

● There must be very few Rotary clubs which can claim its local Member of Parliament as a member - but fortunately we can - and thanks to the good offices of Richard Graham, the first of three groups from the club, visited and were shown around the Houses of Parliament recently. Those who went reported an extremely happy and informative day. Our picture comes via Paul Wilkinson for which we are most grateful.



Diary Dates and speakers

Friday, June 1st - Club Assembly; Grace Sue Smith
Friday, June 8th - Speaker finder Colin Dunford
Wednesday June 13th - Kids Out at Cattle Country Adventure Park at Berkeley.
Wednesday, June 13th Outgoing Council dinner at Dumbleton Hall at 7.30pm
Friday, June 15th - Induction of new member Hilary Newman; speaker finder Mike Westbury.
Friday, June 22nd - Speaker Anna Buckland on Gloucester Hat Festival; Friend and Grace Paul Woodman
Friday, June 29th - Speaker David Ratcliffe on Global Warming; Friend and Grace, Jeremy Keck.
Friday, July 6th - Presidential Handover meeting
Friday, July 13th - Speaker Finder to be advised
Saturday, July 14th - Rotary Concert at Cathedral Chapter House
Friday, July 20th - Speaker Finder to be informed
Saturday, July 21st - President Amanda Chamberlayne's incoming party. (A pig roast at Flodeyate - Amanda's Ashleworth home)
Saturday, July 28th - Speaker Finder to be advised.

Apologies: I have been asked to let members know that if they find it necessary to give apologies by phone or e-mail, could they please give them to Nigel Halls and not Angela until further notice. Nigel is on 01452 731993 or nigeljhalls@aol.com. Don't forget this needs to be done at the latest by noon on the previous day before the meeting.

INNER WHEEL

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 12 June AGM
Tuesday 10 July Handover Meeting at Chris Ellson's House followed by lunch.

ALTHOUGH I was unable to attend our meeting in May I have it on good authority that it was a great success and lots of fun. There is a lot happening in the near future. The annual Willow Trust Outing is on the agenda as is Kids Out - we'll pray for a nice day.

President Hilary gave a flower demonstration after which it was all hands on deck as members tried their hand at creating a display for themselves with varying degrees of success. The Farmers' Club had never looked so beautiful nor had there ever been so much noise or mess at an Inner Wheel meeting! I am sorry I missed it. We are very grateful to Chris and Derek Ellson who have once again allowed us to have our Handover lunch in a marquee in their garden. Arrangements are in hand for a Pimms, Pate, and Puds lunch on Sunday July 8th. This is in the planning stage at the moment, so more details later.

Our Honours' Board is to be updated as several years have passed since it was last brought up to date. All we need now is some really warm sunny weather so that all these events can be enjoyed to the full.

Thanks go to Pat Morris who put on a very successful coffee morning at which £135 was raised for Mercy Ships. Judy Cosgriff has been busy knitting blankets and members have continued to provide clothes etc for Gear. Finally we would like to thank John and Colin for allowing us to put our report in In Gear and wish them a happy and well deserved retirement!!

● 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



IN GEAR

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GLOUCESTER

June 2012 No. 967

Chartered 1920



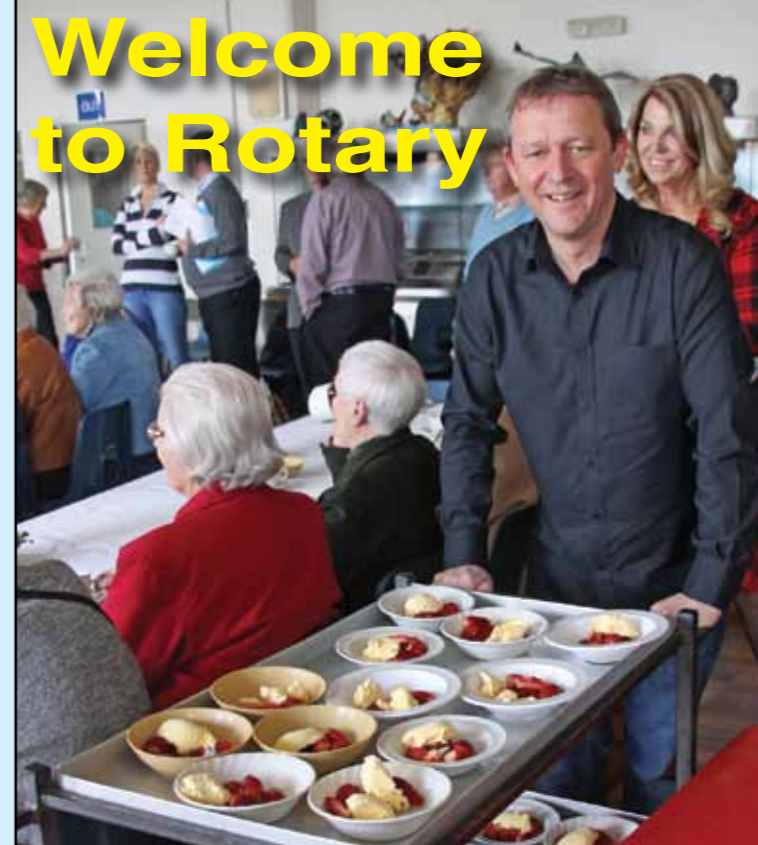
In Gear can also be viewed on the Rotary Club of Gloucester's website
www.rotaryclubofgloucester.com



● Two members of the Sri Lankan Group Study Exchange team dress for the occasion in the Mayor's lounge - see page 3.



● Robin and Pat Morris were prizewinners at the club's Gala Night - see page 2



● They also serve who only stand and wait.....here we see one of our more recent recruits Tony Lawrence finding out what Rotary's all about when he joined in the feasting and fun at the annual Senior Citizens' Party at King's School. More pictures and a report of this event appears on the centre spread.

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Thanks to you all....

ALL good things come to an end and with this edition I sign off as editor of In Gear and hand over its publication to a younger group of Rotarians.

It's been a pleasure and honour to have recorded the successes of this smashing club both in this magazine and in The Citizen over the past 12 years.

Year after year we have contributed to making a difference both here in Gloucester and in the Third World.

When I look back over my editorship I am amazed at the projects which have been brought to fruition thanks to the tireless efforts of our members - some of whom are at an age when they could justifiably sit back and take it easy.

The fact that they continue to take an active and often leading part in club activities is an immense tribute to their selflessness and Rotary spirit.

They exemplify the Rotary motto of Service Above Self.

It is entirely appropriate in this, my final In Gear, we should again be recording excellent examples of Rotary fellowship and service... the senior citizens' party, donations to three worthy local causes and welcoming a Sri Lankan Group Study Exchange team to our wonderful city.

I am delighted to have been able to publicise our club's successes but there would have been no tale to tell, nor stories to publish, had it not been for all of you.

On a personal level I am hugely grateful to Colin Rogers who has done so much behind the scenes (and camera) to ensure In Gear's continuing success. I am also very grateful to the 'evergreen' Trevor Picken who always rises to the challenge of taking photos, writing reports and has been a source of never ending encouragement.

To both of you my sincere and heartfelt thanks.

Nor should I forget In Gear's sponsors without whom this magazine would not have been financially viable. In particular I'd like to thank Dave McShee of HB Digital who has printed this magazine at no cost to ourselves.

This is the end of an era for me. When I first took over In Gear I was still working at The Citizen - now I have been retired for six years.

It's been a long and satisfying journey.

As I said when you very kindly awarded me a Paul Harris Fellowship, I am tremendously proud to be a Rotarian but more so because I am a member of the Rotary Club of Gloucester.

Thank you all.....JOHN



Loud, brash, brilliant



WHEN junior vice president Clive Hannis and former president Angela Seddon organise an event they do so with gusto.

Last year they were the leading lights behind a Gala Night at Hatherley Manor which proved so successful that they did it all again this year - but this time it was even louder and more brash.

After a delicious meal entertainer Marshal King not only provided an excellent cabaret and encouraged people to dance but was also the in house auctioneer for about half a dozen items.



The dancing which went on way past midnight also saw some of the club's more senior members (Roy and Chris Lewis, Pat and Robin Morris to name but two) on the floor.

This was an event for the young at heart and while most of those attending were non-Rotarians it was good to see them putting their hands in their pockets and enabling us to raise £4,000 for Rotary charities.



Congratulations again to Angela and Clive for a great night.

Our pictures taken by Colin Rogers give a taste of what was a brilliant and successful evening



Some 'job talk'

AFTER 47 years in Rotary, the 'Father' of the club - Robin Morris - finally gave his job talk.....or at least that's what he intended to do according to another club stalwart Trevor Picken who introduced him.

In reality it turned out to be a fascinating insight into Robin's early years...a period packed with incident and adventure.

It began in Burton on Trent (where Robin's Scottish father was a vet) and ended on the French Riviera where Robin absorbed the complexities and pleasures of the French language and culture after which he returned to the UK and a law course at the London School of Economics.

In his own inimitable style Robin kept us captivated by recounting various episodes in his early life. These included spells at two Roman Catholic Schools, the first of which was staffed by Irish Christian brothers who beat their young charges with the cane and strap.

He was rescued from this by Adolf Hitler when his father decided to move Robin, his mum, sister and brother from Burton to the safer surrounds of Corse Lawn where they lived with an aunt at The Plough Inn.

Here in relatively primitive conditions Robin learned some of the basics of the brewery trade such as tapping and changing barrels as well as hand pumping gallons of water from a well to a tank in roof.

However his new school was a much more caring establishment, staffed this time by French Canadian brothers and in which Robin thrived.

In fact he obtained his Higher School Certificate a year early and having been accepted by LSE had a year to spare before embarking on the rigours of University.



The current Club President Andrew Hurley with Robin and Trevor Picken. Trevor succeeded Robin as President in the early 1980s.

This gave him enough time to become the house guest of a minor French aristocratic family where the son of the chateau taught Robin much about wine tasting and cigarette smoking.

A summer in Nice then introduced Robin to other French delights - including a 19 year old lass, the daughter of a French general. Here they enjoyed a final fling - she before disappearing into an arranged marriage and Robin before embarking on a career in the law.

At this point having titivated our interests Robin stopped..... beaten by the clock.

Part two of Robin's talk was given in early May when, unfortunately your scribe wasn't able to be there to record it. Reports suggest it was just as captivating as part one.

In Gear sends its congratulations to this remarkable Rotarian who was 80 at the end of May. Robin continues to put many of us to shame with his work ethic and undoubted mental prowess!

Club skittlers win District Plate

ONCE again club skittlers showed they are among the best in district by winning the final of the District Plate competition by nine pins from a boisterous Fishponds and Downend team.

The Plate competition is for clubs which fail to qualify for the main district finals which the club won last year. Unfortunately we were eliminated this year following a disastrous final leg against Newent where a zero from the usually reliable Chris Soane resulted in a loss by two pins.

In the final of the Plate competition the lead alternated throughout in a low scoring match until with a slight lead going into the final leg there was a sense of déjà vu when one of our stars, Tony Tetley, suffered another zero at the worst possible time. Fortunately this was offset by good final legs from our captain Colin Dunford and Rob Hall which brought us victory.

Competition for the clubs' Champion Skittler Trophy based on the best average for the season was as fierce as ever with David Seed edging out Clive Hannis and



The club's champion skittler for this year was David Seed.

Angela Seddon and, surprisingly, with last year's winner, Colin Dunford, among the also rans.

However it's no coincidence that the top two managed to avoid the 'alley of death' away

at Swindon Old Town where a long alley, tiny skittles and bouncing rubber balls made high scoring impossible and ruined several averages.

Since Gloucester won the Ivan Houston Trophy last year it was our turn to arrange this year's event and instead of returning to Much Marcle, this year's organiser Colin Dunford, chose the Walls Sports and Social Club at Barnwood.

It was a longer trip for our Newent friends but at evening's end they weren't disappointed. Their man - Richard Crisp - was the winner by just two points from Gloucester's Paul Woodman.

But it was a close run thing. With the last hand to go Paul needed seven to retain the trophy for the home side. Unfortunately he struck just four and the trophy went back to Newent with a score of 43 pins to Paul's 41. Many Gloucester Rotarians brought their partners and with a meal thrown in as well it was an extremely pleasant evening thanks to Colin Dunford assisted by his lovely wife Phyllis.

Welcome Maggie

THIS month we have asked newly inducted member Maggie Coopey to write a few words about herself so we know a little more about her prior to her job talk at some time in the future. It didn't prove an easy assignment for, as Maggie said, faced with an empty page she drew a blank and added: "Now I understand why clients I advise look at me horrified when I ask them to write personal profiles for their CVs." However, having overcome writer's block this is what she wrote:-

"I am an Employment Skills Co-ordinator with Gloucestershire First. Our small department within the company provides information, advice and guidance to the adult population of Gloucestershire - in a nutshell we are what was once known as the careers service.

"We have two contracts one direct with the Government - Nextstep - and the other indirectly through Jobcentre plus, The Work Programme. The Work Programme offers individuals an intensive service with nominated advisers, to help them return to work, some after many years of unemployment.

"We compile CVs, offer interview skills and labour market information,



● Our picture shows Maggie with Rotarian Ron Ring and President Andrew Hurley after Maggie's induction.

alongside voluntary work experience with local businesses in an effort to bring a client's work history up to date.

"We have a close working relationship with Gloucestershire College where clients can update many skills through funded courses.

"I am fortunate to have brilliant colleagues both within the company and with partner agencies and very much enjoy my work. I am also fortunate enough to do this part time three days a week, leaving the other days to concentrate on fostering.

"I am a full time foster carer and have looked after one young boy long term for four years. Respite care is also carried out when needed. I foster with a local agency, Community Foster Care, based in Staunton.

"It is a small agency and most of the carers know each other and the children in their care. Respite is mostly to provide time out and holiday periods for foster carers although we do also provide short term emergency cover for children rescued from countries at war. The children have somewhere safe to stay for a couple of days when they first come into the country until longer term stable homes are found for them.

"My friends and I have raised money over the years for children's charities, doing half marathons, swim races, bake-ins and tea parties etc, but the nuttiest thing we did was the Three Peaks challenge a couple of years ago - climbing three mountains in England Scotland and Wales within 24 hours - an amazing experience but not one I will be repeating!"

Jared - a young man in a hurry!

It was a subject close to many members' hearts. Hardly any surprise therefore that Jared Brown proved a popular speaker when he gave a lunchtime presentation on his brainchild - the Gloucester Brewery.

Jared is obviously a young man in a hurry. In just six weeks towards the end of last year he transformed a workshop at the Gloucester Waterway Museum into a micro-brewery.

Then in just over a month after that he had brewed his first pint in time for it to make its debut at the Victorian Christmas fayre held at the Quays.

A former chef, Jared took us step by step through the process of setting up the firm which now produces three different beers - Docksider Dark (at 5.2% his strongest offering which is rich, sweet and spicy). The other two are Gloucester Gold (3.9%, pale gold in colour and with a fruity hoppy taste)



● A young entrepreneur going places - that's Jared Brown seen here on the left of the photo. He was introduced by Rotarian Clive Kingscote (who will no doubt drink the beer) and on the right is mine host at The Fountain, Peter Rust (who is selling the beer).

and the Mariner (4.2% a more traditional offering with a malty taste).

At present his beers enjoy a novelty value and have already made an appearance in

more than 80 outlets although largely on a 'guest beer' basis.

As you would expect, competition in the brewery market is tough with 20 other micro-breweries in Gloucestershire alone - although Jared is the only one in the city. However his research showed that sales from micro-breweries rose 8.5% between 2010 and 2011.

Jared is now working to establish a strong recognizable brand - and hopefully to win a few awards for brewing along the way. Plans for the future also include an increase in brewery visits; his own licenced premises and an expansion plan focused on Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Bristol.

Already Jared has won the support of Gloucester MP and Rotarian Richard Graham and, who knows, with such influential backing a Gloucester Beer could be guesting in the House of Commons bar in the near future.



● There were smiles all round when Senior Vice President Amanda Chamberlayne presented cheques to three deserving local charities from the proceeds of the club's Tree of Light which was erected for the first time outside the Guildhall in Eastgate Street last Christmas. From the left are Karen Organ, events manager of the Leukaemia and Intensive Chemotherapy Fund; the Mayor, Councillor Andy Lewis who accepted a cheque on behalf of his chosen charity, the St John's Ambulance Cadets; then comes Amanda and on the right is Major Adrian Allman of the Salvation Army.

Oriental delights from Sri Lanka

MOST of us now have a better knowledge of Sri Lanka thanks to the incoming Group Study Exchange team who impressed us with an excellent overview of an island which is now more famous for its tea and tourism attractions than anything else.

The three male and one female member of the team all took a different aspect of the island's economic, cultural and social life and in a very brief presentation plied us with information about a rapidly developing country.

They proved excellent ambassadors for Rotary, for Sri Lanka and for themselves. Few could have failed to be impressed by the pride they shared with us in an island where the economy is growing, where there are comprehensive health and educational services and where most of multi ethnic groups live in harmony

now the long running Tamil war has been resolved.

The team leader Ali (Ashroff Ali Jamaldeen), a past Rotary president, showed members several examples of how Rotary International's matching grants had enhanced the life of people on the island particularly in the wake of the devastating tsunami in 2004.

Other members of the team were Chetra an attorney at law; Chamil, a professional photographer; Rifaz, a medical administrator and Sumudu, a marketing specialist who initially trained as an electrical engineer.

Prior to their presentations at a Guildhall lunch they met Gloucester's Mayor, Andy Lewis at the North Warehouse in the Docks.

Here they not only met Gloucester's first citizen ...,but also witnessed the handing

over of three cheques for £800 each - the proceeds of our club's Tree of Light project last Christmas in Eastgate Street. The cheques went to the Mayor Andy Lewis who had chosen the the St John Ambulance cadets as his Mayoral charity, to Major Adrian Allman of the Salvation Army and to Karen Organ, events manager of LINC - the Leukaemia and Intensive Chemotherapy Fund.

LINC has recently opened a new countywide unit which will be used for the administration of chemotherapy, blood transfusion and supportive treatment particularly for patients with leukaemia, lymphoma and other blood cancers.

After lunch our Sri Lankan visitors visited the Cathedral where they were shown around by Rotarian John Lovell, a Cathedral guide, and where they were accompanied by John Sargent and international chairman Pat Collins.



● Members of the Group Study Exchange team from Sri Lanka visited the Mayor's Parlour where they met the city's first citizen Andy Lewis. Accompanying the party were Senior Vice President Amanda; international chairman, Rotarian Pat Collins; Rotarian Martyn White (who masterminded the club's Tree of Light project) and Rotarians David Seed and John Sargent



● **Top table line-up (from the left) Jim Hickman, President of Gloucester North; Jim Kear; John Morgan, President of Gloucester Quays; Amanda Chamberlayne (our own Senior Vice President) and Peter Burton, President of Gloucester Severn**

Less mingling at Four Clubs

THIS year's four clubs dinner at Brickhampton Golf Complex was dogged with ill luck as first one and then another speaker had to pull out.

Eventually Jim Hickman, President of Gloucester North, managed to persuade a family friend Jim Kear to talk about Free Mining in the Forest of Dean.

As a youngster Jim worked down the mine with his father during out-of-school hours. He brought with him various artefacts including a carbide lamp which he had used to mine seams which were, in some places, as narrow as 18 inches.

Once again the atmosphere was convivial and the food excellent but the opportunity offered by the event for Rotarians of the city's four clubs to mingle was largely lost as most chose to sit on club tables.

Whilst this was not true of members of our own club who dispersed to a number of different tables only a disappointing eight members supported the event.



● **Mingling.....Jim Porter from Gloucester North, our own Sue Smith and Steve Markham from Gloucester Severn.**

Rotary, rugby and David

TWENTY one years ago David Foyle was president of our club - a fact of which he reminded us when he came as a guest speaker to talk about his association with Gloucester Rugby Club which he has served in various capacities for over 20 years.

Having been membership secretary for 11 years, David stood for the committee at a time when rugby was undergoing its transformation from an amateur to professional game. It was obviously a time of great soul searching as club officials sought the best way forward including independent panels and think tanks.

Fortunately the club had a £150,000 war chest but it was quickly obvious that ticket sales and a small amount of sponsorship wouldn't keep the club in the top flight of the rugby fraternity.

David, then chairman and his board of directors faced a dilemma... whether to float the club and sell its shares or seek a 'sugar daddy.' The first option seemed unlikely to succeed so the club sought a wealthy sponsor. Thanks to successful networking it found such a man in the person of Tom Wilkinshaw, a Scottish racing driver and Formula 1 team manager and a passionate rugby fan.

Although he initially took a majority stake he eventually became the owner of Gloucester Rugby Club until his death in 2010 when his son Ryan took over.

David spiced his talk with fascinating anecdotes which included the dismissal of Richard Hill and the arrival of the mercurial and inspirational Frenchman Philippe Saint-Andre who moulded a team which put Gloucester at the top of the Rugby world.



● **A return to the hot seat.....David Foyle, a former president of our club, sits in the President's chair with another former President Tony Tetley on the right accompanied by Amanda Chamberlayne the present Senior Vice President.**

David has since stepped down as chairman of the board but still takes a keen interest in the club's progress which this season has been like the proverbial curate's egg - both good and bad.

However he's optimistic of better times to come and at least the club has ended the season in the black - unlike some others in the Premiership.

It was a delightful talk and we are grateful to Tony Tetley, a long time friend, for bringing David back to the club.

John steps up to the mark

AFTER a few months during which no-one offered themselves for the vacant Junior Vice President position we now have a full team again - thanks to Rotarian John Weygang.

With the agreement of Clive Hannis, the present junior vice president, John will become senior-vice president next year 2012-2013 with Clive serving a further year as JVP.

To make newer members more acquainted with John, he has penned this piece for 'In Gear'.

"I moved to Gloucester and started an opticians practice in 1970 which still exists today, having sold the practice to my partners in 1998. I fully retired last year in 2011.

I am happily married to my wife Mary of 32 years and we have eight wonderful children and 13 grandchildren who keep Mary and I fully occupied!

I joined Rotary in April 1989 after being encouraged by my friend Chris Peak. Since then I have served on most committees and enjoyed the friendships that Rotary has to offer. I have been treasurer for the last five years.

I enjoy Rotary immensely and would recommend it to anybody, as Rotary enhances not only the lives of others but also the life of the Rotarian him/herself.

The dynamic of the club has changed

recently for the better as ladies and younger members have been attracted to the club and I hope this trend will continue.

Highlights of Rotary for me have always been those days when we as a club are enriching the lives of others less fortunate. I am thinking especially of "Kids Out" and "Carers of Gloucestershire".

Mary and I are members of 'Carers' ourselves and know there are many people struggling on a daily basis in practical, emotional and financial terms. We have been introduced to an entirely different section of society, of which we were largely unaware, by one of our family members who has problems.

Mary and I are both volunteer advisers at the Citizens Advice Bureau two half days a week, and the problems clients bring us are amazing in their seriousness, variety and complexity. We have learned much but still have much to learn as we encounter new situations weekly.

We know that for most problems, the very worst thing you can do is to do nothing, the problem will increase. Burying your head in the sand does not work!

Mary has volunteered to be Vice President of Inner wheel and will therefore be President of Inner Wheel in 2013/14. Martin Henshaw has kindly volunteered to take over my job as Treasurer and that has made it possible for me to be able to volunteer for office. Thank you Martin!



● **Mary and John seen together preparing drinks at 'Kids Out'.**

Mary and I will, therefore be Presidents of Inner Wheel and Rotary respectively in the same year.

I will be out of my comfort zone being President and look forward to lots of help from Amanda, Clive and all the past Presidents - indeed help and advice from all club members.

Lastly I will finish with a quote or two from "Carers of Gloucester" following a day out in Weston- Super- Mare recently. These messages confirm why I am proud to be a Rotarian.

'It was great seeing somewhere that isn't Gloucester and not having to worry about the person I look after'
'It was a real pleasure just to get out of the house!'

'To be able to do whatever I wanted was a real treat - Thank you to all involved'.

Rehanging the city's curfew bell

The Rotary Club of Gloucester has donated £1,000 towards a Gloucester Civic Trust project to rehang a curfew bell in St Michael's Tower at The Cross.

As part of the project a new flagpole will also be erected and the flags of St George, St Michael and the Union have been acquired. The overall cost is around £20,000 of which the Environmental Trust has provided nearly half. Ecclesiastical Insurance has paid for the bell which was in excess of £4,000.

The bell was sourced from a church at High Wycombe and will be hung in the tower which used to have a peal of 10 bells, one of which was called the Curfew Bell.

This bell rang out at 8pm every night to tell people to put out their fires and would then ring out again at 4am telling people they could relight them. In this way the risk of fire spreading across the city was reduced since, in those days, most buildings were of wood.

The bell, which also rang out on market days, was later called the market bell or common bell.

At one stage St Michael's Church had a famous bell ringing team and the church was an important centre for bell ringing. The bells were removed from the Tower in 1956 when the main body of the church was demolished. The Bell Tower, which dates from around 1465, was retained.

The bell itself was first cast in 1711 by Master Bell Maker, Richard Phelps. He was based at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry which still exists today. The bell was re-cast in 1919 but as it was deemed to be a heritage bell the inscription has to be reused. It reads:-

**"Through many an age did I ring true
Neath shades of war, my voice
faint grew
With dawn of peace new hopes arise
My wound is healed through sacrifice."**



Thomas Mears, the owner of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry bought the Rudhall Bell Foundry here in Gloucester which was situated near the post office in King's Square. The Rudhall family were having financial troubles and local banker Jemmy Wood refused to extend their credit.

It is intended to use the bell on special occasions such as Gloucester Day, Carnival Day and the Heritage Open Days and, of course, on market days.

Treasures of the Cathedral

Several members of the club took advantage of a generous offer by former Dean, Nick Bury to look behind the scenes at our magnificent Cathedral at some of the 'treasures' not normally available to the public gaze.

Some of the visiting group initially went to the Cathedral Library while others visited the Treasury.

In the Library Chris Jeens explained the mammoth job facing he and his team of volunteers of cataloguing the valuable items which have been given to the Cathedral over many centuries.

Two members - Roy Lewis and Colin Rogers - separately asked about an Anglo Saxon book written about 1,000 years ago which they remembered from a previous visit over 20 years ago - but as yet it hasn't been found.

In the Treasury the curator Sylvia Coppen-Gardner brought many of the precious items to life and guided members through a millennium of church silver and gold.

The visit was a huge success and members expressed their grateful thanks to Rotarian Nick for arranging it.

In a postscript Colin Rogers said how good it was to see so many smiles on the faces of Cathedral staff and volunteers when they saw Nick again.



Jan's 'If I can I will' philosophy

WHAT an interesting lady Jan Layton-Smith is. During a fascinating job talk she entertained members with an ancestry which included connections with the Gunpowder Plot and to the original inventor of the water closet - a John Harrington.



Jan herself was born in 1947 in Yorkshire. Her mum worked in an ammunition factory during the war and her father wrote and published four thrillers.

Having failed the 11+ she went to a secondary modern school at Malton where she showed an aptitude for art and from there went to an art school at Scarborough. At the tender age of 18 - she moved to Camberwell School of Art and Crafts in London to do a three year Diploma.

Fate then stepped in and she found 'temporary' lodgings in West Dulwich, taking the place of a guy who had gone home for a while. In the end he returned, Jan moved upstairs, they became friendly and three years later Adrian (Ade) and Jan married.

After three years at Camberwell, Jan did an Art Teaching Certificate at London University and she and Adrian (then a trainee chartered surveyor) were married.

In quick succession two daughters Karren and Tracy were born and Jan became a stay

at home mother. Life was tough. Saving for a home at a time of rocketing house prices was depressing but eventually they bought a new home at Rushden near Northampton which meant a 70 mile commute daily for Ade to his job in London.

Eventually the family moved to Gloucester where Ade's mum and stepfather lived and set up a new estate agency with them. So Layton-Smith, Osborne and Partners was born in offices in Worcester Street. Later they acquired an office in Cheltenham.

Meanwhile Jan immersed herself in the world of playgroups and the PPA - but then came a slump in house prices. Ade left the estate agency business and worked for the Valuation Office in Gloucester and Jan began supply teaching posts in various local schools including Linden, Hatherley Girls, Hucclecote and Longlevens.

At the time the family were refurbishing a former corner shop in Longlevens as a

home. With supply teaching taking quite a strain Jan turned to other jobs including selling double glazing but eventually the call of the classroom took her back into teaching which included a two year stint at the High School in Denmark Road and a full time job at Brockworth.

In 1994 the family moved to Green Lane at Hucclecote and a year later Ade was offered - and accepted - early retirement having had to commute to HQ in London during the final years of his career.

By the year 2000 both daughters had been trained - one as a teacher the other as a marketing manager - both had also married and both were also living in Holland.

In 2002 Jan and Ade bought a villa in Spain - a retreat away from the cold winter months. For an all too short a time they enjoyed a 'jet age' lifestyle until in 2008 Ade was diagnosed with lymphoma. Despite a false dawn following a bone marrow transplant Ade died in September 2009 just after their 41st wedding anniversary.

But Jan's life goes on, fuelled by a philosophy to live each day as if it was your last and 'If I can I will.' As for joining Rotary she says: "I have had a lot of support from my family and friends over the past few years and I have found strengths I didn't know I had. I have been given so much, now I feel it's time I gave something back."

Showcasing our talents..

The Amaryllis Competition and Social evening at the Farmers Club at the end of April was a great success with 34 Rotarians and guests enjoying a convivial evening.

There were only six entries in the amaryllis competition but this gave organiser Colin Rogers the opportunity to be creative and add two more competitions to make this a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

As well as the amaryllis competition, people had been invited to bring items of historic interest and also articles they had created themselves.

Bob Short examined the historical items, which included a 17th Century silver bodkin, a Victorian pair of handcuffs with key, some pretty trinket boxes, First World War medals, and a tiny box containing stone dice which he said he had never seen anything like before in his 40 years as an auctioneer.

The craft competition included paintings, embroideries, pictures and an evening waistcoat and matching bow tie.

Everyone voted for the best or most interesting item in each category and then Bob Short and Amanda Chamberlayne spoke about some of the items of historic interest while Colin was totting up the votes.

SVP Amanda presented the Horticultural Cup to Sue Smith for the best amaryllis. She said how delighted she was to stand in for President Andrew on this occasion as the silver cup had been originally donated to the club in 1946 by her grandfather, T.L. Lawrence.

Colin Eynon won the prize for the most interesting historical item, which was the tiny box containing dice, and Jeremy Keck won the craft prize for his beautiful embroidery.

Jan Layton-Smith came a close second and won the prize for effort as she had not only entered all three competitions but had also brought a poem she had written about her amaryllis plant, which she read out as part of the entertainment.

Other prizes were awarded to Paul Woodman, Enid Wilkinson and Clive Kingscote.

Thanks to Colin for organising an amusing and entertaining evening for members, partners and friends.



● We are grateful to Sue Smith chair of the Sports and Social Committee for this report and to organiser Colin Rogers who took the photos showing some of the winners - including Sue herself who won the Horticultural Cup.

SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY

SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY



An afternoon of fun, feasting and frolics

HAVE you noticed? Year after year when we hold our annual party for Gloucester's senior citizens the sun has shone.

This year was no exception as a smashing Spring day provided the ideal backdrop to an afternoon of fun, feasting and frolics.

The day started with an excellent turnout of Rotarians (and others) to set up the tables at our usual venue - the King's School Assembly Hall - so that all looked inviting in time for our guests to arrive later.

Many were transported to the party by Rotarians but however they came they were welcomed and signed in by Rotary's own 'evergreen couple' Trevor and Joy Picken.

This year 108 people attended and thanks to willing Rotarians and a superb team from

Inner Wheel our guests were soon enjoying the traditional 'cuppa' accompanied by sandwiches, ice cream, cream scones and, of course, a welcoming glass of sherry.

As always Mike Westbury was the star of the show with his usual combination of comedy and sing along songs which created a brilliant atmosphere.

Another regular feature of our annual party Bingo followed with prizes for lines and full houses being given out.

Thanks for organising this year's event once again goes to the indefatigable Robert Hall who, in turn, would like to thank the following:-

District Governor Martin Greaves for supplying a plant for each guest at below cost price;

To Inner Wheel and particularly their President Hilary Cass for all their efforts;

To all the Rotarians who helped set up, picked up and dropped off our guests and helped out during the party;

To King's School for the use of its hall once again;

And finally to the irrepressible Mike Westbury whose musical talent and wit makes such a fantastic difference to these annual gatherings.

Our thanks go to Colin Rogers and Trevor Picken for the pictures on this page.

■ Pictured on the left and right of this article are the two stars of the show - Robert Hall and Mike Westbury



Taking a break

