



THE ROTARY CLUB OF LYME REGIS

Chartered 1950

SPECIAL "HISTORY" EDITION

April 2026 Bulletin



EXECUTIVE:

President: John Enticott

Secretary: John Berry

Treasurer: Bill Taylor

President Elect: Rob Harris
(President June '26 - July '27)

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WEBSITE:

www.lymeregisrotary.org

FACEBOOK

Rotary Club of Lyme Regis

INSTAGRAM

rotarylymeregis

MEETINGS:

Alternate Thursdays, 5.45 pm
for 6.15pm at Hunter's
Lodge, Raymonds Hill, Lyme
Regis (meals ordered by 6.00
pm)

(as we have a variable
programme please check with
Secretary first before visiting)

For Lyme Regis Rotarians:
Pls tell Secretary if you will
be absent on any evening.

THE FOUR WAY TEST

Is it the Truth?

Is it Fair to All?

- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



**SERVICE ABOVE
SELF**

Fellow Rotarians

Tempus Fugit "Time Fly's as they say and that's certainly true in my case. I find myself already half way through my short- term "caretaking" role as club president but it only seems like yesterday!

As you know I've been using the bulletin to keep you all updated in relation to proposals intended to reflect the outcome of the two surveys carried out late last year. By now everyone will have been provided with copies of the three reports which with the help of some fellow members, have been developed under the banner of "**Moving Forward Together**". However, I am mindful that only those who were able to attend the business meeting on the 12th March will have had the benefit of digesting their content alongside the supporting presentation which I made at that time. If you would like a copy of that power point presentation, do let me know and I'll arrange to get it to you.

On that say theme, I've been lucky enough to also view a video presentation given by Michael McQueen.at a recent Rotary International conference. Once again it seems that our club is ahead of the game as the theme of that presentation was the need for **change within Rotary**. I am able to say this because we have of course already started along that road but it is only the start of a journey that will see a phased transition to a new operating structure that I am convinced will be of massive long- term benefit to the club. In that respect I believe that it would be helpful for everyone to have the opportunity to view that video and so I will arrange this to be on the agenda for our next business meeting.

I realise that it's a heck of a lot for everyone to take in and it's important that members don't feel that they are getting "pushed" along but instead feel that they are being given time to fully digest and appreciate the journey ahead. **The truth is this: nothing changes until minds do.**

John Enticott.

President

THE WAFFLE HOUSE

On the 26th March we welcomed Ruth Wright, the Community Coordinator for the Community Waffle House, Axminster & Lyme Regis who told us about the ethos behind the founding of the Waffle House in Axminster in 2019.

Waffle is what happened when three friends with a heart for community, a hatred for loneliness and a passion for hospitality took a leap of faith.

They opened the doors of the first Waffle House in 2019 on the corner of the High Street in Axminster.

They shut the doors only 4 hours later having sold out of waffles, broken the grinder, air conditioning unit and dishwasher. As they sat on the steps of the retail unit apologizing to the steady stream of disappointed customers, they realized they had at least answered one question, people wanted waffles.

But they felt it was more than that, people were dying for the opportunity to connect.

So, a year ago the Lyme Regis Waffle House opened in the vacant premises of the old Post Office in Broad Street.

They set out to create an environment where individuals and groups could meet and have “conversation” over coffee and waffles.

This has now grown to include groups as diverse as the Axminster and Lyme Cancer group, a Spanish speaking group, with French and German in the offing, U3A, and many more, all meeting there free of charge.

On more practical side, they have opened a single Post Office counter, which was desperately needed. Connections have been established with the two local schools.

Several young people come and have done short work experiences as well.

Social events take place in the evenings. For instance, recently the Spanish group hosted a very successful tapas night. Music nights are planned. They even have a store with furniture that they donate to the needy.



They are more than just a coffee stop!



SKITTLES NEWS

District 1200 skittles. We are due to play Brit Valley next, they are the “home” team and as such choose the venue and suggest the date.

League 06/03/26 President’s Men 333 v **Argus 350**

18/03/26 **Presidents Men** 2 points & a **beer leg** point. v Marksmen (they forgot to turn up!!)

27/03/26 **President’s Men 360** (+ **beer leg**) v Anthill Mob 359

Rumour has it this win could take us up to third in the league?



THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY MK2

You may have seen or heard about the French Bayeux Tapestry coming to England and eventually on display at the British Museum in London from September 2026 until July 2027. Well, there is no need to go to London as there is an authentic British made full size copy in the Reading Town Hall on permanent display. To quote Micheal Caine “not a lot of people know that”. I thought it might be of interest to our readers to learn a little about why a replica was made here. Though the original in France is thought to have been embroidered in Kent in the 1070’s.



Elizabeth and Thomas Wardle, of Leek in Staffordshire, saw the embroidery in Bayeux in 1885. Through contacts with friends both in the Leek area and in London they agreed an English replica was a good idea. Copying hand-coloured photographs from the V & A Museum Elizabeth and her friends set to work. Thomas Wardle produced the woollen yarns, dyed to match the originals. The photos were traced and the designs transferred to lengths of linen. An ambitious piece of needlework was begun. Like the original, the replica is sewn in two-ply wool yarn on linen. (So strictly not a tapestry but an embroidery).

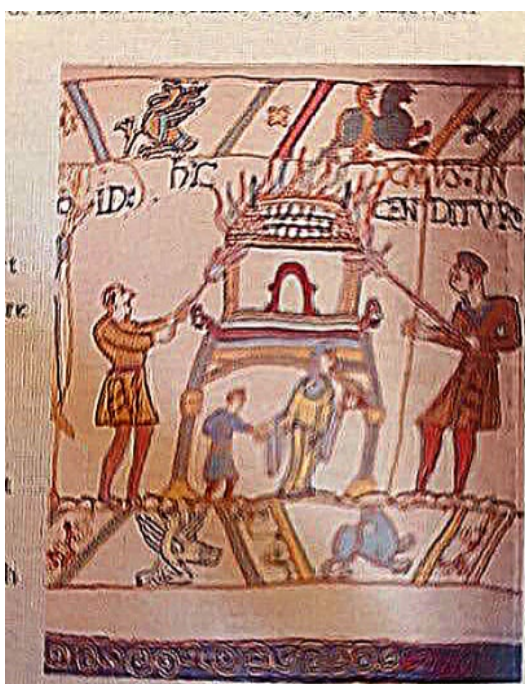
The original is over 70 metres long and depicts 626 human figures (only 4 of which are women) 190 horses, 33 dogs, 506 other birds and animals, 33 buildings, 37 ships and 37 trees or groups of trees, with 57 Latin inscriptions. Thirty five members of the Leek Embroidery Society set to work. Though not all came from Leek, some from Derbyshire, one from Birmingham, two in Macclesfield and two in London. They completed it in just over a year and the separate sections were joined together. After displaying it locally in Leek, just over 1200 people visited it and raised £10.00. in admission money (roughly £1687.00. today).

The Society then formed themselves into a company to complete the project and take it on a nationwide tour. The Tapestry was a major success wherever it went, though it brought little financial reward for the Society. In Brighton it actually made a loss. . In 1886 it went to the United States and Germany. By 1895, when it was booked to appear in Reading, the Society were considering its sale. It was shown in the Town Hall in Reading in June, as being on loan with the possibility of purchase. The Reading exhibition had been encouraged by Alderman Arthur Hill, a former Mayor, who through various friends may have been an acquaintance of the Wardles. Hill offered to buy the replica for Reading. He wrote to the Town Council offering the replica as a gift to the Town. This was accepted and Hill bought the Tapestry for £300.00. (roughly £39,000.00 now) to include the supports and a quantity of printed guides. Shortly after its purchase, Arthur Hill was commanded to take it to Windsor to show to Queen Victoria. In 1893 it was shown at the Workman’s Exhibition at Earls Court where it was awarded a gold medal, and shown there again in 1900. Back in Reading it was hung high up on the walls of the Small Town Hall, (now the Victoria Hall) and subsequently in the Art Gallery that opened in 1895. Here, in the days before the damaging effects of light pollution were fully recognized, it remained for nearly 30 years.

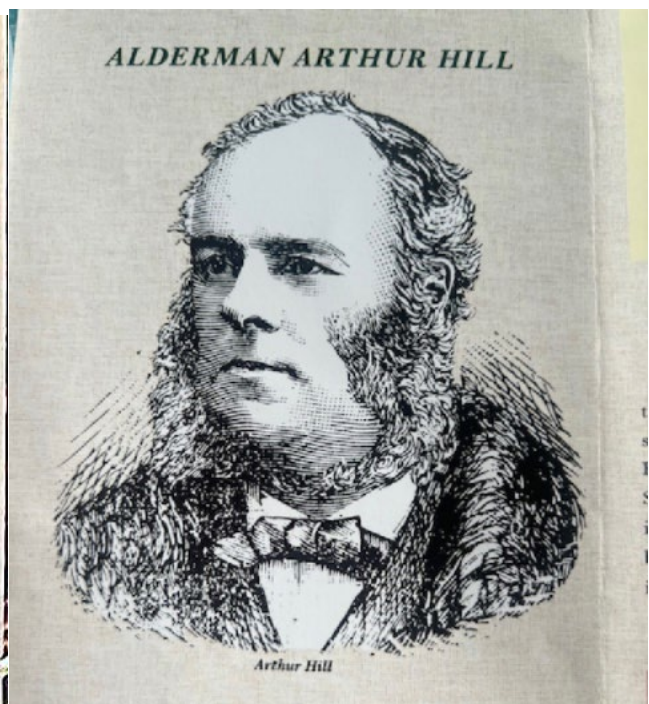


Cleaned in 1931 and again in 1965 to mark the 1066 anniversary where it was displayed in Battle Abbey overlooking the site of the battlefield itself. At no time was there a site big enough to mount a permanent exhibition until 1993 when an expansion of the Reading Museum in the Town Hall took place. It was then cleaned, relined and remounted, and set up as a continuous strip, though the 25 separate sections have not been physically rejoined. Displayed in a specially designed and illuminated case where it resides to this day. Entrance is free.

Below is an example of one of only four women depicted in the Tapestry, shown fleeing with her child from their burning home.



on



Jim M

Continuing the historical trend started with the Tapestry article. Many of us drive past the Lyme Regis Cemetery on a regular basis without giving it a second glance so I thought a little history lesson might not come amiss.

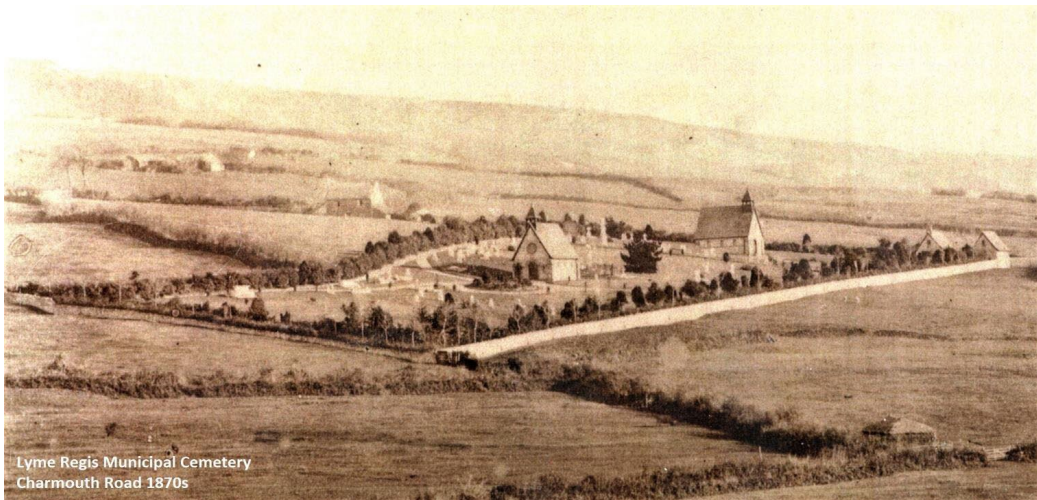
Lyme Regis Cemetery – An Introduction courtesy of:-

<https://www.lymeregismuseumresearchteam.co.uk>
Fred Humphrey, May 2020

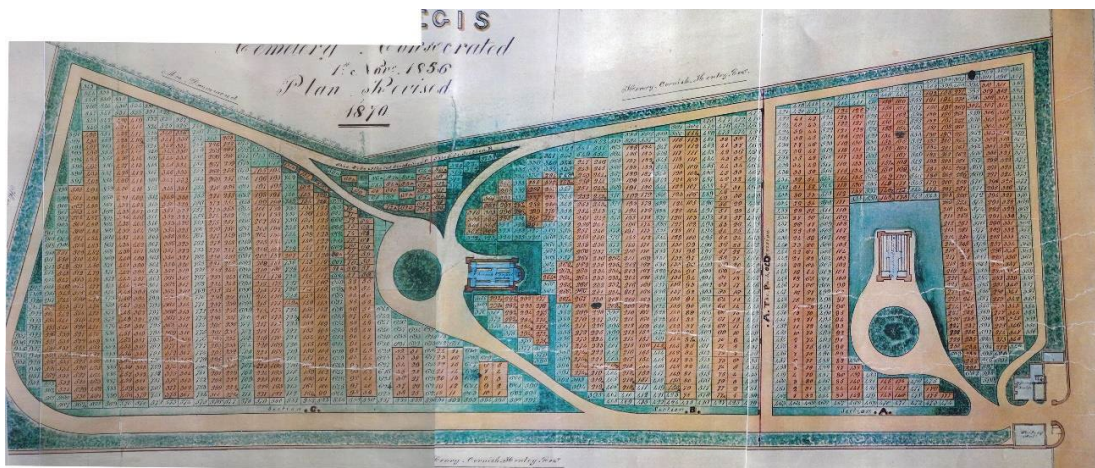
The graveyard surrounding St Michael the Archangel, Lyme’s Parish Church, was used until the middle of the 19th Century. It had long been subject to serious erosion, with several graves being lost to the sea. In the 1850s, it was decided to create a Lyme Regis Municipal Cemetery at the present Charmouth Road site. A conveyance from a local landowner, H.C. Henley was arranged in February 1856.



Continuing erosion of the churchyard shown in this 1909 photo



The Municipal Cemetery on Charmouth Road, c1870. The two chapels can be clearly seen.



The 1856 Cemetery plan was revised in 1870 to allow extra graves

The ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Salisbury in 1856, and the first burial occurred on the 16th of November. In time, a westerly extension to the cemetery was required and that was consecrated by the Bishop of Sherborne in 1935. The oldest graves in the cemetery are to the north and east, and trees and shrubs were first planted as shown in the 1870s photograph, but many more were planted in commemoration of the Coronation of King George VI in 1937, as part of a nationwide movement for the beautifying of the country. Originally the paths up to the chapels were wide enough for horse drawn carriages.

The Philpot sisters, Mary, Margaret and Elizabeth, created a significant collection of fossils and often worked with Mary Anning. After their deaths the fossil collection was presented to Oxford University. Mary Anning, her brother Joseph, Mary and Margaret Philpot are all buried in the parish churchyard, but because of its subsequent closure, Joseph's wife Amelia is buried in the cemetery, as is Elizabeth Philpot whose grave was later joined, in close proximity, by further graves of the Philpot family.

Six members of the crew of HMS Formidable are buried in section C of the cemetery. They were brought ashore in a lifeboat after their ship was sunk by torpedo on January 1st 1915.

A very detailed specification for the building of the chapels was dated 10th February 1856. It required one chapel for Church of England services, and one (nearest the road) for Dissenters (Nonconformists). The design for each chapel was identical, except that the Dissenters' chapel did not have a chancel, but three lancet windows instead. The 1870s photos shows each chapel to have a bell, and bell tower which were removed in the 1930s as they had become unstable.



Church of England chapel.



Porter's Lodge

Dissenters Chapel



The existing Porter's Lodge, recently modernised inside, is sited by the entrance gates. At one time this building formed a two-roomed cottage as the home of the porter, his wife and their four children. It was later extended to form a mortuary and post-mortem room. Today lodge is used by the LRTC cemetery groundsman and for storage by the Town Council., A Waiting Hall, also by the gates was demolished in the 1930s. The original gates, purchased in 1893 were lost, probably for iron reclamation in the Second World War. In wet weather, there was also a portable wooden 'sentry box', which has now disappeared. This would have been carried to the graveside for the vicar to conduct the service.

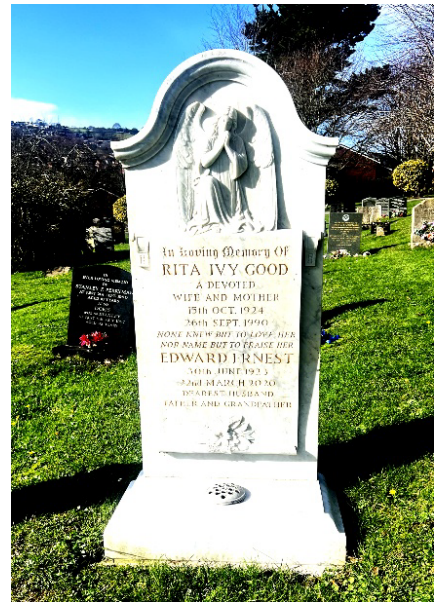
The C of E chapel is still open for services; there is seating for about 30 and in winter heating is available. The Victorian bier is fully sprung and in working condition for a coffin to rest during the service. The Dissenter's chapel is now a store for Lyme Regis Pantomime Society and the now defunct Lyme Regis Musical Theatre.

A selection of interesting head stones that can be found in the cemetery.



On the left is the grave of some of the sailors who lost their lives and whose bodies were recovered after their ship, HMS Formidable, a battleship, was sunk in Lyme Bay by a German submarine on January 1st 1915. Recovered bodies were bought ashore and laid out in the Pilot Boat. The landlords dog started licking the face of a “dead” sailor who miraculously recovered. Legend has it this gave birth to the Lassie stories.

On the right as a change from Celtic crosses on granite is a 2020 marble headstone to Rita Good, rip 1990 and husband Ernest Good, rip 2020.



This unusual headstone depicts a tree trunk carved out of granite, for a Harry Blake who died in 1904 aged 84 years.

This elaborate head stone is a memorial to a George Symes of Walthamstow, London, who died in 1898 aged 57 years. A quotation is inscribed at the bottom, it reads :-
 “Oh for the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still”.
 Apparently from the poem “Break, Break, Break” by Alfred Lord Tennyson written in 1835. Not a lot of people know that either!





More history!

Newer members may not have realized that our Rotary Club designed, paid for, arranged the various planning permissions, and got the Town Council to install three of these “Welcome to Lyme Regis” road signs. This was done in 2005 to mark the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Rotary in 1905.

Pictured here are the President at the time, Rtn John Eaton and the Mayor of Lyme Regis, Councillor Barbara Austin at the unveiling of the sign in the corner of John’s garden on the Charmouth Road. The other 2 signs were placed one each on the approaches to Lyme at the top of the Sidmouth Road and the other on the boundary of Dorset and Devon up by the Woodroffe School.

Because the Ammonite faded the Town Council decided a couple of years ago to replace them with their own designs.



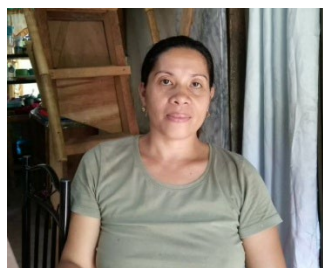
Right place right time! I could have waited days for that gull to arrive and then he would have been facing the other way! (*well the anchor is historical*) It was presented in 1995 by the Portland Royal Naval Base in memory of all their Lyme Regis men & women who made their living from the sea.

Jim M

LEND WITH CARE

It's been another great month for our Club in supporting the Lendwithcare Scheme for 4 more small entrepreneurs from 4 different countries around the world. All of them are now fully funded and are ready to improve their business prospects, as well as supporting their families and customers in their wider community.

Cecilia is a member of the Kuna Guapa Committee based in Paraguay who are a group of women working together to strengthen the businesses and to support each other. Cecilia runs a grocery store and wishes to increase her income to improve her families quality of life. The loan has been applied for to help her purchase more food products, including pasta, rice and flour and Yerba to make beverages and continue serving her customers with care and quality. (Woman in pink tee shirt)



Flora Mae is a mother of 3 children attending high school and elementary school and based in Cebu province in the Phillipines. She operates a small grocery store to provide additional income for her family and her husband works as a security guard. She sells a variety of products including canned foods, frozen items and energy drinks. In addition to this, she sells fish to help cover her children's education expenses. She is using the loan to create additional working capital and keep her store fully stocked to meet her customer demand.

Augustin is a married man with 5 children and based in Northern Rwanda. All his children are school age and both him and his wife are farmers growing a variety of seasonal crops specialising in bananas, for family consumption and sell the surplus made on to customers for extra income. He is aiming to expand his bananas crop on his current 1 hectare of land, by using the loan to purchase an additional hectare to generate 8 tonnes of bananas on the new land. He also employs 5 workers with the intention to employ 5 more to prepare the new land purchased. This will also help him to cover the costs of his children's education.



Linah is a member of the Sunshine 0704 Group based in Zambia, who are a group of determined women united by a shared vision to uplift their families through running small sustainable businesses and they are motivated by a desire to provide better opportunities for this children's education. She is a mother of 2 children and she sells, fish, blankets and African fabrics with her husband, who is also a farmer. She is using the loan to purchase more fabrics and blankets to increase her stock to meet customer demand and better serve her customers. (She is in the middle of the group).

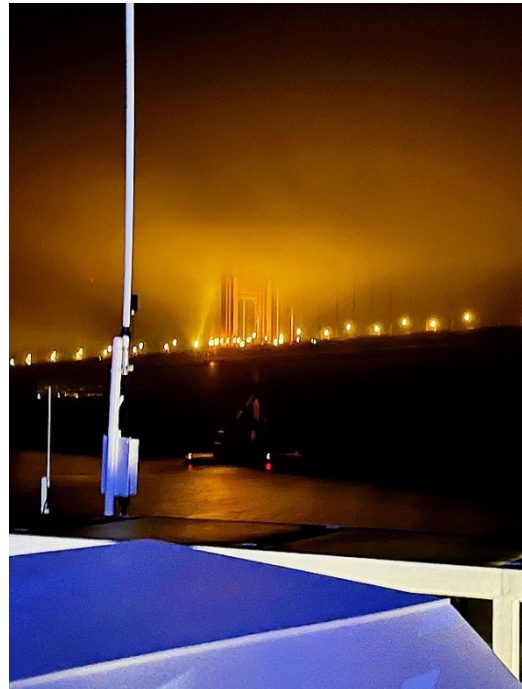
All these are great stories for great people who have been helped with the assistance of our Rotary Club through the Lendwithcare Scheme.

Steve White.

And from our foreign correspondent we were pleased to receive this feature.

Sometimes things just don't work out the way you want them to. The last time we sailed out of San Francisco the ship was several hours late in leaving and didn't leave the dockside till well after midnight, so I was tucked up under the duvet and missed the passage under the famous Golden Gate Bridge. That was around 10 years ago so I was quite looking forward to being up on the top deck when we sailed out on the Queen Mary 2 in mid February this year.

But the famous San Francisco weather had other ideas. A beautiful clear warm day, a slight change in wind direction and in came the famous San Francisco fog. (See picture right)



Then it was off to Sydney where I had plans to take a day trip up to the famous Blue Mountains. We had two full days, the chap at the Information Bureau said that the Tuesday would likely be foggy in the Blue Mountains but Wednesday promised to be clear. Never trust an Information Bureau weather pundit. (See picture. Caption- glad at least that I didn't book the sky ride that you might just pick out in the mist) Looks like we need to go back!! **John McCallum.**

It looks like he's decided to end it all, after all the weather setbacks!



I am using this article as an opportunity to share with you all, a short personal story about my realisation that Rotary values exist in the most unlikely of places and situations. So here goes! Those of you having the need to hail a black cab in London, will no doubt have been greeted by the driver's welcome of "*where to guv*". I found myself in such a situation a number of years ago and long before my days as a Rotarian, when I had to take my dear old mum for a hospital appointment. Having travelled to central London from Enfield for that purpose, I picked up the cab at Kings X station and asked the driver to take me to mum's place and then on to the hospital. On arrival, I looked at the meter and on exiting the taxi leaned in at the driver's window and offered payment plus the expected tip. "**No charge**" was the response. How come I asked, "*oh I always designate a no charge journey at least once a day in situations where I think it right and appropriate to do so and today, you're it*".

Years later, I recalled this story to my son who, wait for it, had by now successfully completed "The Knowledge" and was himself a licensed black cab driver. His response to that story, well he wasn't surprised at all "**Dad we all do that; it's a kind of an unwritten rule amongst the drivers**". He went on to say "**Today I picked up a very old lady from outside a doctor's surgery, she really didn't look well at all, I waited at the chemist while she picked up her prescription and then took her on to her place. No charge..... we just don't shout about it**".

Absolutely brilliant!

John Enticott.

It's no wonder there are so many dogs in Town when they are being offered free doggy beer by the Royal Lion Hotel!



Last in the series of earlier Club fund raising activities. This was set up by a previous Club member, Ron Skelton, whose son worked for the John Wilson Orchestra so was able to pull a few strings to get the Orchestra to come to Lyme Regis. It was no surprise that the concert was a sell-out. John Wilson has gone on to become very popular and has had at least one whole evening at the Royal Albert Hall during the Proms season. I suspect we would not get the Orchestra in Lyme Regis today for a similar cost pro rata to 2004. (didn't we love our music back then).

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LYME REGIS
PROUDLY PRESENTS

“Sunday Night at
the Marine Theatre”

A GALA EVENING OF BIG BAND SWING

WITH THE SENSATIONAL
John Wilson Orchestra

COUNT BASSIE TED HEATH BILLY MAY GERALDO NELSON RIDDLE

on Sunday 21st November 2004
7.45pm doors open at 7.00pm
tickets £15.00
available at
Fortnam Smith Banwell
Rumours Restaurant

evening to include a grand auction all profits raised
in aid of the Lyme Regis club for young people

The John Wilson Orchestra as featured on the Soundtrack of
forthcoming film release 'Beyond the Sea' the life and music of
Bobby Darin starring and directed by Kevin Spacey

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

April 2nd Council if required.

8th Indoor Sports @ Drimpton Royal Oak Inn with Brit Valley. 6.45pm for 7.00pm
Teams of 3 with non rotary members welcome

9th AGM & business

12th Exmoor Challenge



21st Visit to Riding for the Disabled Nr Chard. 5.30.pm

23rd Speaker, Holly Willis, from the home help company, “Home Instead” based in East Devon. Partners invited.

And finally have a look at our new website. Designed by Rob James a Club Honorary member.

<https://lymeregisrotary.org>

(More content still needs to be added, but this version provides an initial structure and gives an idea of the new site's direction. I hope you'll agree it's a step forward. Comments are invited, **Rob James**.)

I have deliberately put this as a last item so that you just might go straight to the site and put the address on file?

Jim M.

