



The bulletin of



The Rotary Club of Swindon Thamesdown

'The Moonraker'

District 1100 England

'Keeping Members in Touch!'



Editor; Past President
Peter Goldsworthy P.H.F.
*Swindon Thamesdown Editor of the year 2007
District 1100 Editor of the Year 2008/9 (Yeah!)*



*President Richard Fry
2009/10*

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By email to all members of **Swindon Thamesdown Rotary Club, Foothill Highlands Rotary Club, Tappahannock Rotary Club** and selected **Australian Rotary Club Members** by Snail-mail to Hon, Members of Swindon Thamesdown and **now available on our website at;**

<http://www.rotaryclubofswindonthamesdown.org.uk/>

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Meeting 30th March 2010

Editor Golds was away when I started this, but so too was our esteemed President and he was the only one with any photos of the Conference therefore I had to wait until his return, so here is this small but humble piece of news for your indulgence, delight, dismay or recycle bin.....the choice is yours; pleasant reading: Hon Sec **Richard Goddard**

Host for the evening SVP John Fisher reports:

Yours truly (SVP) was the host for the evening and our guest speaker was one of our own, Paul Parfrey speaking on his work career at AWE, Home Office and now the NPIA.

About 25 members attended the evening and it was good to see Tina Ellis back for a second time sitting next to her sponsor Richard Goddard. Also we were glad to see Steve Coleman again, Steve was the guest of Paul Parfrey who some of us had met previously collecting outside Debenhams for Polio Plus. Steve has got to become a member having stood in the cold for 2 hours and then being the technical advisor to Paul during his presentation later.

Our meal was traditional Fish and Chips with peas but not the mushy variety. This was followed by Bread and butter pudding with custard, just right for going to sleep during the guest speaker. (In fact no one did).

After the meal and a short break Paul started his talk by outlining his career to date which was very impressive in the variation of work he had undertaken. He then outlined a UK protection programme which he was involved in, at a level of information available to the public on the web. The essence of this project was to make all our lives safer from the research, manufacture and deployment of specialist detection equipment.

Paul was at the forefront of this project during which he developed, and tested the technologies which are now deployed around the UK to deter the illicit movement of particular materials at our points of entry. At most large ports this equipment is sited at Port exit points for vehicles entering the UK. They can screen large articulated vehicles to detect the presence of the materials. The technology is also sited at our main airports for commercial goods and air passengers, but I expect that not many of us will have seen them when we travel by air.

Paul gave an overview of the Mobile units which he nicknamed 'Pauls Babies' as he had project managed the development and testing both in the UK and USA to make sure that they were effective for the job which was required. The mobile units are deployed around the UK at ports and airports.



It was interesting to know that there are over 2000 separate port entries in the UK. I think we only associate the word port with seaports and airfields which are used for commercial use but from my own knowledge even the grass strip on a farmers land used for a few light aircraft are designated as ports and points of entry into the UK.

After Paul had spoken to us about his involvement in the programme we were shown a video. This video covered the various points described by Paul and was presented by a lady called Hazel, who I must say was much prettier than Paul. Many questions were asked by members of Paul in relation to his work which showed that they had been attentive and that the talk was very interesting and absorbing. Many thanks Paul.

Just prior to the video there were a few announcements by our learned President Richard in between the 'gremlins' on the computer provided by our IT expert Andrew Joyce. We then came to the 200 club draw. The winning number was drawn, having been sold on the night and was won by Steve Coleman our guest. (Now he has to join the club) That must be the first ever, first time winner, even Gold's hasn't won it in 20 years

Many thanks John for the report, which, owing to the sensitive nature of the talk, I considered it prudent not to take any photographs of the presentation, however, there are a few Conference photos to make up for it!

[Peter Newson reports on the District Conference:](#)

The team: Pres. Fry, SVP Fisher, Tres Davison, AG Horn, CDM Newson
And their relevant wives/partners/carers

Staying at The Parks Guest House - Fry/Fisher/Davison & Newson

The Imperial – Horn

Friday afternoon

All present (except Newson)

Friday Evening

Meal in digs then fancy dress parade based on the 60's! (looked just like Treasure's Shop) at the Riviera Centre.

The SVP went as Jimmy Saville and was mentioned in despatches in da toilets and in da hall of friendship ask to see the photos.

[\(its here Peter - Ed\)](#)



We all danced to the Searchers including a number of Elvis's, vicars and lots of floral, my lasting impression is of an Elvis walking slowly out of the building and his wife using a zimmer to rush out of the building.

11.30pm back to The Park for malt samplings in the Presidents quarters, pres had left his nuts in the car so went to bed starving.

Saturday

All arrived at Riviera centre on time, good speakers including Quentin Letts of TV and newspaper fame, to be polite about him; a very contentious speaker.



More Rotary speakers including our own Tony Horn on the Walkley Walk. Afternoon saw us hear more 'Rotary speak' but fortunately this was a rugby weekend so back at The Park.

Early evening: President and wife went to DG's drinks do, we just drank in the bar, back on parade in the evening, meal was very good, Chris Smith big band was also very good.

Adequate drink and pictures, Pres lost camera, Pres found camera in car, back to hotel Pres not in control, Pres's wife in giggle mode on bed, more malt in room plus Presidential nuts, some body said better by the handful; slept well.

Sunday

Again on time today Kate O'Mara talking and talking, she still has something and looks stunning at 50 yards; apparently the service was good.

Generally I've been to 11 or 12 conferences in 5 different venues and this is the best venue by far, weather-wise the worst by far, speaker-wise it needed one more non Rotarian.



Yes I shall be going next year, the more the merrier.



Steve Davison revealing that mephedrone really does help his garden

PS This is a must, Rotary District 1170 Conference 2010-11 on the web - watch it!

Many thanks Peter, it's always interesting to see how stalwarts of the Club let their hair down.

Remember.....



Hon Sec Richard Goddard