

Rotary Year 1987-8 President John Harris

In this year we consolidated the move from the County Hotel which had been completed under John Sullivan, ironically shortly after we had mounted a plaque celebrating 60 years at the Hotel.

The major Presidential issue was replacement of the previous name badges with the handsome ones we use in 2010, a task which involved almost as much deliberation as the change of venue.

Familiar fund-raising took place from early street collections and walks in City to sponsored Country Walks organised by PP David Thompson. Newsletter Editor Colin Tufton had a nice turn of phrase that would apply in any year to encourage support from Sunday non-participants – “If you have bad feet, wear a dog collar, have bought a yoke of oxen, married a wife or have some other excuse for not going, please turn out your wallet for those who will be.”

A number of learned talks were given by Arthur Godman on subjects ranging from Nuclear Waste to the unintended consequences of unconsidered “Third World Aid”. We also rose to the challenge of an early Video on the Polio Plus campaign.

The President took particular pleasure in the growth of International links. We instigated a revival of the “special” link with St Quentin, one of our first Pentangular partners. We hosted a party from Vladimir who were participating in the first large scale exchange coinciding with the collapse of Communism, celebrating glasnost and perestroika with English families at the two Simon Langton Schools. On a closer geographical link, we thrilled to the music of the Aberfan Male Voice choir and at the final ladies’ Evening were privileged, through the good offices of Rotarian Farrukh Hussein, to have

as speaker H.E. Mr Shayar Khan, Pakistan Ambassador to Great Britain.

Finally, in a year in which we lost outstanding Rotarians such as Jim Shepherd, it was good to end on a successful recruitment campaign, for which PP Vic Banks coined the title “8 for 88”.

Compiled January 2010