
The Kettering Clarion

Number 16 **Rotary Club Of Kettering**

December 2011

The President's Jottings

During the last couple of months or so the club has staged two key events in its annual calendar. First of all there was the Charter Dinner with good food and facilities supplied by Wicksteed Park and an excellent speaker. I, together with some of our club members have visited Charter Dinners by other Clubs in the area and I may be biased (well I definitely am), but I believe we have put on the best one so far this "charter season". Thanks to Alan and the many Club members who made this a success. Our second event was our Christmas Band Concert compered so expertly by our, and the Salvation Army's, Geoff. The standard of the Kettering Citadel Band which does include Club members is incredibly high and the Masquerade Singers are just fantastic. Many thanks to very many members who helped to make the event a success. As some of you will know I have been keen to help those organisations in town who do not have the support of a professional fund raising team. This year, the recipient of the collection and some of the profits from the ticket sales is the new Paediatric Ward at Kettering General Hospital. Donna Mason the Ward Manager was clearly amazed and overjoyed when I announced the amount of the collection. Just seeing her face and I'm sure when we see the responses from the sick children when the new ward is open tells us we made the right choice. The money counting goes on, but hopefully we raised £2000 for the Paediatric Ward. I have been to several nativity plays and involved in the inevitable present buying, but for me Christmas started at our band concert. The evening was made complete with a superb after show party at Graham and Olives. I clearly had too much to drink as I'm sure I saw more than one Father Christmas!

An interesting project recently was our support for a day at Bishop Stopford School when all the pupils from year 11 were trying to develop imaginary projects to raise money for charities and then partake in a charity auction. Not only was it great to use our expertise to help the students but it strengthened our links with the school.

I am lucky to be President after my retirement, so I have decided to take up as many invitations as possible to build ties with other clubs and organisations. In the last few weeks these have included several Charter Dinners, a Harvest Supper, a surprisingly interesting Science lecture, the Mayor's Ball, dinner with other Presidents as well as District Council and the District Roadshow. In addition we have had two rounds of the Minor Sports meeting with other Clubs. Unfortunately we didn't win the second one but both were great evenings.

Our speakers have varied from our MP to a farmers wife and all have been enjoyable. But one highlight for me was the induction of Keith Osborne as a new member of the Club. It's been a long time since we last inducted a new member, but hopefully more will follow soon.

Christmas approaches and while we sometimes criticise all the hype and commercialism surrounding this religious occasion, it does bring together family and friends even if only in our thoughts. This time means many different things to many people but I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year.

President Dennis

President 2011/12

Christmas Time – a few thoughts

The other day a Hindu friend of mine wished me 'A Happy Christmas' – It did not strike me as strange until I got home – I would not know how to reciprocate his wishes at one of the festivals in his own religion! A short time ago I found it necessary to explain the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols to an intelligent and articulate young man. I really thought that this would not be necessary for any adult in our land – I am probably naïve on this.

Our Prime Minister finds it necessary to explain (or it may be interpreted as apologising) our Christian heritage and the significance of this time of year.

For many weeks the shops have been full of reminders, even to the extent of having Christmas Cards and wrapping paper on prominent display – there is also the less than subtle reminder that the wrapping paper is used to cover a present and yet the purpose of presents seems to be forgotten.

We purchased some candles the other day which were purported to be the smells of Frankincense and Myrrh and were also coloured gold – I said to the check-out lady "What an unusual combination", and she gave a puzzled smile.

We lay in store our huge piles of food and drinks for the season – often far too much - and yet the family who began it all were probably hungry in a smelly stable with no running water.

I do wish you all a blessed Christmas.

Stuart King

Hence my attendance to ensure that should our club wish to apply for a Global or District Grant, we would be eligible to do so.

There was a range of speakers on various subjects which fall under the umbrella of Foundation.

The main topic, however, was on the subject of grants. There are 100 Districts being used as trials for the new system of grants. One important message that came across was for the use of District grants. All committee Chairmen should be aware that their projects, if matching certain criteria, could be eligible for funding by District. Please see me for further information.

J.K.

News from Tresham, (now more formally known as the Provisional Rotary Club of Kettering Tresham)

At their "Secret Santa" small gifts were exchanged – mine was a packet of hand warmers to put inside my gloves and if the weather of the past few days is to be indicative of the rest of the winter they will be jolly useful.

Tresham have raised almost £2,000 for charitable causes in the past year and have enjoyed doing so. A cracking result.

When the Kettering Borough Council drew a blank with our own Club to find a 'Santa Claus' for their 'Market Place' festivities, Tresham responded very positively and not only found a willing Santa from their numbers but also some elves, sprites and other helpers – 'Santa' told me that on the evening he was photographed probably a thousand times and he was even blown a kiss by Christine Hamilton who was in her costume from the Lighthouse Theatre Pantomime cast!! Was this a bonus or something not to be relished??

'Santa' will be making a return visit to his Grotto to be housed in one of the, as yet, unoccupied 'Restaurants' on the Market Place before Christmas arrives.

District 1070 Minor Sports Competition

Whilst we won our first round of the District Minor Sports competition against the Rotary Club of Rushden, we came not a very good second to the Rotary Club of Oundle in round two. As usual it was another evening of fun fellowship and another splendid Thorpe Malsor buffet supper. Non-playing Captain Graham Perkins graciously accepted defeat and wished the victors well in the next round and thought that next time they may be lucky enough to be drawn away to Bourne or Brackley

Since the District Quiz was held on the same night as the Minor Sports we had no team in this competition, the same members seem to be the only one interested in these events!!

Fund Raising Events

It was hoped to arrange a Supermarket Trolley Dash near to Christmas, however in spite of extensive enquiries a venue could not be found and this project has had to be shelved for 2011.

Calvert

Does any member know of a suitable candidate for Calvert 2012, the requirements are for a handicapped person, male or female, in the age group 18 years top 30 years. If so please contact Rtn. Geoff Blurton as soon as possible.

Stuart King

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