

## 2000 To 2001

### PRESIDENT: SIDNEY DENHAM

It is 10 years, almost to the day, since I took the chain of office from the late Adair Roche. His was a hard act to follow but with the support always given by club members to the incumbent president, the year progressed smoothly and rapidly (it seems now) to the passing of the chain to Ian Wright.

It was a very busy year, with many highlights, some of which were:

**The First Millenium Scholar.** The Millenium Scholarship was the brainchild of Adair Roche and the first scholar was former Simon Langton girl Gita Newth, who went to teach in a village school in Sabah. Here she is on her return having related her experiences to the club, flanked by some well known faces sporting village headgear supplied by Gita.



**Fund Raising** Ducks raced down the river Stour in both 2000 and 2001 but both races were just outside of my year! The main event was a musical hall concert at the Marlow Theatre, with the entertainment provided by The Linley Players and the administration provided by the club, with most members playing a significant part in

getting the “show on the road”. It was a resounding success and provided a welcome injection of funds to the Club charity account. Foot & Mouth disease struck the UK countryside that year and prevented us holding the Club’s *Jazz on the Farm* event at Tim Brett’s HQ – the event had been very successful in the previous two years and the Club had hoped to make it an annual major event, incorporating the duck race.

**Foundation Scholars** the District hosted a bumper bundle of Rotary Foundation Scholars that year (Sidney Roe was the District Officer in charge) and the Club hosted the formal welcome by District Governor David Bowley (back row )centre of picture:



**New Members:** Only one new member that year, Bob Anderson but as always, quality far outweighs quantity!

**Schools Public Speaking Competition** – The eloquence of the speakers from a good number of school entries provided proof that we can continue to have confidence in our future generations.

**Social Events.** The Club always ensures that rotary is fun and the many well attended events included:

*The August Cricket Club Cocktail Party*

*Visit by St Quentin Rotary Club* – Our turn to host them that year and we introduced them to the “Safari Supper “

*The Autumn Aperitif* – we were entertained by Cameo Opera in the Dominican Priory.

***Euro Debate*** - Chris Huhne MP (then MEP) and Prof Tony Thirlwall provided the opposing arguments at an enjoyable evening held at The Old Rectory,

*Golden Balls Competition* – our annual sporting evening with the Forest of Blean Rotary Club ended in defeat for our team but it was an excellent evening of fun and fellowship.

*Race Evening* – fund raising combined with enormous fun – somehow the ladies won most of the races!

*Pentangular visit to Ludenscheid* – a full coachload went to Ludenscheid, where for the first time in many visits, it didn't rain. The highlight of that weekend was the dinner dance on a steamboat sailing on a nearby lake.

Christmas Dinner. Our guest speaker seems to be enjoying himself:



This seems to be a great snapshot of the year on which to end this short summary. Would I serve as president again – possibly, but only after Tim Brett!

Sidney Denham, July 2010