



Newsmonger

Rotary Club of Seaford

August 2015



President's Dispatches



It is hard to believe how time flies. Another Rotary Year is well under way, and I have already been your President for over a month. The first thing however I want to record again is all of our thanks to my predecessor Ray for a great year as President. It cannot have been easy for him being the President of Blind Veteran's UK at the same time as being President of our Club. However he has managed to lead the Club very competently and with great humour. It will I know be quite a challenge in following him, and trying to match everything he has achieved for the Club.

July and the beginning of August have turned out to be very busy periods for the Club. The first event of my year was attending the Newhaven Rotary Club's President's Night at the Masonic Centre in Peacehaven. It was good to meet up with a number of Rotarians I already knew as well as meeting the Presidents of some of the Eastbourne Clubs. The meal was followed by a 60's themed disco, which turned out to be very good indeed. It proved without doubt that our long term memories at least were fine as we knew all the words of the songs and could sing and dance along to the music.

One of the highlights of my year so far however was being invited to attend the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Children with Cancer Fund (CWCF). You may recall that we have supported CWCF over the years as it is a local charity based in Polegate. In particular it was our President's Charity in Paul Vaesen's 2012/13 Rotary Year. The presentation of the award was made by Peter Field the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex at Herstmonceux Castle and was followed by a Sussex Cream Tea and an outdoor performance of "Wind InThe Willows" by London Contemporary Theatre. Invitations have also been accepted to attend the Disabled Para Games at the Downs Leisure Centre in Seaford and the TyeFest at Telscombe Cliffs.

I was however particularly pleased to be invited to attend the Annual Civic Service for our own Club member, and new Mayor of Seaford, Councillor Dave Argent. It is a very real honour to have one of our own members as Mayor. Several members of the Club were also able to attend the service, and enjoy the cakes provided made by Marian Argent our new Mayoress for the refreshments served afterwards. I am sure all the Club will want to wish Dave and Marion all the very best in representing and leading Seaford Town Council in the coming year.

As your President I am hoping to attend a number of the meetings of the various Committees throughout the year, and take part in most of the sporting and social programmes. After our significant win over the Seaford Martello Rotary Club in the Croquet Competition held in June, we are all hoping for similar success in the skittles match against the Martello club which is to take place this month. No doubt some team members will already be well into their training and coaching programmes.

What however is very clear to me, is that whatever we do in my Rotary Year as President, I will try and ensure that we all have real fun and friendship.

Yours in Rotary

Peter

Contents

President's Dispatches

Triathlon and Half Marathon

Garden Party

July Boot Fair

Mary's Meals & Backpack Project

CTLA

The 2015 Arlington Bluebell Walk & Farm Trail

Inner Wheel

Calendar Events

South Coast Triathlon and Half Marathon

By FUNdraising Guru Mike Roper

On the weekend 4 and 5 July, the Rotary Club of Seaford provided the car parking and some registration help for the above two named events. Saturday became very busy as the registration and start of the races drew close, and this involved some frantic direction and money taking to prevent vehicles from blocking the roads. We had not appreciated that the last races on Saturday did not begin until 12:30 so our aim of closing the car parks by 1pm was a trifle ambitious as some competitors were still swimming and struggling with the tide. The last few vehicles left the field around 6pm!

Sunday was a little quieter and we were able to close on time. Unfortunately the rain soaked the Rotarians on duty that day – all in a Rotarian's day!

The organisers recognised that numbers were lower than last year, they informed us they are going to refocus the events for next year to try and increase numbers again. We still ended the weekend with a healthy contribution to our funds of nearly £1,400. As always this allows us to support charities and worthy causes.



Thanks to everyone who helped out with these events, which not only included those helping with the car parking and registration, but also the field marking out the field on Friday.

Library photo by Mike Hemmings

Garden Party £5000 Raised, Best Ever!

From Pippa Logan

Hosted by Rotarian Michael and Pippa Logan of 31 Sutton Avenue, Seaford, the Tenth Annual Charity Garden Party on June 28 raised the staggering sum of £5000 to be divided between local charities. The event proved more popular than ever with local people and with visitors travelling as far as from Bucks, Oxford, Isle of Wight and Bonningstedt. It was a lovely day, sunny weather, and the atmosphere was great. The attendance of the Jazz and Rock Orchestra added a new colourful dimension to the occasion, people were foot tapping and singing along. A huge thank you to them. In contrast in the afternoon The Seaford Silver Band played their repertoire of popular music.

Thanks must go to everybody who supported this event on the day and to the people within the community who gave so generously of their time and donated prizes.



*Photos left
Jazz and Rock Orchestra
Right
Seaford Silver Band*



July Boot, Craft and Produce Fair

By Mike Roper, FUNdraising Chair

On Saturday evening 11 July I received the news I dread. The weather forecast was not good! As a result the Car Boot, Craft and Produce Fair suffered from some unpleasant weather on Sunday 12 July we still sold 18 pitches, received donations and ran our own stall. The final outcome was as follows:

Pitch Fees £144
Donations £38.04
Rotary Stall £42.50 (includes £3 to collect)
Total received £224.54

Less Town Council charge for the hire of field of £38

Net Total: £186.54 which will go to support our charities and worthy causes.



I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Boot Fair who once again got rather wet and cold.

Photo by Mike Hemmings

Mary's Meals and the Backpack Project

From International Committee Chair Tony Henley

“Mary’s Meals” is a UK based charity which was started in 2002 with a view to providing one daily meal in a place of education. The objective is to attract chronically poor children into a classroom where they can gain an education which can be their ladder out of poverty.

From a start of feeding 200 children in Malawi, the charity now provides meals for over 1 million children every day in 12 different countries. **The cost is just over £12 per child for a year.**

Following the success of the meals project, the charity identified another obstacle which prevented poor families sending their children to school. The parents are so poor that they cannot afford to buy basic things like pencils, notepads or even suitable clothes.

The charity therefore started Backpack Project, a scheme where organisations fill an old school bag or backpack with some everyday things which children need for school. The items do not need to be new as long as they are in good condition.

For the last 3 years, The Rotary Club of Seaford has worked with primary schools in Seaford to fill old bags with school essentials. This year Chyngton Primary School became involved for the first time. The whole school was involved and it was an outstanding success with over 50 bags filled.



The photo shows Chyngton pupils with some of the filled bags.

For the third consecutive year, Seaford Primary’s Year 6 took part in the project and provided a number of filled packs.

Well done to all the children, and their parents, for supporting this very worthwhile project

Photo shows students from Chyngton School with Tony Henley centre



Information from Derek Barnett of CTLA

On Wednesday 15 July Derek Barnett, General Manager of Community Transport for the Lewes Area, visited Seaford Rotary Club as speaker. The information below summarises the topics he covered.

Community Transport for the Lewes Area has been serving local communities for over 20 years. We are seeking to increase awareness of the services we offer so that we are acknowledged as a community asset – separating COMMUNITY transport from transport in general.

Our aim is to remove the barriers of accessing services and to reduce social exclusion, arising from isolation, mobility issues and lack of suitable public transport and in doing so, this will help improve health and well-being.

CTLA champions independence and improving quality of life for all and has the added environmental benefit of reducing pollution and parking problems.

CTLA is a Registered Charity – No. 1110215 and a Company Limited by Guarantee - No. 04409570.

We are not directly funded by central or local Government. We generate earned income from operating contracts on behalf of East Sussex County Council and this enables us to use resources for the benefit of our community. We are proactive in seeking other sources of funds, particularly grants and we run a number of very successful fundraising events.

Our core area is the towns and villages within the Lewes District Council area. We are grateful for and wish to acknowledge the support of Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford, Lewes and Telscombe Towns Councils who provide grant funding to us to help with the cost of operating services in their area.

By operating several 'demand responsive' door to door Dial-A-Ride services and a small number of scheduled bus services, we help users reach many destinations, including Doctor or Hospital appointments, day centre visits, shopping or meeting with friends.

Our acclaimed Travel Club with well over 400 members offers opportunities for social interaction, friendship and travel to many locations that would otherwise be inaccessible to the members. It is our major contribution to efforts to help prevent or reduce social exclusion.

Dozens of community and voluntary organisations, which currently include U3A, Scout and Guide Groups, Mencap, local schools and WI Groups and many more make cost effective group bookings and can also take advantage of a 'volunteer driver' scheme.

The effective day to day running of our fleet of minibuses, which undertake over eight thousand passenger journeys a year, relies on a strong team of administrators and drivers, many of whom give/do voluntary hours for the organisation on top of their paid duties. Our low staff turnover is indicative of the 'family' feel of the team. As a whole our fundraising events are well supported by our staff members (most of whom are part-time), volunteers and their families and friends.

Wherever possible, CTLA uses local suppliers and businesses in the Lewes area, e.g. repairs, maintenance, printing and office supplies.

We support, using volunteer drivers, a number of charitable events, for example, Hike for Hospices, Rotary Club Seniors Christmas Lunch and are in regular communication with a broad range of



community organisations to help promote and facilitate travel to events such as the Seahaven Para Games, Silver Surfer Computer Lessons and Age UK 'Healthy in Older Life' exercise classes.

CTLA have forged strong links with ESSA (East Sussex Seniors Association), FSI (Foundation for Social Improvement) and are a driving force within local and national community transport operator groups.

Comments we have received from our users include:

"Life without CTLA would be absolutely hopeless".

"I was so worried that my independence would get that I actually cried when my car was taken away".

"I have not been with you for long, but you are a life-line – from someone with no family and limited mobility. Thank you or all your hard work".

"Honestly, I don't know what I would do without the CTLA".

"Our ladies have asked me to write our thanks to you for the attention and kindness shown to them on the Community Bus service for their outing. The ladies are of an age and were appreciative of the help and attention they were given by the driver, nothing was too much trouble and they spoke of how clean and comfortable the bus was. On a personal note, I would like to add my thanks to the office staff who take the booking, they are always helpful. We have used your service twice now and always will in the future".

Hillcrest Community Centre | Hillcrest Road | Newhaven | East Sussex | BN9 9EA

Email: info@ctla.org.uk

Tel: 01273 517 332

Web: www.ctla.org.uk

The 2015 Arlington Bluebell Walk & Farm Trail

From The Bluebell Walk Partnership of John & Carolyn McCutchan and Philippa & Michael Vine

Each Bluebell Walk season brings its own challenges and 2015 was no exception! Deciding the dates to open in December is important, so assisting the charities involved to ensure that their volunteers do not make holiday commitments over their chosen duty days, but what a gamble in not knowing whether we are to expect an early or late spring. This year spring was very late, which meant for the first time ever our ewes and lambs were turned out from the lambing pens into the fields after the Bluebell Walk had started, as the grass was so slow in growing! The large water main burst on the A22 over the 9/10 May and subsequent closure of the A22 caused access problems for visitors, plus lack of water pressure here caused many difficulties especially with the toilets!

Every Friday we update www.bluebellwalk.co.uk to inform the public as to the state of the bluebells, and for the opening one we could only report that 16 bluebells were seen in Beatons Wood over the first week of being open! This meant the charities covering the first 10 days had limited visitors, even though it was sunny but not at all warm. The weather conditions suited all spring flowers, so the white wood anemones gave us such a long lasting spectacular display before the bluebells dominated the wood floor and they too flourished, so much so we extended the closing date, the opposite to last year when we had to bring the opening date forward, so by the closing date bluebells had virtually disappeared.

Every year we have difficulty in ensuring our visitors do not get lost on the Farm Walks in spite of being given a detailed map, so we thought that by providing large black and white numbers at every one of the 32 gates available would suffice, but again we had complaints!

There is much added interest with the many descriptive notices along these 6 Farm Walks over Parkwood and Primrose Farms, so are grateful to the Appleton Family and their staff for making it all possible, especially the ability to view the milking process every afternoon.

We had been pleased with the reviews (well most of them!) we were receiving for TripAdvisor, and were diligently replying to them, so delighted to find we were awarded a Certificate of Excellence. This was short lived, as without any notification found our page had been removed. It is not easy to get an answer from a multinational company based in the USA, but eventually spoke to a person who said we did not qualify to be listed as an Attraction on their site, as we are not open for 6 months or more each year, and there is no appeals procedure!

This May Bank Holiday Monday was a warm sunny day, but not hot enough to go on the beach, yet too hot to stay indoors, meant we had a record of over 3000 visitors on that one day! The routine that the Arlington Village organizers had evolved did not buckle as they and all their helpers working both in and out of the Bluebell Barn rose to the challenge, so by sheer hard work and enthusiasm coped with all those visitors. We thank everyone for that extraordinary effort. Incidentally when walking round Beatons Wood later that evening, I only found 3 small pieces of litter, which reflects on how our visitors appreciate our lovely countryside.

We had a visit from the assessor of VisitEngland who was supportive of what we offer, but still after 43 years there are more small improvements needed ready for 2016, but as our rating was high enough, we have been nominated for a VisitEngland 'Hidden Gem' accolade, and the winners will be announced later in the year.

We are slowly increasing the number of mobility scooters to help our visitors with walking problems so they can see the bluebells independently. This year we had eleven of them available, which we supply free of charge, with over 350 visitors taking advantage of this facility. We would like to offer more mobility scooters, so if anyone knows of one that is surplus to requirements, we are sure more visitors would make use of it over the years to come.

Nearly £42,000 was raised by the 17 charities involved this year, which makes the total raised since 1972 by 67 local charities to over half a million pounds, bearing in mind that we did not open in 2001 due to the foot & mouth epidemic that closed footpaths throughout the countryside. When converted to present day values this total is over £800,000!

SEAFORD INNER WHEEL

PRESIDENT EILEEN BEGINS HER YEAR OF PROMISE

From Val Wagstaffe

At our July meeting Mary Morris handed over the President's chain of office to Eileen Lynch. Mary wished Eileen well and said she hoped that the year would be as enjoyable as hers has been.

Eileen Lynch was born in Wakefield, West Yorkshire. She is married to Ian and they have two grown-up children.

After serving for 5 years with the West Yorkshire Police in Wakefield she moved to Milton Keynes where she trained to be a teacher. Her subject was Business Studies in a college of further education. In 1979 they moved to Seaford where she taught her subject at Seaford Head Community College until retirement. Since then Eileen has done some part-time teaching and exam invigilating both at the Community College and Newlands School.

Eileen has been a member of Seaford Inner Wheel since 2004 and this year has assumed the mantle of President. Touched by the difficulties of the deaf she has chosen Hearing Dogs for the Deaf as her charity for the year. As is customary the Club will be celebrating Inner Wheel Day on 9th January 2016 and Eileen proposes to hold a lunch to raise much needed funds to help the Friends of Eastbourne Hospital with their current project, the Da Vinci robot, which can carry out lifesaving surgery.

And so to work, planning, organising, keeping in touch with the community. Eileen isn't too daunted by the prospect, after all a trusty team of helpers and supporters will lighten the load. She is particularly keen to retain and maintain the close connections with the two local Rotary Clubs (Seaford and Seaford Martello, of which her husband Ian is a member).



Photo shows left to right Eileen Lynch and Mary Morris



Calendar Events	Start date	Finish date	Start time	Location
Discussion Meeting:Twinning	12/08/15		13:00	
Sarah Playforth: ESDA	19/08/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Seaford Motorfest	23/08/15			Martello Fields Seaford
Rotary Walk	25/08/15		10:30	Rodmell
Business Meeting	26/08/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Late Summer Holiday	31/08/15			
Juliet Smith (High Sheriff of E. Sussex): The Shrievalty	02/09/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Boot, Craft & Produce Fair	06/09/15		07:30	Martello Fields
Fellowship	09/09/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Concert in memory of Derek Larter	12/09/15		19:00	Seaford Head School, Arundel Road site
Speaker tba	16/09/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Business Meeting	23/09/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Capt. Dave Collins-Williams: Newhaven Harbour Master	30/09/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Boot, Craft & Produce Fair	04/10/15		07:30	Martello Fields
Fellowship	07/10/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
District Governor's Visit	14/10/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Club Sunday Lunch	18/10/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Under review	21/10/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Business Meeting	28/10/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Speaker tba	04/11/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
RIBI President visits District 1145	04/11/15	06/11/15		
Club discussion: Christmas Collection	11/11/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Fellowship	18/11/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Business Meeting	25/11/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Special General Meeting	02/12/15		12:45	Seaford Golf Club
Carol Service	07/12/15		18:30	Seaford Baptist Church
Peter Coll: Policing St Helena	09/12/15		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Christmas lunch	16/12/15		12:45	Seaford Golf Club
No Meeting	23/12/15			
Christmas Day	25/12/15			
Boxing Day	28/12/15			
No Meeting	30/12/15			
New Year's Day	01/01/16			
Business Meeting	27/01/16		13:00	Seaford Golf Club
Business Meeting	24/02/16		13:00	Seaford Golf Club