

Thanks for coming back

The trustees are delighted to welcome Geoff Holt, his wife Elaine and their son Timothy back to Lowestoft.

Geoff agreed to take time away from planning his next venture – sailing across the Atlantic – to open our new Rotary Boathouse. As the inaugural Chairman of RYA Sailability and the first quadriplegic to sail single-handed around Britain he is an inspiration to all disabled sailors. His story, in his own words, with a forward by HRH The Princess Royal and an afterword by Dame Ellen MacArthur, is in his first book entitled *Walking on Water*.

During his sail around Britain in 2007 Geoff called into Lowestoft in August and was greeted by local Rotarians including our own Chairman, Richard Morling, our secretary, Kevin Taylor, and sailors John Goodwin and Adrian Hood. It was a short visit as the weather conditions had caused numerous delays. We hope this visit will be more relaxed and the weather for our big day will be kind.



Geoff in his Challenger trimaran 'Freethinker' sails out of Lowestoft

Following the official opening by Geoff, the Rev Helen Jary will dedicate the Rotary Window in memory of Rotarian Don Ross who served on the steering committee and was a great worker for Waveney Sailability during its early years. We are delighted that Don's widow, Lorna, will be with us on the big day.

If you want to read *Walking on Water, A Voyage Around Britain and Through Life* by Geoff Holt, signed copies will be available at the official opening.

A review of four short but glorious years

Waveney Sailability has come a long way since its official launch on 23rd August 2005; its success is due to the hard work and generosity of many people and the companies and organisations that they work for or control. On page 5 we have published a list of those who have

contributed to the new building and in the following paragraphs we look back at some notable events that typify the support that we enjoy.

The plans for Waveney Sailability followed a visit to Rutland Sailability on the 1st July 2004. Local Rotary clubs were seeking ways to mark the centenary of Rotary International in 2005 and a local Sailability centre was one of the ideas put forward. Members of several local Rotary Clubs spent a day at Rutland talking to the officers, helpers and sailors of Rutland Sailability. As we walked onto the sailing club's balcony the sight of Access dinghies, the names of local Rotary clubs on their sides, greeted us.



A view of Rutland Sailability 1st July 2004

During the visit to Rutland we had our first meeting with Mike Gallon, who has worked tirelessly as the link person with Rotary, and John Morley, who was a great help to us in those early days. They cannot be with us for the official opening but we are grateful to them for their encouragement and guidance.

At Rutland the sight of so many disabled sailors benefiting from the work of local Rotary clubs was enough to persuade us that we had found a suitable project to mark 100 years of Rotary and my talks with the treasurer at Rutland confirmed the financial viability of the project. All we needed was the support of some local Rotary clubs in the Waveney area and we could get started.

A steering committee was formed, plans and projected costs were presented to local Rotary and financial support was secured for a full project evaluation. Five Rotary clubs each donated £200 and on 3rd May 2005 *Waveney Sailability Limited*, company number 5441492, was incorporated, a company limited by guarantee. With the company in place we were able to proceed with the registration of the Charity and we were given the registration number 1110365.

The first directors were Richard Morling, Kevin Taylor and David Collins, who was also the first company secretary. Kevin is the current company secretary, Richard is

the Chairman and David is the finance director. In 2005 Colin McManus joined the board as fundraising director and in early 2006 Vince Meadows, who is one of our experienced sailors, was appointed to the board. Chris Addison was made a director in 2007 and Jackie Soards was appointed in 2008. All the directors work hard for the Charity but as Jackie said to camera on our DVD, 'I get more out than I put in' – she was voicing the thoughts of all the directors.

Having agreed to set up a new Sailability centre we had to agree the most suitable boats to use on our home water at Oulton Broad. Rutland has several classes including Access and Challenger, a trimaran. Our sailing experts and in particular our secretary and retired boat builder, Kevin Taylor, recommended the Access range of boats because:

- They have a shallow draft suitable for Oulton broad.
- They have a ballasted centreboard that can be lifted out when the boat is stored on land.
- With this ballast the boat does not tip over, thus keeping the occupants safe.
- The sails can be rolled up around the mast for storage and to reduce the sail area on windy days.
- As the seats face forward it is not necessary to keep moving around as you have to in a conventional sailing dinghy, because the ballast is in the boat and not the sailors.
- Steering is by a simple joystick.
- A bucket seat is available for people needing lateral support.
- The low freeboard allows for easy access both for ambulant people and those requiring a hoist.
- There is the option of electronic controls with a single joystick to control all. There is even a suck-blow mouthpiece control and more options are available.

Chris Mitchell who was born in Melbourne, Australia, designs the Access dinghies and the ancillary equipment. Described as 'a shy little bloke', the gate from his backyard opened onto the wide expanse of Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay. From rafts and canoes to rowing dinghies, with his mother's broom handles for masts and bed sheets for sails, it was an apprenticeship in poor resource innovation. By the age of 12, he'd designed and built a 2.4 metre catamaran,

followed by a series of off-the-beach sailing dinghies.

During time in SE Asia, Chris designed the forerunner of the current Access 2.3 and since his return to Australia in 1992, the company has been formed, a factory set up, staff employed and trained, manufacturing processes developed and the Access Dinghy Foundation established. Although there are now nine models of Access dinghy available, we operate only two, the 303 and the 2.3.



Access 303 – sail area reduced due to windy conditions



Access 2.3

By January 2002 over 750 Access dinghies had been built and they are now being sailed in 10 countries around the world.

The philosophy is far more than little boats and sailing. Because sailing is the ideal catalyst that brings together members of the whole family and community. It integrates disability and helps able-bodied people to understand disability, it fosters racial harmony, and includes minorities and the elderly. It involves young children in a clean and natural environmentally friendly activity, which is good for them, and thus a good for the whole community.

Many of the sailors have restrictions prohibiting them from taking part in other sports, but with these boats we have discovered that we can include all! Access dinghies were designed to appeal to that huge majority of the world's population who would love to have a go at sailing, but find it too difficult or uninviting to do so.

If you would like to find out how you can help us with this very worthwhile philosophy the details are on pages 5 and 6.

With the boats selected we placed our order and the first three dinghies, two Access 2.3s and an Access 303 were delivered in August 2005; on 23rd August 2005 we formally launched Waveney Sailability. The first dinghies carried the names of the Rotary clubs of Lowestoft, Lowestoft South and Lowestoft East Point.

It was a memorable day for the Rotary movement in this area and an important day for our members who were soon out on the water in the new boats.

The fleet then expanded to five following the delivery, in late September, of another Access 2.3 sponsored by the Rotary Club of Gorleston and Beccles and an Access 303 provided by the Rotary Club of Wymondham.



The official launch of Waveney Sailability on 23rd August 2005, with the late Don Ross second from left

For the winter of 2005/06 Rotarian David Hannant, who was in the party that visited Rutland in 2004, provided covered storage for our fleet of five Access dinghies. Shortly after we started the 2006 sailing season Rotarian Roger Harrod of Karpel Kingdom provided funds for the purchase of another Access 303 – *Finney Harrod*. This was the first boat of the fleet to have white rather than the traditional yellow sails. The sails carry the name of the family business that has provided carpets and floor coverings to many local houses. Roger and his wife, Joan, are regular supporters of Waveney Sailability events and their generosity has helped us to raise substantial sums for our work. Roger, who will provide the marquee for the opening of the new Rotary Boathouse, has used his business vans to collect various items, including the trailer for the latest rescue dory, from the supplier.

In July of 2006 we were given a Squib – *Inspiration* – and after some remedial work our members who need to have a carer with them were able to take a sail on Oulton Broad.

With fundraising in the hands of Colin McManus, who had joined the board in 2005, we started on the expansion of the fleet. *Tom Breezer*, the local name for a heron, was added to the fleet in August 2006, sponsored by the Broads Authority Sustainable Development Funds. In 2007 the chairman of the fund, Nigel Dark, the Chief Executive of the Broads Authority, Dr John Packman and several colleagues came to see *Tom Breezer* out on the water. Although the weather was terrible, with monsoon-type rain sending up spray from the water, the visitors were amazed to see every boat in use and members waiting under cover ready to take their turn in one of the Access dinghies.

Our refreshment team provided hot drinks, cakes and biscuits in the club house but Nigel and his colleagues insisted on going out onto the pontoons to take a closer look at their boat. Their umbrellas were no match for the torrential rain and they were soon very wet but impressed by the determination of our

members not to miss a chance to enjoy some sailing.

Shortly after the visit Colin McManus was asked to make another application for grant funding and soon had the paperwork completed. The Sustainable Development Fund agreed to provide £9,250 to be used for two more Access 303s, a supply of sailing suits (waterproof to withstand heavy rain!) and more life jackets.



Our logo is on the sailing suits and life jackets. The life jackets also carry the Broads Authority logo

In 2006 our fleet increased again following support from the Rotary Club of Norwich via a Radio Broadland event and a donation from Barclays Bank. The local staff held a 'sponsored row' in the Lowestoft branch and head office doubled their contribution. These two donations provided us with another Access 303. Just as the 2007 season was drawing to a close Access 303 *John Gillespie* sponsored by the Rotary Club of Dereham was delivered.

Safety cover is essential at every sailing session and for the first two years the Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre provided the safety boats. Richard Thomas and his team gave us excellent cover and helped to train our volunteers. However we had to pay for the instructors and the use of the safety boats. A grant from Suffolk Single Gateway helped us but we could not be sure that this support would continue.

Help was at hand, Rotarian Tony Mobbs made a very generous donation and we were able to acquire our first safety boat. We were delighted to welcome Tony and his family to the Waveney and Oulton Broad Yacht Club on a warm and sunny day in 2007 to name our Avon 5.4 commercial RIB *Thelma* after Tony's late wife. On the same day Betty Petitdemange, the widow of Rotarian Roy Petitdemange, handed over a recovery system that can be used with the RIB to rescue sailors from the water. Chris Addison was the first volunteer to test the new system – or was he pushed?



Our Safety RIB 'Thelma' and Chris Addison testing the recovery system



Whirlygig and Bishybarnybee from the Broads Authority Sustainable Development Fund

On the same day Sawford Marine, the UK manufacturers of Access dinghies, arrived in Oulton Broad with the two boats pictured above. They also delivered *Spirit of Denise* another Access 303 sponsored by The Marine Safety Centre Limited in memory of a young relation of the directors, Wendy, Barrie and Jason Hunt.



Three new boats, including 'Spirit of Denise', join the fleet. Barrie Hunt on the left

These additions to the fleet of Access dinghies took our total to 12.

We also have a 5.76-metre Squib *Inspiration*, which is used to take those who cannot become independent on the water for a short sail with the boat under the control of an experienced sailor. Andy McQuistan generously donated the Squib, built in 1973 by Oliver Lee, to Waveney Sailability

A second support/safety boat *Alfred Corry II*, named after a former Southwold lifeboat, has recently joined our first safety boat, the RIB *Thelma*. The thermoplastic dory was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Southwold and District and is powered by a Yamaha 9.9hp outboard.



Alfred Corry II keeping watch over the fleet

The members of the Southwold Club have been regular supporters of this Charity and we are very grateful to them for this latest contribution. The Club's name and those who have contributed to the development of the new Rotary Boathouse are on the 'Donors' Board', which will be unveiled by Geoff Holt at the official opening.

We also own a two-boat road trailer, manufactured by the boat supplier,

Sawford Marine, and donated to us in 2006 by Inner Wheel District 80. The trailer was used to move boats to winter storage before we had our own boathouse and in the future we plan to take some of our boats to other Sailability centres in order that our members can compete in Access open events.

A few weeks ago Sawford Marine demonstrated an electronic system for Access dinghies that will allow some of our members to sail using only a small control box with a joystick. Keith Ferridge was the first member to test the effectiveness of the equipment fitted to the demonstration Access 2.3. One of our boats was returned to Sawford for the new equipment to be fitted and is now available at our regular sailing sessions thanks to the financial contribution from Asda Stores Lowestoft.



Keith puts the electronic control system through its paces

Safety is an important part of our planning, as is the comfort of our members while they are out on the water. Some of the funds from the Broads Authority Sustainable Development Fund were used to increase our stock of life jackets and to purchase our own sailing suits – jackets and trousers. The new boathouse will give us adequate space to dry and store these items using the industrial-size wheeled clothing rail provided by a supplier to Spencer Green at his former business Lawrence Green Limited. Some of our readers will remember the business for the brightly coloured suits made for local fisher boys when Lowestoft was one of the major UK fishing ports.

For the first four years of Sailability Richard Thomas and his colleagues at the Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre (OBWSC) provided the safety cover that we must provide at each sailing session. We had excellent service and Richard helped us to develop our own Health and Safety Policy. However, although the cost was covered by grant support we realised that grant income cannot be guaranteed.

Accordingly, with the help of Richard and his team we have been developing our own team of sailing instructors and safety boat drivers. This is continuing and as Richard said when he was interviewed for our DVD his team are 'gradually drawing back' as our team gain the necessary qualifications.



Richard Thomas – senior instructor at the OBWSC



Our members receive the certificates – October 2007

Over the next few weeks Jackie Soards and Chris Addison hope to become qualified Dinghy Instructors and we are delighted to be able to confirm that Bryan Riley has recently become a Senior Instructor following the completion of a course run by Essex County Council at Bradwell.



Senior Instructor Bryan Riley

Our own Boathouse

Moving the fleet to covered winter storage is time consuming and labour intensive. With the support of various businesses we were able to get the boats under cover but we could not do any maintenance.

We soon realised that the only solution was our own boathouse on the land at Colemans Dyke, Oulton Broad, rented from Waveney District Council (WDC). The site, which is large enough to accommodate a building and hard standing for the fleet during the sailing season, was fenced off and surfaced in 2006. All we needed was a lease from WDC and of course the money to pay for the construction costs. The trustees agreed to launch an appeal and were delighted when the Rotary Club of Lowestoft East Point gave an undertaking to donate £5,000 to mark the 10th anniversary of their Charter. The Club's President, Paul Tabiner, presented the initial £2,000 cheque to our Chairman, Richard Morling, and our member John Goodwin at the Club's Burns' Night Dinner in 2007.



President Paul Tabiner (left) presenting a cheque for £2,000 to John Goodwin and Richard Morling – Photo Alan O'Neill ©

At the Burns' Night Supper John spoke about his sailing experiences with Waveney Sailability and how much he has enjoyed the opportunity to sail again with his wife Sue. The guests were greatly impressed by John's words and the sale of

raffle tickets was boosted by his enthusiasm. Before the evening finished a local businessman offered to supply the roof trusses free of charge, the first of many offers that were to follow.

As part of the fundraising we had to produce some good-quality publicity material but we could not afford to spend vast sums from our limited reserves. This problem was resolved when local artist Peter Fletcher agreed to produce an impression of the new building. The framed watercolour was presented to our Chairman, Richard Morling, at the AGM held at Parkhill in March 2008 – the fundraising appeal was underway.



Peter Fletcher presents the watercolour to Richard Morling

As soon as the boathouse appeal had been launched formally our Fundraising Director, Colin McManus, started work on identifying grant-making companies and other organisations that could help us to cover the projected cost of £25,000–£30,000.

We needed cash or donated materials and if possible the building should be ready for winter storage by the end of November 2008. With the £5,000 from the Rotary Club of Lowestoft East Point, the plans approved and grants of just over £4,000 confirmed to Colin, we decided to start work. WDC had still not produced a lease but a letter of intent sent to our solicitor confirmed that our tenancy was secured.

In July 2008 Ley Plant completed the concrete base and we had received a quotation for the erection of the wooden building from a local craftsman – Vince Smith. Colin reported more successful grant applications and by the end of August we had banked just over £13,000.



Ley Plant at work on the base

The appeal had also attracted interest from a number of local companies which offered materials free of charge. In addition to the roof trusses already mentioned we had pledges for doors, roofing felt, battens, insulation and roof tiles. All the roofing materials were obtained from suppliers to Harrison Roof Tiling Limited following appeal letters sent on our behalf by Managing Director Tim Harrison. Southwold Scaffolding had also offered to provide their services without charge.

The directors approved the quotation from Vince Smith and using materials supplied by Smith Bros the shell of the new building was soon taking shape. Oldman Homes delivered the free roof trusses and Vince fitted them to the timber framework.



Vince Smith at work on frame and roof trusses

With good weather forecast and the frame completed, Vince installed the insulation, internal panels and the black external cladding that would match the adjacent buildings. The weather then deteriorated and with a cold wind blowing off the water Harrison Roof Tiling fitted the roofing insulation felt and battens.



Fitting the cladding

Tim Harrison and two of his craftsmen offered to fit the roof in their own time and without any cost to us. Over two weekends Tim, Nick Palmer and George Knights completed the roof and we had a building that was watertight but still needed the main doors. Right on cue Pat Spillings delivered four solid oak doors and, although many of our supporters would have been happy to use them on their own garages, Vince soon had the hinges fitted and the doors in place – the building was secure.



Tim Harrison supervises the fitting of the ridge tiles



Kevin has the honour of shutting the doors for the first time – 11th November 2008

Offers of help and financial contributions were still coming in. With the appeal at £22,000 and timber treatment completed (free of charge by Addison Decorations Limited), we were planning the fitting out. Dave Gentry, one of our regular helpers on sailing days, and his son, Liam, of Gentry Services (East Anglia) Limited, offered to complete the electrical installation free of charge, but by this time it was October and the fleet needed to be put under cover ready for the winter. However, we ordered the cable and fittings and made plans to move the boats into our new building.

At the end of November, with the weather threatening to turn very cold and wet, a team of volunteers supervised by Kevin moved the fleet into its new home; the Access dinghies stacked two high on frames designed by Kevin. The RIB, on its trailer, was also carefully manoeuvred into position and with hot coffee and biscuits we celebrated the completion of the winter storage. The new facility had saved a great deal of time and although the fitting out could not be completed until the spring of 2009 all our assets were safely stored under our own roof.



The fleet goes under our own roof for the first time

Although we had a new building of very high quality we had still not received the final draft of the lease from WDC. In February 2008 the landlords had confirmed that the lease would be completed during May of that year. Now in May 2009, our solicitor has still not received the lease. Although we were satisfied that WDC intended to grant a suitable lease we had hoped to settle the legal issues before the official opening. It would be a very pleasant surprise if it arrives before the big day but as we go to press we are not holding our breath.

With the sailing season over for 2008 it was time to take stock, plan for 2009, and consider what we needed to do to complete the boathouse project. The directors had identified grants from earlier years that could be used to complete the work and with so much free labour and materials it was clear that we had been very lucky. The appeal had raised over £22,000 including contributions from those who agreed to 'buy a board' at £5 per 5 metres.

As soon as the boats were taken out of the shed ready for the start of the 2009 sailing season work started on the internal fittings and decorations. The team from Addison Decorations painted the floor and walls, completed the external decorations – all without charge – and Colin Fuller of East Coast Heating and Plumbing

Services Limited started work on the plumbing. Gentry Services van also arrived on site and the electrical system was installed.



Electrical work by Gentry Services

The most pleasant element of the project was still ahead of us. With the help of Mike Gallon of Rutland Sailability, who has been a tireless supporter of this Charity ever since our fact-finding visit to Rutland, we were able to persuade Geoff Holt to be our guest of honour at the official opening.

We have come a very long way since the launch of Waveney Sailability in August 2005; we are the fastest-growing RYA Sailability centre in the UK. Mike Gallon is on holiday and therefore cannot join us on the 26th May. However, the editor will make sure he gets some photographs and a copy of this edition.

With the completion of this major project we have secured the future of this Charity – we have a good size fleet, two safety boats and a fantastic building to store and maintain the boats and equipment.

They made it possible

At the official opening Geoff Holt will unveil the Donors' Board which was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lowestoft East Point. We hope by the time Geoff declares the new Rotary Boathouse open Kevin will have finally decided which way is 'up'!



Kevin being Kevin!

If you did not get time to read the impressive list of contributors to the project, those who made substantial donations of cash, materials and labour are as follows:

Geoffrey Watling Trust
 The Adnams Charity
 The Suffolk Foundation
 Harrison Roof Tiling Limited
 Southwold Scaffolding
 The Staff & Partners of Lovewell Blake
 Oldman Homes limited
 P J Spillings (Builders) Limited
 Nicholsons Solicitors
 Oakwood Developments Limited
 Peter Fletcher
 Addison Decorations Limited
 Henstead Stained Glass & Carpentry
 Smith Bros Limited
 Gentry Services (EA) Limited

Insurelink (EA) Limited
 John Brash & Company Limited
 Sheffield Insulations Limited
 Proctor Group Limited
 Sandtoft Roof Tiles Limited
 Lowestoft Charity Board
 The Rotary Clubs of:
 Lowestoft East Point
 Lowestoft South
 Gorleston
 Broadlands
 Beccles
 Bungay
 Southwold & District
 Great Yarmouth
 Norwich

Ian Garrett designed the building and the
 Quantity Surveyor was John Game.

The Directors of Waveney Sailability Limited



Clockwise from top left: Richard Morling (Chairman), Kevin Taylor (Secretary), David Collins (Finance and Publicity), Jackie Soards (RYA matters), Colin McManus (Fundraising), Vince Meadows (Sailing); bottom row: Chris Addison (Assistant Instructor).

The Right to Sail at the Awards Ceremony

Our very own DVD *The Right to Sail* is the story of Waveney Sailability in the words of those who benefit and those who helped to make a dream become reality.

Professional film-maker Alan O'Neill of chpv Offshore Energy Media Services spends much of his time filming or taking photographs for the North Sea energy companies that have been part of our community for over 30 years. Alan started his photographic career while he was in the army and joined Lowestoft photographer Charles Hodge when he left the army and came to Lowestoft. Alan made two life-changing decisions while working for Charles Hodge: he proposed to the firm's photographic printer, Nicky, and when Charles retired Alan acquired the business.

Alan and Nicky have two daughters, Jennifer and Emily. With the help of Emily, who was responsible for the sound recording, and Clare Weller, formerly of Anglia TV, Alan has produced a powerful film that can be used to promote the work of this Charity.

The DVD was selected as one of the four finalists in the *Creative East Awards 2009 'Best Non-Broadcast Production'* section, one of 15 that were chosen by a

panel of expert judges. A short extract was shown during the awards ceremony held at the Theatre Royal Norwich on Friday 8th May and hosted by Clive Anderson.

Our DVD did not win the award but to have been selected for the final is a great credit to Alan and his team who gave their time free of charge. However, the hard work of Alan and his colleagues has been winning for us in other ways. When one elderly resident of a local care home saw the DVD she wrote out a cheque for £200!



Alan, Emily and Clare in our safety boat 'The Thelma', with Jackie Soards at the wheel

Although the running time of the DVD is about 20 minutes, Alan spent over 100 hours filming and editing before he was satisfied with the final proof. The script and interviews are all by Clare Weller who travelled with Alan to talk to some of our many supporters. Copies are available on sailing days and social events at £5 and can be ordered by post for £5.50 (including postage and packing) from Waveney Sailability, 59 Harrington Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4JX. Please remember to give us your address.

Financial and practical support

Since we formed Waveney Sailability in 2005 we have had fantastic support from Rotary clubs, individuals, and local and national companies and organisations. As reported earlier in this edition donations in kind have helped us with the new building.

We are also grateful to all those who give many hours of their time to keep the Charity functioning not just on sailing days but throughout the year. Without the hard work of this dedicated team the increasing number of sailors would not be able to enjoy their time out on the water.

It is easier to raise funds for larger and very public projects where those who make it possible can see the specific item that they have helped to pay for. However, with the assets in place we must be sure that we have the financial resources and the volunteers to keep the Charity working for the benefit of our members. With each new asset – be it boat, rescue system or building – comes an increase in our annual operating costs. Boats need regular maintenance, river tolls have to be paid, insurance premiums increase and equipment, such as life jackets, need to be inspected. We keep the annual subscriptions as low as possible: £50 for sailing members, £20 for non-sailing members and helpers. Gift Aid can help to increase the value of subscriptions and donations where the individual pays UK Income Tax at the basic rate.

If you would like to help by giving your time you will be welcome to join in and you will soon find you get far more out than you put in. We always need help on sailing days and you could be trained as an assistant instructor or as a safety boat driver. Talk to Kevin on 01502 475228.



Our helpers prepare the fleet on a sailing day and operate the hoist

We also need sponsors for this newsletter and you can have your logo or a short advert at the foot of page one for £50 for the one edition. Or would the following be of interest:

Boat running costs £175pa (£136 net of Gift Aid)
 Life jacket service £9 each pa (£7 net)
 Boathouse insurance £220pa (£172 net)
 Mooring fees £500pa (£390 net)
 Yacht Club subscription £624pa (£487 net)
 Sling for disabled use £175 (£136 net)

Or you can just make an annual contribution by signing a standing order form available from David Collins on 01502 564658, and if you can sign a Gift Aid Declaration each £1 you donate is worth £1.28 to us.

International visitors

Earlier this month a Rotary International Group Study Exchange scheme team from the Philippines visited us. The annual project involves the exchange of groups of young people from all parts of the world who are accompanied by Rotarians from their own country.

The team visits various parts of the country and joins in a number of Rotary club meetings where they give a brief presentation. This year's team spent four weeks in this Rotary District. One week in North Norfolk, a week in the Newmarket area, followed by a week in Ipswich before finishing with a week in Great Yarmouth.

During a visit to the Rotary Club of Gorleston the team were asked what had been the most memorable part of their visit to this area. The team leader and two other members of the team immediately said, 'our visit to Sailability'. A copy of our

DVD *The Right to Sail* has been taken back to the Philippines to be shown to Rotary Clubs in Manila.



Visitors from the Philippines at the Rotary Boathouse

Report and photograph by Colin McManus

More good news on fundraising

A report by Colin McManus

Those present at the AGM in March will have heard that earlier this year I was successful in an application for a grant from the NHS Small Grants Programme. We were awarded a total of £10,000 for revenue costs over two financial years, £5,000 in 2009/10 and £5,000 in 2010/11.

The NHS Small Grants Programme and Waveney Community Forum can only spend the money under certain headings, which have been approved. As the Waveney Sailability (WS) Fundraising Director, and with the help of the Finance Director, David Collins, I will have to send in a report every six months detailing how we have spent the grant, and showing how much WS is being used by sailors, carers, volunteers, etc. Copies of *Newsability* and other publicity material will also form part of the report. Our running costs for this year are estimated to be between £8,000 and £10,000; with the new boathouse they could be more. Therefore we are extremely grateful to the NHS Small grants Programme and the Waveney Community Forum for the award of the grant which has enabled us to keep our subscriptions for this year at the same level as in the past two years.

Colin McManus, Fundraising Director

Our special window

As the Charity was started to mark the centenary of Rotary International it seemed appropriate to call the new building *The Rotary Boathouse* and to include the organisation's logo on the building.

We were delighted when the Rotary Club of Lowestoft South agreed to sponsor the Rotary window and we welcomed their suggestion that it should be dedicated to the late Don Ross.

**Donald Henry Ross
1932–2007**



Don was born in Rochester and moved to Lowestoft in 1937 where he attended Lowestoft Grammar School. At 17 he joined the Royal Navy at Dartmouth College, subsequently winning a place at Cambridge University to read electrical engineering. His varied career included observer training in Malta and test-flying in various aircraft in Northern Ireland, and later he served as Defence Attaché in Lima, Peru and Bolivia. Retiring with the rank of Captain in 1987, Don worked as contracts manager for British International Helicopters, and was a patron to the local Sea Cadets in Abingdon in his spare time.

But there was a lot more to Don. He was a devoted family man: he and his wife, Lorna, had three boys. When he returned to Lowestoft in 1994 he joined the Rotary Club of Lowestoft South and in 2005 he was Club President. He was one of the main protagonists in the formation of Waveney Sailability and served on the Steering Group for several years. His sense of humour and ability to bring fun to all around him will always be remembered.

An example of his sense of humour was his membership of the Flat Earth Society, a group of like-minded soles who thought and acted 'outside the box', mostly in the pub! In 2006 he joined a group of cyclists on a journey around southern Holland, although he had not been near a bike for many years.

Don was a keen sailor, taking holidays with his brother-in-law, George Catchpole, to the Greek Islands many times. On one occasion, for fun, he insisted that they went surveying for the Admiralty! On their chart there was shown a pinnacle of rock and they decided to look for it. When it was located they discovered the pinnacle was not 60 metres down but 50 meters, so they decided to inform the Admiralty in case any submarines found it. They reported to the Admiralty Hydrographer and subsequently the depth was changed on their charts, in spite of this being an unofficial survey. To all and sundry it is now known as Don's rock.

He is greatly missed by his family, friends and sailors.

Kevin Taylor, Fellow Rotarian and Friend

Editorial

I am grateful to all those who have submitted reports and photographs for this very special edition. To keep the newsletter interesting and informative I need more reports, photographs and some 'Letters to the Editor'. You can comment on *Newsability* or the new facilities. Please send submissions by email to: collinsdw.gunton@btinternet.com

Today marks the end of our major fundraising activities. We have an excellent fleet, good safety equipment and a superb new building. However, if we are to keep the costs of sailing at a reasonable level we will need to establish a regular income stream from a wide range of supporters. Please help us keep Waveney Sailability sailing!

David Collins, Editor