

Rotary | **IMAGINE ROTARY**

LOOKS EAST

The Newsletter of The Rotary Club of Ipswich East
Edition 12-2022 : 12th July 2022

CLUB OFFICERS 2022/23
President: Steve Runnacles
Sen V. President: George Woodward
Jun V President: Ewan Dodds
Immediate PP: Jo Banthorpe
Secretary: Bill Robinson
Treasurer: Neil Hewitt



July
Chris Harrall
Jack Earwaker
Jo Banthorpe
August
Karen Finch
Colin Davies
Alan Forsdike
neil Hewitt
Toby Pound
George Woodward

Club Handover Meeting
Tuesday 12th July 2022 from 6-9pm
‘The Tithe Barn’ Sproughton IP8 3AA
Duty Rotarians (if required): Nigel Farthing & Karen Finch

End of Year Reflections from President Jo

On the eve of our Handover event, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some thoughts and reflections on my year as President.

It's been an interesting year! Perhaps not quite the year I was expecting, but then what was anyone expecting as we came out of lockdown and started to learn to live with Covid?

2021 was our 50th Charter Year and it was hoped that Covid restrictions would have been lifted sufficiently in order to enable us to push the boat out and celebrate in style.

Sadly, the uncertainty regarding safety of large gatherings and more importantly, the significant degree of hesitancy amongst many members in attending large events meant that many of our social events were either cancelled or deferred. This included the Inaugural Lunch and the 50th Charter Dinner, and subsequently several 5th Tuesday events.

However, as a small token of acknowledgement, we produced an Anniversary pin badge and very recently a very fine, bone china Anniversary Mug - there's one for each member (and also for the Inner Wheel ladies) so please make sure you remember to pick one up! (available at lunch).

Now we find ourselves a year further on, and Covid incidences are once again on the rise. We still have a marked degree of hesitancy and/or apathy by some members who are fearful and/or unwilling to commit to attending lunch or organised events, once again putting the viability of such events in jeopardy.

It was hoped that Ipswich East could celebrate its 50+1 charter in 2022 instead, but it just so happens that 2023 is the centenary of the Ipswich Club and indeed the anniversary of 100 years of Rotary in East Anglia. With this landmark in mind, I hope that members will agree to combine efforts with the Ipswich Club, along with Orwell and Wolsey Clubs, in a joint celebration which will involve a series of high profile events in the town throughout the centenary year.



So 21/22 will be remembered as the year when we sadly said farewell to some very well respected and much loved friends and colleagues; when we welcomed three new members; we staged two very successful fundraising events in the Golf Day and the Orwell Challenge (huge thanks to Chris H and John B for their continued hard work in organising these events); we prioritised fellowship within the Club; and we were afforded the opportunity to look at what changes could be made in order to bring the Club into the 21st century. Our most notable achievement in my mind was the introduction of the *Wild Apricot* Booking app - enormous thanks to Incoming President Steve for his hard work, patience and tenacity in seeing this through to fruition.

There are several other individuals who I would like to personally thank for their unfailing support this year, most notably Tony Baker, whose 17 year span as Honorary Secretary comes to an end at the same time as my meagre one year stint. Tony's expertise and comprehensive knowledge of 'All Things Rotary' is second to none, and his words of wisdom and measured approach throughout my year (and no doubt during the past 16 Presidents' years) have been absolutely invaluable. I am incredibly grateful to Tony for extending his role in order to see me through - I couldn't have done it without him!

Huge thanks also go to Incoming President Steve - he has been a wingman like no other! Again, I am incredibly grateful for his support and encouragement this year, and for the times when he stepped up to chair or close meetings when I was unable to be there in person., and to smooth out my wobbles.

My management team has done an excellent job - thank you to all Committee Chairs for your input this year, in particular Dave Atkins in his role as Attendance Officer and Club Service Chair. He has had the often thankless and frustrating task of organising our social events, many of which have ended up being cancelled either through Covid restrictions or low number of attendees. I'm looking forward to a seamlessly organised and well attended Handover event, the first in 3 years! Well done Dave!

Bill Izzard is deserving of my thanks for stepping into the role of Attendance Officer, which he has taken to like a duck to water, in a quietly efficient manner, being always willing to help and accommodate members who are struggling with the new technology.

We must not forget our Newsletter Guru Alan - thank you so very much for the enormous amount of time and energy you have put into producing this quality publication with unfailing regularity. It has been a vital link to keep the membership connected at a time when face to face meetings weren't possible, and even more so now for those members are unable to attend lunch meetings. Some may choose not to read or even open the newsletter but communication is key to keeping this Club alive.

In closing, I would like to thank the Club as a whole for putting your trust in me to guide you through this year. I hope I have done a good enough job, and I trust that you will extend the same goodwill to Steve in his endeavours to take the Club onwards and upwards - I have no doubt that you will be in very good hands.

Good Luck Steve! Just the person for the job!

Jo Banthorpe

Orwell Challenge 2022 De-Brief notes from John Button

Review of the day

- Firstly, a big thank you to all who help both on the day and before. Those who cleared the route - re-built board walks, sorted out supplies etc etc etc Also, thanks to my trusty band of sewers - lanyards. To 'WizzyBill' who purchased the bananas and to all those who helped in any way - we can't do it without you.
- Thanks also to the many family members, Inner Wheel and friends who supported us on the day.
- Numbers were obviously disappointing - too much competition

- o Stour Valley Run (John Button has emailed them)
- o Race for Life - law unto themselves
- o Big Hoot Launch???
- But it was still a great day, and we are definitely serving our community by holding the day. This event always shows what we as a Club are capable of.
- Feedback was extremely positive throughout - particularly the organisation, signage and the friendliness of marshals etc- great to hear - we have really got that right now!

Looking at the feedback from participants and Rotarians - let's start with reviewing the key points from last years feedback...

FEEDBACK from 2021

1. Set a cut off time for marathon runners at Fox's (6 hours from 7 pm) in order to close Bridgewood by 3.30 pm -YES Done - no problems
2. Busy checkpoints to set up staff rotas - worked really well for Fox's - this would apply to Bridgewood, Levington, Decoy, Fox's Done - no problems
3. Need for help at end - 6.00 - 7pm at HQ - ABSOLUTE MUST - some help this year
4. Some hire in portaloos - worked well - good impression done - well received - timing?
5. Beer Tent think Calvors would do it - but up to Gainsborough Done - well received - Adnams next year
6. Offer option of T-Shirts to walkers when registering - possibly need to close Reg earlier Yes Done - perhaps 10 took up the offer and a few bought on the day

DECISIONS FOR 2022

1. Registration back inside or keep outside My view is outside - really part of the event and easy to spot upon return - need a marquee however I REALLY THINK WE HAVE TO CONSIDER THIS - MARQUEE ?
2. Beer tent -well received
3. I need a number 2 ????

FEEDBACK from 2022 - mostly positive but...

1. No Ice Cream van at HQ - to be fair one did turn up but not much business, so he went away - *I know its nice to have these around the course -but they should be at HQ except for the mid-way refreshments at Levington otherwise its not fair on the businesses that support us.*
2. Some comments that it was better last year with registration outside - *I'm a convert but then I am dashing around all day and not sitting at a desk in the wind and the cold - Marquee?*
3. Our medals are ok - but our T-Shirts are the best anywhere!
4. Distances on the card not accurate - agree, they are approx. and it states that. *We could re-measure - but I don't trust the watch readings - we had one chap running around the field at the end - his device had only measured 25.8 miles - others measured 26.7 miles*
5. Route marking - always a few comments but actually very few this year - well done! *The main negative comment we received was from a half marathon runner who missed the splitter sign near the end and was actually running the marathon route - so he shouldn't have been there anyway. I suggest that you all make more use of the biodegradable spray paint on the ground - that's what runners are used to.*
6. Signage - we are now all at least screwing the signs - but please use shorter screws to make the sweepers life easier.
7. Website info poor - actually its all there but in drop down menus. *We may need to look at that - but the key issue is that we need to get the instruction emails out to participants earlier - to avoid all the last-minute queries.*
8. Time My Race had a problem with the confirmation emails when people registered - *will sort for next year*
9. Suggested that we use WhatsApp groups for checkpoint leaders, sweepers and HQ - *this is a really good suggestion and something I will look at for next year.*
10. Comms between checkpoints and HQ - *generally much better this year but one base needs to improve!!!*

11. It's suggested that we could have a celeb guest at each base. This could include our own MM (MBE) and LD (MBE pending). *This is fine - but getting people to give up a whole day will be difficult - perhaps someone at the start of the run would be good - 7 am start!!! We have a volunteer to look a possible celebs.*
12. Also suggested that we should have some spare running medals to give out to on the day registrations. *This for me is a definite no-no. This would encourage day registrations and discourage pre-registration. We need pre-registrations to understand likely numbers so that we can order the right number of medals and T-Shirts*
13. Staffing going forward - clearly, we are all getting older, and a 15-hour day is not going to be possible! *I still think Ipswich East can staff the Orwell Challenge alone*
 - a. No toilets to dig, clear etc (except Fishponds) so some checkpoints were over-staffed this year
 - b. Early checkpoints now have a shorter day.
 - c. Some checkpoints considered that they were "mob-handed". So I need leaders to be honest about requirements, timings etc, and we may need to be more flexible - ie move roles during the day.
 - d. Other checkpoints are working with a rota system to suit and that's fine.
 - e. HQ is a full and very long day - 5.30am to 6.30 pm. Then the loading of equipment in FIND -so we need to look at a rota system for registration and general admin.
14. Consider additional events on the day to attract more people. *This was tried when we used the former Amberfield School site but was particularly unsuccessful. Participants just want some refreshments and then get home for a soak.*
15. Erect signs at checkpoints stating last time to leave this base to assist in timings; sweeper etc. *This of course depends on the route they are taking - so perhaps just the later stations.*
16. More comes re-when last walkers are going through each base ahead of sweeper - allows a more prompt close down.
17. Consider twinning each checkpoint with a charity that we are intending to support
18. Emphasise the "bring your own drinking vessel" to reduce cups used.
19. Improve marketing of the event - go back to the old ways as well as social media - canvass schools and youth groups; charities through CAS etc

Last year John said he needed a 'number 2' - this did not happen.

I am now telling you all that next year will be my last year as sole organiser - so I WILL NEED A 'NUMBER 2', and that person must be in place by September.

Points made by members following John Button's de-brief about the 2022 Orwell Challenge.

Eva- Can registration be earlier - say in September to allow for maximum publicity over 9 months?

Steve Runnacles- We have email addresses for participants for the past few years -can we send them a Christmas Card to remind them of the Challenge next year. Could have GDPR implications.

Andy Lewis- Can we put something on the registration form to ask participants to give permission for their emails to be used for publicity of the Challenge?

Tony Baker- Thanked John Button for all of his hard work in organising the Walk/Challenge over many years.

Steve Runnacles- Thought should be given to having a clearance team to prepare the route in addition to checkpoint leaders who deal the organisation of bases on the day.

Neil Keveren- No problems with supplies but asked that members checked their car boots before sending for replacement supplies.

Duty Rotarians

If you are unable to be the Duty Rotarian for the week shown, please arrange your own swaps and notify the Hon Secretary and the Newsletter Editor.

As a reminder, when you receive your invitation-to-attend email, the information is repeated.

12th July - Nigel Farthing & Karen Finch

19th July - Steve Flory & Francis Fobbie

26th July - Alan Forsdike & Catherine Forsdike

2nd August -

9th August -

23rd August -

30th August - (Fifth Tuesday)

What's On

**Tuesday 12th July - Handover
[Evening Meeting]**

**Tuesday 19th July - Richie Ross
(Ipswich Regent)**

**Friday 22nd July: President's
BBQ**

Tuesday 26th July - tba

Tuesday 2nd August

Lunch Menu

19th July - Fresh salmon infused with soya sauce & honey, served with a lime and coriander crab cake and an Asian slaw.

26th July - Trio of Suffolk sausages on a root vegetable mash topped with crispy onions.

2nd August - Chunky beef lasagne served with garlic bread, topped with grated cheese and served with fresh salad

9th August - Minted lamb steak served with ratatouille, fat chips and a rocket and mozzarella salad

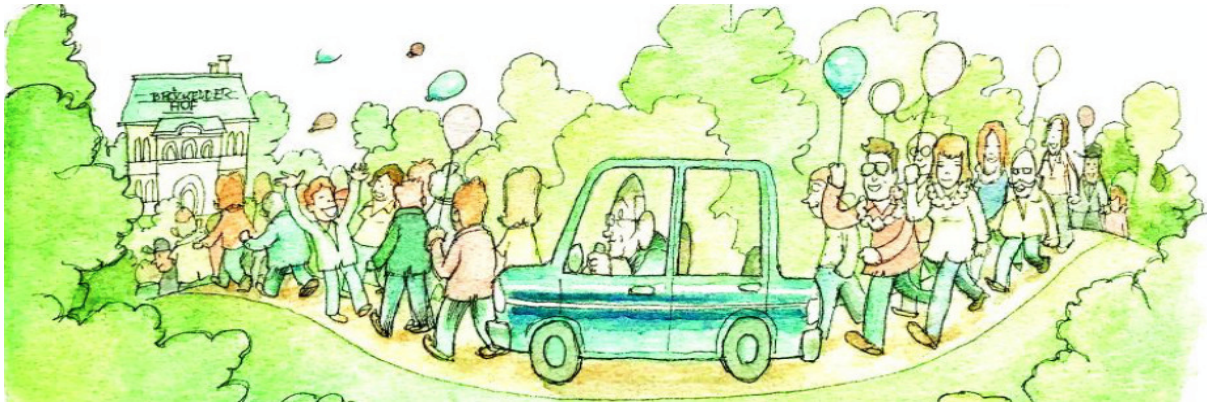
16th August - Fresh salmon infused with soya sauce & honey, served with a lime and coriander crab cake and an Asian slaw

23rd August - Beef and ale pie infused with root vegetables and herbs

30th August - (Fifth Tuesday)

Alternatives are available each week but must be notified in advance unless you have a 'standing order'.

The Visit from Tallawitchita



Bröckedde is located in the heart of Germany - where the Rhine and Danube flow into the beautiful Bröckeddesee. This is where RC Bröckedde meets in the Bröckedder Hof - every Wednesday at 1pm in the Salon Hindenburg.

Alexander Hoffmann

01.07.2022

RC Bröckedde's newest and youngest member, Friend Wurmnickel, was intrigued when he heard about the Club's well-heeled investment banker, Friend Münzinger, maintaining his excellent attendance record by going to the Wall Street Rotary Club whilst doing business in New York; something the older members would no doubt be regaled with (yet again) on his return.

"Do you have to pay extra membership fees?" Wurmnickel asked good old President Pröpke, "What do the New Yorkers think about it?"

"Of course not," replied the President, "everyone should visit other clubs, Rotary is a worldwide network."

Friend Wurmnickel really took this on board and made some discreet enquiries. It seemed, however, that the globetrotting banker was something of an exception. Most Club members seemed happy to stay within the county and very much within their comfort zones. "Why bother travelling, when it's so very pleasant here in the Bröckedder Hof?" said Friend Klüngelpütz in response.

Not so very long afterwards, the new member went on a business trip of his own to Tallawitchita in Kansas and duly called in on the local Rotary Club. "It was an amazing visit" he reported back to President Pröpke.

"How many members were there?" asked Pröpke.

"About 500," came the response.

"Rather different from our average of eight," sighed the President, "How many in the club?"

"I was told 2,517," A few months later Pröpke was making his way to the Bröckedder Hof for the Wednesday meeting and was surprised to find himself in a huge crowd. There were young people everywhere, all with Rotary badges, some playing music, many with balloons and a few even dancing. In their midst, President Pröpke spotted his youngest member, Friend Wurmnickel.

"RC Tallawitchita is on a European tour and decided to drop in," said Wurmnickel cheerfully.

"What, all 2,517?" asked the President.

"Since I was there, membership has increased to 3,322", replied Wurmnickel.

The weather was fine and the Bröckedder Hof gardens took on a real carnival look. Wurmnickel had been busy on his phone and every Bratwurst, kebab and beer stall the town could muster had made their way there. It was an extraordinary afternoon, a great success and President Pröpke even gave an excellent welcome speech in his very best US English. What a visit.

The following Wednesday, as Pröpke looked round the Salon Hindenburg at the normal attendance of less than a dozen, he sighed to himself, "A bit more of RC Tallawitchita would also do us all good."