



LOOKS EAST

The Newsletter of The Rotary Club of Ipswich East

Edition 22-2022 : 20th December 2022

Tuesday 20th December 2022 at 12.55pm

Rotary Family Christmas Lunch

Duty Rotarians: Jo Banthorpe & Des Cunningham

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



December
Juliette Adams
January
John Goodship
Bill Pipe
Ray Walters

Lesley Dolphin - My Job 40 Years with the BBC from Diana Dors to Kilimanjaro.

Lesley grew up in Norfolk and during her formative years had no thoughts of following a career in broadcasting and it wasn't until 1975 when she started her university studies in Leeds that she first heard about local radio - Radio Leeds - where she gained experience and became involved in broadcasting.

Lesley returned home to Norfolk in 1979 just before BBC Radio Norfolk opened in 1980 and where in competition with 2,000 other applicants she was appointed to one of the 20 posts available.

She said it was brilliant to be in at the birth of a new station where she started as a tech. operator taking out the radio car etc. She had no plans to present but was asked to take on their afternoon show in 1982; this involved playing vinyl records as well as meeting and talking to a number of well known celebrities who were performing at the Theatre Royal nearby.



These stars included Billy Connolly, Max Boyce and Diana Dors; sadly Diana died not long after Lesley met her. She also interviewed the "Sunshine" comedians Morecambe and Wise as well as a very famous duck - Orville!

Lesley left Radio Norfolk in 1984 to bring up her two boys and then moved to live in Suffolk where





BBC Radio Suffolk opened in 1990. Lesley started a few months later first with the Saturday Breakfast Show and then the weekday Afternoon Show where she got to meet more great guests including Basil Brush; apparently the studio webcam had to be turned off during the interview and Lesley said it was very surreal talking to puppet.

There are all sorts of broadcasters - news journalists, sports commentators, art critics etc. but for Lesley it was always about getting people to talk about themselves and while she presented most of the Radio Suffolk shows - from weekend breakfast to weekday afternoons - she had always tried to include a longer guest chat if possible. She commented that most chats these days are via the 'phone so you don't get to meet everyone in person but her famous sofa proved a valuable asset in attracting interviewees including Rick Wakeman, weatherman Jim Bacon, Terry Waite and footballing legends John Wark and Trevor Whymark. Even Prince Harry was entrapped when he came to the Suffolk Show in 2014.

Although most of her work was in the studio Lesley also got to do whole programmes out and about such as the Suffolk Show. Some of her very favourite programmes over the years were at the Chelsea Flower Show where on Press Day she was able to accost any of the celebrities present eg. Lord Heseltine, Ben Fogle and Joanna Lumley. One embarrassing moment involved failing to recognise Paul McKenna. Many horticulturists from Suffolk who were exhibiting at Chelsea were also interviewed by Lesley.

Another favourite series of outside broadcasts for her included Springwatch at Minsmere when she met all her heroes including Michaela Strachan, the lovely Lolo Williams and of course Chris Packham. The whole team were always very generous with their time and over the years Lesley has interviewed Chris on many subjects; he even sent a recorded message for her last afternoon show.

Another favourite was Peter Purves from Blue Peter who made regular appearances on her programmes.

Then there is Pudsey Bear. Lesley's involvement with *Children In Need* began in 1980 - the year she started with Radio Norfolk; she took part then and has done so for many years since. That first year her leg-warmers were auctioned for a "wapping" £10.00

Lesley commented that one of the most satisfying things she has been able to do through local radio was to make a difference not just via *Children In Need* but through lots of other campaigns and challenges. Her first was a parachute jump in Norfolk with the Red Devils for a pub in Carlton Colville. Unfortunately as she leapt out of the 'plane the jack plug in her cassette recorder came out so there was no recording of her commentary - with or without expletives. But that wasn't the case when she was broadcasting a live abseil down the tower block at Lowestoft College and her radio audience heard her reaction when the rope stretched as she leaned over the edge of the building.

One of her biggest challenges and fundraising tasks was climbing Kilimanjaro. She blames fellow Rotarian Steve Flory and perhaps a glass or two of red wine for taking up this challenge and while it was tough she stressed that it was amazing and for her life-changing.



Lesley found the lack of oxygen a real problem and struggled with altitude sickness as did other members of the party but she did make it to the rim of the crater; four members of the team reached the highest point on the mountain. It took a while to get back to full fitness after returning to the UK but the most moving and rewarding outcome was raising over £40,000 to help build the Treehouse Hospice for EACH. In total, BBC Radio Suffolk helped the county to raise £3 million in just 11 months to build the hospice and it was such a proud day when it was opened.

A few years later BBC Radio Suffolk launched another appeal to raise money for a bus for Suffolk Family Carers. Lesley along with SCC's David Falk came up with the idea of walking the Suffolk coast, covering 60 miles in 24 hours, accompanied by Nick Collinson, National Trust and Jayne Lindill, editor of Suffolk Magazine. They were well supported logistically by Radio Suffolk and our very own Bill and Marlene Robinson. Once again Suffolk pulled out all the stops with their donation - sufficient to buy the bus.

Her final campaign involved teaching CPR to as many people as possible. She was inspired to promote that mission by the story of Terry Hunt, EADT editor who'd had a cardiac arrest when walking through Ipswich town centre and whose life was saved by the prompt action of Lisa who came by at that moment. Various training centres were used across Suffolk and over a couple of months literally hundreds of people were taught a basic skill that can save a life.

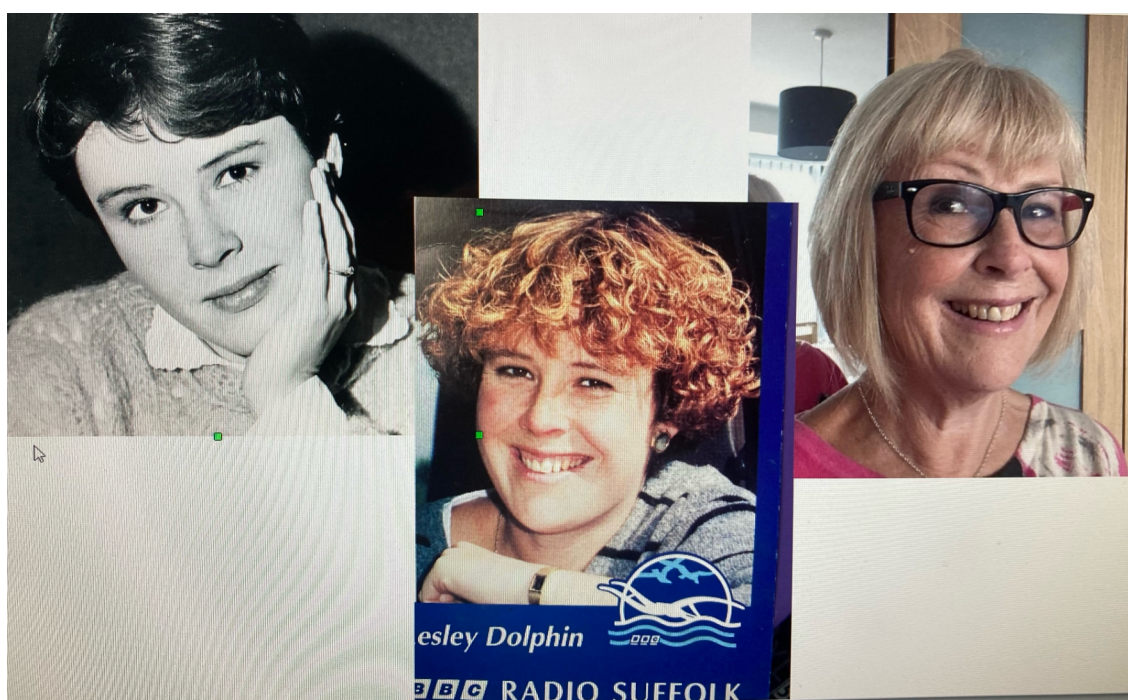
Lesley also picked up a couple of awards at BBC Radio Suffolk. The first, the Gillard Award, is named after Frank Gillard the man who came up with the idea of setting up a network of local radio stations and was won for a programme marking the anniversary of what would have been Benjamin Britten's 100th birthday.

Lesley is also passionate about the environment so one award she really treasures and is very proud of is the Dylis Breeze medal awarded by the British Trust for Ornithology. Dylis Breeze was a scientist and broadcaster who did a lot of work promoting the work of the trust and sought to raise awareness of the concerns over our environment and the decline of bird species. The medal is awarded annually to people who have spread the word eg. Chris Packham and Lesley was really delighted to get it.

To summarise Lesley's career demonstrates a life well lived and a job well done but despite her retirement there is probably more to come.

Eric Barnett

Below: the changing hairstyles of 'our Lesley'!





Tony Dodds	Bob Parker	David Chittick	George Woodward
Russell Wiles	Lewis Tyler	Chris Banham	John Clements
Andy Lewis	Jem Doncaster	Neil Hewitt	Bill Pipe
Peter Shepherd	Bill Robinson	Ian Lord	Jo Banthorpe
Roger Gilles	Chris Harrall	Eric Barnett	Bob Parker
Richard Porter			

These members have made a financial contribution to the club's benevolent account in lieu of sending cards and send greetings to all members for Christmas and the New Year.



20th December

ROTARY FAMILY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Family Fun Quiz

Guests include representatives from organisations who received donations from our Benevolent Fund.

*- come suitably seasonally attired -
a prize for the best dressed*

Lunch Menu

27th December - NO MEETING

3rd January - NO MEETING

10th January

Honey roasted gammon served on colcannon with braised cabbage, baby carrots & tender stem broccoli

17th January

Chunky beef lasagne served with garlic bread, topped with grated cheese and served with fresh salad

24th January

Trio of Suffolk sausages on a root vegetable mash topped with crispy onions

Alternatives are available each week but must be notified in advance unless

What's On

Tuesday 27th December
no meeting

Tuesday 3rd January 2023
no meeting

Tuesday 10th January
John Claxton (HSE Inspector and Hedgehog saver)

Tuesday 17th January
Gavin Stone CEO of '4YP'

Tuesday 24th January - tba

Tuesday 31st January - Fifth Tuesday

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.

27th December
(Bank Holiday)

3rd January
(Bank Holiday)

10th January
Ewan Dodds & Jack Earwaker

17th January
Lesley Dolphin & Nigel Farthing

24th January
Karen Finch & Steve Flory

31st January
'Fifth Tuesday'

7th February
Roger Gilles & John Goodship

14th February
Allan Gosling & Norman Haines

21st February
Liz Harsant & John Hutton

28th February
Alan & Catherine Forsdike