

CONTACT INFO



Meetings

Every Thursday at 12:30
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President

Jim Thompson
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Secretary

Ian Walker
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ALNWICK DOTES

The next edition?

Please give your contributions for the next edition of AlnwickDotes to Diane Pearson. The deadline will be announced just as soon as we have worked out when it should be.

Colin Bradford

AND THANKS... to our magazine sponsors
Alnwick Wedding Cars 07 546 - 443 494
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COMING UP

December

- Thu 10th Business meeting/SGM
- Sat 12th **Street collection in Alnwick**
- Thu 17th **Christmas Message**
- Fri 18th **Bag packing at Sainsbury's**
- Thu 24th & 31st No meetings

January

- Thu 7th Club Council
Speaker finder: Bill Bell
Talk'n Toddle - St Michael's Ch.
- Thu 14th Business meeting
- Thu 21st Projects Committee (11.00)
Speaker finder: Jim Browell
Club Service Committee (2.00)
- Thu 28th *Speaker finder: Carnegie Brown*

February

- Thu 4th *Speaker finder: Bill Callaghan*
- Sun 7th **Family Lunch - White Swan**
- Thu 11th Business meeting
- Thu 18th *Speaker finder: Alan Clark*
- Tue 23rd **Rotary Day**
- Thu 25th *Speaker finder: Dennis Dalby*

March

- Thu 4th Club Council
Speaker finder: Michael Dean
- Thu 11th Business meeting
- Thu 18th *Speaker finder: Martyn Tuckwell*
- Thu 25th *Speaker finder: Bill Hopper*
- Sat 27th **President's Night**

Alan Symmonds of course. Who did you think I meant?



December 2009
The magazine of the Rotary Club of Alnwick

ALNWICK DOTES

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Jim Thompson

As we arrive at the halfway point in the year there is much that has been done and still much to do before the Rotary year ends. Following on from the visit to the Cook and Barker in November, the next fellowship event to look forward to is our Christmas Message on 17th December. Thanks to James Bateman and his committee for making all the arrangements.

We have sent off Aquaboxes to help after the earthquakes and tsunami and I hope that we will be able to put some further boxes into the



system once funds permit. We have also been sending off books and sweets to the troops to help support them as they work on our behalf. Terry Long obtained books and added sweets in Rothbury while I have been working with the Lions to supply books in Alnwick and I added the sweets to make up the packs. Having agreed to donate a minimum of £1,000 to the Music Festival our donation was quite timely as the organisers of the festival look to replace folding beds bought back in the 1980s when I was involved! Thanks to Terry and his committee for all the effort put into ensuring the club supports good causes.

Having lost one member as she transfers to Eyemouth we gain another with a transfer from Gozo. We wish Jo Miller all the best and thank her for the work done whilst a member of Alnwick. We also welcome Diane Pearson who has transferred to our club from the Rotary Club of Gozo. On the subject of membership we have one application which has gone through the club procedures: Martyn Tuckwell (pictured right) will become our newest member on 1st January.



It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Bill Robertson following a period of illness which prevented him from attending meetings. The sick visitor system we are trialling this year has kept us informed of the status of all club members and kept those members unable to attend due to illness informed that we are thinking of them. Our thanks go to the volunteers who act as sick visitors; if you would like to be involved please speak to George Stokoe.

We have had two hiccups with no speaker organised for speaker meetings. Please check the rota and if you are down as Club Host then it falls upon you to arrange a speaker. If you will be unable to attend on the published date either get someone to stand in and introduce your speaker or change dates with someone but, **please**, keep Ken Moore informed so that he can keep Council informed and we can plan meeting business around the guest speakers. If you are nominated for reception then please arrange a stand-in if you are unable to attend. Together we can make the meetings interesting and plan the use of the time effectively.

If you are reading this and wondering what Rotary is all about then please speak to our Secretary, **Ian Walker** on 01665 604 375.

We thank the services veterans who attended our meeting and offer special thanks to Cliff Pettit for organising their attendance. It gave me great pleasure in proposing the toast showing our gratitude to them, and especially to their colleagues who did not come home. I attended the memorial service followed by laying a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of the club on the 8th November.

I had a visit to Morpeth club, met members of Chester club when down there and have also attended Amble and Warkworth President's Night, which must be one of the earliest in the year planner, and had a very enjoyable evening at each.

Having just returned from a week in the Lakes where it rained heavily and continuously for three days I am conscious of the needs in the Cockermouth area and will monitor the situation to see if we can offer any appropriate help. Our return journey was quite exciting as we had to use side roads to avoid flooding and closed roads. It was only by travelling through three landslides and much flooding that we were able to return home in time to attend the Amble & Warkworth meeting!



SPEAKERS

We have had a succession of excellent speakers¹ at recent Club meetings including:

- **24th Sept**
Becca Jack (Centre) and
Michael Sargent (Right)
Rotary Youth
Leadership Awards
- **22nd Oct**
Malcolm Eaton
The work of the Rotary
Foundation



- **26th Nov**
Jim Barratt
Wine from France

- **3rd Dec**
Joan Grindrod-Helmn
The St James Centre



¹ Regrettably the Club paparazzo has failed miserably to snap the most eloquent and dynamic of our recent speakers so readers will have to exercise forbearance in respect of the non-inclusion herein of any digital image of ... ? (Revealed on back page).

24th September - The Masonic Lodge

Jim Thompson led an intrepid party on a tour of the Masonic Lodge in Prudhoe Street.



and left addressing the "Toddlers") gave a splendid introduction to the discovery, the excavation and the significance of the original site and to the reconstruction of the stone age house.



26th November - Howick

Bill Bell certainly executed a masterstroke in getting the internationally famous archaeologist, Dr Clive Waddington, to lead us on a short walk to the site of the prehistoric excavations at Howick. Dr Waddington (below



We have the Special General Meeting in December marking the start of the new Rotary year by planning our club officer succession. We also need to start looking for nominees for Paul Harris fellowships and honorary membership; please pass any suggestions via James Bateman or myself for consideration.

In closing I would take this opportunity to wish all our members and families a very merry Christmas with best wishes for the New Year.

Jim Thompson
President



Marion Long, Jim Thompson and Terry Long

there is absolutely nothing else available and yet knowing you are exposing them to diseases such as cholera and typhoid. Aquabox is a registered charity that many Rotary Clubs support. The principle is simple: a specialist plastic box which contains water purification tablets is purchased by the Club. We then fill the box with emergency supplies needed such as baby requirements, hammers, nails, soap, bucket, large pan and string to mention but a few. The box is then sealed and transported free of charge by Parcel Force Worldwide to key distributions points.

We had been able to purchase six Aquaboxes out of our Club funds and then further club funds were found to fill all six boxes after a special plea was sent out saying that due to the recent natural disasters in the Pacific and Indonesia stocks of Aquaboxes were very low.

Each Aquabox carries enough water purification tablets to clean 1100 litres of water, so multiplied by six that is a fantastic amount of clean water that has been provided by the kind and generous people who give

For more information about Rotary **fundraising and giving** please don't hesitate to contact Rotarian **Terry Long** on 07 824 660 447.

AQUABOXES

Terry Long

The provision of safe water for the survivors of disasters such as war, drought, earthquake, flood, typhoon and hurricanes is a task taken to heart by the members of Alnwick Rotary Club. Just imagine having to give your children polluted water to drink because



donations to Alnwick Rotary Club throughout the year, whether it be at our street collections, bag packing at Sainsbury's or at any of our organised events.

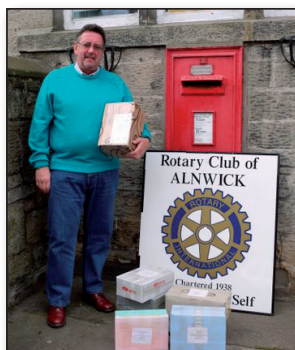
Terry Long
Vice-President

SWEETS

The Club had a request at Alnwick Rotary from the Chaplain of the Royal Marines in Afghanistan "for books & sweets for the lads from our supporters back home. There is a lack of books and sweets always go down well".

Members of Alnwick Rotary have collected second hand paperbacks (not Mills & Boon!) and have bought packs of sweets, parcelled them up and sent them via BFPO box number to Afghanistan. If they go via the BFPO box number and weigh less than 2kg the Post Office deliver them free of charge. Rogersons of Rothbury kindly donated empty shoe boxes for packaging.

The picture shows Vice-President Terry Long delivering a consignment to Rothbury Post Office.



CHARITY GOLF DAY

Last year, the Rotary Club of Alnwick raised over £5,000 for the Great North Air Ambulance, Macmillan Nurses and other local charities from the Club's Charity Golf Day held at Seahouses Golf Club. This was only possible due to the magnificent support received from nearly 200 entrants, each team of 4 paying £80 to enter the competition, and with the support of many sponsors who supported the event in one or more of the following ways:

- Sponsoring one or more teams of four players;
- Four prizes (value £25-£30 each) for one of the winning teams;
- Four prizes (value £25 each) for the best team score at a nominated hole;
- Prize for the longest drive at a nominated hole (£50);
- Prize for tee-shot nearest the pin on a short hole (£50);
- Advertisement in the A5-size competition brochure (£50 half page or £100 full page);
- Individual business advertisement on the course;
- Donation towards the cost of prizes.

It is very difficult to locate major sponsors for events in Northumberland and the continued efforts of smaller companies and businesses is essential in helping to run events and in demonstrating the community involvement of local business. It is hoped that similar support will be forthcoming for the Club's 2010 event which is to be held at Alnmouth (Foxton Hall) Golf Club on Thursday 10th June next year.

our objectives, work and achievements are accurately and positively understood, as well as our fellowship:

- The new RIBI marketing campaign;
- The new Rotary fact sheet and leaflet;
- A new and more informative Alnwick leaflet;
- The Alnwickdotes publication;
- A positive and informative Alnwick Rotary website

We must canvas businesses and organisations within Alnwick and district through the above material and by personal contact to identify potential members. We should invite them, and any other potential members, to join us for lunch to see who we are and what we do. Such attendances must be planned with care to ensure that all the influencing factors are positive

- They are properly welcomed and looked after;
- The speaker of the day is of high quality;
- Like-minded Rotarians are at the table.

We must recognise that modern conditions in the business world and the way people now manage their lives mean that we cannot be as rigid in the attendance commitment we demand. If we sense that there is significant potential demand for meetings at a time other than Thursday lunchtimes, we should positively examine how that demand could be met in whole or in part.

Above all we must recognise that the recruitment of new members is a continuous responsibility of every member of the Club

Charles Jary
Membership Development Group

TALK'n TODDLE

Bill Bell's introduction of the concept of the "Talk'n Toddle" has been an unqualified success with regular pedestrian outings to local sites and buildings of interest. Among those where the unofficial paparazzo was present were:

13th August - The Town Hall



Cliff Pettit (right) led us on a tour of the Town Hall and gave a fascinating introduction to the often fractious relationship between the Freeman and the Dukes.



• Short/Long Stays

Before admission, a medical assessment is made. About 150 clients are making regular use of this service.

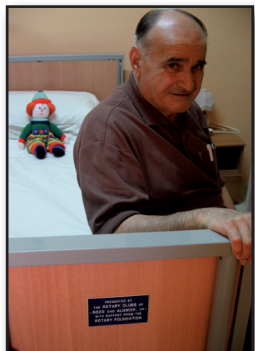
• Permanent Stays

At present, eight disabled persons are housed on a permanent basis, each of whom has a specialized care-plan drawn up by professional people. The Malta Government is footing the bill for six of these clients.

• Emergency Stays

Elderly persons, who during a family emergency cannot as usual be cared for at home, can be accommodated at the centre.

This year the daily charge is 23.50 Euros for accommodation, breakfast & lunch, all prepared in the fully equipped kitchen and they also have an onsite laundry.



Father Curmi (shown left with the bed donated by the Gozo and Alnwick Rotary Clubs), who is also the local priest, has a band of willing volunteers and we came away from our visit moved by their dedication and caring.

If, having read this, you know of any person, family or organisation that could benefit from a visit to the Centre, please contact me by email: williamjbell@tiscali.co.uk and I will be happy to put you in touch with the organisation.

Bill Bell

RECRUITMENT

Charles Jary

The Membership Group of the Service Committee have recently reviewed the process of recruitment into our Rotary Club. The findings of the Group are, I am delighted to say, pretty well in accord with other Rotary bodies we have consulted. Our recommendations to the Council will not surprise any of our members but do need to be taken on board and pursued in a more proactive manner than we have followed hitherto. The age profile of our club makes this an imperative for every member.

We must maximise the use we make of all the publicity material available to ensure that

Charles Jary



Alnwick Rotary Club are extremely grateful to the Golf Club for making their course available for the event. In these difficult times it is hoped to equal or exceed the amount raised last year, even though the entry fee is remaining the same i.e. £80 per team of four players which may consist of ladies or gentlemen or both (Ladies receive five courtesy shots), the best two scores counting at each hole. The proceeds will be used to support the Great North Air Ambulance Appeal, Macmillan Nurses, Asthma UK & a number of local charities including the Alnwick Stroke Club.

If you feel you could help in any way by sponsorship, playing in the event or even suggesting a sponsor or someone who may be interested in playing, please contact **Bill Bell** on **01 665 - 577 661** or email him on williamjbell@tiscali.co.uk or **Terry Long** on **01 669 - 620 045** or email him on terry@tmipartners.co.uk.



of Leukaemia Research. Don, who was a keen Rotarian, lived at Armstrong House for the last few years of his life and regularly walked from the Abbeyfield House along his favourite stretch of coastline.

There was one famous winter charity walk he organised when he was in his late eighties when the weather turned foul with the wind gathering speed, and night, snow & sleet falling by the time we got to the Embleton Golf Clubhouse where we tried to persuade him to stop but not Don; so on we trod only to be forced to call out the paramedics for him due to hypothermia just past Dunstanburgh Castle. I recall thinking that he would be lucky to survive the night but when some of us visited

BAMBURGH TO CRASTER

Bill Bell

Don Leslie Memorial Charity Walk

It was a beautiful early October Sunday morning when we met at Armstrong House in Bamburgh for the 2009 Don Leslie Memorial Charity Walk from Bamburgh to Craster in aid





Bill Bell

him in Alnwick Hospital the next morning, he was up and about organising the next trip!

Fortunately our walk this year saw the wind directly at our backs for the whole 14 miles with the sun mostly shining and organiser Ken Moore was delighted at the sponsorship fellow Rotarians and others had given. It was like a summer's day when we stopped just south of Beadnell for a well earned lunch in the dunes out of the wind. It was great to catch up with all the gossip, to see some new faces and generally to enjoy the fellowship of the day. All ten of us finished the walk and we look forward to the next walk in Don's memory.

Bill Bell
Sports & Leisure Officer

ARKA IN GOZO

Bill Bell

Holidays for the Mentally and Physically Handicapped

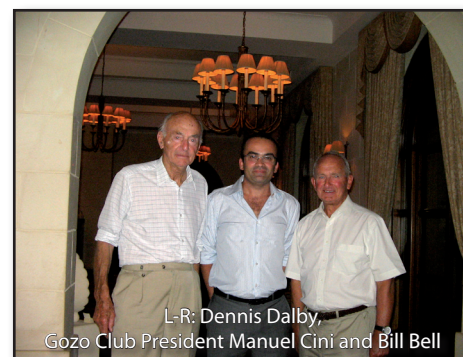
In the May 2008 edition of Alnwickdots, one of our Rotary members, Joy Palmer-Cooper wrote:-

"In May 1938, 70 years ago, the Rotary Club of Alnwick was chartered as a club within the world-wide network of Rotary International. In May 2007, just one year ago, the Rotary Club of Gozo joined the world of Rotary; a new club, the first ever on the island of Gozo and the third on the Maltese Islands. So, as the Alnwick Club prepares to mark its 70th anniversary and Gozo its first, it is a cause for celebration that a partnership has developed between these two clubs, united in the common purpose of humanitarian service. The two clubs have come together in a partnership project which reflects the one core value shared by Rotarians worldwide, which is 'service'. International humanitarian service is a fundamental element of this, supported by the organisation's charity, The Rotary Foundation. The Alnwick Club agreed to make a donation to support a charity chosen by the Rotary Club of Gozo called the Arka Centre (a respite centre), both as a gesture of friendship and also establishing the first ever formal international partnership for this new club; a donation which has received a matching grant from the Rotary Foundation. With the donation they were able to purchase a much needed orthopaedic bed."

When I read this last year, I came up with the idea of a club visit to the island of Gozo, when

we could visit the new Gozo Rotary Club, see the island and also the respite centre we had supported and possibly take a disabled person and carer with us. And so, after much planning, two of us set off in early September 2009. Initially we had over ten Rotarians interested but due to a variety of reasons, only two of us eventually went. Unfortunately this time we were unable to make use of the Arka Centre, although we were able to visit it.

The Gozo Rotarians had prepared an excellent itinerary for us so we spent a most enjoyable week in fellowship and sightseeing and we gave a talk to them at their Club meeting, aided by photographs, on the delights of Northumberland.



We were taken to the respite centre during the week by one of the Rotarians and were shown around by Father Manuel Curmi. Father Curmi had seen the need for such a facility years earlier, when he noted that many families tended to keep a disabled member of their household hidden away, particularly if they were mentally disabled. He was determined to change this and the Arka respite Centre, built by the Arka Foundation under the guidance of Father Curmi with the help of the Church of Gozo, was



opened in December 2000. Within the beautifully equipped building, disabled persons of all ages, most of whom need round-the-clock help, are looked after by caring and dedicated staff with a doctor, physiotherapist, communications therapist, nutritionist, and nurses, all on call.

Built over three levels, the Centre can accommodate 32 clients in its 17 bedrooms. It has a therapeutic hall, two indoor heated pools, a jacuzzi, a gymnasium, therapeutic baths, a conference room, general activity room, multi-sensory room and modern kitchen. Residents and visitors alike can enjoy the pleasures of its beautifully landscaped and planted gardens.

The Arka centre offers services ranging from looking after a person or several family members with special needs for a few hours a day, to residential stays spreading over several weeks. It also welcomes tourists with special needs who will receive all the support needed for a restful and happy stay on the beautiful island of Gozo in a specialised and personalised manner. The Centre is open to all persons irrespective of nationality, colour or creed.

The services available at the centre include:

- **Family Stays**

The second floor is reserved for the accompanying families who need a break from the daily grind of looking after a disabled person. This is a unique service in the Maltese Islands and is offered only at the Arka Centre.

- **Group Visits**

Maltese and foreign groups of not more than 26 persons, coming over for a holiday in Gozo, can also book at the Centre.

- **Day Service Programmes**

This service is provided for disabled clients as often as needed. It is valuable for those who want to get a feel of the place before they decide on a longer stay.