

PRESIDENTIAL YEAR 2004/5

This was the Centenary Year of Rotary and I was determined to keep Canterbury continuing along the successful lines of the past and to introduce some new members. Four new members joined and all have proved to be excellent additions to the Club.

The District Centenary luncheon was held at the International Study Centre at the Cathedral and the Canterbury Club, needless to say, played a large part. We were fortunate to have HRH the Duke of Gloucester, The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, The Dean and many distinguished guests. HRH the Duke of Gloucester was presented with a Paul Harris Award for the work he does for charities, projects and the services he gives to the community.

This year we were the hosts for the Mini Group Exchange and there were two young people from each of the Pentangular Clubs. This was organised as usual, by Alastair Scott as was the visit from the GSE Team from India which ended with a dinner at the Farmers Market.

We had been the host Club and organiser of the Rotary National Bridge Competition for very many years. The finals were held at the Kent and Canterbury Club. This was a very good weekend which I had hoped would continue, but unfortunately this was to be the last.

Fund Raising continued allowing the service committees to make very many donations over the year. With the Christmas supermarket collections and the Duck Race approximately £13,000 was raised. A one off Golf Day was held at the Canterbury Golf Club and raised £12,000 for the Pilgrims Hospice. Our thanks were due to Bob Anderson and Tim Brett and others for a most enjoyable day with an excellent result. The Tsunami came and Brian Reid organised a concert at short notice and a collection was held in the High Street after Christmas.

The Community and International Service committees worked hard during the year supporting the good causes that invariably need assistance. Vocational Service arranged many very interesting visits and the Life Education Committee had a lot more work to do than most of us realised. The Millennium Scholarship received several applications for funding students during their Gap Year. Some older fogies did not know what a Gap Year was!

St Quentin came to visit with good fellowship and ended with a well supported lunch at the Etchingill Golf Club.

The Christmas Dinner was held at the Cricket Club and we were fortunate to have George Carey as the speaker. Entertainment was provided by John Harris and his Rotary/Inner Wheel Choir.

I was well supported by the Club Council and all the members. I tried not to forget the long suffering Secretary John Hill at the weekly meetings. The club accounts were in good hands of Richard Akister who is now moved to pastures new.

Compiled February 2010