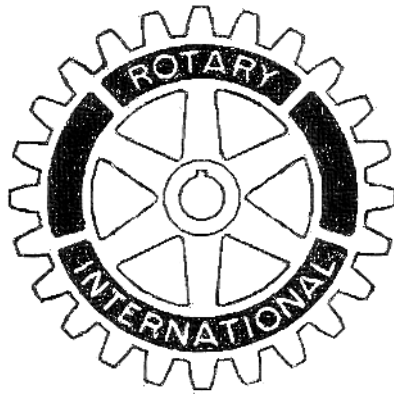


**The Rotary Club of  
CHRISTCHURCH  
1950-2000**



**Service above Self**

## **THE OBJECT OF ROTARY**

THE OBJECT of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service
- High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his or her occupation as the opportunity to serve Society
- The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his and her personal business and community life
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a World Fellowship of business and professional men and women united in the ideal of service

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH

1950 - 2000

## FOUNDER MEMBERS

R. P. Bagg	Refined Oil Products Distributors
S. G. Barber	Hotels Licensed
H. S. Bemister	Boat Builder
C. L. Bulstrode	Auctioneering Service
N. P. Burgess	Pharmaceutical Chemicals Retailing
E. W. Deane	General Medical Practice
D. M. Delaney	Public Defence - Land
W. Farwell	Farming
E. Garfield	Dry Goods Retailing
J. B. Grice	Fishing Tackle Manufacturing
A. B. Isaac	Industrial Machinery Manufacturing
C. Keith	Alcoholic Beverages Retailing Building
T. S. Lander	Building Construction
D. Llewellyn	Municipal Water Service
J. McIntyre	Feed and Grain Retailing
D. J. McNab	Public Health Service
V. J. Matthews	Architecture
B. A. Mead	Newspaper Publishing
J. H. Preen	Building Materials Retailing
R. P. Price	Established Church
G. E. Simms	Banking
K. L. Smith	Secretarial Service
W. H. Tucker	Fire Prevention, Airport Operating
J. L. Williams	Cigar & Tobacco Retailing
T. J. Williams	General Law Practice

## The 1950s

The Club commenced its formation in the Spring of 1949 with the very active personal participation of the then District Chairman Bill Reid of Bournemouth and the District Extension Officer Bill Salvatori. Sydney Barber, Manager of the Kings Arms, who became our first Vice President was one of the prime movers.

By the Summer of that year 26 Members had gathered together and the Inaugural Meeting was held in the Kings Arms Hotel on the 8<sup>th</sup> September under the Chairmanship of Bill Reid, and in the presence of representatives of other Clubs including the President of the Bournemouth Rotary Club - our sponsor. 24 of our Members attended. Robert Price, vicar at the Priory, was elected President, Bill Tucker Secretary and Gerald Simms Treasurer. Other Officers and the Council were elected at the same time.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1950 at a further Dinner in the Kings Arms again under the Chairmanship of Bill Reid and in the presence of representatives of the District Council and other Clubs, the Club was presented with its Charter together with presents from other Rotary Clubs.

The Club met for lunch in the Kings Arms for the first year or so on Thursdays, then following representations from the Boscombe and Southbourne Club on Fridays, and finally after a Club Ballot on Tuesdays. Meetings of the Club Council were held in the Vicarage for about the first four years, subsequently in the home of Gerald Simms at Lloyds Bank House for a further year, and since largely at the Kings Arms Hotel and the Avonmouth Hotel in Mudeford. The Club Council and the Aims and Object Committees as they were then called got down to work immediately after the Inaugural Meeting.

The first Rotary Civic Lunch took place in February 1951, the first Ladies Night in November 1951, and the first Ladies Lunch in May 1952.

Outstanding events of the first four years included the presentation of a park seat to Christchurch New Zealand in 1951 on the occasion of their Centenary Celebrations, the money being raised by public subscription, and the seat made by the Christchurch Apprentice Boys Scheme under the supervision of one of our Founder Members Tom Lander.

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We received a visit from the President of R.I.B.I. Stamp Wortley in November 1951 and we acted as Hosts at District International Service Conferences at Avon Tyrrell in 1953 and 1954. In June 1953 the Club sent a representative to the R.I. Convention in Paris and paid his expenses. In the same year there was a proposal to present a row of ornamental trees in Somerford Road as a Coronation Memorial. Unfortunately the idea had to be abandoned on the grounds of expense, and a Cedar Tree was planted in the Priory Gardens in lieu. In November 1953 a monthly Bulletin was instituted at the suggestion of Geoffrey Ratcliffe.

1954 saw the formation of the Inner Wheel Club of Christchurch under the Presidency of Freda Isaac, and with the very active encouragement of the Rotary Club which subsequently presented a President's Jewel. Sadly times change and the Inner Wheel Club no longer exists although former Members still hold regular Meetings in each other's homes. As a memorial

of the Jubilee of the Rotary Movement the Members presented five public seats to the town in 1955.

The Aims and Objects Committees indulged in many and varied active duties. The Community Service Committee was concerned with organising Christmas Parties for the children in the Hutted sites at Holmsley, and this activity continued for a number of years. Christmas Trees were erected on the Recreation Ground with Carol Singing and a collection, for among other Charities the Mayor's Christmas Cheer Fund. Flag Days were organised for different Charities, there were parties, coach trips and transport for the blind, and later there were itinerant Christmas Carol parties with house to house collections.

The International Service Committee operated principally as a Study Group covering such subjects as "Communism", "South Africa", "The World Health Organisation" and "Cyprus". It was also involved in a collection of clothes for The Save The Children Fund and with the fund raising for the Christchurch New Zealand Park Seat. The Vocational Service Committee was also mainly a Study Group, but it offered careers advice to school leavers.

In August 1955 the Club agreed to give assistance and support towards the formation of a Christchurch Round Table, and on the occasion of the Charter Night in March 1957 we presented the new Table with a Chairman's Jewel. In January 1956 the first two Freeman of the Borough of Christchurch Alderman Galton, and Alderman Tucker (father of our Founder Secretary) were made Honorary Members and in March 1957 we had a visit from R.I.B.I. President Leslie Bunker.

Late in 1956 the first contacts were being made with the Rotary Club of Cognac, initially with Rotarian Wilfred Krichefski of Jersey, District Chairman at that time and Eddie Garfield's brother-in-law. Perhaps it was co-incidental that Eddie was President of Christchurch but the contact was passed to us and the two Presidents Eddie and Louis David of Cognac corresponded with the result that we received the first visit from Members of the Cognac Club on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1957. 8 Members arrived with 6 ladies on a Wednesday evening and departed on Friday morning. From this small beginning stemmed the warm relationship which now exists between our two Clubs with many close friendships. In addition, there have of course been exchanges between our children and latterly grandchildren.

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In April 1959 the first "Sons and Daughters Lunch" was held and in the same month plaques were presented to the Secondary Schools as Rotary School Prizes in memory of Rotarian Bill Raithby, who had conceived the idea and obtained the plaques and who had died shortly before. In April the Rotary Club also opened a public appeal to raise funds to floodlight the Priory with a Club contribution of £50. Ultimately the sum of £727 was collected by the Club and the floodlighting was officially switched on, on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1959.

The Community Service Committee continued its Christmas Tree and its Carol Singing in conjunction with the Round Table, Inner Wheel and Ladies Circle but unfortunately this ceased in 1959 because of poor returns and the loss of fellowship was much regretted. Jumble Sales and Flag Days were again run, and help was given with a Guide Dog Project. Transport

for Old Folk and the Blind was maintained and there was a long period when car rides and presents were given to a small boy with progressive muscular weakness. A hut was supplied each summer at Avon Beach for the use of the Childrens Home at Capesthorne.

The International Service Committee remained basically a Study Group but on an intensive level. It also gave assistance with collections for the United Nations Refugee Fund and arranged hospitality for visitors to the District Youth Camp.

The Vocational Service Committee likewise was principally a Study Group considering industrial relations, local trading, and local business problems together with "My Job" talks from Committee Members.

## THE 1960's

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 1960 a Dinner was held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of our Charter.

In the next five years there were more Inter-Club visits. We had the first of a series of Inter-Club Quiz Meetings with Poole, New Milton and Lymington Rotary Clubs and the regular interchange of Meetings with The Christchurch Round Table was established. In January 1963 we had a visit from the President of R.I.B.I. Jack Pride. In November 1961, our Founder President and dear friend Robert Price left us on his appointment as Dean of Hereford, and he was given a noisy farewell Dinner. Robert joined our select list of Honorary Members.

May 1963 brought news of a settlement made to the Club by an anonymous donor through the Public Trustee for the benefit of Old Peoples Welfare. Many years later on his death the donor proved to have been a Member of a neighbouring Club who had been a frequent and very welcome visitor at ours.

In August 1963 we were allocated a "Contact Club" the Rotary Club of Meyersdale U.S.A. Correspondence was exchanged between the Clubs and our President Leslie Furneaux visited Meyersdale on the occasion of the Toronto R.I. Convention in 1964, and the President of the Meyersdale Club returned the visit in 1967. In May 1964 it was decided that the Club would organise a Charitable Trust in place of the weekly charity collection and in December 1964 the Rotary Club of Christchurch Charities Fund was formally established, to which Members may covenant a fixed sum per annum with a resultant income tax advantage to the Fund.

In January 1965 the Rotary Club of Christchurch New Zealand presented a garden seat to be placed in the New Zealand Garden at the Recreation Ground. In March we held our Fifteenth Charter Anniversary Dinner, and in May, a "Quiet Room" was provided at the Exeter Centre of The Guide Dogs For the Blind in memory of "Tommy" Thomson an enthusiastic worker for Guide Dogs and a much loved Member of the Club who had died in 1963.

The Service Committees again worked steadily and conscientiously during this period.

The International Service Committee repeated its collections for the Mayor's Christmas Cheer Fund, its Charity Draws, its Jumble Sales, its Christmas Parcels and Outings for old people. It

continued to provide a hut for Capesthorpe, and to give assistance at hospital and other fetes. In addition, a food mixer was provided for the Old Peoples Club, largely through the generosity of a Member, and practical help was provided at his home for a partially paralysed youth whose mother could not lift him. Several sets of driving lessons were provided for a handicapped man who required transport to work.

The International Committee continued to work as a Study Group. It was again concerned with visitors to Rotary Youth Camps, and on an appeal from the "Tanga" Rotary Club made a collection of books for Tanganyika.

The Vocational Service Committee was mainly a Study Group dealing among other things with training facilities for the young, the vocational problems of Members and making a study of "Education".

The period from 1965 to 1970 produced perhaps fewer highlights but the Club was in good heart and working steadily within its committees. Money was donated to Charities, too numerous to mention, including disaster and relief funds. The football sweep was organised and for many years "Dibley did it" with enthusiasm and humour, with the initial object of providing money for a President's Jewel for Cognac on the occasion of our visit there in 1967. The Wishing Well on the Quay was completed in December 1965 to be followed by the Mudeford Well in May 1968, and both have provided a substantial annual contribution to the Mayor's Christmas Fund.

In February 1969 the Lifeboat Ball was held at Pontins, in aid of the R.N.L.I., and £1,000 was raised of which £230 went towards the provision of a radio for the Mudeford Inshore Lifeboat and the remainder to the Westminster Rotary Club, who were organising a fund to provide a Rotary Lifeboat. Maintaining our interest in Christchurch New Zealand we made a contribution in February 1970 towards the cost of providing a Conductor's Rostrum in their new Town Hall.

In May 1970 Len Castle resigned as Club Treasurer after 15 years of devoted service.

The Service Committees to some extent widened the scope of their activities. The Community Service Committee continued with its well-tryed projects, the Christmas Collections, Christmas Draws, the Christmas Presents for Old Folks, the Eggs at Easter, the Pantomime Visit, the Summer Outing and the Transport for the Blind. The new Wishing Wells were a profitable source of income but they were a constant worry in that they were repeatedly broken into, and the contents stolen. Much money was spent on repairs but the thefts continued. A stop watch was provided for the Christchurch Swimming Club and a supply of hardwood was organised for a disabled man with a home workshop.

Towards the end of the 1960's flashing lights were provided in the homes of a number of elderly people living alone, in order that neighbours could be alerted in an emergency. Assistance was given in the formation of a League of Friends for Capesthorpe, a contribution was made to cover initial expenses, and one of our members became the first Chairman. The

International Committee started as a Study Group but soon became a Discussion Group to which foreign students from local Colleges were invited. Later "bilingualism", the introduction of a second language to very small children, became a major concern of the Committee impelled by the enthusiasm of Brian Mead. A small pilot scheme was carried out at a private Day Nursery by a French girl who was employed as an Assistant in a local Secondary School. The results were felt to be encouraging.

The Club entertained visitors from Israel on the occasion of the Group Exchange and a collection of books was made through the local schools for the Ranfurly Library Scheme. The Vocational Committee was a Study Group embarking on studies of communications, the Welfare State, Local Government and the "Law and the Public". It also gave assistance to a local Multiple Sclerosis case.

## THE 1970's

In September 1970 Denis Meadus, then Chief Inspector of Police in Christchurch, was nominated as a Member of the Group Exchange Team to visit Israel. He later went on the visit and when he returned gave the Club a graphic description of the Group's activities.

In December 1970 the Commonwealth Games Project was launched with the intention of sending two children to the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand in January 1974. Children were to have been selected by competition on the basis of an essay type project. For the success of the scheme, it was essential that a large number of children should participate. In the event the response was disappointing, and the scheme had to be abandoned, to be replaced at a later date by sending two elected children to the Villages d'Europe at Cognac. Eventually the sending of two or three senior children to the Villages d'Europe became an annual project designated the Rene Briand Award, in memory of a Cognac Rotarian who had done much to cement the friendship between our two Clubs.

In January 1971 there took place the first Schools' Public Speaking Contest in this area. This excellent competition continued for many years with the standard rising year by year. The winners at District Level were of a very high standard, but what a pity in our fiftieth year we no longer participate in a competition which can give such experience and confidence to young people.

A Dinner to celebrate the Twenty-first Anniversary of our Charter was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1971 when the Inner Wheel Club presented our Club with a magnificent "Evening Jewel" on a gold chain for use by the President on social occasions. A visit by the Luton Girls Choir to the Priory was organised in March 1971 in association with the New Milton Club, and over £120 was raised for Priory Funds.

The visit to Cognac in June 1971 was marked by the imaginative presentation of a six foot tall New Forest Oak together with a suitably engraved plaque mounted on a piece of Priory Stone. The tree was duly planted in the beautiful gardens at the Cognac Town Hall. The first of a



series of fund-raising New Year Balls took place in 1971. The AGM in May 1972 was the occasion of the presentation of a Senior Vice President's Jewel by the retiring President Jim Beattie. In the early part of that year arrangements had been in progress to provide a suitably modified motor car for a young paraplegic married man at Somerford, the money to be provided jointly by Round Table, Rotary and the Lions Club. The car was handed over in August 1971.

Desmond Cattell one of our own Members became District Governor of District 111 in July 1973 and the following month a Dinner was held to offer the Club's congratulations to Desmond and to celebrate this unique event.

The Club boundary was extended in October 1973 to include Highcliffe but with New Milton retaining the right to recruit in the ceded area. The Claire Puzey Memorial Caravan Fund which the Club pledged to support came to notice in May 1974.

The Service Committees proceeded on very similar lines as in previous years. The Community Service Committee maintained its familiar activities. In addition, it provided a pair of binoculars for the Christchurch Lifesaving Club. It recommended contributions to the Poole Hospital Cancer Treatment Appeal, and to the MacMillan Cancer Unit at Christchurch Hospital. Entertainment was provided for a party of Irish schoolchildren. During this period an old piano was obtained and fitted up as a "crazy piano", to provide taped music for money raising occasions, and it proved to be a most effective instrument and continues in use for our Christmas Collections in Saxon Square.

A substantial contribution was made towards a Minibus for the John Farmer School for the mentally handicapped, together with a short-term interest free loan. Calor Gas heating equipment was provided for the Scout Training Centre at Bransgore.

A contribution was made to the Salisbury Rotary Club's Appeal for an operating microscope for use in eye surgery in Mauritius. Summer Barbecues were organised to help provide money for The Rene Briand Award.

The Vocational Committee continued its studies and gave careers advice, if requested, and was much involved in organising the local heats of the Public Speaking Competition. In addition to specific Club Activities very many Members played a part in the Community in which they lived. They were active Members of their trade or professional associations involved in voluntary service in differing spheres, in hospitals, the Bench, and Local Government. Many past or present Members of our Club have been Town Councillors or Mayors of the Borough.

One of the highlights of the Club's Silver Jubilee Year was a visit from a reigning President of R.I.B.I. President Ted Harrop, who came to our Club in February 1975, and the numbers were swelled at that time by 120 visitors from all the Clubs in Group B of District 111 and two past Rotarian Clubs in the area.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary Dinner was held at the Kings Arms in March 1975 and the list of Speakers included four Rotarians. The Address was given by D. G. Geoffrey Wyatt.

Mention has already been made of the Villages d'Europe. The Scheme established organised holidays for young people of France, Germany and England to promote International Friendship. The children were offered a variety of recreational activities. Some Members of the International Committee made strenuous efforts to find young Britons to go on this Scheme. Some local children were sent, and paid for by the Club over a period of years, but the difficulty was to compete with the variety of organised school holiday visits overseas, and Hampshire Holiday Cruises etc.

The Christchurch Rotaract Club which we sponsored was chartered in September 1975. During that year £50 was given towards establishing a Childrens Centre in Northern Ireland and £130 to The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. A sponsored swim was held in aid of a caravan fully equipped for dialysis treatment which the Club bought to enable kidney sufferers needing regular treatment to have a holiday by the sea.

Further twinning arrangements were mooted. Cognac, being already twinned with Coblenz, a suggestion was made that Christchurch should link with that Club. President Bill Bentley and a small party from our Club visited Coblenz taking an engraved silver plated salver as a gift. The contact did not continue despite keen support.

In December 1975 the first discussions took place concerning twinning with the Rotary Club of Christchurch New Zealand.

During Ian Laughrin's Presidency organisation of a Charity Fashion Show began in conjunction with Marks & Spencer. The Bournemouth Winter Gardens was booked, and the co-operation of Bournemouth Rotary Club was invited. The event took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1976 with a profit of £990 and the proceeds were divided between the Claire Puzey Kidney Dialysis Fund, the Bournemouth Abbeyfield Society and CRUSE.

At the formation of our Club in September 1949 the first President was Canon Robert Price, Vicar of Christchurch. The first Senior Vice President had been Sydney Barber, Manager of the Kings Arms Hotel. But he did not proceed to the Presidency, which is why Robert Price filled the office for the first two years. Both were annually re-elected as Honorary Members until their deaths - Sydney in 1976 and Robert on Boxing Day 1981. John McIntyre, another of our Founders, was given Honorary Membership in 1976 as was the Chairman of Christchurch Round Table.

The Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen called for some special endeavour during the year. The Club presented a tree and a seat outside the Town Hall, and a Commemorative Banquet was held at Pontins at which Mr. Brian Clough and Mr. Leslie Crowther were the Speakers. The sum of £546 was raised, and who can forget the look on the face of our then President when he received his glass of Cognac from a special waitress!

On two occasions our club has nominated individuals for the District Group Study Exchange Teams selected to spend 4/5 weeks overseas on educational/goodwill missions. February 1976 saw Mike Westhead from the Borough Surveyors Department join a team visiting Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania. Our previous representative had been Denis Meadus.

In July Brian Woodfield and Terry Keith handed over to the Club a silver tankard in memory of Rotarian Charles Keith, a founder Member, and Past President. The trophy was given to promote fellowship and it was to be treated as a Challenge Cup, to be held by any Member of the Club until he had been challenged, and beaten, at one of a selection of three sports games or leisure activities offered by the challenger.

A first proposal for the formation of a Rotary Club in Highcliffe was made in October 1976 following discussions between our Club and New Milton. Within a year an interim Club had been formed there, and our Club presented them with their Presidential Jewel. Our daughter Club continues to thrive.

Talks about the formation of a Probus Club - a Luncheon Club for Retired Gentlemen - began in April 1977 and the first of such Clubs was inaugurated on the 18<sup>m</sup> April. A Member of our Club, Lester Watts, was largely responsible for the establishment and very satisfactory spread of Probus in our area. The new Highcliffe Rotary Club was inaugurated on the 14<sup>th</sup> July and its Charter was presented on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

On 30<sup>th</sup> April 151 lots of donated items were auctioned to pay for a caravan, to be presented to the Christchurch Training Centre for the Mentally Handicapped. The cost of the caravan and of towing it to its site totalled £871 which the Club paid.

The Club made its first collection of domestic items and tools for a "Disaster Box". It aims to have available for instant delivery, after a natural disaster, collections of basic tools etc to help start off the process of rehabilitation, and in later years the Box took on a dual use as a container for transport and as a container for water at the end of its journey.

Following Mike Westhead's Group Study Exchange Visit to Africa £200 was given towards the cost of a new Health Centre in Livingstone Zambia.

The year saw the first of a series of Community Bonfires which have been a remarkably successful feature of subsequent Guy Fawkes Nights. In describing these events as "Community Bonfires" the adjective has a two-fold significance. First, they are open to the whole Community and have been very well attended by families from a wide area. Secondly a number of different organisations have joined in to share the work "on the night" and to some extent "before and after". As a result, let it be recorded that large sums have been given to Youth Charities and young people over the years. Thanks are due to John Lewis whose brainchild it was, and to Max Normanton who bore most of the burden in the early years before the bonfire became an "institution". It was his sustained enthusiasm that ensured the ever-growing success of this annual Community Event and it is a lasting memorial to him.

The Club Council was approached in July 1978 in connection with a house which had been bequeathed by a Mrs. Kingdon to the W.R.V.S. for a specified purpose. Number 38 Island View Avenue was to be used as a small holiday home for persons needing a holiday following illness. The W.R.V.S. felt that they had not the resources to maintain and make the best use of such a bequest and they asked our Club if we would take it over.

Other activities during the year included making a useful profit of some £900 from the second of our Bonfire and Fireworks Displays and the presentation in Ken Dibley's year of a President's Jewel to Christchurch Inner Wheel, to mark their 25<sup>m</sup> Anniversary. A Member of our Club gave a chain to go with it.

The first of our now well-established Family Dinner and Carol Parties was held just before Christmas, and Peter Bulstrode gave the Club an electric invalid chair to be lent out, as and when required. Prior to his untimely death in 1982 Peter had in his usual quiet manner been of considerable help to the Club in connection with the sale by Auction of a variety of items collected by Members for the benefit of our Worthy Objects Fund.

The Charity Commissioners agreed in 1979 to our Club being given responsibility for 38 Island View Avenue, but the early days were not problem free. It was estimated that a large sum would be needed to convert the property into two flats. By the terms of Mrs. Kingdon's Will the sum of £3,000 went with the property, but it soon became obvious that the donor's wishes could be more effectively met if the house was sold and the proceeds used to buy other property, better suited to her wishes. The Commissioners approved the sale in February 1980 and the Club set up the "Kingdon Trust" to administer the fund - Brian Woodfield, Eric Pocock and Ray Brown being the first Trustees, since when many Members of the Club have assisted with the running of the Trust of whom Brian Ashman should be given special mention.

It so happened that another important Trusteeship was offered to our Club in 1979. This was the third for which Christchurch Rotary has had the honour of being considered trustworthy. The first was in 1964, to which reference will be made later in this history. The second was Kingdon Trust and the third was brought to the notice of President Eric Pocock in 1979.

We were asked whether we would take over from family trustees the administration of the Mary Elizabeth Dacome Homes of Rest in Burton. These Homes, four self contained units in a single block with a Warden's House, were provided in 1931 by an Uncle of John Dacombe, for some twenty years a Rotarian in Boscombe and Southbourne and one of the many friends Christchurch has had in that very close neighbouring Club. The original object of the Trust had already been slightly broadened to the provision of housing "for any females in need with preference to those having relatives living within easy reach of the Homes". John Richardson and Brian Woodfield attended their first meeting as Trustees in February 1971 when Brian was appointed Secretary of the Trust. John's son David Richardson is now the Chairman of the Trustees ably assisted by Ben Payne.

In 1979 the Club's "grapevine" system was instituted to provide an urgent need of communication between Members and it has been used effectively.

The Club took a continuing interest in the equipment to floodlight the Priory Church, and when it became necessary to repair widespread damage, and to put in a hopefully vandal-

proof system, the Club again rallied round and raised £450 through a "Sweet 'n Mellow" Dance.

In November the Club entertained to Dinner at the King's Arms a group of Rotary Governors and past Governors from Europe and the Mediterranean whilst they were holding their Annual Meeting in Bournemouth. Although it cannot be described as "Christchurch History", the award of a Paul Harris Fellowship to our very good friend from Cognac Louis David should be recorded.

## THE 1980's

During 1980 our Club had the honour of welcoming Rotarian Ted Harrop into Membership. Ted had been R.I.B.I. President during the year 1974/75.

The sum of £200 was given by the Club to the Mayor of Christchurch's Flood Relief Appeal. This Fund had been launched after unusually severe flooding had damaged some properties, mainly in the Iford Bridge area. The Club also sent out twelve single paraffin stoves and twelve lanterns as a crisis response to the Appeal for help for the victims of the Dominican Hurricane "David" disaster.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of R.I. occurred in 1980, and to celebrate it, Mr. Frank Bough was invited to speak at a Celebrity Dinner at Pontins when £835 was handed over to the Wessex Medical School Trust. R.I. Celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was the launching of the 3H Programme (Health, Hunger and Humanity) with a target of £750 per Club over three years. The Club gave its support to the 3H Appeal in a number of ways.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> May the Club held another Charity Auction when nearly £2,000 was produced for the McMillan Unit. The year saw the commencement of the continuing support, and help, the Club has given for the exchange of Rowing Club Crews between Christchurch and Cognac for their annual Regattas. A good example of promoting International Friendships amongst the younger and more active Members of both communities - one of the basic objects of Rotary.

As well as raising funds for good causes we continued to render service in kind - sending young lads to the YMCA activity holiday at Fairthorne Manor, receiving two disabled ladies on their annual visit to Pontins, giving holidays on the Isle of Wight, organising the weekly blind run to convey blind people to and from meetings in New Milton, visiting old people and taking them gifts, collecting tools for self-reliance, sending thousands of books to the Ranfurly Library Scheme and taking old folks to the pantomime and on summer outings. And so it went on with emergency boxes, sending young people on Sail Training Association Cruises and collections in the High Street at Christmas time. Rotary was at work in Christchurch.

In July 1981 Cognac Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and President John Richardson went over with 5 Rotarians, and a contingent<sup>2</sup> came from Coblenz.

With money from Mrs. Kingdon's bequest the Club purchased 45 Homecliffe House Highcliffe, and the flat was fully and attractively furnished for two persons, ready to be let at very reasonable rents to convalescent Rotarians, with their wives, or to others recommended by Rotarians. Another flat was later purchased at Homecliffe House.

Earlier in that year it was decided to amalgamate two of the Trusts which some Members of the Club administered. The first of those two Trusts had been set up in 1964, and Geoffrey Ratcliffe had been the brains behind the arrangements which resolved some of the tax problems which had arisen from the bequest to our Club by a late Member of the Boscombe and Southbourne Club.

The objects of the 1964 Trust were;

"To provide comfort either in cash or in kind for the relief of aged, poor or lonely persons residing in the Borough of Christchurch, and such parts of the surrounding District as are included in the Membership area of the Club, and to make contributions to other charitable and benevolent organisations directed to the public benefit, as shall from time to time be recommended for the time being by the Rotary Club of Christchurch"

The original Trustees were Bill Deane, Harold Furneaux, Geoffrey Ratcliffe, Eric Woodger and the Club Treasurer for the time being. Eric Woodger was the Hon. Secretary, until he handed over to Eric Pocock in 1982. The Club Trustees have over the years given a great deal of their time to our Club and recently Ian Laughrin retired as a Trustee having completed many years of service.

In February 1981 we supported the District decision to send 476 Valor Stoves to Italy, for victims of the Earthquake Disaster, and in April in pursuance of the "Celebrity Dinner" theme a suggestion was made that 500 people might be prepared to pay £9.50p each to go to a Dinner at Bournemouth Pavilion addressed by a certain Mr. Henry Cooper. A budget estimated that after expenses had been paid a profit of £1,200 might result but unfortunately the idea was dropped.

Rotary's Group Study Exchange Scheme has always received energetic support from the Club's Foundation Committee, firstly under the chairmanship of David Hewitt. In April five Californians and their Leader spent the morning in Christchurch. Members ensured that the visitors were convinced of the friendliness and enthusiasm of Rotary in Christchurch and possibly the best overall impression they gained of Christchurch was from the top of the Priory Church Tower, up the one hundred and eighty-nine steps of which they were escorted by some of our younger members.

The Foundation Committee also busied itself with the wellbeing of Christchurch Rotaract Club and with Youth Exchange. The former never lacked enthusiasm but needed help to expand. The latter needed a lot of prodding to find sufficient hosts for Cognac children wanting to spend some of their summer holidays in England. It must be recorded, quite categorically however, that those families which have participated in Youth Exchange have been utterly convinced of its merits.

Steps were taken in October 1981 to revive the Rotary Shield which had been presented by the Club to Grange School, but which appeared to have fallen into disuse. The records show that for some time it was behind Max Normanton's desk, then mysteriously moved to the side of his desk! The Shield was rewarded annually to the pupil, society or group rendering the best service to the School during the previous twelve months, but not for athletic or academic achievements. A similar Shield was awarded at Twynham School.

The Street Collections at Christmas time were boosted by a special appeal for contributions to the Penlee Lifeboat Disaster Fund. During the year Desmond Cattell, and his wife Joan, visited India to accompany James Macklin, Chairman of the Rotaract Club, on a Rotaract Exchange Visit and at this point it seems appropriate to note Desmond's exemplary work for Rotary, his great dedication being so happily matched with time to practise it. He joined our Club in 1963. Subsequently he became District International Chairman, Christchurch President, District Vice-Chairman, District Governor and a Member of R.I.B.I. Conference Committee, a Member of our R.I.B.I. Club Service Committee a Member of the Selection Advisory Committee for R.I.B.I. President and the District Extension Officer forming three new Clubs. Desmond added lustre to the good name of the Christchurch Rotary Club and thanks are due to Gordon Clarke for finding him. And now in our 50<sup>th</sup> year we look forward to another District Governor from Christchurch - Colin Dewsnap.

In June 1982 President Max Normanton and 8 Christchurch Rotarians took almost the whole of the Cognac Rotary Club by surprise by turning up as visitors to their ordinary Club Dinner which was closest in date to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first visit of Cognac Rotarians to Christchurch. The impact of the spaced out appearance of nine Christchurch Rotarians, in the upstairs room of the Coq d'Or was almost devastating! The Speaker at the Dinner was from the French National Savings Bank, on a My Job talk, but an added highlight was a speech in French by President Max. He recorded the happiest event during the whole of the history of our Club with the arrival of a letter in 1956 from Louis David, who was then President of the Cognac Club and in which he suggested a twinning with Cognac and said that if this was possible "we could develop this idea into the exchange of young people between our two towns which would advance their knowledge of each other's language and nourish a better understanding between our two countries". Max Normanton added that Eddie Garfield had been our President at that time and that his reply to Louis ended with these words: -

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"I hope that this will be the beginning of many years of useful exchanges thus adding something extra to the Rotary ideal of International understanding"

This being an historical record of events in the life of our Rotary Club it is not inappropriate to mention Monsieur Normanton's "joke that never was" (in French)! It so happened that shortly before our visit English newspapers had published reports of the installation in London on a trial basis of an invention by a well-known Parisian Engineering Company viz, "an automatic loo". Abandoning for once his customary extreme seriousness Max was prompted to refer to this interesting experiment in his speech. Unfortunately, the inexperience of Max with his French turned the loo into a automatic petrol pump! The eight mad dogs of Englishmen, who had been supplied with a preview of their President's speech with useful cues to indicate appropriate audience reaction, dutifully roared with laughter whilst our Cognac friends could not understand the sense of the speech or the English Humour!

On the occasions of visits to Cognac official gifts had been presented. Our Cognac friends have given us extremely attractive gifts, often of items not entirely unconnected with their world-famous Cognac Industry. Perhaps the gift most intimately demonstrating the relationship between the two Clubs was the set of twelve candelabra presented in 1981. These were made by Members of the Cognac Club and symbolically the vines stems stand for the basic elements in the Cognac Industry; the copper candleholders represent the distillation plant; the



Limousin oak stands are the material from which the casks are made for maturing and colouring.

Our gifts to Cognac have included a Christchurch Salmon, a President's Jewel, a Leather-Bound Visitors Book, and the aforementioned New Forest Oak Tree. Also a set of flags of France, England and Germany with a stand with room for a fourth flag if required.

It is worth recording how well the spirit of the twinning relationship between Christchurch and Cognac has been sustained. At every visit since its inception a quite remarkable speech in English was made by Louis David who initiated the twinning and younger generations of the Keith, Woodfield, Barnikel, Devall and Richardson families amongst others have visited Cognac.

In October the joys of Group Study Exchange were further explored when six Australian Rotarians from Sydney were welcomed to Christchurch and Highcliffe as part of their 42 day visit to the District. At the end of 1982 President Bill Barnikel asked the Vocational Committee to plan an enquiry into the thoughts of every Member of the Club on a wide range of subjects, policies and general aspects of Rotary life. The Committee worked on their briefing with great thoughtfulness.

Every Member of the Club received a questionnaire in 1983 prepared by the Vocational Committee and was asked to reply to about one hundred and eleven specific enquiries, 54 of the total membership of the Club of 57 replying. An eight page analysis of the replies was given.

Because it recalls the efforts President Joe Sibley led in 1968/69 it should be mentioned that on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1983 R.I.B.I. handed over its final instalment of the £100,000 it had promised towards the cost of R.I.B.I.'s Lifeboat "Rotary Service". The boat was launched by Her Majesty the Queen in 1979 and was stationed at Dover. Joe Sibley's "Lifeboat Ball" and other efforts during his year raised about £1,200. That was a good show Joe!

In 1983 our Club decided to have a seat, and tree, installed in the Christchurch Council's Saxon Square Development, to display the name of Christchurch Rotary Club in this addition to the trading amenities of the town. 2

Ann Barnikel had been working hard in producing a "Collage" of the Club Flags to decorate the top table and it was duly presented to the Club and was in constant use whilst we remained at the Kings Arms. Unfortunately, the table arrangements at the Avonmouth do not easily allow its use, but the generosity of Ann's gift is remembered, and one day it will again be displayed.

Walter Sidgreaves was President in 1984, and in a change to the usual arrangements his night was held at the Priory Hall, with a Cabaret provided by the Members of the Inner Wheel Club and very successful the evening was. The Presidential Year 1984/85 was not without sadness as in quick succession we lost two Secretary's on the untimely deaths of John Richardson and

Jim Devall. The vacancy on Jim's death was taken by James Morton who served in the position for five years. During 1984 a bed was presented to the MacMillan Unit at Christchurch Hospital and help was given towards the purchase of a specially adapted car for a polio victim. The Community Bonfire Evening continued to be a great success, with much needed help provided by other Service Clubs in the area and by "outsiders" whose valuable help it is right to record in this history - The Police, The Fire Brigade, Christchurch Borough Council, The Red Cross, St. Johns Ambulance and Fred Esterling who, with his son, did for many years organise and set off the fireworks.

With the proposed closure of the Kings Arms, for refurbishment, it was necessary for the Club to find a temporary home and we were welcomed at Dan Cooks (the Roeshot). In 1985 our then President Brian Woodfield hit upon the novel idea of inviting groups of young and old Rotarians to meet socially, so as to get to know and understand each other better. The writer remembers a very pleasant evening sitting by the river at Tuckton talking to Ted Harrop. That year included a Speaker Dinner at Bournemouth Pavilion the guest being a Minister by the name of Reg Smith. Hardly anyone had ever heard of him but was he good? - he was brilliant and the large profit was passed to the MacMillan Unit.

The Club took its part in raising money for The Bhopal Appeal for the Blind and continued to support the Indian Eye Camps which have saved or given back sight to many people in the Subcontinent.

In 1986 at the suggestion of James Morton the Club participated within Club on "Heart Start" where Members had an opportunity to learn basic lifesaving skills and discover their personal health rating. It was such a success that it led to "Start a Heart" which is now an annual event at the 2 Riversmeet, and for the benefit of the general public, with the leading participation of the Red Cross. In the same year Les Rendall gave us one of his Quiz Evenings an event which has latterly been taken over by Peter Boardman.

Times change, and in 1987 a revolution was about to take place. In the United States objections had been raised to Rotary excluding Women Members. The Courts declared that it was illegal and R.I.'s appeal to the Supreme Court failed. Although the ruling did not apply to R.I.B.I. the writing was on the wall. In the year 2000 Christchurch is a dual gender Club having agreed this by a majority vote, but it is still "All Male". The next update of the Club History will surely have a different tale to tell.

International Evenings were for many years a feature of the Club Programme 1986 seeing a French Evening on the theme "Allo Allo" John Morgan turning up in his flying gear with a handlebar moustache. A powerful talk on drug abuse and particularly the problem facing schools led to discussion within the Club as to whether, and how, we might be able to help. 1986 saw donations to Marie Stopes and the Red Cross received a "Resuscitating Annie". The Taverners Big Band Concert in November raised £2,243 for the Firemen's Fund. A Fire Tender, whilst travelling to an emergency, had been crushed by a tree in the storm and the occupants killed.

Earlier in the year two foreign trips of interest took place. John Kermode visited the Limuru Boys Training Centre for Farming in East Africa. The Club had assisted one student per annum for many years and Bill Deane was the Club Correspondent and Organiser. The second visit was to Cognac when Norman Thomas was President and a Cabaret was put on for our French Friends and featured those well known comedians Ronnie Barker - John Kermode, Ronnie Corbett - John Cooper, and John Cleese - Ben Payne. To cap it all Norman produced ten of his wonderful cartoons to commemorate previous visits.

Sadly the 1980's saw the loss of a number of Members. In 1988 Mary Sibley presented a Plaque of Past Presidents in memory of Joe, and Daphne Hayball presented a President's Briefcase in memory of Reg. In that year the Somerford Youth Club received a generous donation, its first from an outside body in thirty-three years. Money was raised by guessing, to the second, the time taken by the new rolling stock on the record-breaking run by British Rail from Weymouth to Waterloo, and again, the Taverners were performing at the Regent Centre and raised £700 for Polio Plus. The Taverners have served the Club well. A group of professional musicians they have given much of their valuable time including memorable performances abroad.

The biggest fund-raising event in 1988 was Eric Pocock's Pennine Way Walk, after which he crossed over to Ireland and finished his walk in Belfast. Eric's walk was made in memory of his daughter-in-law, who had tragically died of cancer at the young age of 28, and his aim was to raise funds for Cancer Research. His efforts raised £34,992 and Eric wrote out a cheque for £8 to make a round £35,000. What a marvellous and memorable effort.

As the 1980's drew to a close "My Job" talks continued as a regular feature as did Mock Interviews. A Race Night provided funds for Water Aid, and the Charity Stall managed to make money from "Junk"! - hard work though at 8 a.m. on a cold winter's morning.

Progressive Dinners organised by John Cooper were, and remain, a popular social event. The Club won the District Skittles Final, and here the compiler of this publication must blow his own trumpet or should he say throw his own skittle. Having suffered derision from his colleagues all evening, and with the match slipping away, it was his last throw and his only decent one of the evening which saved the day. In 1989 Dacombe Homes received the benefit of new bathroom heaters as a result of the legacy left to the Club by John Richardson. A GSE Ladies Team visited from Texas and another Team from Queensland Australia. The Club's nominee as District Foundation's Scholar, although unsuccessful, came very close to selection. A van load of books was taken by a Member of the Club to the Ranfurly Library Service in London and Jim Davison from the MacMillan Trust gave a talk. The Secretary of that Charity is now our own John K. Morgan.

As the decade drew to a close a Pollution Control Project was initiated - was this why Ben Payne gave up smoking at the same time?!

Finally the remaining Founder Members were rightly honoured, and on the same evening, with the presentation of Paul Harris Fellowships.

## THE 1990's

When the Club was formed the world was a different place, and business pressures were not the same. Lunchtime Meetings made sense, but most Clubs formed in the last twenty years have decided to meet in the evenings. Recruitment and retention of Membership became a matter of concern as the 1990's progressed. Despite much thought, and many proposals to accommodate the Membership there was some loss of Members and a decline in the number of new recruits. It is therefore gratifying to record as this publication goes to press that Brian Woodifield's second term of office as President has seen the induction of four new Members. Being President is both an honour and a pleasure, but it is also time-consuming and congratulations and thanks are therefore due to Brian and Ray Brown for taking on the task a second time.

1990 was a busy year for the Club both socially and in its fund-raising and community activities. A VSO Student, Steven Tetlow, was sponsored on his trip to the Solomon Islands. Bryan Taylor was busy organising a Water Aid Project in Africa (by phone and letter I hasten to add) and with the full co-operation of the Cognac Club, but local politics made it a difficult task. The Young Inventor of the Year Competition took place and finance for 127 trees in the Rotary Wood was provided. Members were asked to identify the specific needs of youth in the community. A seat was provided for the High Street and a tree to replace one lost in the hurricane of the previous October. A Cans for Recycling Project with local schools had some success, and Rotaract managed to sell 1,000 beefburgers on the Bonfire Evening. Our contact with Rotaract was strong and notably through the representations of Ray New and Martin Wootten.

It was the year of the Club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a special Dinner was arranged with the same menu as had been provided at the first Meeting. Some Members enjoyed a Gourmet Dinner at the Bournemouth College. On the sports side the fitter Members of the Club were busy winning or losing but always enjoying Fellowship with other Clubs. There was also a visit to the Lymington Club when the R.I.B.I. President was the Speaker.

In 1991 the Club Charity received a legacy of £4,500 from a local lady and to be used for whatever purpose it felt to be suitable. The money purchased a Portacabin to provide a much-needed extension to the Citizens Advice Bureau Office opposite the Recreation Ground. Donations were also made to the Rowing Club, which has been supported over the years and in which a particular interest has always been shown by Rotarians Toby Trowbridge and Ken Dibley. The Oak Tree in Cognac having unfortunately died a party went out to France to present a new Tree, but sadly ten years on this one is also looking far from well. Donations were made to the Priory for the Restoration Fund and to "The Children of Romania". Those Members who attended the District Conference that year were impressed by the speech given by the Romanian Ambassador, and when he visited the Parkstone Club the evening included the presentation of a cheque from Christchurch Rotary.

David Richardson was able to obtain the services of Sir Rex Hunt, and free of charge, for an

excellent Speaker Dinner in which the Vote of Thanks was given by John Truman and a large sum was raised part of which was donated to the Port Stanley Cathedral Fund.

Reference to the sad plight of the orphans of Romania is a cue to mention within this history the Club's links with East Europe and the outstanding contribution made by Colin Dewsnap. In 1993 at Colin's suggestion a group of young professionals were invited from Tatabanya in Hungary, the town with which Christchurch is twinned. They clearly enjoyed themselves immensely. Sometime after their return one of the party, Dr. Ferenc Rakoczi, set about forming a Rotary Club in Tatabanya and the Club was chartered in 1998 and in his opening address Dr. Rakoczi paid tribute to the interest of Christchurch Rotary Club. As well as Colin, both Steve Johnstone and John Kermode took a particular interest in Tatabanya with a number of visits.

By 1994 Colin had become International Chairman of District and he started to build up a relationship with Albania Europe's poorest country. Christmas Gifts were taken to the children of Librazhd and this annual giving has continued. Meanwhile the link had extended to the provision of equipment for schools and for handicapped children. In our 50<sup>th</sup> year Colin is busy arranging for the provision of a new computer suite in the High School at Librazhd. The most noticeable activity was however the Shoe Boxes Project. Thousands were packed, and wrapped, by children in the District and then transported to Albania - this is another giving which has continued due to the enthusiasm of Colin. The Club has made very substantial donations to the Kosovo and Mozambique Appeals. We are privileged to have Colin as not only a Member of the Club but also such an active International Rotarian, who will be District Governor in 2001 and will by following in Desmond Cattell's footsteps bring recognition to the Club.

1992 saw a link weekend for Rotary Foundation scholars organised by District under the Chairmanship of Brian Woodfield, with the assistance of Steve Ellson. An International Night was fashioned on the Swinging Sixties and a successful barbecue was held. The first Focus Interview took place - an evening when one of the Club's older Members is interviewed by another and gives his life story. The year saw the occasional Lunchtime Fellowship Meeting at the Rowing Club.

Arrangements were in hand for the 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Priory Church and the Club decided to provide a new Alter Cloth. At the instigation of Present Bryan Taylor a large project was taken on board. It was decided to hold a Charity Concert at the Winter Gardens in Bournemouth. The financial risk was great and the need for success critical. Despite last minute nail biting (particularly by Steven Johnstone - Bryan's sidekick) it was a huge success. The show was hosted by David Gower and featured the Homefield Orchestra, the Highcliffe Choir, the Southern Barbers Group, the Salvation Army Tambourines and the Opera Singer Bruce Rankin. A large sum was raised for Wessex Heartbeat, which was providing an accommodation house (Wessex House) for relatives of cardiac patients at Southampton Hospital, and Bryan had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for £3,784.

1993 brought a new Club into District - Andover Anton, and four Members attended the Charter Evening at the Army Air Corps Museum at Middle Wallop. The Cognac visit to Christchurch was as always a happy occasion finishing with a Gala Dinner at The Lanz Club. On a less happy note the relationship with the Kings Arms Hotel was far from satisfactory, with complaints about the quality of the food. The writer will allow himself a further plug by mentioning that it is recorded in the Bulletin that he managed to remove liver from the menu. This was not his intention he can assure you.

In 1994 a pupil at The Grange School suffering from Cystic Fibrosis was given financial help and collections were made in aid of the Rwanda Appeal. A Race Night at The George, organised by Rotaract, was great fun but somehow the rules seemed to favour the hosts! A highlight of the year and indeed in many years was "Kids Out" when disadvantaged children are taken to Paultons Park for the day. The Club organises the trip for the children of The Portfield School, which is run by the Wessex Autistic Society to which the incoming President for 2001/2 Terry Broadfield is closely associated. And what a moving experience it is, unless you are Roger and Ann Wills who did not move when the runaway train stuck in mid-air, and their ordeal hit the front page of the Echo.

1995 saw the Inaugural Meeting of the Christchurch and Highcliffe Interact Club the first Chairman being Edward Bond son of Paul and Gordon Robbins was busy organising a clear up in Convent Walk, with a Garden of Memories in prospect. Unfortunately the plan came to nothing but the clearance provided a day out and a lot of fun especially when a certain Member fell in the stream! Later in the year an Arts & Crafts Fair was held in the Druitt Hall in conjunction with the Bournemouth Branch of the NSPCC. Whilst the workers were busy in the Hall the President of the day wandered up and down the High Street dressed as Postman Pat entertaining passing children.

Foundation plays a large part in the life of the Rotary Club notwithstanding the fact that for many years the Chairman of the Committee has been a one-man band. A feature of the 1990's was Roger Wills efforts in raising funds for Foundation and Polio Plus through the sale of raffle tickets, the star prize being a Vauxhall Omega. This was a National Rotary Project and due largely to Roger's enthusiasm, and I must say determination, and against all the odds the Club managed to raise over £2,000 the largest sum within District.

A highlight of 1996 was the performance of The Cast Offs at the Regent Centre and this made a large profit. The Theatre was full and many curtain calls were taken. How we shall miss them and especially "That Cheeky Chappie".

On the social side, car, and on foot Treasure Hunts were a happy feature of Club life as were the many visits to London Shows for which Sue Taylor deserves a very special thanks - excellent shows and organisation.

The loss of our District Governor Dennis Cullen, whilst in Office, brought about an appeal within District to raise funds for the purchase of a Rotary Lifeboat and as ever Christchurch did its share. Bryan Taylor's efforts over the Water Aid Project finally reached fruition, but due to the difficulties previously mentioned it was decided with the agreement of Cognac

that the money should be put towards a road project in Mali which has now been completed. As the century drew to its close the Club continued with regular fund-raising efforts and with much success.

The difficulties experienced with the Kings Arms finally reached a head and it was decided to transfer to the Avonmouth Hotel where the Club has received a warm welcome and excellent service, although the lack of a ballroom is missed.

The celebration of fifty years of Rotary in Christchurch commenced in late 1999 on the anniversary of the Inaugural Meeting when a special dinner was held with our old friend and colleague Les Rendall, now a Rotarian in Seaton, Devon. Les gave an excellent and witty After Dinner Speech. At the end of the year, we sadly lost one of our remaining Founder Members Denis Delany, who has generously left to the Club a legacy of £500 for charitable purposes. A highlight of 1999 was the Fashion Show presented by the Club at Swards in Christchurch with many local businesses participating. In early 2000 another Show was presented, and it raised over £2,000. James Morton, Vince Sutherland and their team have worked hard on this project and it is hoped it will become a regular feature in the Club Calendar.

As the history of the Rotary Club of Christchurch over the last fifty years comes to an end mention must be made of three Members who have done sterling work behind the scenes. John Lewis has for many years organised the Members duties rota which is not always an easy task, Ben Payne has produced the annual list of Members and Bill Deane has worked diligently as our "Classification Officer". It is often the less glamorous jobs which hold a Club together. I apologise in advance to anyone I have failed to mention - it is certainly not intentional, and your contribution to the Club is appreciated. I must also give a special mention to the Salvation Army which over many festive meetings has entertained us with Christmas Carols. In turn we have given that Organisation contributions. Without doubt the Sally Army puts "Service Above Self".

Over the last fifty years we have lost many friends from our Club. Whilst too many to mention by name, they are in our thoughts and remembered with respect and affection as we recall their contributions not only to the Club, but to the Community and to the Rotary Movement. In concluding this second update of the Club History I recognise, with our thanks, the work of the previous Editors David McNab and Brian Mead and consider the words of John Kermode and of Paul Harris the founder of Rotary to be fitting as we look back with pride and forward to new achievements.

**"Long may we continue the standards set by him and in particular long may we greet each other at all times with a warm handshake and a warm heart. Let this be a living memorial to a great friend and Rotarian"**

John Kermode on the death of Brian Mead

**"This is a changing world and we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will be written over and over again"**

Paul Harris the Founder of Rotary

## PRESIDENTS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH

Robert Price	1949/51	Bill Bentley	1975/76
Brian Mead	1951/52	John Morgan	1976/77
Gerald Simms	1952/53	Ken Dibley	1977/78
David McNab	1953/54	Eric Pocock	1978/79
Ben Isaac	1954/55	John Lewis	1979/80
Bill Tucker	1955/56	John Richardson	1980/81
Eddie Garfield	1956/57	Max Normanton	1981/82
Gordon Clarke	1957/58	Bill Barnikel	1982/83
Norman Burgess	1958/59	Walter Sidgreaves	1983/84
Ken Smith	1959/60	Ray Brown	1984/85
Denis Delany	1960/61	Brian Woodifield	1985/86
Charles Keith	1961/62	Norman Thomas	1986/87
Reg Hayball	1962/63	Ben Payne	1987/88
Leslie Furneaux	1963/64	Roger Wills	1988/89
Bill Deane	1964/65	David Hewitt	1989/90
Tony Pinkham	1965/66	Colin Dewsnap	1990/91
Eric Woodger	1966/67	John Cooper	1991/92
John MacFadyen	1967/68	John Kermode	1992/93
Joe Sibley	1968/69	Bryan Taylor	1993/94
Harold Furneaux	1969/70	James Morton	1994/95
Desmond Cartel 1	1970/71	David Richardson	1995/96
Jim Beattie	1971/72	John K. Morgan	1996/97
Jim Devall	1972/73	Ray Brown	1997/98
Geoffrey Hamlin	1973/74	Steve Johnstone	1998/99
Ian Laughrin	1974/75	Brian Woodifield	1999/00



## Secretaries

Bill Tucker	1949/54	Barry Myers	1976/77
Gordon Clarke	1954/56	Lester Watts	1977/80
Norman Burgess	1956/57	Brian Woodifield	1980/83
Denis Delany	1957/59	John Richardson	1983/84
Leslie Furneaux	1959/62	Jim Devall	1984/85
Eric Woodger	1962/65	James Morton	1985/90
Harold Furneaux	1965/68	David Richardson	1990/94
Jim Beattie	1968/70	David Hewitt	1994/96
Geoffrey Hamlin	1970/72	Les Rendall	1996/97
Lyndell Abbott	1972/74	Peter Boardman	1997/00
Walter Sidgreaves	1974/76		

## Treasurers

Gerald Simms	1949/52	John Cooper	1986/88
Ken Smith	1952/55	Peter Stuckey	1988/90
Len Castle	1955/70	Tony Rowe	1990/92
Eric Pocock	1970/77	Steve Ellson	1992/98
Lionel Hume	1977/79	Tony Thomas	1998/00
Terry Keith	1979/86		

## THE MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH – 2000

Brian Ashman	Municipal Water Service
Mike Barnes	Philately
Bill Barnikel	Defence – Land
Bill Bentley	Education – Admin
Peter Boardman	General Law Practice
Paul Bond	Dentistry
Terry Broadfield	Quantity Surveying
Parry Brooks	Soft Furnishings – Retail
Ray Brown	Motor Industry Training
Colin Bungay	Quantity Surveyor
John Cooper	Community Centre Admin
Bill Deane	Medical Practitioner
Mike Devall	Restaurants
Colin Dewsnap	Local Government Admin
Ian Elkins	Yacht Building
Steve Ellson	Accounting Service
Harold Furneaux	Municipal Construction
David Hewitt	Metal Work & Finishing
Brian Hurrell	Education - Secondary
Steve Johnstone	Economic Development
Terry Keith	Garage & Service Stations
Ian Laughrin	Banking
John Lewis	Political Associations
John MacFadyen	Local Government Admin
John Macklin	Horticultural Machinery
David McNab	Public Health Service
Paul Mills	Property Development
John Morgan	Insurance – Broking
James Morton	Medical Practitioner
Terry Mulley	Fabricated Buildings
Ray New	Engineering
Ben Payne	Industrial Design
Eric Pocock	Veterinary Medicine
Richard Read	PR Consultancy
David Richardson	General Law Practice
Graham Silverton	Property – Surveying
Vince Sutherland	Printing
Bryan Taylor	Investments – general
Norman Thomas	Car Distribution
Tony Thomas	Finance – Banking
Reg Treadwell	Books & Agencies
Mike Trowman	Rubber Technology
Bill Vernon-Allen	Financial Services
Lester Watts	Variety Stores
David Westlake	Finance – Banking

Roger Wills  
Brian Woodifield  
Martin Wootten

Electronic Equipment  
Motor Industry Training  
Med. Care - Ambulance

## **Honorary Members**

Walter Sidgreaves  
Peter Quinn

Associations - Salvation Army  
Chairman – Christchurch Round Table

## CHRISTCHURCH ROTARY FAMILY

Terry Keith	First son to join Rotary
David Richardson	First son to be President
John K Morgan	First son whose father saw him as President
Tom Farwell	Son of Rotarian
Mike Devall	Son of Rotarian
Ian McDonald	Son of Rotarian
Brian Woodfield	Son in law of Rotarian
Bryan Taylor	Son in law of Rotarian
Ray New	Son in law of Rotarian
John Sephton	Son in law of Rotarian
David Hulbert	Son in law of Rotarian
Tim Skinner	Son in law of Rotarian

## MAYORS OF CHRISTCHURCH

Ken L Smith	1955, 1956 & 1957
John W Richardson	1958 & 1959
Barrington Myers	1962 (in Round Table at the time)
John S C Morgan	1970 & 1975
William Bentley	1971
James Beattie	1974 & 1979
Kevin Bishop	1980
Colin Bungey	1992 & 1997
David Flagg	2008 & 2009

## ROTORACT WHO JOINED ROTARY

Ray New	Founder President Christchurch
Martin Wootten	
Steve Ellson	Bournemouth Club

## ROUND TABLERS WHO JOINED ROTARY

Too many to mention (over 50), BUT

Eric Woodger

Bournemouth 5 member who helped form  
Christchurch 533 His daughter is married to  
Boscombe & S'borne Rotarian

Vee Young

Wife of Scott Youngman Ex Tabler