



Rotary Club of Canterbury

President: David Barton

Vice President: Richard Kemball-Cook

Programme for July 2009

- 4th Saturday *Duck race – Marshalls 10 am Westgate Gardens
Race starts 11 am Toddlers Cove to Westgate Gardens
Safari supper 6 pm, the President*
- 7th Tuesday Lunch meeting – 12.30 for 1 pm at Cricket Ground
Handover meeting
Stewards: Gill Dixon and Alan Forrest
- 14th Tuesday Lunch meeting – 12.30 for 1pm at Cricket Ground
Club Assembly – visit of Assistant District Governor
Martin Williams
Stewards: Rosemary Doyle and Geoff Goodban
- 21st Tuesday Supper meeting – 7 for 7.30 pm at Abbots Barton
Speaker: Philippa Davies: John Betjeman and the bonus of
laughter
Host: Gerald Colson
Stewards: John Harris and Robin Hendy
- 28th Tuesday Lunch meeting – 12.30 for 1pm at Cricket Ground
Speaker: Professor Hugh Cunningham – What happened to
Childhood?
Host: Gerald Colson
Stewards: Peter Hermitage and John Hill

Future dates

- 6th August – Cricket Week Cluster Clubs evening 7-8.30 pm
8th August – Joint Service Clubs Cricket Week cocktail party 7-8.30 pm
31st August - President's Ascot Tea, 4-8pm (**change of date**)
23rd – 25th October - District Conference in Brighton
27th November – Dinner in House of Lords
15th December – Christmas dinner

Rotary News

President-elect Richard Kemball-Cook attended the Rotary International Conference at Birmingham NEC in June, and enjoyed the experience very much.

‘How can I describe such an amazing few days: we gained a view of the impact that Rotary is making on the world. We met so many people, saw the work of clubs, districts and whole countries, young people but also of individuals. There were long lines of Japanese, threading their way through throngs of Nigerians in their billowing robes, meeting Koreans and Hong Kong and Macau Chinese.

There was ample evidence of the impact that Rotary is making on the world: **polio cases down** from 1590 last year to 620 this year, the Rotary club of Sri Lanka showing off the **160 new schools** that they built with the £18M they received from Rotary clubs worldwide, £1.2 M coming from the UK. They came to say thanks and show off their schools.

The main themes that the 1.2 M Rotarians worldwide are working on are: Clean **water**, sanitation and soap; **Polio Plus** and improve the **plight of Women** by lowering infant mortality rates, making sure they have education, making sure freshwater is available nearby. Much research has been done into why communities remain in poverty: the answer always is - improve the lot of women and the whole community benefits.

Indeed some of you met my two guests from Calcutta - they came to tell the Conference about how the use of micro-credit schemes is transforming very poor villages in North India by giving credit to groups of women who can then make things, trade and feed their children properly.

We also listened to **Mia Farrow**, firstly recalling her teens when she was the wife of Frank Sinatra for two years and then she talked of the genocide in Darfur, Sudan where 2.5 million people are now homeless: the president was found guilty of war crimes and he merely chucked out all the aid agencies, making a bad situation much worse. With this knowledge comes responsibility to do something about it, and she was asking us.

There is much more to tell and I wished more had come from the Club: what about Montreal next year?’

Canterbury Millennium Trust Fund

Fund Administrator Leslie Stephenson has received a letter of thanks from Michael Magro, a former pupil of Barton Court Grammar School, who was awarded £200 from the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund to help him extend his medical studies with a period in a hospital in Durban. Leslie adds that he hopes we will agree that it was “money well spent”.

Michael wrote: ‘This was an amazing experience and I have learnt an enormous amount. The hospital was government run and catered for the poorest residents of Durban and the surrounding areas, the majority of whom did not have to pay for their care. Unfortunately there is a huge HIV/AIDS problem in South Africa and this was obviously multiplied in the patients that attended hospital, 95% of whom were HIV positive. ...During surgery I spent a lot of time in the trauma and casualty departments where I witnessed multiple gun and stab wound victims. I therefore gained lots of hands-on experience in the management of the acutely ill patient which I will be able to bring back to the UK and use to benefit patients I treat when I start work in August. Thank you all once again for your generous grant.’