

Andrew's Lakeland Challenge

LET'S face it most of us are of an age when we would prefer to reach for our wallet and sponsor an energetic fund raiser than take part ourselves.

Not that we can't appreciate the efforts and dedication of others.....and there was certainly no lack of admiration when club member Andrew Holloway told us of his participation in the Great Lakeland Challenge in September 2009.

Along with former club Rotarian Mark Newey and Mark's wife Helen, the trio faced the triple challenge of canoeing 10.5 miles on Lake Windermere, cycling 26 miles and then climbing Scafell Pike.

They completed all three disciplines in just 11 hours and 20 minutes - and in doing so raised £4,000 for the Wooden Spoon charity.

At a lunchtime meeting in February, Andrew gave an illustrated talk on the challenge in which the winners managed to do all three parts of the 'course' in just seven hours. However, as they say.....it's the taking part which counts.....and there was certainly no lack of enthusiasm by the Gloucester team.

Not only did they train for the event locally but they had to take part in a training weekend in the Lake District prior to the

challenge to ensure they were competent enough to cope with the rigours of the challenge - and in particular the canoeing. On the day itself - in September - the weather was superb and Windermere was like a mill pond. The 10.5 mile was successful negotiated in 2hrs 26 minutes and then came the cycle ride which included a 1 in 3 gradient before the final challenge of Scafell Pike the highest mountain in England at 978 metres (3209 ft).

To have finished at all was a tribute to the team's fitness but to have come 19th out of 24 having finished last in the first challenge - the canoeing - was also a tribute to their determination.

Diary Dates and speakers

Tuesday 3rd April - Club Council meeting at Badgeworth Village Hall
Friday, 6th April - Good Friday No meeting.
Friday 13th April - Venue - The Guildhall - Group Study Exchange Visit ; Friend and Grace, Pat Collins
Sunday, 15th April - Senior Citizens Party at King 's School
Thursday 19th April - Four Clubs meeting at Brickhampton Golf Club
Friday 20th April - Business Meeting; Grace, Graham Howell
Friday, 27th April - Speaker finder, friend, grace and vote of thanks, Tony Tetley
Tuesday 1st May - Club Council meeting at Badgeworth Village Hall
Friday 4th May - Speaker finder, friend, grace and vote of thanks, John Redman
Friday 11th May - Annual Meeting - Grace, Mandy Norman
Friday 18th May - Speaker finder, friend, grace and vote of thanks, Peter Rust
25th - SCATTER WEEK.....visit other clubs but NOT Gloucester North or Gloucester Severn.
Friday 1st June - Club Assembly - Grace, Sue Smith
Friday 8th June - Speaker finder, friend, grace and vote of thanks, Ian Stuart
Friday 15th June - Venue - The Guildhall - Speaker finder, friend, grace and vote of thanks, Mike Westbury
Friday 22nd June - Speaker finder, friend, grace and vote of thanks, Paul Wilkinson
Friday 29th June - Presidential Handover - Grace Jeremy Keck

INNER WHEEL

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, March 20th Elizabeth Haughton "Seven Weeks on Africa Mercy"
Tuesday, March 17th Marilyn Pullon "An Unusual Childhood"

DISTRICT Chairman Nicky Clark was welcomed to our February meeting. Before speaking about her activities and commitment to Inner Wheel she entertained us with a resume of her early life and work which was both interesting and amusing.

She stressed that Inner Wheel is not well known generally and that our priority should be working hard to raise our profile by publishing the good we do in the local, national and international fields.

After presenting Nicky with a cheque for her chosen charity, The Samaritans, we enjoyed a very convivial buffet lunch.

Brickhampton Golf Club was the venue for President Hilary's main fundraising event - a luncheon to raise money for WellChild and Help for Heroes. 112 guests attended on a beautiful Spring Day.

The dining room looked really bright with the sun pouring in on the lovely blue and yellow flower arrangements and matching

serviettes. With the room buzzing with chat everyone was feeling relaxed and looking forward to a good lunch and interesting presentation. We were not disappointed.

Our speaker Iain Stewart, a former Bomb Disposal expert, explained his role as joint coordinator with responsibility for delivering 'A Safe and Secure Olympic Games' - no mean task when so many people in so many different areas of the UK are involved.

A fuller report and a variety of pictures taken by Trevor Picken (husband of Inner Wheel member Joy) of Iain's talk can be found on the centre pages of this In Gear.

Inner Wheel would like to thank all the guests and particularly members of Rotary for supporting us by attending and buying raffle tickets which enabled us to give generous donations to our charities.

● **Barbara Seed (Club Correspondent)**

INNER WHEEL OFFICERS President: Mrs Hilary Cass - 01452 857656, Vice President: Mrs Diane Limbird - 01452 613188, Secretary: Mrs Joy Picken - 01453 882495, Treasurer: Mrs Sue White - 01452 831618

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IN GEAR

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GLOUCESTER

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In Gear can also be viewed on the Rotary Club of Gloucester's website
www.rotaryclubofgloucester.com



Full marks to Inner Wheel

UNDOUBTEDLY the principal event staged during the past two months was the successful Inner Wheel charity lunch at Brickhampton Golf Complex when the speaker, Iain Stewart talked on the extremely topical subject of Delivering a Safe and Secure Olympics.

On the right we see Iain with Inner Wheel President Hilary Cass.

The event was a sale out and full marks to the members of Inner Wheel for arranging such a rewarding occasion which was also extremely well supported by club members.

The event was also an occasion for friends, old and new, to meet again. This

fact is echoed in our photograph (above) which shows Pat Fudge, former Rotarian Leo Soble and his wife Dorothy and June Rickard - whose husband Peter (another former Gloucester Rotarian) was also in attendance. Another former club member, who it was a pleasure to see again, was Jeremy Dancey who came with his wife Genevieve.

Pictures taken at this event by Trevor Picken and a report appear on the centre spread.

■ Other items in this edition:- Winston's Wish 20 years on - P2; A welcome to two new members - P3; Taking off with Gray - P6 and Throwing light on Gloucestershire cricket - P7.



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Club's floral legacy

DURING President Chris Peak's term of office the club arranged for the planting of 8,000 crocuses at St Oswald's Priory to promote the End Polio Now campaign. The bulbs first bloomed last year but this year they continued making an appearance. This delightful photograph was sent to us by Jane Cox who writes: "I have just returned from St Oswald's Priory, the bulbs looked so beautiful I took some photos. They are now increasing nicely, a lovely legacy for people and wildlife to appreciate for years to come."

Winston's Wish 20 years on...

WHAT have Prince William, Prince Harry, Dawn French, Chris Evans and Damon Hill in common? Answer:- They all lost a parent during a formative period of their lives.

This fascinating aside focused the thoughts of Rotary members when they were addressed by the recently appointed CEO of the Winston's Wish charity Fiona Talwar-Lomberg.

A former pupil at Ribston Hall, Fiona was brought up in the city and subsequently became an accountant. When she joined Winston's Wish, initially as Head of Finance, she combined her professional skills with her passion for working with children.

During an extremely comprehensive presentation, Fiona explained that the 20 year-old charity was the leading childhood bereavement charity and the largest provider of services to bereaved children, young people and families in the UK.

Among the many sobering facts she quoted - a child in the UK loses a parent every 22 minutes, every 80 minutes someone commits suicide leaving a child and every day a child is bereaved as a result of murder or manslaughter. More recently some children have suffered bereavement as a result of on-going wars in the Middle East.

She said that offering the right support at the right time can enable young people to live with their grief and rebuild positive futures.

Without such support research has shown that bereaved children face many traumas. These include low esteem, poor school attainment, some turn to offending, others experience mental health difficulties and may then turn to substance abuse.

Winston's Wish is currently supporting 30,000 children per year in a variety of ways. Its child-focused approach supports the whole family and its services include:

- national helpline for anyone caring for a child coping with the serious illness or death of a family member (08452 03 04 05)
- group work with bereaved children and their families
- individual work with bereaved children and their families



● **The recently appointed chief executive of Winston's Wish, Fiona Talwar-Lomberg (centre) with Matt Cass (left) and David Ashe on the right. Will our two organisations be working together in the run up to Christmas?**

- range of publications, resources and educational films
- support programme for schools
- tailor-made training and consultancy for professionals.

Sometimes they work with other charities such as Help for Heroes. Fiona said that they hoped to extend their services across the UK but much will depend on income. To maintain their present services requires £1.9m a year.....a tall order since all their money comes from voluntary contributions.

She ended by outlining the fundraising the charity is at present engaged in and mentioned that at the end of the year they had a Wish Upon A Star project which might be combined with our club's Tree of Light.

Fiona's thought provoking presentation left many members feeling that here was a way we could help address a real local need..... Watch this space.

Taking off with Gray

WHEN next club members find themselves seated on board an airliner at the end of the runway before takeoff, they will be better informed as to flight preparations thanks to Cheltenham Sunrise Rotarian, Gray O'Hanlon.

Gray, a British Airlines pilot who retired in 2000, gave a fascinating insight into what procedures and information have to be followed before a flight becomes airborne. These include knowing weather conditions at the point of departure, at the point of arrival, en route between the two and then at an alternative airport should the flight be diverted.

Another vital piece of information concerns wind speeds. Gary said that on a flight between London and Atlanta these could vary from a 20 knot tail wind to a 150 knot headwind. This in turn would determine the amount of fuel a flight required.

In 2000 aviation regulations stated that a fuel requirement should include sufficient to divert to another airport plus 45 minutes spare fuel as well.



● **Captain for the Day - Junior Vice President Clive Hannis respledant in the headware of a British Airways captain following a talk by former BA captain Gray O'Hanlon. Gray, a member of Cheltenham Sunrise and an occasional visitor to our club is seen on the right while on the left is former president Robert Hall who introduced Gray and thanked him.**

Nowadays computers determine not only how much fuel will be needed but often gives the pilot important safety information concerning other aircraft nearby and landing details.

In an absorbing presentation, Gray also told us that minimum visibility required for takeoff was 125 metres and to land 75 metres.....a fascinating aside bearing in mind that a Boeing 777 would be coming in to land at around 170mph.

After a 10 minute introduction, Gray then asked for questions.....and they came thick and fast.

These included what constitutes a 'near miss', the number of air crew required on a 15 hour flight, turbulence (what causes

it and what sort of response there could be) and which airports posed most landing problems.

In answer to the latter, Gray said that on his circuit Gibraltar was the most challenging (principally because of Spanish airspace restrictions), Berlin (because of the tower blocks), Geneva (the mountains) and Denver (the altitude).

It was a delightful presentation which left his audience wanting to know more. Gray's excellent delivery and considerable knowledge would have made for an excellent evening meeting.

Full marks to Robert Hall for bringing him to us.



● **It's always nice to help out friends. Here we see President Andrew Hurley presenting Past President and Salvationist John Smith with a cheque for £200 for the Gloucester Corps of the Salvation Army. For years the Army has loyally supported successive presidents with an Advent charity concert which has raised £000s for good causes. Now the Army itself is a 'good cause' as it rises to the challenge of meeting a larger than expected bill for renovation and refurbishment.**

Cricketing dream comes true

JOHN Light is a fascinating character. As a lad growing up in the Cotswolds, his cricketing prowess convinced his dad that he might one day play for Gloucestershire. But John knew his limitations.

"I told him I'd rather aim for the committee instead," to which his dad replied "a working class Cotswold lad has more chance of passing through the eye of a needle than getting onto that committee."

This delightful exchange between father and son was recounted to club members when John spoke at a lunchtime meeting at the start of February where he was introduced by Chris Peak.

As it turned out John did not become a professional cricketer.

Instead after going to Cirencester Grammar School and Reading University he enjoyed a distinguished career in teaching which included headships in Plymouth and Hackney. This was followed by a spell of working for the MCC and the English Cricket Board at Lords.

And then in 2006 he achieved his youthful ambition of becoming chairman of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club.

Now as its former chairman, John was able to comment on the hopes of local fans to see more first class games here in the north of the county.

It's not as remote a dream as it once was. Hopes of redeveloping the county's ground at Bristol and thereby net £5m to ensure the club's future have been scuppered by the city's planning committee.

While the club and its planning partner reconsider their options in Bristol, club officials are also considering various



● Former Gloucestershire Cricket Club chairman, John Light is seen here with Amanda Chamberlayne, Gloucester Rotary club's senior vice president and Chris Peak, the immediate past president who also introduced and thanked John for a fascinating talk.

approaches being made by Gloucester City councillors, officials and the MP to look at sites in and around the city.

As John pointed out County fans such as those living at Stow and Moreton-on-the-Marsh would find it easier to get to the county grounds of Worcester and Warwickshire and even Leicestershire than to make the journey down to Bristol.

However, Bristol still has much going for it and one day internationals which have been an established feature of the past few seasons there have netted invaluable

income for the club. But if this is to continue much work will have to be done to provide better media and TV facilities.

So this is obviously a story which will run and run.

In a comprehensive overview of the county cricketing scene John also spoke highly of the county's youth academy which is one of the best in the country.

This was an interesting and intriguing talk and we are grateful to Chris Peak for bringing John to us.



Waiting for Katherine

● A group of Rotarians and partners travelled to Bristol recently to enjoy a concert featuring the ever popular Welsh mezzo soprano Katherine Jenkins - the new Forces Sweetheart. Here we see a number of familiar faces enjoying a meal at the Colston Hall before a memorable evening of music.



● Smiles all round - David Johnson (left) and Tony Lawrence (second right) are welcomed into the club by junior vice president Clive Hannis (second left) and President Andrew (right).

Welcome to David and Tony

TWO newcomers to our ranks were inducted by President Andrew Hurley in February. Already David Johnson and Tony Lawrence are enjoying Rotary fellowship but in order to get them better known we have asked them to let us know a little more about themselves. This is what they wrote.

David Johnson

I have been married to my wife Kay for 11 years and we are blessed with two beautiful children Megan (aged 9) and Christian (aged 7). To complete the family we have a Whippet called Rio!

I am a family man and we enjoy regular holidays and weekend breaks together. I am also a Manchester United fanatic and in the last couple of weeks I have taken up golf.

I started work at the age 15 when I took a Saturday job at Norville Optical Factory. My job was to ensure the lenses and frames left the factory in good condition. I worked there throughout school holidays and some evenings to fund myself through a BTEC Diploma in Business & Finance, which I passed with Distinction.

At the age of 18 I moved to the Halifax Building Society in Northgate Street to work as a cashier. My intention was to work for a year or so to save enough money to fund myself through University.

Within a year I had been promoted twice and I bought my first home in Abbeymead. I decided at this point that I didn't really need a University degree and I have never regretted this decision.

At 21 I became a Mortgage Adviser. After two successful years in this role I was promoted to become a trainee financial adviser. I spent a further 11 years as a financial adviser for the Halifax. My final

role was as a Senior Wealth Manager for the Wales & West region.

In 2010 I accepted an invitation to become a member of The St. James's Place Partnership. I was delighted to move into a position where I operate as a self-employed practitioner. This allows me to apportion my time in line with my client's needs rather than any prescribed timetable.

St. James's Place was founded in 1991 under the name of J. Rothschild Assurance Group and is a provider of a wide and growing range of financial services of outstanding quality. It is a Gloucestershire based company and listed on the LSE. The company has grown consistently with funds under management now amounting to £28.5 billion.

I am proud to be part of a successful and caring organisation.

Over 90% of our employees, partners and business associates contribute to the St. James's Place Foundation with matched company contributions. In 2011, we had our most successful year, raising over £3 million.

One of my principal reasons for wanting to join Rotary is to help those in our community who most need support. I also hope to be able to put some of the SJP Foundation money to good use in Gloucester!

I have enjoyed meeting fellow Rotarians and I thank everyone for their warm welcome. I am looking forward to a long relationship and making a valuable contribution to our work in Gloucester and the wider areas.

Tony Lawrence

Tony is the owner of The Vision Centre Opticians based in Northgate Street,

Gloucester. He is delighted to be accepted for membership of Rotary and is looking forward to becoming an active member of the team. Tony is married to Cheryl and is the proud father of six (yes 6!) children.

After leaving school he served an aircraft avionics apprenticeship repairing helicopters for the military in Gosport, Hampshire.

He later became a Ministry of Defence cost accountant and was tasked with ensuring that the tax payer received 'value for money' when large purchases were made.

Tony left the ministry in 1990 and studied to become a Dispensing Optician. He purchased a Specsavers franchise in Kingston-upon-Thames Surrey in 1992 which he helped build into a £2.5 million turn over business. In 2001 he sold up and moved to Gloucester.

He attempts to keep reasonably fit by regularly playing badminton, five a side football and cycling.

He recently took the three day London to Paris cycling challenge that Rotary kindly supported. This raised around £3,000 in total when went to the charity 'Fight for Sight' which has been funding research into blindness and eye disease for more than 40 years.

For relaxation Tony enjoys watching Gloucester Rugby Club whenever he can but his true passion is Portsmouth Football Club and his wife informs him that he drives all of his friends mad with his constant references to Pompey that 'no one else is interested in!'

■ Our congratulations to both David and Tony on becoming club members. We hope they enjoy their membership and urge existing members to make themselves known to them. We await their job talks with interest!!!



An Olympic sized challenge

THIS summer in the UK will etch itself in the memory when the eyes of the whole world will focus on two events of global interest. The first at the beginning of June is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and then at the end of July running through until the end of August are the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The statistics for the Olympics, are staggering.....14,700 competitors from 205 countries, 9.1 million tickets sold, 21,000 members of the media in attendance, 80 non-competitive and 36 competitive venues and training camps all over the UK.

Add to this an avalanche of back up teams and supporters from around the world and you have the formula for a tremendous promotional coup for the UK - or a potential PR disaster should things go wrong.

With billions looking on via TV the country's ability to host and stage events of global significance will be under the microscope. Any failure will be extremely damaging.

Hence the Government's £600m investment in a National Olympics Security Directorate. This has been set up by the Home Office to ensure the smooth running of the 30th Olympiad.

One of the Directorate's directors, Iain Stewart, spoke to a capacity audience at a charity lunch at Brockhampton Golf Complex organised by the Inner Wheel Club of Gloucester.

A former army officer of 20 years experience, many of them in the Royal Engineers, Iain has seen service in many of the world's hot spots and was, at one stage, a bomb disposal officer. He also has excellent communication skills and his presentation setting out the security scenario was comprehensive and fascinating.

Iain said the Olympics would be set against a background of celebrations throughout the

summer. In addition to the Golden Jubilee, these will include the Notting Hill Carnival (the largest such event in Europe), Wimbledon, Ramadan, staffing the Olympic Torch venues and the start of the Premier League football season.



Apart from the risk of terrorism, there are the possibilities of major accidents or natural events (floods/fires). Then there is the increased possibility of public order confrontations (marches/demonstrations), increased criminal activity and crowd management issues at venues and on public transport.....to name but a few.

His Directorate will co-ordinate the work of a range of agencies not only in London but throughout the UK and includes representatives from 13 different police forces from Dorest to Glasgow where Olympic events are being held.

Unlike Beijing in 2008 where the Chinese Government had at its disposal 2.5 million military and police officers, the Directorate has a maximum of 170,000 police officers. Again in contrast with China, the UK operates a liberal approach to entry and movement conditions during the Games and operates against a background of respect for human rights and police accountability. In Beijing the terrorism threat was low while in the UK in 2012 it is high.

Iain's presentation was thought provoking and prompted many questions. He was introduced by Inner Wheel president Hilary Cass and thanked by Martin Greaves, Rotary's District Governor who commented on the huge amount of joined up thinking which had gone into the security exercise.

Hilary said Iain had made no charge for his talk, nor had he asked for expenses. All profits from the lunch - which are in the region of £1,000 - will go towards WellChild, the national charity for sick children and also Help for Heroes.

