



Carnival Of Colour And A Kartful Of Fun

# BILLERICAY & WICKFORD

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Price £1.10



- Thousands race to the second annual soapbox races
- Rides, entertainment and refreshments add to 'terrific atmosphere'
- New big screen lets more people watch the carts in action

wo early World War 11 British perfectly.

Firstly: "Went The Day Well?", a fear that we might not be winning the war. Well, Our Day Went Wonderfully Well!

After ten months of assiduous, gruelling and heart-thumping talking, discussing, working and

negotiating, on Bank Holiday Monday, May 1, 2017, we can say proudly that we won not only most of the battles but we certainly won the war.

Proudly presenting our Souvenir Edition Newletter on our Rotary Event of the Year. A description of the day, stories of our entries, some club members' perspectives, photographs, and so much more. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we did staging the event.



## Soapbox Derby 2017 - The Prize Winners

We are all totally exhausted by the preparation and running of this year's Soapbox Derby, but it's all so satisfying when we read the positive comments made directly to us, and via Facebook and Twitter.

We now know that 8,500 spectators watched the Soapbox Derby, and our total profits exceeded last year, despite the increased costs of the video screens, toilets, children's play area and more food outlets. The final figures will be published on our website, Facebook and Twitter.

These are the final results.

#### Fastest Soapbox:

**1st. Team 127** - Soapboxspeed. com with their Soapbox - QR02 **2nd. Team 165** - The Walkers – with their Soapbox - The Rolling Dead

**3rd. Team 146** – Roll Out the Bunting

#### Wacky Racers

**1st. Team 132** – Killer Heels with their Soapbox Nearly Virgin Air and a maximum score of 60 out of 60

2nd Team 107 - The Gut, The Beard, The Bald and The Lanky with their soapbox Calamity Jane 3rd. Team154 – The Full English with their soapbox of the same name

#### **Corporate**

**1st. Team 101** - Only Fools and Horses with their soapbox Trotters Independent Traders

**2nd. Team 147** – The Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower with their



soapbox Mayflower Marauders **3rd. Team 126** - Parabar Lightning with their soapbox Olivia Newton Bomb, jointly with **Team 159** - Mayflower Marauders with their soapbox The Jolly Roger

#### Student

1st Team 165 - The Walkers – with their Soapbox - The Rolling Dead jointly with Team 109 - Quilters Junior School with their soapbox the Quilters Express 2nd. Team 136 - 25th. S.E. Essex Boys Brigade with their soapbox Formula None, jointly with Team 110 - The Fresh Prince of Big Hair with their soapbox of the same name.

**3rd. Team 152** - Team Westwood with their soapbox of the same name

## Raffle

The Raffle cost £1.00 per entry and the prizes were:

- A weekend's use of a Luxury Mercedes Benz saloon (donated by Mercedes Benz of Lakeside)
- A full Luxury Professional Valet of the winner's car (donated by Mercedes Benz of Lakeside)
- Two prizes each of 6 tickets to the Fathers' Day MotorFest at Weeley nr. Colchester (Donated by Essex Motor Show)
- Three prizes each of 4 tickets to the Festival of Wheels at Barleylands (Donated by Essex Motor Show)

#### The winning tickets were:

- 1. Ticket Number 12724
- 2. Ticket Number 12845
- 3. Ticket Number 12832
- 4. Ticket Number 12857
- 5. Ticket Number 14783
- 6. Ticket Number 14774
- 7. Ticket Number 12123

## Social Media Challenge

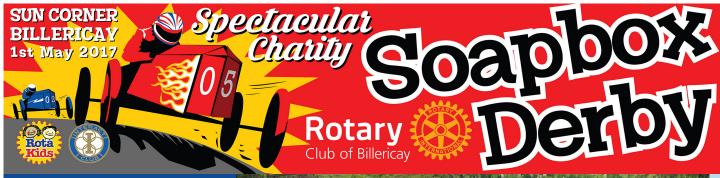
This competition was for those who shared their purchase of tickets on Facebook or Twitter.

The Winners of this competition, each won a donation of £250 to a charity of their choice, and in their own name. They are:

Mrs Joanne George - Ticket Booking Reference R339084

Mr David Knapp - Ticket Booking Reference R33C04A

Mrs Lynsey Paddock - Ticket
Booking Reference R33E86F



Editor Trevor Bond reflects on a day which surpassed all hopes and expectations

We had set it up, we knew we had sold more tickets on-line than last year. Everything that could be put in place was ready with less than a hour to go to "Open Gates" at 9.00am. The course looked spectacular, the Queen Elizabeth II Field was alive with hi-viz ants (sorry, Rotary and all our volunteers from the other service clubs), the big screen was ready to relay live racing and share the fun with those watching at track-side along London Road.

What a great innovation the big screen proved – at times spectators fifty deep, straining to see the action, parked seats in front, youngsters up on dad's shoulders. And all waiting for a crash!

Then the wait. Tickets sold in advance already suggested a crowd larger than the 5,000 of last year. How many more? Eye on the



weather - let the rain hold off! Gates manned, scanners at the ready, race card and raffle stalls prepared, smells emanating from the food outlets - a bacon roll went down well for the early birds - the 6.00am working gang, then suddenly 9.00 am and gates open. A trickle at first, more now as race start time approaches. "Thunder Road" beginning to fill up. Eventually it will be four deep on the Q.E. II field side – eight, nine deep on the mounds in front of Hilary Mount. Children to the front room for another one there

advice from our inimitable MC
 Ken Smith was constant throughout the day: Stay safe behind the barriers and enjoy the fun.

Then the invasion. The crowds came, hordes of them. Families of four and six and eight, mums, dads, brothers and sisters, grandmas and granddads, the teenagers in skimpy tops and holed jeans, the disabled and even the dogs. Welcome all!

Beeline to the pits and the karts. And what karts! Carnival time! Multi-coloured, highly-designed. -the kids loved them.... the galleons, all five of them representing different entries, pirates galore, space rockets, a wild west Stagecoach, ice-cream van and you could not miss the three yellow karts of Trotters Independent Traders – Del Boy, Rodney, Grandpa, Only Fools and Horses







## rip-roaring success by Rotary members May Day spectacle attracts bigger crowd than last year























relived – but so it seemed were the teams. Fancy dress wasn't in it! And Quilters Junior School head teacher Mike Wade dominating the scene with a Wadeyman outfit that would have made even Superman green with envy.

#### Excitement all round

So they came. And so did the Sun God as the day blossomed and the mood became more and more positive. More stringent, more laughter, more excitement. Key word - excitement. I was interviewed at the start of the day for the Gazette's YouTube. Their first question: "Are you excited about today?" Only one answer - Yes. Early calculations suggest we exceeded 8,000, an increase of 50%. All power to our elbow.! Which makes that second WWII film significant....In Which We Serve. It was all about sacrifice and service. Which is what our Club members and all those other service club volunteers did on the day – served and sacrificed. Plenty of other things to do on a Bank Holiday Monday but, for all





of them, only one place to be – the Soapbox Derby.

That is why the most telling comment I had as she was leaving was from a lady from Chesterfield.

Down in Billericay to visit her son, she said: "What a magnificent day we have had, please pass on our thanks and goodwill to your Rotary club members and everyone who has worked so hard to make it so memorable."

Her words are echoed by many more on the day;

- "We all had a fantastic time already planning for the next one."
- "Thank you and the rest of Rotary. The event gets better each year. Entry forms for next year please."
- "I hope you slept well last





- night! I know I did thanks again for putting on such a fantastic event,"
- "He may be 12 going on 18 but Joshua had a great day and everlasting memories were made for one young boy. All I can say is thanks to The Rotary Club of Billericay."

And such comments as that of Helen Connor on a Facebook post to the Billericay Discussion page: "Absolutely loved it! Bigger and better than last year. The improvements from everyone's comments last year were all actioned. I feel very privileged to live in a town like this! Well done all involved."

#### Winners and Losers

There were, of course, winners and losers and the list is published on Page 2 above.

Unanimous in their praise:

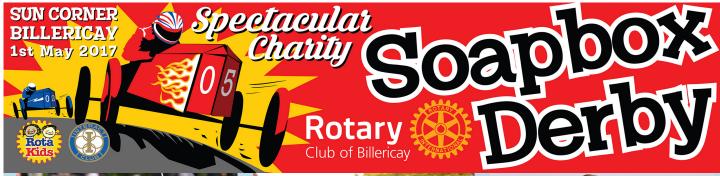
The Wombles. As Great Uncle Bulgaria, alias Lee Summerfield, munching his third bacon roll at lunch time, said: . "First time – just great fun. We're from the Basildon Cleansing Department spending our time clearing up –













just like the Wombles. Best thing is someone else will be doing it today. We'll do better second run." Sorry Lee! But that Wombles music echoing around the giant screen brought back great memories as it did for all the theme teams. Another superb idea.

The inimitable Killer Heels team this year karting as Nearly Virgin Air but with all their stock in trade drag kit. From team leader Stephen Sawyer: "Loving it, We're confident." How right they were -Wacky Racers winner.

Wagons Roll! In the Wacky prizes too, The Gut, The Beard, The Bald and The Lanky with the glorious Calamity Jane. "Who's who?" I asked. Silly question. "You guess",





was the comeback with a big grin. OK, so Ken Smith leapt on the inevitable Stop Me and Buy One (or in Ken's words - Stop One and Buy Me) when Matt Rothery's team launched the Roll Out The Bunting converted ice-cream van. "We've got every chance", said Matt. He was happy to finish third fastest.

## Anyone for Breakfast? Happiest man? Has to be Mike

Wade, head teacher at Ofsted

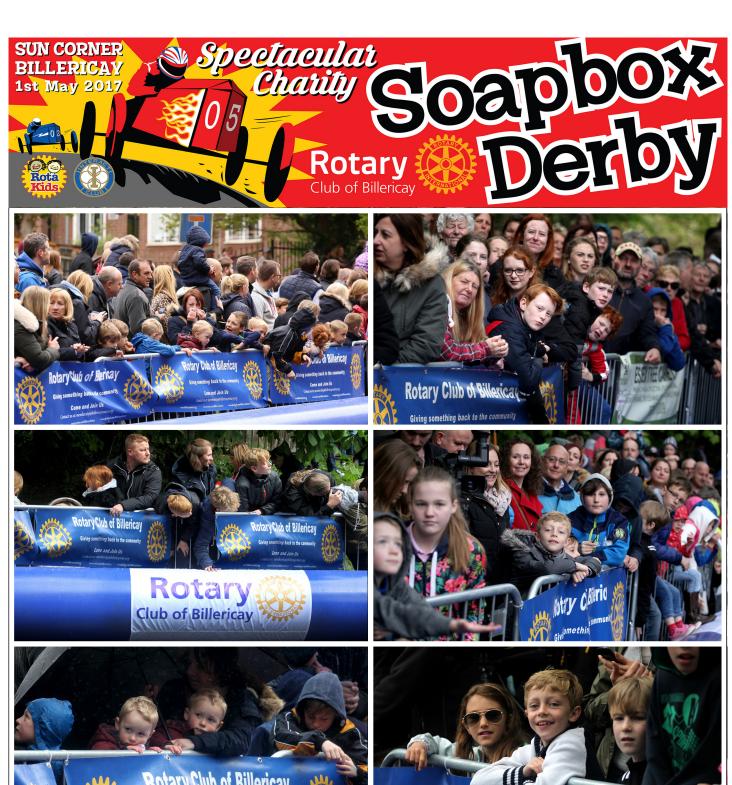




Questioned before the event, Mike, driver for the Quilters Express said: "We're in it to win it." On the day, no change: "It's win or bust! Can't wait.". No bust man – you did it this time. Look at the result – cannot argue with that. Worth putting on weight for. My personal kart? Has to be The Full English, an everything-youcan-think-of breakfast plate. Who thought that up I asked captain Paul Samuelson. "Just came to us," he said. "At the breakfast table.! Well, there's a surprise." Good enough for the judges to place them third best Wacky Racer. Best smiley face? Has to belong to



Ifor Roberts, inspiration behind













the Mayflower Marauders' Jolly Roger ship that sailed into third place in the Corporate category. Ifor, past president of the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower was determined to enter a team this year after seeing the Soapbox Derby in 2016. "I did not think it would work until I saw it last year. Came away determined to have a go. Thrilled to be going away with a prize. Great event for the community – it's what Rotary is all about."

### Birthday Girl

Happiest spectator? Has to be the lovely Lisa with the Band On The Run team. Lisa asked for a special 60th birthday present – a day at the Soapbox Derby. She got her wish. The kart suffered the spectacular crash of the day at the first jump which hurled driver



Adam Bridgey out onto the track to whoops of delight from the thrilled spectators and left Adam, fortunately helmeted, skidding along the road. "No damage done," said captain Matthew Brown. And Lisa: "What a day, what a birthday present. I am so happy."

All proceeds to Rotary charities – and the great and the good and, perhaps the needy opened their wallets and their purses all in the cause. And the lady who, on leaving, slipped a ten pound note into a Gate Manager's hand and said: "I've had such a great time. Please add this to your funds."

Eventually the heavens opened but it was almost closing time and no-one seemed to care. The prize-winners waited around to receive their trophies from District Governor, Terry Dean, whose





wife Pauline, a future D.G., drew the raffle. The spectators had long started to drift away, home to a hot meal and a pint or too and "Thunder Road" began to look just like any other road again as the demolishers moved in. It was about 5.00pm. In two and a half hours all was back to normal. On the field where gazebos still needed to come down and be stowed away, spaces cleared and food outlets driven off to feed and support another charity event. The hi-viz was still to be seen, the action began. Which was how it all started twelve hours before and which recalls another great British World War 11 film about a different sort of invasion. It was called:

it was called.

The Longest Day.

Our main sponsors for the Rotary Club of Billericay 2017 Soapbox Derby are:



Telephone: 01268 407588

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## Competitors' Collection - Success for the Reading Rooms

### nd a Plus for the Soapbox Derby.

The Reading Rooms in Billericay High Street has entered into the spirit of the Soapbox Derby, and, as part of their outreach to the schools in the area, sponsored a design competition. The Rotary Club of Billericay's second Spectacular Soapbox Derby taking place on May 1 was the target. Andy Maddocks, vice-chair of the Reading Rooms takes up the story:



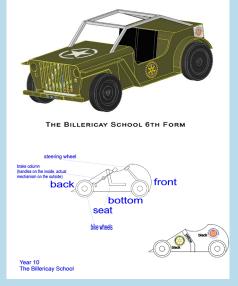
"The Trustees of the Reading Rooms ran a competition in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Billericay's Soapbox Derby



for the three senior schools in Billericay, inviting them to be involved in designing a car for the Derby with a generous prize of £250 which included the entry fee of £55 towards the cost of construction of their Soapbox entry. Mayflower and Billericay schools agreed.

We also agreed to pay the entry fee for the runner-up but, since only two schools accepted the challenge, we are delighted to announce that both Mayflower School and Billericay School will have their entries fees paid by the Reading Rooms.

"Our judging panel of Malcolm Acors, Mike Sinclair, and myself



decided that Mayflower School's entry was best.

Mayflower's head of Design & Technology, Simon Fowler was advised and discussions on how to proceed have since taken place with Simon and the students." Billericay School has entered two soapboxes, one from each of the 6th Form and Year 10. Watch this space!

## Competitors' Collection - A Lancashire Invasion

They are entering from far and **▲** wide. Entries for the Rotary Club of Billericay's second Spectacular Soapbox Derby on May 1 came from Billericay and boundaries beyond.

Nearest might be the team from Quilters' Junior School with Headteacher Mike Wade at the wheel... furthest certainly is a three team soapbox entry from Lancashire. By road and van they arrived to be on the staring ramp.

First team up, code name: RC2570

Design, begs the question. Is it a new 500-seater airship being developed secretly somewhere in Britain? New prototype for a high-speed train? Another Dam Busters' "bouncing bomb"?

Answer. No. Just the code name of Bumbling Runshaw.... one of the most exciting entries to this year's Soapbox Derby and certainly the most travelled since it will be coming all the way from Leyland in Lancashire. But it is being built on the site where, when run by

the MOD, Barnes Wallis's famous Dam Busters bomb was manufactured during World War 11.

Why Bumbling Runshaw? As team leader and Runshaw College teacher, John Calderbank explains: "We have a bumble bee theme.

**What is it?** A gravity cart built by students of Runshaw Engineering College in Lancashire.

Why enter? John adds: "One sixth of its Higher Education (continued on next page)



Engineering course in year two has a module where students design and plan the manufacture of the product. This is the second year we are making soapboxes. What we have to do in entering is to meet the requirements of the assessments of Design Entries."

Design prototype

The soapbox they have entered is just one of thirty the students will design and manufacture at Runshaw as part of their assessment to:

- 1. Design and manufacture a prototype compliant vehicle for a gravity race car event. E.g.: Our May Day Derby
- 2. Present a sponsorship pitch for the project.
- 3. Present a Cost Report to satisfy all requirements of the production of 30 Soapbox-type vehicles over six weeks.

4. Complete a business presentation for each group to take

charge of manufacturing facility to produce the 30 Soapbox vehicles in 3 above.

5. Put together an individual final report to the project to satisfy all learning outcomes.

Sounds professional compared to many of the home-made, hand-built soapboxes being entered but, as John insists: "To enter the Billericay event we with all your rules and conditions with regard to structure and prototype – we engage with that setdown principle." He adds: "We since the May Day Bank Holiday

appreciate that we have to comply are delighted to come to Billericay Ram Rod Racing (RRR) and Team Westwoods.

Their innovator, Nigel Thomson explains: "I team teach with John and the students are in their second year HND Mechanical Engineering, full-time and part-time." Ram Rod Racing's name was

adopted when, in an earlier race,

the students entered a rocket car, similar in appearance to a ram rod, but Nigel is quick to add: "The Soapbox Derby vehicle will not look the same."

Why is Alex Cushing the driver of RRR: "I am the smallest and lightest team member, and the only one without a driving licence, so have nothing to lose."

Team Westwoods gets its name from an infamous car park (apparently) within a Wigan industrial estate where people meet to show off various vehicles. Driver Harrison Edge also is the smallest

> and lightest and chalks up success in at least one go-kart champion-

Nigel sums up: "This is a combined effort from the students, John and myself but also the efforts of the **Engineering Depart**ment at Runshaw College in terms of funding, material and build facilities."



fits our time-table. It is also great that such a splendid charity event also helps us educationally"

#### After RC now RRR

This is just one of three soapboxes from the Lancashire lads. Also from Runshaw College will come





## Competitors' Collection - Mowing down Thunder Road

Last year – bicycles.
This year – lawnmowers. Yes, that's right.....
LAWNMOWERS!

They won't be cutting
the grass at Queen Elizabeth Field – and probably won't look much
like lawnmowers as they
hurtle down the Soapbox
Derby track along London Road on May 1. That, believe
it or not, is the chosen design
of the pupils of Shenfield High
School.

As Claire Helim, STEM Coordinator/ Science Primary Liaison at the school explains: "Last year we de-constructed bicycles. We used the braking system and wheels and built a wooden chassis. This year we are using ride-on lawnmowers" Simples!

Asked why they were entering again, Claire said: "The students had an excellent time creating their designs and then construct-



ing them. They loved to be able to race their soapboxes down a slightly hair-raising track in a record time."

This year the school has entered two teams and each team has selected a driver. Ten students are involved. School project or just a fun day?

## Key skills

"It is a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematical) project, "adds Claire. "Students who have an interest in one or all of these subjects choose to take part in the project as an extracurricular activity.

"They learn a variety of key skills and team work. How to create a design and, using that design, they can construct and engineer their soapbox, bringing a design to life." It's not just the students who thrive on it. "It gives the school and the teaching staff great satisfaction

and enjoyment to see the students inspired and engaged in an activity that is STEM based."

Joseph Smith, Year 13, adds: "We were looking forward to entering again and trying to make it down the whole track in one piece. Last year I drove the Pope Box."

Year 11 student Shakira Barr adds: "We had a fabulous day last year when we dressed up in Batman costumes . It was fun designing the soapbox and running down the track. We came third in the student race and hoped to do even better this year."





## Competitors' Collection - Quilters Junior School

## Quiltonians Race again! No 3<sup>rd.</sup> place this year!

When asked the simple question: "In it to win it?" Head Teacher Mike Wade didn't hesitate. "Of course!"

And the grin on his face said it all. Call it confidence, love of competition or determination, Mike intends to finish first when he races down London Road on May 1 in our second Soapbox Derby.

"I can't wait to drive our soapbox again," he says. In the lobby sits last year's 3rd-placed RotaKids Quiltonians soapbox – multi-coloured and "highly-powered". "This year it will be the same soapbox but modified. P.G.Wilkins, who did a wonderful job building it for us last year, are taking it back and making some changes." The stunner: "The roof's coming off, " said Mike. "It has to after last year when it broke off over a





jump on the second drive. OK, on the second run, we missed out a jump for a quick time – enough to end third overall. I won't settle for third this time."

(Changed rules ensure that soapboxes which by-pass the jumps will be penalised by more time than they gain – 8 seconds for one jump and 15 seconds for both.)

Silly question: "Does the run frighten you?" Reply as expected: "Not at all. It's all about the adrenalin."

## It's a Team Effort

How did they make such a success of last year's entry? "We are a team – which is why the Soapbox Derby excites us – it is a task which unites so many of us in a joint project" says Mike.

The Quiltonians soapbox may be painted like Joseph's technicolour coat – thanks to the efforts of the school RotaKids who each painted a section - but the colours that shine through are purple and yellow – the school colours.

Mike makes no apologies: "I see everything here in purple and yellow. I am proud of that. I think the staff and pupils are proud too."

### Challenges

"I love teaching in junior school because I believe you can find something in which every kid can excel. In addition to academic progress, they are far more flexible in wanting to involve themselves with everything going on in the school. They are very conscious of all we are trying to achieve here." For this year's entry, there will be a new team of RotaKids making sure Mike gets to the starting line – and finishes first. "We are delighted to be involved with Rotary and with your club. We share the same ideals with regard to working in the community, raising money and helping others." So to May 1 and the downhill run - the Quiltonians soapbox going for glory. No expense nor effort

As Mike said: "Bring it on. I cannot wait."

## Competitors' Collection - Killer Heels

## Suitable Cases For Treatment As Killer Heels Go Airborne

They were outrageous last year. They wowed the spectators, made everyone laugh, embarrassed celebrity opener, The Stig and they are coming back this year. By popular demand!

They were the Killer Heels in 2016...all dragged up in fishnet tights, tutu skirts, multi-coloured wigs and make-up that resembled face painting. But good-hearted wonderful guys.

Team leader, Stephen Sawyer, takes up the tale: "We are all mates. James and I are brothers in law – James is a new recruit this year.

"One of our guys is a carer for a child with special needs and we see how hard he and his partner



work to look after the child, Evie. Which is why taking part and raising money for such people is important to us."

Even building their soapbox is fun for them. "Nothing but hilarious", is how Stephen describes it. "We take the mickey out of each other's contribution to the design and build. One aim – always do our best to scare the driver!"

"We like to think that we are very funny and interesting people and

this event gives us a chance to have a lot of fun and make other people laugh."

## Surprise On The Day

Design of their soapbox changes yearly.

Last year they combined and took on the idea by friend Chris for a Greyhound bus based on Priscilla Queen of the Desert. This year another guy, Scott suggested an airplane. So airplane it is – hence the name - Nearly Virgin Air.

"Chris came up with the styling theme, I suggested the structural concept and the soapbox name," adds Stephen. "The rest I am keeping as a surprise on the day."

The Soapbox is built in Scott's garage and the team stress, in a true soapbox tradition. They make all the parts themselves apart from the wheels and the brakes, using materials in their garages. "None of this adapting-a-racing-car chassis nonsense," claims Stephen.

"Chris is an artist and does the paint- (continued on next page)





work. I do the engineering. Scott's a carpenter so he does the woodwork. James makes tea and grinds metal!"

#### New Driver

Asked - "Which of you daft b.....s drives it?" Stephen admits he has been voted out after driving Killer Heels to Wacky Racers victory last year . "That Soapbox was built like a brick you-know-what because I was driving. Given my new-found flippant approach to safety, roughly summed up as 'It'll be all right' or 'It might make it to the bottom', the lads decided we needed a new driver. So, I talked James into joining the team.

James is a building site manager with a currently pregnant wife. "We have told James it is just as well his wife is expecting because after "the pending accident" he might not be having any more!"



Surprisingly, none of the Soapbox-mad crew have to take time out of a mental hospital to take part. Chris is, in Stephen's words, a "felt tip fairy", that is, an artist, Scott a carpenter and Stephen himself builds prototype cars.

They built "Nearly Virgin Air" in Benfleet. Their outrageous hu-

mour hides a great camaraderie and a resolution to have fun again for a great cause this year. As Stephen sums up: "The event is a fantastic and fun spectacle for everyone involved and watching. I made a huge jump last year and the look on people's faces was awesome."

## Competitors' Collection - Mayflower Rotary

## Soapbox Ahoy! Enter The Mayflower

Quote: "A process of complex product development has been ongoing to a strict delivery plan, performance handling and shock load testing has been completed and we are now in the process of 'body' construction."

OK Nick – forget the car jargon. That's the new Daimler Dart rebuilt – what about your Soapbox for the Soapbox Derby?

Nick is Nick Lang, an aspiring Rotarian, a friend of the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower's past president Ifor Roberts and the engineering skills behind the Mayflower Club's first time entry.

Ifor takes up the story. "We were inspired to enter following a lunchtime meeting attended by myself, then club

president, when a Soapbox Derby was mentioned by a Billericay club member. I enquired further and came away thinking: Crazy idea."

"Then, another thought. Hey, this is Rotary where, given the will,



anything is possible."

Ifor admits he was unclear what constituted a Soapbox until he helped marshal at our club's inaugural event last year.

"Wow.! I came away enthused - (continued on next page)





could I pull a team together for 2017. After all, Rotary is all about pulling together different talents for community and fund-raising projects, and what talents we have at our disposal."

## Trial Jumps

It was about then that Nick Lang had the same thoughts of entering. Inspired by Nick's skills in the engineering arena, Ifor and Nick began to put some ideas together. Videos and You Tube videos were poured over to decide the most effective design and parts were brought together through eBay.

Nick honed his considerable skills, supported by Ifor and fellow Mayflower Rotarian, John Parry, applying his experience rebuilding a Daimler Dart (hence the quote above) to prepare the kart base.

Now the team was not only determined but up and running.

Enter Jill, Ifor's wife. Donning a yellow jacket, she stopped cars as trial runs were held down Foxleigh and Ridgeway. Boards were laid to practise jumps, different

sets of wheels tried out to maximise clearance without sacrificing speed and brakes and tracking adjusted.

Want to see the video? Go to:

http://bit.ly/2p21Hhh

#### Galleon Replica

So now to reveal theme and design – what else but The May-flower. "It has to be a galleon with mast and sails," says Ifor. "The boys, supported by master printer Rotarian Stewart Ellis are working on a light-weight design replica of the Mayflower."

Ifor had planned to drive it but admits: "Following an injury while skiing I may have to pass the role to one of the other guys. Watch this space!"

He says that we will have to wait and see the result. "The plan is to have an eye-catching speed machine worthy of any Rotary club. More importantly, we hope that it will draw the public's attention to the Rotary spirit which our friends from the Rotary club of Billericay have already displayed in spades. This fantastic event is

## Competitors' Collection - Quick Release Automotive

## Hacksaw Dan -A Man Without Fear

Note the name Hacksaw.... he's the fall guy who volunteered to drive the Quick Release Automotive soapbox down Thunder Road on May 1, 2017 as the soapboxes crash down the track for our second Soapbox Derby.

Real name: Dan Baker. As team manager James Dansey reports: "The guy is utterly without fear, nuance, tact, grace, elegance, sophistication, style, humour or refinement – just the perfect candidate to try to coerce our machine down the hill.

"Hacksaw got his name by breaking the teeth off a hacksaw blade

on his first attempt at cutting steel. Since when we have been able to cut every remaining piece of the Soapbox frame using only one other hacksaw blade which still has all its teeth intact!

destined to grow and grow."

"We are a group of friends and colleagues who work for a product data management company - hence the name, Quick Release Auto- (continued on next page)



motive – that must make us a guaranteed fast start. We all live in and around the area and this is our second attempt attending your spectacular event"



He adds: "We love racing first and foremost. Had a great time last year and could not pass up another opportunity to endanger the life of a dear friend."

Design: This year, as James admits: "A bit of a team/committee effort – all collaborating. We wanted to learn some new skills so we're going for a tubular spaceframe for the MK11. Key design point for us this year is ground clearance. Our last one was designed to look like a Can-Am racer – far too low for the jumps. This time – a higher ride height and a driver with a more padded backside."

Who builds it? "Committee basically, "says James. "Our captain, Neil Haslam is very much the chief engineer. He has built and restored old cars and bikes for many years.



The rest of us learn as we go and our special thanks to Linda Haslam for keeping us topped up with tea and coffee and gracious for letting us use the Haslam Industrial Research and Development Facility for the construction."

James adds: "Broadly we are desk-jockeys who work on the engineering side, helping engineers do engineering at the Ford site at Dunton.

We have all learned engineering through a process of osmosis as opposed to expensive degrees. But we do have degrees and a PhD and MSc in Engineering which should set us in good stead."

As one team member explained: "We do have a town councillor on the team but he chose not to drive in case he hit a pothole." We hear you, councillor!



James sends this message to all competitors and spectators. "Come along and have your photo in the Soapbox or just say "Hi".

It's a fantastic event and probably the best gravity-powered competition in the predominantly flat county of Essex.

"Thanks to the Rotary Club for putting this event together again and good luck to all the other competitors."

PS: Our apologies in advance to spectators injured by flying Soapbox parts – or indeed flying driver parts.





## Competitors' Collection - Roll Out The Bunting

## Sorry, Not Stopping To Buy One!

Not a chance. Anyone seeing an ice-cream van rattling down London Road on May 1 and thinking they can purchase a cone with a chocolate flake will have to think again.

The Roll Out The Bunting soapbox – a scaled down version of the company's Bedford CF Ice Cream van with, as team leader Matt Rothery says: "No expense spared in our quest for attention to details" - was strictly racing, not selling, in the Soapbox Derby.



Roll Out The Bunting is a vintage ice cream supplier for weddings, private and public events and corporate functions, a local family run business owned by Matt and his wife. They currently possess a 1975 Bedford CF, a Pashley No.33

ice cream tricycle and a 1930's Grundle Butchers Bike which is being restored to become an Espresso Bike.



Their race team comprises Matt as designer, his neighbour Mick Goss (chief mechanic), old school friend, Ash Downes (chief fabricator) and another neighbour Richard Bowyer (chief pusher). "I produced the original design", says Matt. "Then, as a team, we modified and tweaked the chassis



build. Keeping the design secret? Matt tells us: "We've released pictures and videos of our build up to the point of the bare shell and chassis. We only revealed the fully liveried kart on the day with a special showcase. Our interest in entering is linked to our business and showcases our company jewel (Mimi the van) in a fun way."

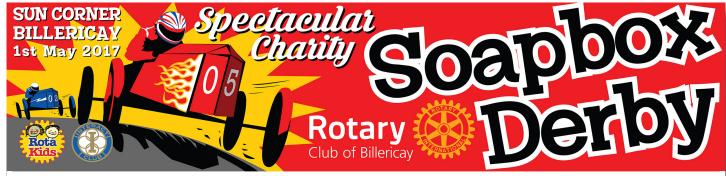


#### Thrown Down A Hill

Roll Out the Bunting will be competing for the first time. "I regularly watch Red Bull Soapbox Races and missed out last year. After the purchase of our company, it is a perfect opportunity to promote ourselves to potential clients – who doesn't want to be thrown down a hill in a contraption a group of friends have made.

"Yes, I'll be driving – mainly because the guys want to throw me down a hill after this monster build," adds Matt, a global network manager at BT. Mick is a retired fireman, Ash owns AMD Sports Services, servicing and repairing gym equipment across the UK and Rich is an IT Manager at Basildon Hospital.

"Outside of work I help run the ice cream (continued on next page)







business and spend time with my wife and kids.

Mick and Ash both shoot and spend time with their dogs. Mick also helps keep the ice cream van running and restoring vintage bikes. Rich cycles a lot – and I mean silly amounts of miles. "Our

womenfolk are involved. My wife Stacy gives her stamp of approval at each building stage and my daughter Jenny ensures it is good enough for her once the racing is over.

You can view their progress on their YouTube channel: *https:/* 

www.youtube.com/channel/UC-MHPbStwt2Kwqda9ATCEmkQ
Or on our Rotary Club Website at www.billericaysoapbox.co.uk
under videos and interviews
http://bit.ly/2pUBGVp
Make mine a raspberry ripple!





## Competitors' Collection - Mayflower Performing Arts

## On Parade – Make Way For The Colour-guard!

Guys – stand aside. The girls are coming after you. Soapbox team 159 on the starting rank will be driven by a man but the power behind the entry of Mayflower Performing Arts is strictly a brigade of girls.

As Veronica Hope, the Performing Arts chairperson says: "Yacine Zekri, one of our volunteer dads, will be the driver but his support will come from three members of our Colour-guard Team, Jessica Brown, Lucy Conway and Angela Kavanagh."



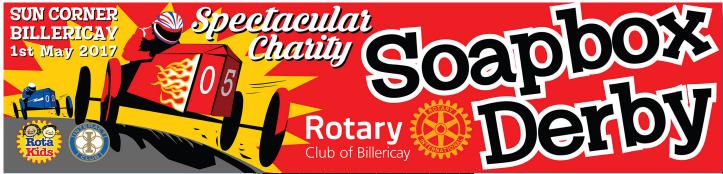
Son, Jamie Hope, a band member from 1986-2003, designed and built their kart and the team is entering for the first time this year. "We decided to enter to raise the profile of Mayflower Performing Arts. We were formerly known as Mayflower Marching and Display

Band, a Youth Charity organisation from Billericay, founded in 1972.

"The other reason for entering is to give our members the chance to be there on the day to support our team, "adds Veronica,

The team (continued on next page)





reflects their desire to enter a charity event such as the Soapbox Derby. Yacine is actually a test driver at Fords – no problems there, then! But Lucy and Jessica work in Child Care and Angela is a PA.

Away from Derby Day, they all admit that their only interest is.... Mayflower! Says Veronica: "Our members train every weekend for a very hectic competitive sea-



son which sees us competing all over the UK, one competition in

Holland and every two years we compete in the US at the World Colour-guard Championships. "Our senior team is currently British champions, also A Team British champions and our two younger teams are both runners-up in their respective classes at the British championships held on April 1 in Worcester." Girls.... may the Force Be With You!

## Competitors' Collection - DISCOvery Turbo





## Magnificent Seven And Some Funky Music

There's nothing like getting your bragging rights in first. Which is just what the DISCOvery TURBO – team 167 – are doing as they get ready to race in the Rotary Club of Billericay's Spectacular Soapbox Derby next Monday when almost 60 karts will thunder down London Road to raise money for charity and entertain a Bank Holiday crowd. Team leader Sotirios Lioutas

# DISCO



claims: "We will probably be the funkiest kart you'll see in the der-



by this year." It has taken seven guys to come up their idea – a rolling DJ Booth called 'Push It' and Sotirios adds "We hope to be the cool- (continued on next page)



est, fastest gravity-powered disco soapbox on the day. 'Push It' will run, jump (we hope!) and make the audience dance to its beat from start to finish."

Yes, folks, you will get music while you watch as the kart, as four of the seven-man team from Chris, Gareth, Peer, Praveen, Richard, Sotirios and Ugo will be the crew on the day. The driver? "Our final qualifiers are still pending – we will probably have a game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors" or a mini dance competition to decide."

#### **Just Groovie!**

As they compete for the first time in the second year of the Rotary -inspired soapbox event, Sotirios

explains: "We love a challenge. Plus an opportunity to get our hands dirty and work on a project for a good cause and, oh yes, it also unleashes our groovie alter egos (check our groovie collage!).

"One of us went last year. He had a fantastic time. It didn't take much effort to pitch the idea to the rest. Good cause, good family day out, good out-of-work activity."

The Magnificent Seven are a bunch of guys based in Basildon.

"Pretending to be engineers", he says, ." Day to day we work on turbochargers to make your cars faster and more energy efficient. Shame there's no turbo on a soapbox racer – we'd have a competi-

tive advantage." Outside work they weld bike bits together and push a bathtub down a hill.

They said they would like to have kept the basic design a secret but admit they are on social media now. "You can check our Facebook page for regular updates, just search for DISCOvery TURBO – Billericay Soapbox 2017, " says Sotirios but we keeping dark the final styling – the fans will love it." Their last word. "Billericay get some dance moves prepared – DISCOvery TURBO is on the decks on May 1."

Find out more of the team's website: https://sotlis.wixsite.com/discovery-turbo (and make sure you turn on the sound!)











## Reflections on the Soapbox Derby - some club members reactions

# Thoughts of an MC (MasoChist??) By Ken Smith

Although I was part of our club's organising committee I recognise and respect the colossal amount of work put in by the other members over the course of the past year as well as the efforts put in by the many others involved in organising this tremendous event. My grateful thanks to each and every one of them.

My lead-up to the day was very different to last year. Last year I had no idea what was coming! This year? Daunting is an understatement!!

My good friend (of 60 years!) Graham agreed to join me this year, acting as timekeeper at the finish line and fellow "banter" provider. We arrived at 5.45am and for me, the immediate feel was one of fellowship, friendship and keen anticipation and excitement. I got stuck in straight away helping with the fixing of advertising banners. My fellow fixers were in fine humour and the next hour or so went very quickly. Banners were put up in super quick time. Then I was off for a bacon buttie and cuppa. Ahh! breakfast, that's more like it. And the witching hour was getting ever closer and my stomach was getting ever more practiced at somersaults!!

And then the time arrived. Standing on the ramp looking down

Thunder Road with mic' in hand is hard to put into words (there looked far more people than last year). Daunting, terrifying, exciting? Yes all of that but, knowing how many were relying on me now. Oh \*\*\*\*!!! So, deep breath, mic' to mouth begin to exhale and the first words issued forth. We're off!!! And "motormouth" was in his element! My overriding memory is of "having a ball" with a very responsive audience of people, spectators, competitors and organisers. Does a little madness help? You bet! Would I do it again? I'll wait to see if I'm asked. And at the end? I was totally exhausted, mentally and physically. What a great and memorable day. Well done everyone.

## Banners Forever? By Roger Kettle

Pirstly, congratulations to the committee who through conscientious effort and utilising individual skills again put on an excellent and most enjoyable Soapbox Derby - Mark 2.

I was in charge of selling and installing (and taking down) the banners. Last year's Soapbox Derby meant it was a much easier sell this year, with very nearly everyone who paid to advertise track-side last year doing the same again, and with us also gaining extra sales. I just got on with it as a supporting club member and tried to arrange, organise and achieve

what I had committed to do, as best I could. I'm obviously very pleased and very happy it went so well from all aspects – community, charity, club, helpers, and members - what else can I say.

Overall, we sold and displayed just under 50% more banners than last year for an increase of revenue of over 30%

Having agreed the banner sponsorship, we then needed to have new ones made or collect the old ones, assemble them together, and then on the day of the Soapbox Derby - get them erected track side. This we did well within the time-scale - we were better organised and had more much-appreciated help from outside volunteers. At the end of the day the same team took them down - again well within the time limits. If we hadn't had the volunteers - we would have struggled!

Funnily enough the most difficult part of the banner initiative was the following day. It had rained right at the end of the event, so we had to dry off and clean 117 banners before we could return them to their owners in the condition they gave them to us.

I would also like to thank all who also gave up your time on various Saturdays to help promote and sell tickets for the Soapbox Derby.

We certainly publicised the event through our make-shift display of three tables plus posters - and of course the major attraction of Malcolm's Soapbox - Lightning







McQueen. We sold £1600 worth of tickets on the High Street over the six Saturdays we were there, and distributed thousands of advertising leaflets. Thanks to Malcolm Acors for kindly printed them ...... and all the display advertising material!

Certainly it was a major Club commitment ..... but when it's a success it's - Well worth the effort!

## 8,000 Watchers. Thanks to all you helpers! By Malcolm Acors

We sold over 60 entries, and 47 great soapboxes turned up and performed on the day. We promoted the event on the High Street with all of our members turning out to take part; and online. 8500 spectators turned up on the day to watch, positive comments from all of them especially on the large screen and extra activities on the field.

Roger sold the banners and successfully put them all up on the day with help from Carol, Richard and several others.

We gained two extra sponsors, which wasn't easy, but we did it. The sponsors were all delighted with their presence at the event. We were reasonably lucky with the weather - it could have been a lot worse. The fencing and barriers were put up on time and taken

down in time for the road to reopen. (Thanks to Jerry French Dikster, Lee, Bob and many others.)
The site was left clean and tidy, thanks to Basildon Council.

Comments from our health and safety officer, Tony Sprackling, were very positive, he thought it went extremely smoothly and was delighted with the way it ran in general. What more is there to say at this time, apart from thank you.

Now is the time to write letters of thanks to all concerned, to let them know how much we appreciated their help. And of course we will let them know, as soon as possible, how much money they helped us to make for charity.

## Tracking all the way to the end By Les Sheppard

Cince I joined Billericay Rotary

Oin September 2016, I wasn't around for last year's Soapbox Derby, so it was all new to me. Sometime in December, I was asked if I would be Track Manager. "OK" I replied, not knowing quite what I was letting myself in for. And somewhere along the way I picked up responsibility for

4:45am, not a time of day I usually have anything to do with, the alarm is buzzing and I'm wondering if this is such a good idea.

getting signs out on the field and

in the High Street.

On the field I get the signs for the Pits up, and the teams sort themselves out into the right spaces.

What next .... the rest of the signs! It's taking a whole lot longer than estimated, but the essentials get set up and the Youth Town Councillors, there to help with the marshalling on the track, volunteer for additional duties and help by distributing signs to the gates.

Ten past nine and I discover the bypass loop round the first jump has been set up too tight. Some manpower is summoned and we realign the hay bales to a gentler curve. I wonder if we're ever going to be ready, but shortly after the scheduled 9:45 start we're all set for the first run – success! Then at 10 o'clock there's the first shower of rain, but the crowd hardly seems to notice.

The day flies past and, after the final soapbox run, I find myself in the Race Control gazebo, frantically adding up judges scores and updating the master scoreboard while eager "soapboxers" look on to see their times and scores and work out their placings.

Then, as the crowds go home, those who were there at 5am swing into action again to clear the site. Two hours later, 20 minutes ahead of schedule, London Road is re-opened. A great day and, after 15 hours on my feet, time for a well-earned sit-down and a beer!

Thanks to Ken, Roger, Malcolm and Les for sharing their special moments of our great day. Thanks also to our three photographers - Susan Craig-Greene, Peter Mitchelmore and Simon Lee who gave their time, expertise and all these photographs free of charge.



We're feeling good - not just because it's over, but because of the deluge of amazing and positive comments. Here are just a few.



sincerely thank you and all the competitors from today's show for giving us all not only a brilliant day out, but also clarifying just what a marvellous town we live in!! I couldn't imagine bringing my children up in a

Just wanted to thank you for a fantastic day. I cannot begin to imagine how much time and effort went into Team 161 had so much fun – I think organising the event. the crash made it in a way.

return next year. day, see you next Just a short note thank you and the year! tary for a great day yesterday. The event gets better each year. Please can you let me know as soon the entry forms are available for next year

We all had a steat day kids loved it roll on next year...) Thanks to self, had a real blast. the organisers, shals, all the other competitors

and everyone who attended this year's Soapbox Derby! It's a fantastic event and something that we can feel uniquely and rightly proud of in Billericay. Thanks ganising the comuch resonant and so much resonant a It was a fantastic spectacle and very well organised. It

It was a pleasure to see our communities conting together was a pleasure to see our communities couldn't downward was a pleasure to see our continue to see our contin was a pleasure to see our communities coming together the weather couldn't dampen the in such a way and even the weather couldn't dampen the in such a way and even the weather couldn't dampen the in such a way and even the weather couldn't dampen the in such a way and even the weather couldn't dampen the institution of the couldn't dampen the institution of the couldn't dampen the weather couldn't dampen the institution of the couldn't dampen the weather couldn't dampen the institution of the couldn't dampen the weather couldn't dampen the institution of the couldn't dampen the weather couldn't dampen the institution of the weather couldn't dampen the couldn't dampen the institution of the weather couldn't dampen the couldn't dampen the institution of the couldn't dampen t in such a way and even the weather coulant dampen the such a way and even the weather coulant dampen the spirit on the day.

Spirit on the day.

Spirit on the day. spirit on the day. I would like to congruid
Billericay Rotary's fundraising activities. huge thanks to all the thoroughly enjoyed by all my family. Will

definitely be buying tickets again next year!

I think it was

such a success

that you need to

do another one

next year!!!!





























It's a Flash Mob from Quilters Junior School - with Wadeyman!



















## Roll of Honour

The Rotary Club of Billericay gives sincere thanks to all of those below and all others involved

#### **Toomey Motor Village Basildon**

~ Major sponsors

#### Waterhouse Volvo

~ Major sponsors

#### Tom Acors of Acors Press

~ For all design and printing work

#### Eurovia

~ For all works re diversion and road closure

#### Service Clubs

Billericay Round Table

41 Club

Billericay Lions

Diliencay Liona

Rotary Club of Basildon

Rotary Club of Basildon Concord

Rotary Club of Wickford

Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower

#### All volunteers with a special mention for:

Tony Sprackling Richard Leahy
David Randall Ifor Roberts
Ian Miller Marcus Bennett

#### Jerry French ~ Watch House Farm

~ For use of loading machinery and straw bales

Vintage cars ~ For being here

Low Tax Group ~ For water supply on the field Basildon Council ~ For all assistance and advice

Essex Highways ~ For advice

Billericay Gazette ~ For coverage of the event
Mercedes-Benz of Lakeside ~ For draw prizes

Retail outlets who sold programmes: Creatures Great and small

Chequers

The Railway

Anna's Newsagents

Quilters school

Ashton & Charters

## TrueStaging ~ For building the start ramp Billericay Kitchen Company & Bumps Away

~ For building and painting the jumps

#### **TFH Gazebos**

~ For loan of gazebos

#### RedBoxTickets.com

~ For providing our online ticketing system

#### **Churches Together / Street Pastors**

~ For help on the day

Without the help of those mentioned above the event would not have been able to take place

