

## Presidential Year 2002 - 2003

Every Presidents year has within it a set of regular events, ranging from the Annual Duck race, District Conference, Pentangular (Utrecht in my year), visit by District Governor and many others. These events are both enjoyable but predictable so what was different in my year - not a lot, but we had some innovations and a problem flagged up with regard to the Pentangular Group.

At the urging of Simon Edridge, contact was made with the manager of Sainsbury's and we made our first Christmas Collection, which surprised us all by its success.

The Christmas Dinner was attended by all my family and the address was given by a good family friend, Rev. Roger Ellis an inspirational speaker and former Chaplain at St. Edmunds School. Lord and Lady Carey attended but took a back seat on this occasion.

A visit was made to the Magic Circle Headquarters and a fantastic evening was enjoyed by all, how bemused we were that the eye is deceived by such sleight of hand even at few feet distance.

On a more personal note I felt that Cricket Week was not the event it was in the past so decided not to hold our usual Drinks party instead to have B.B.Q. Party at Milton Manor (Brett's HQ) with light sporting exercise. It also served to celebrate a little late our 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. The evening finish with a spectacular display by nature of lightening, thunder and heavy rain around us but hardly a spot on our party area.

Going to the President's meeting in Leuven we celebrated Vice President Richard's birthday in some style. Next day we all met and it was the first time I heard of the problems at Utrecht, they expressed concern that the Pentangular was too social and they were looking for contacts in East of Europe to give emerging Clubs help. This prompted Ludenscheid to suggest we all look for substantial Charitable cause in which we could all partipate. We both left the meeting wondering about the future of the Pentangular and so did our good friends from St. Quentin.

It took me 36 years to become President, should I have done it sooner, probably, but to do it properly seems almost a full time job, so I am glad I left it till semi-retirement came and I could really enjoy my year which I thank all concerned.

Roger Bickerton

Compiled January 2010