

Notes on the Presidential Year 1985-85

The RI theme for 1984-85 was Discover a New World of Service. My remarks at induction on 2 July included mention of the club's international contributions - we had made a donation to eye camps in India and Farukh Hussain had been to the Phillipines on a Rotary programme. I also intended to maintain contacts with other clubs, to foster fellowship, to seek new members and then make them feel at home.

Club meetings were at the County Hotel. A sad occasion was the day we remembered two deaths, of Past President Derek Evans and a former member Geoff Hills, A memorable evening was a talk about Tchaikowski, with music, by Leslie Goulden to mark his 90th birthday and his 60 years in Rotary, The District Governor Jack Rowe was a guest. The annual port and cheese party was at St. Augustine's on 5 January. A heavy snowfall during the evening made the journey home interesting. Funds were sent for water pumps in Malawi and for Ethiopian famine relief. The incoming GSE team was from Haiti. They toured the cathedral but were not hosted by us.

Local club contacts included visits to Forest of Blean and Deal, Past Rotarians, the Soroptomists, Lions charter anniversary and Inner Wheel 60th birthday celebrations. District Conference at Eastbourne in October was well supported as was the St. Quentin Pentangular in June. The theme for discussion at the formal meeting was Action for Youth. I mentioned our involvement in Mini-Group Study Exchange , Rotaract, Young Enterprise and the Foundation Scholarship programme - we hosted two students that year. I hope that my French accent was acceptable. St Quentin had chartered a train to take everyone to Epernay. We were greeted by a band and dined in the Castellane champagne cellar restaurant Champagne flowed throughout the evening. We came home with the attendance trophy, the clock.

A major event at the end of June was the Joint Charities Ball at the Westgate Hall. Both the mayor, Hazel McCabe and I wore our chains of office. She wrote to say that she had enjoyed dancing in chains. I handed over to Sidney Roe after a busy year, though not quite as busy as Presidential years seem to be these days.

Ken J. Beere

(Compiled in January 2010)