

2001/2002 Ian Wright

I approached my year with a mixture of trepidation and apprehension. What would it be like? Would things go well? Those were the questions amongst others that crossed my mind.

I soon found as the year unfolded however, that I was the president of a great club with fantastic support, and I was proud to be "in charge". I had a great year with many extra activities, and I would now like to take you on a trip down memory lane and share these with you.

Jack Parkin's celebration of 65 years in Rotary

Jack was obviously very advanced in years, and had by this time past his 100th Birthday. We held a small lunch time drink and celebration attended by the District Governor to mark this very special milestone, The D.G at the time thought that Jack was probably the longest serving member Nationwide.

Award of Paul Harris Fellowship to John Sullivan.

John attended many Pentangulars throughout his Rotary life. In October 2000 he visited St Quentin for the mini Pentangular, at which he enjoyed the hospitality of a French World War 2 veteran. Naturally, with their long standing Rotary memberships, and their World War 2 involvement they had a great deal in common.

During 2001 I was approached by the President of St Quentin informing me that they had received a nomination for John Sullivan to receive a Paul Harris Fellowship for his active involvement in the liberation of France in the D Day landings. I was asked not to inform John of this, but to ensure that he attended a special function in St Quentin and be prepared to give a talk on his D Day experiences.

I quickly involved his wife Elizabeth into what was happening, and shared the event with Club Members. On the day, Margaret and I drove John and Elizabeth to the function in St Quentin so that we arrived some time after a large

contingency from Canterbury.

On arrival John was amazed at the number of people present especially the numbers from Canterbury, many of whom wore combat gear to mark the occasion. We enjoyed very warm French hospitality and excellent food, after which John duly delivered his talk with slide show support.

At the conclusion of the evening John was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship from the President of St Quentin.

Retirement Party for Archbishop of Canterbury April 2002

I had had the privilege and pleasure of hosting the Archbishop (Lord Carey) and Eileen to our Christmas Dinner a few months previous and was then privileged to host them again when Lord Carey resigned from his position as Archbishop of Canterbury. During his time in office Rotarian George as a Honorary member of our club and his wife Eileen had made many many friends within the club, and it therefore seemed very appropriate to hold a special Rotary Function to mark the occasion,

A large group of Rotarians and partners attended a buffet evening at the Christchurch College, at which we were all able to thank both Rotarian George and Eileen for all their support and friendship within the club.

Pentangular May 2002

I was so proud and privileged to have been selected as President during the year that Canterbury was the host club. It gave a sense of excitement and buzz.

Naturally such events take a great deal of planning, and I was delighted to have had such a depth of experience within my committee to enable us to provide a comprehensive and varied programme. Special thanks must be given to John Hill, Alastair Scott, Richard Akister, Roger Bickerton, Roddy Tyndale-Biscoe, and Robin Hendy for their excellent support throughout.

Thanks to the help of Rotarian Gerald Coulson, my German next door neighbour in Herne Bay, and a former secretary of mine who is Dutch, I was able to practice

and deliver my welcoming and departing speeches in the 3 languages.

Meeting the Appointment Panel for New Archbishop of Canterbury

Towards the end of my term in office all Presidents of local organisations such as Round Table and Rotary were invited to meet the panel and put forward the views of their club, as to who was viewed as a good candidate for consideration,. This was an extremely interesting and unique experience.

As with many Presidential years, I had the pleasure of inducting 2 New members, David Barton and Richard Kemball - Cooke into the club, and interestingly they have now both held their own Presidential Years.

At the annual Safari Supper, I was very pleased indeed to award Chris Laming a Paul Harris Fellowship, for his many years of commitment, hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication within the club. Among the many roles he undertook, he provided great support to many presidents in the planning of their respective years.

Naturally no year goes by without some incident or hitch, and mine was no exception. I had only been in office for about 4 weeks when I had the serious misfortune of having the Chain of Office stolen. It was one of the most despairing and embarrassing moments of my life when I had to address the club and notify them of this. The support and sympathy I received was incredible.

It was interesting however that from this unfortunate incident, we were able to obtain a more up-to date Chain depicting more recent presidents. (The old one dated back to the 1920's) It was agreed therefore that the first name would be the earliest president still alive in the club at the time and Tom Barker's name became the first to be added

In conclusion, I thoroughly enjoyed my year and to have been a president of such a fine, friendly and supportive club. I will remember these very happy memories for the rest of my life.

Ian Wright