



LOOKS EAST

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Ipswich East - D1080 | 2024-25, Edition 17: 19th March 2025

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday 25th March at 12:55pm
Business meeting
Menu: Bangers & mash
D.R.: Norman Haines & John Hutton

Tuesday 1st of April at 12:55pm
**Speaker meeting: Mike Reynolds -
Time in Secret Intelligence**
Menu: TBA
*D.R.: Volunteers required, please contact Sec.
Robin if you can help*

Ipswich Bowls Club

CLUB OFFICERS 2024-25

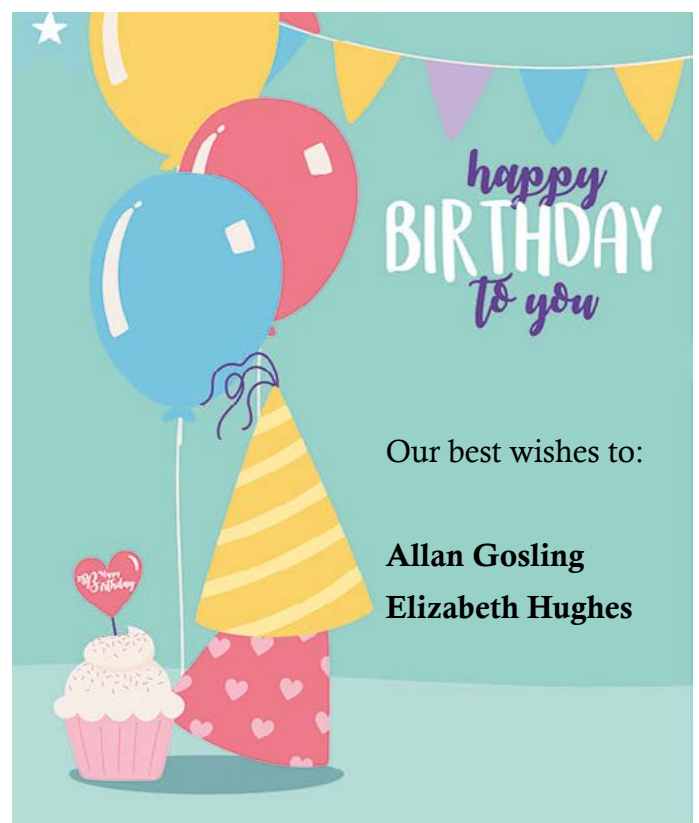
| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Acting President</i> | George Woodward |
| <i>Senior vice-president</i> | Steve Flory |
| <i>Junior vice-president</i> | Steph Mackentyre |
| <i>Immediate past-president</i> | George Woodward |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Robin Needham |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Neill Keveren |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Club service</i> | Steve Flory |
| <i>Community service</i> | Andy Lewis |
| <i>Foundation</i> | Bob Parker |
| <i>International</i> | Mark Murphy |
| <i>Vocational</i> | Ed Nicholls |
| <i>Almoner</i> | Elizabeth Hughes |

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Steve Wells - The Shamrock Pub

By Jem Doncaster

The club's meeting on 4th March saw Geoff Watson acting as stand-in president for stand-in president Steve Flory. Geoff welcomed Steve Wells, who owns the Shamrock Pub on Tavern Street in Ipswich town centre, which is, believe it or not (the clue is in the name), an Irish pub.

Steve opened up by saying his customers always want to tell jokes of varying qualities, though most of them poor. Steve went straight to the point, telling us of the challenges of running a pub. There are small changes and big ones, such as national insurance and business rates increases, which have meant his running costs have gone up by 19K. With a full capacity of 85 people in the pub, that's a lot of Guinness that needs to be sold to balance the books.

Steve bought the Shamrock Pub in September 2023, and since then he has had to constantly up the game for the business to survive, with fewer people coming to visit him and the town centre in general. Steve and his business in the town is 5.1% down. Compared to that of Football of 32%, he would rather accept that. However, that's a lot of people not coming into the town who could be supporting our shops, pubs and other community's businesses. So how can you then encourage people into the town centre? What is putting people off? Statistically, Ipswich is one of the safest towns around; however, the perception is that it's dangerous! That is not the case, it's only a poor perception of the town, despite the presence of CCTV to ensure public safety, which appears to be the council's favourite spend. Two operators are looking after some 250 cameras.

Steve suggests money is better spent improving lighting, so people can see, walk and feel safe in town, encouraging them back out. Other factors that Steve spoke about regarding the decrease in people in town supporting restaurants and pubs, are companies continuing to allow the post-Covid work-from-home scheme, as this has had a dramatic effect. "Towns like Leeds are dead now", as many institutions are working from home, "people are not socialising, eating and drinking out anymore".



Geoff Watson, standing in for George Woodward, with Steve Wells and Michelle Bevan-Margetts

So how can we make Ipswich better? By cleaning the town and changing people's perceptions. Some minor changes, such as utilising the fantastic architecture the town has, looking for help from community support groups like Rotary, meeting, greeting and encouraging people back into the town centre to learn to be social again.

Questions were opened to members. John Button agreed with Steve and said that Ipswich people can be the worst promoters of our town. Outsider visitors looking in can see what Ipswich has to offer and are absolutely amazed!

John asked what support Steve received from the council. Steve said that business rates increased by 40%. He suggested a change in how business rates' revenue is distributed, making Council business rates help available to business before they vanish.

Steve is a local parish councillor, and said little fixes can and will help, they don't need to be massive. The challenge is to change perception to increase business, and that is not currently happening. Alan Forsdike spoke of how parking restrictions are putting people off the town. Geoff, on closing, asked Michelle, who knows Steve personally, to carry out a vote of thanks. Steve added that he hopes someone listens, and mentioned he has recently met our stand-in president Steve Flory, who is also extremely passionate about our town.

Sir Christopher Haworth - Gateway 14

By Eva Alcerreca



President George Woodward with Sir Christopher Haworth

On 11th March, we welcomed Sir Christopher Haworth as a speaker, who talked to us about Gateway 14, the largest business, innovation and logistics park in East Anglia.

The Gateway 14 'project' is an example of a very successful public/private partnership, wholly owned by Mid Suffolk District Council and developed by Jaynic, with the support of Suffolk County Council, Stowmarket Vision and other organisations, and is part of Freeport East. Although one might think that, being that the Council is directly involved in the development of this project, the planning applications and the entire development process would have been very easy, Sir Christopher assured us that that was not the case, as they were, for that same reason, heavily scrutinised and had to make sure absolutely everything was above board. This actually meant that there were many delays to get the planning applications approved, and the same thing happened with many other steps along the way.

However, once the work on site actually started in 2022, the project took off and is now operational, with plenty of room left to grow depending on the clients' needs.

Sir Christopher mentioned that the first challenge when he was offered to lead the project was to choose the directive board, as he was determined to choose people who not only had the expertise necessary to carry out the work successfully, but also that were able to look at any matter from every possible angle to ensure the greatest chance of success. As he put it, "Choosing the right people who can make decisions is the most important".

To date, the biggest building at the park is a massive 1,172,160 sq ft facility belonging to The Range, and there are other buildings in progress, such as an innovation and skills centre, where they are aiming to provide a link between education and employment.

What is also really noteworthy is that despite taking so much space for warehouses and similar buildings, Gateway 14 has endeavoured to make sure the project is sustainable and that there are plenty of green areas within the park. So much so, that they have seen a net biodiversity gain of 20% in their grounds thanks to the use of native plants and the careful planning of the development. In fact, of the 156 acres that comprise Gateway 14, only 110 are developed, while the rest is preserved as green spaces.

Gateway 14 is proving to be a very successful partnership, with both local authorities and shareholders already receiving dividends, which has allowed for the Council to keep tax rates from increasing in the area and to invest in the town centre, which helps them secure their financial future.

It was a very interesting talk, with lots of food for thought as to how something similar could (or rather, should) be developed in Ipswich.

Roger Gilles gave the vote of thanks after a few very pertinent questions from the floor, including the matter of dealing with pigeons! And if you haven't had a look at Gateway 14, make sure to visit their website to find out more: <https://gateway14.com/>



Becky McAndrews - FareShare

By Allan Gosling

Becky told us she is part of the East Anglia arm of FareShare, a national charity that collects unwanted food from the large supermarkets, thus saving it from becoming landfill and redirecting this to help fight hunger by distributing it among 155 local charities.

The annual tonnage they save is around 45 tonnes, which equates to 10 billion meals! Wonky fruit and vegetables with small imperfections and surplus food is what they save most, and then redirect to food banks and other needy charities.

All the big supermarkets supply unneeded and over-ordered food. FareShare are always looking for volunteers to help with transport and warehouse help, all to prevent food waste. Actually, 80% of the



Becky McAndrews and President George Woodward

work force is made of volunteers. Their local base is on Ransomes Industrial Estate.

The vote of thanks was given by John Goodship.

Levington Creek to Cordy's - Route checking ahead of the Orwell Challenge

By Eva Alcerreca

A lovely brisk morning took 11 of us to check the route from Levington Creek to Cordy's ahead of the Orwell Challenge. It was a perfect day for it, even if slightly cool at times, and we ended the stroll with a delicious meal at The Shannon.

Keep an eye out for the date of the next route walk!





Group photo by Peter Shepherd (who was indeed there). Other photos by Eva Alcerreca.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

'John Riches' Race Night

in aid of Cancer Support Suffolk

Friday 21st March
Ipswich Golf Club
6:00pm for 6:45pm

£30 per person
(includes meal, plus tea and coffee)

Rotary 
Club of Ipswich East

For dietary requirements, please contact
Ray Walters at raywalters099@gmail.com



Rotary 
Club of Ipswich East

Annual Golf Day
Purdis- Ipswich Golf Club
In aid of Brave Futures



Thursday 8th May, 2025
£350 per team of 4
Bacon rolls on arrival and lunch

For further details please contact Chris Harrall
at Chrish@charrallassoc.com
Sponsorship of holes is available at £125

- Top 50 Course in the UK
- James Braid design
- 1895-1995 centenary



The Orwell Challenge
29th June 2025
48th year

- Walk or run along the beautiful Orwell estuary
- Support our charity work and, if you like, raise funds for your chosen charity or good cause
- Walk between 3 and 25 miles
- Run a validated trail marathon, half marathon or ultra marathon (55k)

www.orwellchallenge.co.uk

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EAST ANGLIAN
DAILY TIMES

Ipswich East Rotary Club - Registered Charity No. 1088961

Orwell Challenge registration numbers update

Our flagship event gets closer and closer, with numbers are steadily rising, and at a better rate than last year, so let's keep promoting the event to make sure we have another successful year!

As of 21st March, the number of registered participants for the Orwell Challenge is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Adult walk | 262 |
| Child walk | 8 |
| Family walk | 4 |
| Half marathon | 34 |
| Marathon | 37 |
| Ultra marathon | 8 |
| Total | 353 |

ROLLING CAIENDAR

| Date | Event |
|------------|--|
| 21st March | 3rd John Riches Memorial Race Night. Ipswich Golf Club, 6:45pm. Details and registration via Wild Apricot. |
| 22nd March | Ipswich Wolsey RC Charity Quiz Night - 6:00pm, Seckford Golf Club. Teams of 4 persons max, £20 per person (which includes a hot main course dinner). In aid of Suffolk Family Carers and Cancer Support Suffolk. Contact: David Wilson wilsonfamily19@ntlworld.com |
| 25th March | Business meeting. Details and registration via Wild Apricot. |
| 14th April | Club Council meeting. |
| 20th April | Bucket collection in aid of RSPCA. Details on page 10. Contact Andy Lewis if you can help. |
| 8th May | Ipswich East Golf Day - Ipswich Golf Club. Volunteers needed. Contact Chris Harrall. |

| Date | Event |
|----------------|---|
| 8th May | Ipswich East Golf Day - Ipswich Golf Club. Volunteers needed. Contact Chris Harrall. |
| 20th May | AGM and Business meeting. |
| 25th May | RSPCA fun day at Martlesham Pet Rescue Centre. Details on page 10. Contact Andy Lewis if you can help. |
| 9th June | Visit to Bury Abbey RC. 6:00pm at the Greene King Beer Cafe, Westgate Street, IP33 1QT. Let Sec. Robin know if you're interested in attending. |
| 29th June | Orwell Challenge - all hands on board! |
| 13th July | Bury Abbey Rotary Club Classic Car Show. Volunteers wanted, please check page 8 for more information. |
| 8th August | Ipswich Club 2025 Golf Trophy. Tee off 1:30pm, followed by evening meal. Open to all golfers, please contact Des Cunningham. |
| 16th September | District Golf Day - Ely Golf Course. Contact Des Cunningham if interested. |

At a glance: If you want to get an idea of what we have going on when, make sure to check out the calendar page on our website: <https://www.ipswicheastrotaryclub.co.uk/calendar/>

You will be able to see what kind of events we have coming up, and you can also check against that when organising activities to avoid any clashes.

DUTY ROTARIANS AND LUNCH MENU

| Date | Duty Rotarians | Menu* |
|------------|--|------------------|
| 25th March | Norman Haines John Hutton | Bangers and mash |
| 1st April | Voluntary replacements needed. Please let Sec. Robin know. | TBA |
| 8th April | Bill Izzard David Knights | TBA |
| 15th April | Ed Nicholls Neil Hewitt | TBA |

If you're unable to be a duty Rotarian, remember it is your responsibility to look for a replacement, and please notify our Secretary Robin as well as Steve Flory of any changes.

** These duty Rotarians are looking for a replacement, please contact secretary Robin if you can help.

*Dietary requirements/Vegetarian option available upon request, please contact Steve Flory at steve.flory@hotmail.co.uk

ONGOING COLLECTIONS

Remember we have an ongoing collection of ring pulls, as well as ink cartridges, which you can give to **Andy Lewis**.

The ring pulls are sent to the Philippines so that people there can make crafts to be sold, which helps them support their families.



John Button is still collecting postage stamps (they can be used ones), so if you're lucky enough to still receive any post with those, keep them and make sure to give them to him.

The Ipswich Rotary Club is collecting spectacles, which get forwarded to SpecSort York. After sorting and grading them, they're taken to Africa. Please contact Peter Rogers at: peterrogers327515@gmail.com.



UPCOMING PROJECTS UPDATES

We have a few projects and activities coming up, and volunteers are (usually) welcome. Please contact the relevant club member and join in!

- **Bucket collection in aid of RSPCA** - The date for this has been moved to Easter Sunday, 20th April, Portman Road, 12:30 to 3:00pm. Please contact Andy Lewis if you can help.

- **Ipswich East Annual Golf Day** - Ipswich Golf Club, 8th May. Volunteers will be needed. Please contact Chris Harrall.

- **RSPCA fun day at Martlesham Pet Rescue Centre** - Sunday 25th May. Volunteers needed from 8:30am for gazebo set up, car parking, etc. Volunteers can bring their pets and enjoy the day.

- **Bury Abbey Rotary Club Classic Car Show** - 13th July at Culford School. Volunteers needed to help on the day. Ipswich East benefits from helping, as the Bury Abbey RC will donate £50.00 per person per 4-hour shift to our Community Support Fund. Three 4-hour shifts available: 6:00am-10:00am, 8:00am-12:00pm and 11:00am-3:00pm. Refreshments for volunteers provided. If you can help, please contact secretary Robin at rotaryipseastsecretary@outlook.com.

- **Brickmakers Woods hedge trimming** - February 2026 - pruning of the saplings we planted earlier this year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sports trophies!

By Des Cunningham

On the meeting of 25 February, the annual trophies for the knockout tournament and the golf trophy were awarded to the respective winners.

Bill Izzard crowned himself with both the Knockout Tankard and the Annual Golf Trophy, while George Woodward came second, winning the Knockout Cup.



RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED!

Our annual Golf Day is rapidly approaching and, as every year, we are looking for donations for raffle prizes. You can bring them to the Rotary meetings between now and the beginning of May.

The raffle is always a great success thanks to everyone's cooperation, and we raise a substantial amount from it, so let's make sure this year is no exception. Thanks for your support!

Thank you from the Suffolk Punch Trust

By Steph Mackentyre

Barry Bloomfield, from the fundraiser for the Suffolk Punch Trust has been in touch to extend his thanks to Ipswich East, who paid for some of the solar panels to be attached to the roof of the visitors centre. You might remember we as a club visited the centre last year to have a tour of the facilities. Well, he's been in touch again to update us to say that they have been able to install this month their 101th solar panel thanks to the generosity of the people of Suffolk – an initiative which Ipswich East Rotary Club helped to get off the ground. Barry says, "The savings are about to go to another level! Please could you thank the members of Ipswich East from us all here at the Trust."

The electricity generated has enabled them to power the visitors centre and to generate an income from it too, which is all a huge help to the Suffolk Punch Trust charity, which does such wonderful work preserving our rural heritage by saving Suffolk's very own shire horse breed.

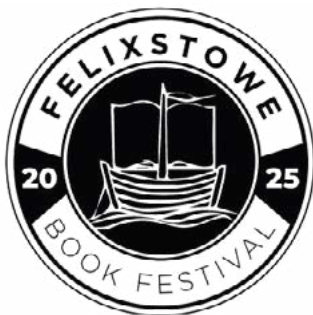


**THE
SUFFOLK
PUNCH
TRUST**



Calling all book-loving Rotafians

By Steph Mackentyre



I'd like to flag up a fabulous celebration of books by the sea, which is due to be held in Felixstowe this June.

The Felixstowe Book Festival, for which I am acting as volunteer publicist, will take place from Wednesday 25th June through to Sunday 29th June at Harvest House on Cobbold Road in Felixstowe, and tickets go on sale next month – Saturday 5th April.

Already booked to speak are internationally best-selling authors and some local ones too – full details will be announced on their website:

www.felixstowebookfestival.co.uk

And if you'd like a free bookmark with details of some of the authors due to speak – just ask me for one!

Solar panel works at IDIBC, request for caution

By Robin Needham

At the Ipswich & District Indoor Bowls Club, preparation for the installation of solar panels on the club roof commenced on Friday 14th March. The installation of the solar panels started the week of the 17th March and will continue for approximately three weeks. During this work, IDIBC ask you to be extra careful as there will be worker activity on site and, in particular, along the main entrance wall of the clubhouse. There may also be car park restrictions at times. Please park carefully between the lines and do not obstruct access for the installers.

IDIBC have asked for your patience and understanding while this work is being carried out.



The importance of good attendance for the Club

By Neill Keveren

Following on from VP Steve's recent rallying call regarding lunch attendance, members may be interested to understand the financial implications of good attendance.

The cost of lunch to members at £13.50 is set to cover catering costs, payment processing charges and the Bowling Club's room hire charge based on the assumption that at least 32 members attend.

We're fine while lunch numbers are at 32 (excluding the speaker) and any more than that will generate

a modest surplus which supports Club funds and helps cover unbudgeted expenses, for example, PA system repairs and enhancements. However, if lunch numbers fall below 32 (and that's happened twice in the last month), we incur a loss.

Good lunchtime attendance is healthy for the club in many ways, not least the opportunity to enjoy fellowship and it also helps to keep our finances on an even keel! So please, show up when you can!



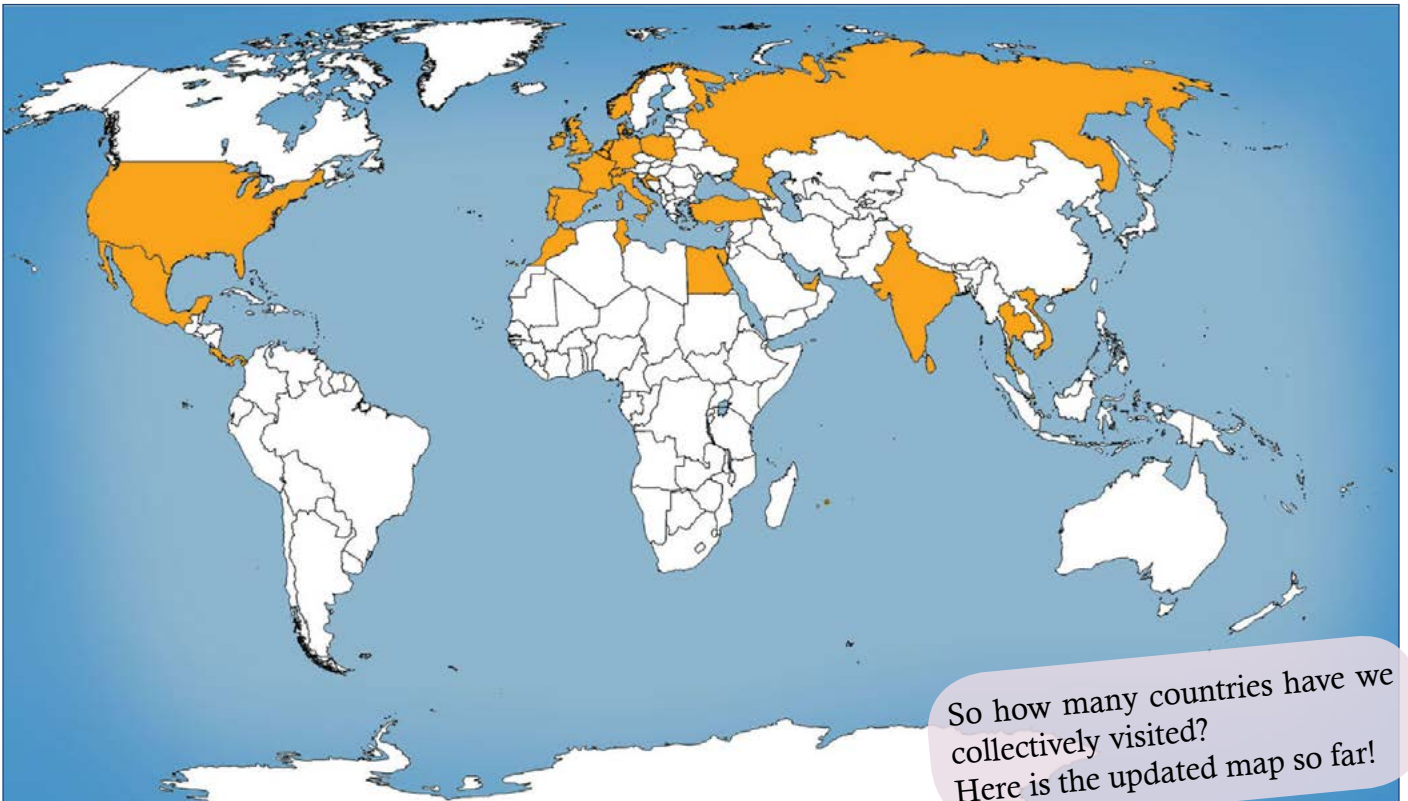
A bunch of Rotarians were able to join Liz Harsant last Tuesday evening for her Civic Reception at Ipswich Town Hall.

It certainly looks like they had fun!

WHERE HAVE ROTARIANS BEEN?



Your Editor went on a walk with friends around the Kesgrave area a couple of weeks ago, and came across this. You gotta love Suffolk!



So how many countries have we collectively visited?
Here is the updated map so far!

And that's it for today!

Just the usual reminder: to send photos, news, articles, stories, announcements, or any material (yes, even jokes) for publication in the newsletter, please address them to:

iercnewsletter@gmail.com

The deadline to receive items for publication will be the Friday prior to the next issue (so for the next issue, that will be 29th of March. Needless to say, I would be very grateful if members kept the deadline in mind for a timely publication of materials.

— Editor

STAY PAWsiTIVE!



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