stuart Cooper gave a superb vote of thanks, reflecting how impressed we were with the superb presentation from Karen.

David Chittick



Another episode in the life of a young firefighter... Tony Baker continues with tales from his early days in the job...

Always Late

My father was always late. I'm sure that he had some mental aberration or aversion to being on time yet alone being early. He was late for his brother-in-law's wedding, he was late for my brother's wedding, and he was late for Christmas celebrations and children's parties. He was late at visiting time when I was in hospital as a child. He was absolutely meticulous in his habits and would not be hurried under any circumstances.

My mother would call out to father when she was about to place a meal on the dining table. Without exception, whether or not guests or family were present, he would go to the bathroom to wash. It was not even the present day duration of two verses of Happy Birthday, it was the full Hallelujah Chorus with encore. Invariably, his meal would be cold and others would have finished.

Father transferred to the Kent Fire Brigade from London in 1961. At that time Fire Officers in Kent were rostered for 120 hours each and every week. It seems a long working week but they enjoyed great flexibility, great freedom of movement and freedom to make decisions. Father would work in the office during the day, inspect a station after the evening meal and then be on call at home during the evening and night.

If there was a fire call whilst father was at home, he had three options. Leave the control of the incident to the Sub Officer who was in attendance, ask to be informed of the first message from the fireground, or decide to turnout and attend. If he decided to attend in the night, both he and my mother would get up.

Mother would go to the kitchen to make a cup of tea. My father would go to the bathroom to wash and shave. It was not a quick splash and a flash with the razor. It was a meticulous wash and shave as though time was no object. Brylcreem and comb came next. He would return to the bedroom and put on his fire service cap. A clean white shirt was taken from the drawer together with a very stiff and starched detachable collar which was fixed to the shirt with collar studs. A black tie was then knotted very carefully around his neck. Black socks were pulled up before the duster buffed up a pair of highly polished black shoes. Suitably dressed he would walk down stairs to drink his freshly prepared cup of tea. I have an indelibly printed vision in my mind of my father walking through the house in the middle of the night impeccably turned out with his cap on carefully combed and brylcreemed hair, immaculate white shirt, collar and tie, highly polished black shoes and then black socks, then thin white legs disappearing into long baggy white pants.

After drinking his tea, he would pull on his trousers, adjust the braces, put on his fire brigade jacket, and then most importantly, put on his brown leather gloves before he left the house. He had an unerring ability to arrive on the fireground at exactly the right time to take charge and make the appropriate decisions. I regretted my own haste many years later. I had returned home in deepest darkest Kent for lunch and received a call to a traveller's camp site which was close at hand. Without thinking I drove straight there. A caravan was ablaze. The travellers were moving adjacent caravans out of harm's way. The site boss was directing a garden hose onto the fire which had no effect whatsoever. There was nothing I could do apart from saying that fire engines were on their way.

Appliances were mobilised from Gravesend and Dartford but had long difficult journeys along country lanes. It was the longest ten minutes of my life as I stood and waited with no possible action to be taken and with a dozen pairs of eyes burning into my skull. How I wished that I had been late.

My father died on New Year's Day. We went to the local undertaker in Ashford. He explained that because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, there would be a wait before my father could be cremated. My mother smiled sweetly and asked to be informed if there was a cancellation. My stipulation to the undertaker was that the ceremony had to run to time with no delays, and the hearse was to arrive on time.

We arrived at the crematorium in bright winter sunshine. There was a guard of honour, a colour party and the chapel was full of old colleagues and friends. Everything ran to time, nobody was late.



The wake was in a hotel on the opposite side of the road to Ashford Fire Station. Most of the family stayed in the hotel for the night and that evening we sat down in a private room for a meal. As the main course was served the fire bell rang. We were ushered out to stand in the car park. It started to snow. We had to wait in the cold and snow until the local firefighters had attended and inspected to ensure that the premises were safe. My father's sister looked at me with daggers in her eyes. "This is all your fault: this is his retribution. I told you to make sure that the hearse arrived at least ten minutes late."

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 President's BBQ at Waldringfield





Wedding Congratulations

Ross and Pauline Lunney's daughter Emma was married to Matt Crellin last weekend at a very intimate ceremony at Henley Church.

It was a particular joy for them that Grandmother Claire Lunney was able to attend.

Here we see pictured (L-R) Emma's Uncle Rick Simpson with his wife, Auntie Rachel (Dr Lunney), Dad Ross Lunney, Grandmother Claire Lunney, Matt, Emma and Mum Pauline Lunney)



Forward Programme of Meetings

- Tuesday 10th Nov 6.30pm Zoom Club Business Meeting plus Special General Meeting and presentation of recommendations of Grants Committee. Our District Governor, Jonathon King will also attend.
Duty Rotarians: none required
- Tuesday 24th Nov 6.30pm Zoom Club Meeting - Guest Speaker: Chris Buxton
Duty Rotarians: Janet Dillaway (VoT), Ewan Dodds (notes)
- Tuesday 8th Dec 6.30pm Zoom Club Meeting - Guest Speakers: Ewan Dodds and Bill Izzard (Bill's talk is called "Can you work round the chicken please? How I went from dishing the dirt to digging the dirt - tabloids to turf")
Duty Rotarians: Jack Earwaker (VoT), Nigel Farthing (notes)
- Tuesday 22 Dec 6.30pm Zoom Christmas Meeting - Speaker/Quiz TBA
Duty Rotarians: Karen Finch (VoT), Steve Flory (notes)

If you are not able to fulfil the duty allocated as Vote-of-Thanks or Note-taker, please arrange your own swaps and notify the Hon Sec and Newsletter Editor.

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

This space is for you!

If you've anything to share let the Editor know.

The advantage of a digital newsletter is that it can be infinitely expanded to accommodate anything worthy of publication.

(Send to alan.forsdike@gmail.com and he will decide!)