

SUN CORNER
BILLERICAY
6th May 2019

*Spectacular
Charity*

Soapbox Derby

Rotary
Club of Billericay



Tuesday 7 May 2019 The Guardian

National

The Guardian



Hippy hippy shake A miniature VW camper van, beloved by the 1960s counterculture, and its pilot get airborne as they take a jump at the bank holiday Monday soapbox derby in Billericay. This is the fourth year the event - organised by the Essex town's Rotary Club - has been held. The competitors pilot handmade carts that race down a twisting course using gravity alone for power.

**Proudly presenting the Souvenir Edition Newsletter
of our 2019 Rotary Event of the Year.**

A description of the day, stories of our competitors, club members' perspectives, photographs, and much more. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we did staging the event.

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Soapbox Derby 2019 - The Gazette Feature

Before



An action shot of one of the soapboxes from last year's event

PETER MITCHELMORE

Fancy having some soapbox derby fun?

THE Rotary Club of Billericay likes to break a record or two.

The club has achieved new records in the three years since first staging the Spectacular Soapbox Derby, increasing the profits raised for charity from £25,000 to more than £95,000 in total and spectators from 5,000 in 2016 and 8,000 in 2017 to 10,000 last year. With the race day still weeks away, on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6, the event is looking for another record

achievement - to have the most number of entries in one year. So far there are 38 entries compared to a final figure of 40 in 2018. Organisers are confident there will be another bumper turnout.

There is still plenty of time to enter one of the three categories: Corporate - police, fire service, companies, shops and industries; Student - schools and colleges, entries already include Colchester Royal Grammar School, Shenfield High School, Quilters Junior

School, Brightside Primary School and South Green Junior School; and Wacky Racers - creative, wacky-looking soapboxes.

Club president Les Sheppard said: "This is a chance to be one of the 2019 teams to set a new record and make this year the most spectacular ever."

This year, the international charities selected are: Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), Rotary's End Polio Now, and Ciamanda Primary School,

Kenya. Little Haven's Children's Hospice, Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and local schools have been chosen as the local charities.

The derby promises to be a fun day for all the family with a large video screen showing the track action, a children's fun fair, bouncy castles and food and drink outlets. For information and to buy tickets, starting from £3, visit www.billericaysoapbox.co.uk or to enter a soapbox, visit www.billericaysoapboxderby.co.uk

Mutual Co-Operation and Support

Throughout the lead-up to the 2019 Soapbox Derby we were lucky to have the support of the community section of the Billericay Gazette and Essex Chronicle.

Following a meeting at their offices in early February, we agreed a schedule of when they would be able to print reports by us, focussing on our preparations for the event, and stories about the

teams which were taking part.

This would culminate with a major News feature in the final week before the event. **We knew what we had to produce and they knew what to expect.**

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The Gazette Feature (continued)

BILLERICAY & WICKFORD Gazette

Rainer Hughes

SOLICITORS

01277 226644

info@rainerhughes.com

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019

LOCAL NEWS ALL DAY EVERY DAY ESSEXLIVE.NEWS £1.50

There were plenty of
colourful characters at
Billericay's Soapbox
Derby this year

PICTURES: EDWARD STARR



WACKY RACES

CROWD OF THOUSANDS TURNS OUT FOR THRILLS
AND SPILLS OF SOAPBOX DERBY **SEE PAGES 8&9**



After The Soapbox Derby

8 GAZETTE WED

2019 GAZETTE 9

News

News

Thousands enjoy wacky soapbox derby entries



Complete Cabbage had a
Soaties-inspired Soapbox
EDWARD STARR

By HANNAH BROWN
hannah.brown@essexlive.co.uk

Billericay

THE Ghostbusters, the Hogwarts Express, and The Beatles' yellow submarine were just some of the inventive designs that were part of this year's Billericay Soapbox Derby. Thousands of people attended the annual event, organised by the Rotary Club of Billericay, which sees teams race their soapbox creations down a track, weaving around hay bales and flying over jumps. Thirty-one teams took part this year, and other visitors were also able to give the course a go on one of the 'skeletons' provided by the Rotary Club of Billericay. This year was extra special as two CBBC presenters came along to join in with the fun. Ed Peirce and Ben Shires joined teams to race in the event, while

filming for the CBBC show All Over the Place that sees the children's presenters travel around the world showcasing 'unusual, strange and amazing places'. Ed joined the Quakers School, and Ben was with the Rotary Club of Carvery Coast in the morning before driving their own runs in the afternoon.

Peter Greene, from the Soapbox Derby Committee, said: "It was terrific. The weather was a bit colder than last year, but we still had thousands of people there. It was really tremendous." Speaking about the CBBC presenters attending, Peter said: "It was good to have them involved. He continued: "They were pretty good actually. One was about ten seconds faster than the other, but they were both amongst the fastest."



Some of the contestants in the Billericay Rotary Club Soapbox Derby
EDWARD STARR PHOTOGRAPHER



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And The Echo Reported The Event in Full!

Basildon Echo

Wednesday May 8, 2019

echo-news.co.uk 70p



**Thousands
turn out to
cheer on
soapbox
derby for
charity** **P16**

16 Echo Wednesday May 8, 2019

www.echo-news.co.uk

www.echo-news.co.uk

Wednesday May 8, 2019

Echo 21

IN FOCUS 8,000 people cheer on Billericay Soapbox Derby races



■ Remap Flyer - the team helping to prepare their driver for the race course ahead

THOUSANDS attended this year's Billericay Soapbox Derby raising money for charity.
The event, which is organised by the Rotary Club of Billericay, celebrated its fourth year, with over 8,000 watching on.
Residents from around the area created their own homemade soapbox vehicles before racing them down a track.
Starting in London Road, drivers manoeuvred their vehicles around the course, avoiding obstacles and jumping over ramps. The team who reached the winning arch in the fastest time were crowned the winners.
This year's event saw 30 soapboxes amaze the crowds with their designs, costumes, performances and hijinks.
For the first time ever, eight members of the public even had the chance to ride in two standard Billericay soapboxes.
Crowds were entertained by H&A dancers and performers, complete with a Cinderella horse drawn coach. Mabel Rogers also returned to sing on popular demand.
Funds raised will go towards the Rotary's appointed local, national and international charities, with five being designated this year.
Soapbox organising committee member Peter Green, said: "Despite the weather, thousands of people proved that this is an exceedingly popular event close the hearts of Billericay residents."

By Pippie Webster



■ Soapbox champions the - fastest winners from this years event, where over 8,000 attended to watch drivers race around the track, over ramps and around obstacles for five charities



■ Yellow Submarine - the group performed for the crowd



■ Team quillies - racing around the track in Billericay



■ Transformers - BumbleBee making its way along the course



■ Team Down Under - showing off their soapbox driving skills



■ Winners - all first, second and third places on the stand



■ Team Spectre - taking on the race against time in the fourth year of the event



■ Celebrations - the Student Class winners at this year's derby

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Soapbox Derby

The Calm Before



The Storm



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Sensational Soapbox Spectacular



It's 11:20am on Wednesday 8th May on the Queen Elizabeth field. Weather: a moderate breeze and light rain since I arrived at 9:45. Now, somewhat damp, I watch the lorry leave the field with the final load of fence panels. I get into my car and follow the lorry off the field, stopping to padlock the gate closed behind me. The final task of the Soapbox Derby is complete.

It's All Over Now ... Or Is It?

Except of course, this isn't the final task. Soapbox Treasurer Mike Sinclair is still awaiting receipt of the final few invoices that he will need to pay, Peter Greene has to chase down soapbox sponsorship money from those entrants who have not yet paid it in, plus he has the souvenir newsletter to produce. I have raffle prizes to mail out or deliver to the lucky winners, plus a long list of formal thank-you

What a Great Day! Les Sheppard, 2019 Soapbox Derby Chairman

letters to draft and send out ... just some of the wrap-up tasks undertaken by different Club Members. The list goes on.

Look, No Hands!

However, as far as most of the general public is concerned the event finished two days earlier, when the last entrant in the Invitation Challenge, our M.C. Ken Smith, sailed down 'Thunder Road' in 'look – no hands!' mode without unseating himself, unlike many others in this event. Not quite quick enough to win the fastest run, but top marks

for style. And what a great day it was! We couldn't replicate last year's brilliant sunshine, but, despite the somewhat chilly weather, thousands turned out to experience the fourth spectacular charity Soapbox Derby. Since then we have had numerous positive comments, both direct to Club Members and on social media, that highlight how much the residents of Billericay and



those who had travelled from further afield enjoyed the event.

Diligent preparation work beforehand by our PR guru Trevor Bond resulted in great pre- and post-event coverage of the event in the local press, plus we made the national press, with one of our official photographers securing a half-page picture in Tuesday's Guardian (See Front Page).

No Detail Could be Forgotten

But this success did not just happen on its own. The Soapbox Derby was officially launched on 8th July last year at Billericay Mayflower's Summerfest. Since

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Scrutineering - I

Team 322 - VW Down Under - with "Bruce"



Team 316 - The Scrapper - with "Ghostbusters"



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Sensational Soapbox Spectacular (continued)

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then a dedicated committee has been meeting regularly to plan and ensure the smooth running of the event. The basics had to be put into place: booking the Queen Elizabeth field; getting permission from the Highways department to close the road; securing the services of the companies that provide the fencing, the inflatable barriers and the audio visual equipment; setting up the online soapbox entry process, and so on. We also had to secure the support of the other service clubs and other organisations, without which we could not put on the event.

Next, attention switched to the search for sponsorship and the selling of banner adverts, led by Roger Kettle and assisted by many Club Members who have contacts with local businesses. We were delighted to secure Aspen Home Improvements and Billericay Self Storage as co-sponsors of the tickets and programmes. We were also able to increase our banner advertising sales over last year.

Lunchtime Innovations

Soapbox entries were a little down on last year, which meant we were able to plan a slightly longer set of lunchtime entertainment on the track and the field. Singer Mabel Rogers, very well-received at last year's

Soapbox Derby, was booked again and Malcolm Acors secured two amazing performances from Helen Arber Performing Arts – a Disney Princess parade and a Lion King performance that included a very realistic elephant.

Another innovation this year was the Invitation Challenge, for which we purchased two 'traditional' soapboxes (featuring rope steering and hand-operated rear wheel brake levers) that allowed brave individuals the chance to pay £10 to try their luck racing down the track. Several of them found that it was not as easy as it looked and grazed a few palms and elbows in the process.

Finally, just over a month before the event, the focus shifted to ticket sales. Members and wives



distributed flyers in the High St. and outside the Queens Park Co-Op from 6th April to 4th May. Given the often cold, windy and showery weather, it's not surprising that ticket sales were not as high as last year.

Nevertheless, we expect to end up with proceeds in the region of £25,000 to be given to the local and international charities we support. The major beneficiaries this year are Little Havens Children's Hospice and the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance on the local front, along with our chosen international charities: Médecins Sans Frontières, Rotary's 'End Polio Now' campaign and Ciamanda Primary School in Kenya.

So another successful Soapbox Derby draws to a close. Thanks to everyone who contributed in one way or another to make the event happen, particularly my fellow committee members.



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Soapbox Derby

Scrutineering - II

Team 325 - REMAP - with the "Remap Flyer"



Team 338 - Complete CARnage - with the "Hogwarts Express"



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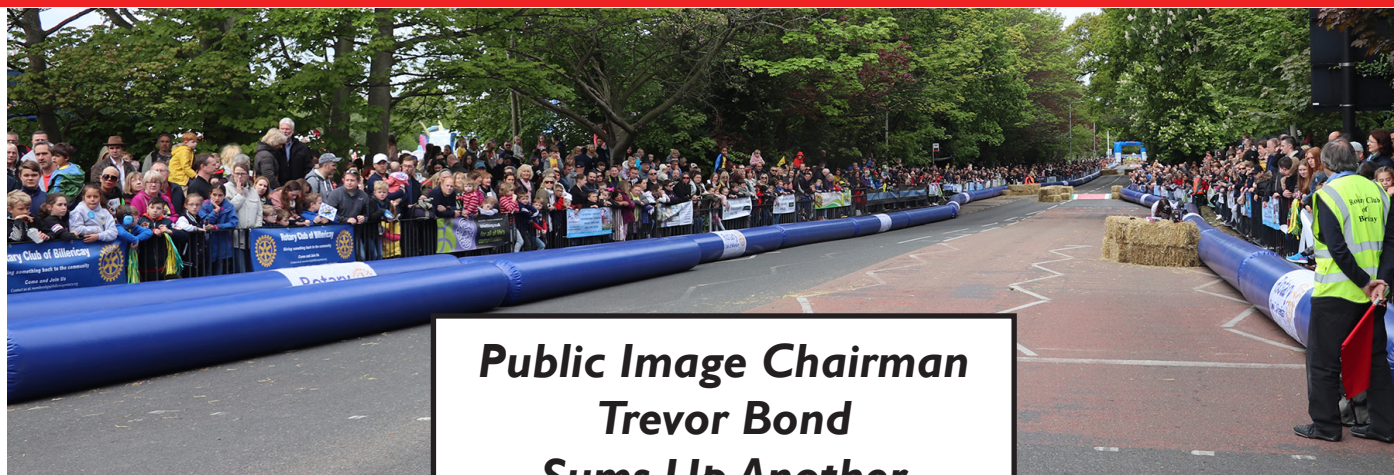
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How The Carnival Beat The Cold To Still Roll On!



Public Image Chairman Trevor Bond Sums Up Another Spectacular Rotary Club Charity Day

Bank Holiday Monday, 2018: We sweltered in Sahara sun and Swedish sauna.

Bank Holiday Monday, 2019: All change. We were gripped by the huge refrigerator which found its way from Siberia!

Yes, it was cold for our fourth Spectacular Soapbox derby, finger-freezing cold. No T-shirts and shorts this year. Beanie hats (not quite balaclavas), a scarf or too and frequent blowing on hands. So much for Bank Holiday Mondays in early May! But, as some wit, hiding in the depths of a Rotary gazebo, declared. "At least it's staying dry." Small mercies.

Club organisers spent a week studying weather forecasts on TV, Twitter, Instagram, iPads and, no doubt, the odd Billericay witchdoctor. Not great but not a disaster. So, no surprise then that the crowd did the same and

waited until the day before deciding to join the carnival. Which, in the end, they did in their thousands, God bless them. Over 8,000 again this year - not quite the 10,000 who baked in bikinis and miniskirts on Sun Corner last year, but, wow, still appearing in their support for the event, the good causes and the Rotary nominated charities.

Fancy Dress And All That !

So, the sky was grey, the grass on the QEII field as green as ever

and the various gazebos and tent added a mini spark of colour to the scene. For spark, read sparkle, however.

It flowed from a wonderful entry of highly painted karts and, in some cases, their more even highly-painted human possessors. Fancy dress wasn't in it. Well, just about if you added the word outrageous to fancy dress.

Karts and humans matched each other for design, style, colour and sheer comedy. Not every carnival needs the sun to shine to be spectacular. Even the karts names reflected colour: Yellow Submarine by the crazy Complete CARNage, Purple Rocket from the South Green Junior School Superheroes, Call Me Violet and even Rusty Tub by the team appropriately titled Sit Down, Shut Up and Hold On!"

Themes were dominant. James Bond -SPECTRE - Day of the Dead;
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Scrutineering - III

Team 332 - Scouting Ahead - with "Badge of Honour"



Team 334 - Bath Bombers



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The Carnival (continued)



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Hogwarts Express, Lion King, Ghostbusters, Bath Bombers, Bills on Wheels and two from the insect world – Firefly (Sorella Sound) and Bumble Bee (Team Bumble Bee).

Superman Again

The schools entered into the spirit. Q-Express from (guess who?) Mike Wade's Wadeyman and the Quilters Express. Mike feigned disgust when they were awarded only second place.

The Brightside Bullet was a



design triumph for Brightside Junior School and there was a wonderful mediaeval costume touch with "Harold", the entry of Colchester Royal Grammar School. Thank you, all schools, for taking part.



"Oooos" and "Aaahs" heralded the ramp appearance of 312 – Ferrari and Maserati Colchester's stunning entry and SEEVIC (South Essex Vintage & Classic Vehicle Club). Case of bye, bye "Buttercup", retired now, and enter "The Squirts".

There were nurses and doctors – the "Heart Throbs" with their

"Car-diac Arrest" entry and "Dying to Win" (good job the team from Heart Throbs was around) from Team Lambert.



Scouts Ahoy! Remember The Wombles? Did not return last year and now, sadly, converted into Lee Summerfield's new venture this year. He gathered the Beavers, Scouts and Cubs from 9th Basildon Kingsdown Scout Group to share the building and the design and, on the day, we saw their creation: "Badge of Honour" – proud name, proud team. "It was part of celebrating 100 years of scouting in Essex.", said Lee.

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It's the Absolute Pits - I

Team 316 - The Scrapper - with "Ghostbusters"



Team 310 - Complete CARNage - with "Yellow Submarine"



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The Carnival (continued)

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For The Disabled

Some entries shared the Rotary case for good causes. We had one very special one this year. REMAP may not ring too many bells for those at our event but, prior to them racing down “Thunder Road”, they gave us a brief summary of what they do – they design and build “one-off” pieces of equipment to help people with disabilities lead improved and more independent lives. A special entry indeed!

One did not need to be at the top of the track to hear Ken Smith’s booming voice and clever wit making the racing jump a central attraction – even before the coloured soapboxes set off and their outrageous entourages flip-flopped, sweated, too-tutted, behind their mad drivers. Just wonderful to watch and listen to. Thanks Ken and company. You were outrageous too!



Cold? No problem. Picnic chairs and hampers still came out in front of the big screen to cheer on their runners and riders and, come an extended lunch break, to listen to the superb voice of Mabel Rogers, back by popular demand, and the first appearance at the event by the Helen Arber Performing Arts Group (HAPA).

Musical Magic

Their musical presentations with lyrics and dance from such shows as the successful Lion King and others were just magic and were greeted with great applause and kind comments from the spectators to the delight of Roger Kettle and Malcolm Acors whose hard work and constant pressure ensured the entertainment worked well. Thank you, Roger and Malcolm. Appreciate the comments below.

“Wonderful addition and attraction. Such a delightful group”, Joyce from Billericay ..

“We’re having a great lunch and the entertainment is just lovely”, Rita, equally a lovely lady and family from Wickford.

“We love listening to Mabel – a true artist”, Mary & Jim, Stock

“We love seeing the soapboxes. We think they are even more spectacular than last year. And the racing is thrilling.” Irene and family, Hutton.

Newmarket Racing

Not just the locals. A visiting



Newmarket Rotarian: “Your Club is amazing. I am involved with Rotary and cannot imagine how hard it is to stage such a wonderful family event, and still raise money for charity. We are looking to stage such an event in August in Newmarket. I am here today to watch and learn.”

Don’t let us just beat our own breasts. From Peter Owen, a Past-President and long-time member of Billericay Mayflow-er Rotary Club: “The Soapbox Derby is a wonderful example of what can be achieved by a small, enthusiastic Club working for the benefit of the community. As a member of another Rotary Club I was proud to see Rotary in action in such a way, an example of sheer enthusiasm at its best. It was great to see the enjoyment of Billericay families, relaxing and sharing in the fun at such a well-organised event. Congratulations, Billericay Rotarians.”

That, I would suggest, sums it up.

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It's the Absolute Pits - II



Team 342 - Partyman's Magic Makers - with "Connor's Stars"



Team 319 - with "Fox Force"

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On The "Box" At Last

We had been featured on BBC News for the last two years, but we always hoped we would get serious coverage on the telly! That's why, back in February, Peter Greene was excited about receiving an email from Neil Allan. Neil works in Glasgow on the CBBC programme "All Over The Place" in which they visit the most fun and wacky places and events round the world. He had spotted the BBC video of last year's soapbox derby. "It looked right up our street," he said.

Peter takes up the story. "After initial discussions, Ewan Torrance (producer/director) took over from Neil, and he told me they like to get their presenters involved as much as possible, not least, meeting local children and competing in fun events.

Ideal For the Programme

"I gave Ewan and his team all the information about our event and he was convinced that it was ideal for the programme". After further discussion, Ewan said "you don't need our participation to boost your event – it is the reason people come and why we want to come. Its success speaks for itself. We will be there as your visitors to film at the event because it's such a great event."

His only concern was how to get his presenters involved – on board, in fact. Two options – building their own soapbox and entering a team OR looking at joining an existing team. Both ideas came with issues. Ewan said. "How do we build and transport our soapboxes? How do we find two local teams who would let us replace one of their teammates."

"Our 'dream' plan would be to have two teams that would be willing to have a presenter join each team. This team would



allow the presenter to be a pusher for the morning run and driver in the afternoon. They would be up for fun and not necessarily aiming to win!"

"Leave it with me" said Peter.

Positive Response

Problem solved: Peter wanted teams with an educational or charity theme and particularly, one of our Rotary Club teams - **a Rotary Team for a Rotary event!** He approached five teams, They all said YES!

Peter made his recommendations and Quilters Junior School were selected for their flexibility and innovative approach, and Canvey Coast Satellite Rotary Club as the "Rotary" team.

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It's the Absolute Pits - III



Team 303 - Canvey Coast Satellite Rotary Club - with "Canvey Horrors"



Team 339 - with "Riders of the Lost Kart"

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On the "Box" (continued)

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Bottom line: CBBC presenters Ed Petrie and Ben Shires, Ewan Torrance and all his team arrived on the day, accompanied by a film crew, and joined these two teams. Performing the dance routines and pushing the Soapbox in the morning, and driving Quilters' Q-Express and Satellite Rotary Club of Canvey Coast's Canvey Chugger in the afternoon.

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Ben Shires performs the "Locomotion" with the Canvey Chuggers

A TV director's visit to the Soapbox Derby

For me, the journey to Billericay for the Soapbox Derby began at the start of 2019. That was when our production team for the CBBC series "All Over the Place" first contacted Peter Greene about our team coming to film at the event.

For our series we always finish each episode with 2 presenters going head-to-head in a local event or competition, taking part alongside everyone else. I've been fortunate to film around the world at wacky races and bonkers contests for this series, and being part of the feeling of something unusual and fun about to happen as the crowds arrive is something that is always great.

That buzz was evident as soon as we arrived at Billericay, with soapboxes and teams arriving on site, and the course all set up for

the races. And after all Peter's help in the lead up to the day it was a pleasure to meet him as he and his Rotary Club colleagues got set up for the big day.

Ewan Torrance reports on his visit to the Soapbox Derby

Peter had arranged for our presenters to be part of two different teams, Quilters and the Canvey Chuggers. They were great teams, with great soapboxes, and perfect for us to film with! Ed Petrie, the show's main presenter, was even presented with a specially-made cape to take part in the Quilter's team!

After being pushers and runners in the morning races, Ed and Ben Shires (who was racing with the Canvey Chuggers) were as ready as they ever would be for their

races. Our cameras were set and running, our team were in place. All that remained was for them both to take their turns driving the soapboxes! The crowds at the event were brilliant all day and they cheered both presenters on for each of their races.

Ed's soapbox door refused to stay closed, and 2 of the mini cameras on Ben's soapbox were knocked out of position on his first jump, but otherwise both made it down to the finish line in a suitably fun fashion! We finished the day with Mike Wade, the Quilters team captain, awarding our special trophy to the winning presenter.

And if you want to know everything we recorded, you'll need to watch the series on CBBC when it airs sometime early in 2020!

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On the "Box" (continued)

(continued from page 19)
"Dream Come True"

Ewan was over the moon. "It's a dream come true for me. I've always wanted to do something

like this," he told us. Ed (in red) celebrated beating Ben by about ten seconds, even though both of them were amongst the fastest

on the day. In a short ceremony, Michael Wade, Headmaster of Quilters Junior School, and eponymous Wadeyman, presented Ed with his "All Over The Place" winning trophy

They may produce a programme titled All Over The Place but, on the day on Thunder Road, they were focussed, direct and highly effective. They were thrilled with our help with the programme. Now we cannot wait to see it. But wait we must – our event for All Over The Place is not due to be shown until next year. They'll let us know when.



I once was lost but now am found

That's what Amazing Grace's lyrics say, and, what happened at our Soapbox Derby. The Lost and Found tent at Billericay Rotary Club's successful fourth Soapbox Derby on Bank Holiday Monday was kept busy.

We had a youngster's iPad handed in and returned, and a red envelope containing a card and marked "For Grandpa" and other items. All safely returned.

A Distraught Husband

Then came the big challenge – a lost wedding ring. Distraught newly-wed Mia takes up the story with a Facebook post to the Billericay Discussion Page the day after, and then revealed that husband Joe was so upset, he'd woken her up at 4.30am wildly



Mia Starling • The Billericay Discussion Page

May 7 • 📷

Lovely people of Billericay, i know this is a long shot but myself and my family were at the soap box derby yesterday morning and there is a possibility that my husband has lost his wedding ring whilst there.

We were standing close to the 2nd ramp and then went for a wander onto sun corner field.

If anyone may have found it please please please contact me.

We are very newly married and he is beyond upset.

I have added a photo of the ring.

Thank you ❤️



saw Mia's post, and the photograph with it, and recognised the ring immediately.

A quick message to Mia, an exchange of phone numbers and it was returned to the delighted newly-wed at 2.00 pm Tuesday.

This happy tale attracted enormous response on the Facebook Billericay Discussion page, more than fifty messages from "hope you find it" to, having been found, **"Great news – so thrilled for you both."**

looking for it. Well, Mia and husband Joe can now celebrate. Thanks to a keen spotter the ring was found on the field and handed in to Rotary.

It was passed to Race Control, Rotary Club member Peter Greene, and Peter was about to post if anybody had lost a ring on the Discussion Page when he

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Competitors' Collection
(All the previously published Team reports)

Buzz, Buzz Bumblebee To Race in Billericay Soapbox Derby

The Bumblebee is coming to town with a sting in its tale for the Rotary Club of Billericay's Spectacular Soapbox Derby. The yellow and black kart is expected to be one of the highlights of the racing at the fourth annual running of the event on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6.

It is the entry from Essex car enthusiasts, Motor Show Events who have supported the derby in the past with raffle prizes but now have told the Rotary Club: "Count us in. Now we want to race as well."

Bumblebees's entry is proof that any new entry is welcome. Others are coming in but, as President Les Sheppard explains, "We would love some more to make the racing as good as in previous years. There is time left for those enthusiasts humming and ha'ing over whether or not to enter, to get on their bikes or their lawnmowers or whatever it takes to put together a racing soapbox and join Bumblebee down "Thunder Road", Billericay on May 6.

"It's easy to do on-line at www.billericaysoapboxderby.co.ukDon't miss out."

James Martin, who describes himself as Creative Marketeer for Motor-show Events, echoes the thinking. "If we can do it, so can all those motor fanatics out there.

After supporting the soapbox derby with raffle prizes and attending on the day for the past three years, we have decided to stop watching and take part."

Speed Freaks

James and the firm's Creative Manager and self-proclaimed petrol head, Karl Rushen, have teamed up with their good friends from American Car Hire based in Rawreth to create Team Bumblebee.

32 GAZETTE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Bumblebee aims to create a buzz at Soapbox Derby

THE Bumblebee is coming to town with a sting in its tail for the Rotary Club of Billericay's Spectacular Soapbox Derby.

The yellow and black kart is expected to be one of the highlights of the racing at the fourth annual running of the event on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6.

It is the entry from Essex car enthusiasts, Motor Show Events, who have supported the derby in the past. This year, they have announced: "Count us in. We want to race as well."

Bumblebee's entry is proof that any new entry is welcome.

President Les Sheppard said: "We would love some new entrants. There is time left if you're still unsure whether or not to enter, to get on your bikes or your lawnmowers or whatever it takes to put together a racing soapbox and join the Bumblebee down 'Thunder Road' in Billericay on May 6."

James Martin, who describes himself as 'creative marketeer' for Motor Show Events, said: "If we can do it, so can all those motor fanatics."

He went on: "After supporting the soapbox derby with raffle prizes and attending previous events, we have decided to stop watching and take part."

James and the firm's creative manager, Karl Rushen, have teamed up with their good friends from American Car Hire, based in Rawreth, to create Team Bumblebee.



The Billericay Soapbox Derby Bumblebee team

can Car Hire, based in Rawreth, to create Team Bumblebee.

"We are massive speed freaks," Karl added. "The design is secret but expect something explosive."

"We'll tell you nothing more than we are bringing a Chevrolet Camaro from the Transformers movies."

"Our kart will keep in line with the muscle car's looks with the yellow

paint and black stripes."

The Bumblebee will be racing for the first time in the derby, which has raised over £90,000 for local and Rotary-supported charities since its inauguration running in 2016 and has been watched by almost 20,000 people.

Motor Show Events stage two main shows, Motorfest and the Festival of Wheels. James says: "These are for those with a passion for motoring and feature motorsport, automotive performance, supercars, classic/custom vehicles alongside private cars from every motoring level."

To apply for a place in the Soapbox Derby, visit www.billericaysoapboxderby.co.uk.

Karl adds: "We are massive speed freaks. Design is a secret but expect something explosive. We can tell you nothing more than that we are bringing a Chevrolet Camaro from the Transformers movies. But it will keep in line with the muscle cars looks with the yellow paint with black stripes." Karl has been racing since he was six years old and claims the designer is "an amazing builder called Luke from Rawreth."

(continued on Page 22)

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*Spectacular
Charity*

Soapbox Derby

Rotary
Club of Billericay



BumbleBee (continued)



(continued from Page 21)

It will be racing for the first time in the event which has raised over £90,000 for local and Rotary-supported charities since its inauguration running in 2016 and been watched by almost 20,000 people in its three years

James and Karl agree that, like the soapbox derby, the Motorshow Events project is a dream come true. Between them they have hosted several successful shows and festivals in the past

creating experiences for car enthusiasts with a goal to delivering new motoring events and meets across the south-east."

Motoring Passion

They stage two main shows, Motorfest and Festival of Wheels. James says: "These are for those with a pas-

few years. Pooling their individual skills and knowledge, they "followed our dreams and did what we loved most;

private cars from every motoring level. Our aim is to build our very own Bumblebee from the Transformers movies."

Having agreed that they have seen some fantastic soapbox races at the event their aim is to be right up there with them with one of the best builds this year.

"We love being involved with local events, especially racing and the soapbox derby is an exciting challenge and for a great cause.



sion for motoring and feature motorsport, automotive performance, supercars, classic/custom vehicles alongside

We cannot wait to have a go. Watch our website:

www.motorshowevents.com for our updates." And they will again be donating some amazing prizes.

As President Les Sheppard reported at the time: "This is just the latest entry to the Soapbox Derby. Don't miss out. If you want great fun and excitement and help raise money for worthy charities and local schools, why not enter your own Soapbox. It's easy – just go to www.billericaysoapboxderby.co.uk and click on "Entry Pack".

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*Spectacular
Charity*

Soapbox Derby

Rotary
Club of Billericay



Flash, Bang, Wallop – Mongo Lander's Back

30 GAZETTE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Now that's Flash! Soapbox Derby team unveils vehicle

INSPIRED by the film Flash Gordon, 'Dr Hans Zarkov's Mongo Lander' will flash down Thunder Road again at the Rotary Club of Billericay's fourth Spectacular Soapbox Derby on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6 next year.

All the Flash Gordon spaceship characters will be involved as co-ordinator and team leader Nick Lang explained as he showed off the format of the 2019 model to club members in his drive at The Ridgeway, Billericay, and announced: "Next year, we will be fitter and faster."

Nick said, "Myself and Dan Treby conceived and built this for the 2018 Billericay Soapbox Derby event where it posted a respectable time of 33.22 seconds, placing it eighth on the day."

Dan's design skills added to Nick's electronic expertise – with input from 13-year-old son Christopher and his raspberry pi computer – produced a stunning silver spaceship complete with flashing lights.

He said: "Our neighbours Ifor and Jill Roberts, who made a convincing Flash and Dale, as Dr Hans



Dr Hans Zarkov's Mongo Lander

Zarkov, drove the Mongo Lander down the track and over both jumps pursued by hero Flash and Nick, as Ming the Merciless, both descending the hill on scooters.

"And, in the score tent, our 14-year old son, Daniel, was operating the computer scoring system and electronic scoreboard which he had pro-

grammed for the whole event."

The Soapbox Derby was a spectacular success and raised around £90,000 for charity. It is already geared up for next May.

Organising committee member, Peter Greene, said, "I can't wait to see the changes Nick will implement to make his soapbox go faster in

2019. What members of the public don't know is that not only did Nick build this soapbox for the 2018 event, but he designed and built the time recording system including timer displays, controls and radio connections that was used for the Soapbox Derby, including importing the components and physically constructing the system."

Club president, Les Shepherd, said: "It's always interesting to see how creative people are with their soapbox designs, from dinosaurs and cavemen through to futuristic spaceships. We're looking forward to seeing what fresh ideas appear next May, both from previous entrants like Nick and from new teams entering for the first time this year. Register your team now and start getting creative."

Nick Lang said: "Working together with friends, neighbours and family to build the soapbox was fun and an engaging challenge. The day itself turned out to be a great community event which is why Mongo Lander will be entering again – and, I repeat, we are working on making it fitter and faster. Watch this space."

with input from 13-year-old son Christopher and his raspberry pi computer, produced a stunning silver spaceship complete with flashing lights (what else?) and support on the day.

Over to Nick. "From neighbours Ifor and Jill Roberts who made a convincing Flash and Dale while Dan, as Dr Hans Zarkov, drove the Mongo Lander down the track and over both jumps pursued by Ifor as hero Flash, and Nick as Ming the Merciless, both descending the hill on scooters.

"And, in the score tent, our 14-year old son, Daniel was operating the computer scoring system and electronic scoreboard which he had programmed for the whole event."

The Soapbox Derby, a spectacular success and raised around £90,000 for Charity is already geared up for next May 6, 2019.

(continued on Page 24)

Inspired by the film Flash Gordon, 'Dr Hans Zarkov's Mongo Lander' flashed down Thunder Road again at the Rotary Club of Billericay's third Spectacular Soapbox Derby on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7 2019.

All the Flash Gordon spaceship characters were involved as co-ordinator, and Team Leader, Nick Lang explained as he showed off the format of the 2019 model to Club Members in his drive at The Ridgeway, Billericay and announced: "Next year, we will be fitter and faster."

Nick told us: "Dan Treby and I conceived and built this for the 2018 Billericay Soapbox Derby where it posted a respectable

time of 33.22 seconds, placing it eighth on the day."

Stunning Silver

Dan's design skills added to Nick's electronic expertise -



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Charity*

Soapbox Derby

Rotary
Club of Billericay



Flash, Bang, Wallop (continued)

(continued from Page 23)

Fun and Challenge

Organising committee member Peter Greene said. "I can't wait to see the changes Nick will implement to make his soapbox go faster in 2019. What members of the public don't know is that not only did Nick build this soapbox for the 2018 event, but he designed and built the time recording system (Timer displays, controls and radio connections) that was used for the Soapbox Derby, including importing the components and physically constructing the system."

As Club President Les Sheppard said: "It's always interesting to see how creative people are with their soapbox designs, from dinosaurs and cavemen through

to futuristic spaceships. We're looking forward to seeing what fresh ideas appear next May, both from previous entrants like Nick and from new teams entering for the first time this year. So register your team now and start getting creative!"

Nick Lang summed up the event:

"Working together with friends, neighbours and family to build the soapbox was fun and an engaging challenge. The day itself turned out to be a great community event which is why the 2019 replacement for Mongo Lander will be even more interesting and both fitter and faster. Watch this space."



Nick's 2019 Entry - Spectre - Day of the Dead

Extravaganza at the Soapbox Derby!

The Rotary Club of Billericay Soapbox Derby returns to Billericay Sun Corner for the fourth year on May 6, 2019 and spectators will thrill to the wacky soapboxes, the performances of the teams, and cheer as they take-off over the jumps. As usual there will be food and drink stalls on the field, with a children's playground, bouncy castles, and other attractions to keep everybody entertained when they want a break from watching the racing.

Spectacular Shows

But that's not all, folks! This year

we have an Extravaganza from the Helen Arber local Performing Arts School (HAPA) offering special shows during the lunch time break to entertain and enchant everybody there.

This brand-new Theatre Company are planning 20 minute sets with parades and performances

(continued on
Page 25)

32 GAZETTE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Prepare for a spectacular!



hapa
The Rotary Club of Billericay Soapbox Derby returns to Billericay Sun Corner for the fourth year on May 6. Spectators can look forward to wacky soapboxes, spectacular jumps and excitement as teams battle it out to be the best. This year, Helen Arber Performing Arts School (HAPA) will be performing special shows during the lunch break to

entertain and enchant audiences. This brand new theatre company are planning 20-minute sets with parades and performances full of colour, music and dancing. The first will be a 'West End Spectacular' on the theme of the Lion King, with performers parading and dancing through the crowd, many in the animal costumes beloved by audiences everywhere, singing the

songs from the show. The second set will feature pirates and princesses parading down the track, singing, dancing and engaging with the crowd. There may even be an additional performance based on Les Misérables. The Helen Arber Performing Arts School offers classes to all ages and abilities, covering all areas of drama, dancing and singing. Helen and her

team are building a new performing arts centre with its own dance studio, theatre and West End themed bar/reception area in Billericay. For more information, visit www.helenarberperformingarts.co.uk. To buy your tickets to the Soapbox Derby, visit: www.rcsbsoapbox.co.uk and for more information about the event, visit: www.billericaysoapbox.co.uk

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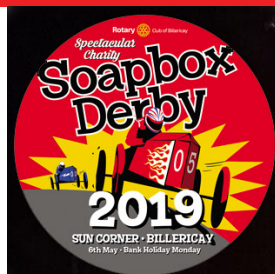
*Spectacular
Charity*

Soapbox Derby

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Soapbox Extravaganza! (continued)



Rotary
Billericay



(continued from Page 24)
full of colour, music and dancing.

The first will be a "West End Spectacular" on the theme of the "Lion King", with performers parading and dancing through the crowd, many in the animal costumes so beloved by audiences everywhere, singing the songs from the show.

The second will be a "Pirates and Princesses Spectacular" featuring pirates and princesses parading down the track, singing, dancing, and engaging with the crowds.

Don't miss out.

On the day of publication we urged the public to buy tickets to this great family day out and enjoy the racing, the entertainment and these great shows. Tickets are available on-line from:
www.rcbsoapbox.co.uk

For more information about the event, go to:

www.billericaysoapbox.co.uk

The Helen Arber Performing Arts school offers classes for all ages and abilities, covering all areas of Drama, Dancing and Singing as well as interactive preschool classes, LAMDA exams and a Young Actors Course. Helen

and her team are building a new Performing Arts Centre with its own Dance Studio, Theatre and West End Themed Bar/Reception area in Billericay, offering a wide range of entertainment opportunities including Family fun nights, Cabarets and themed events for all ages as well as regular performances.



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Submarine Or Train – Still Complete CARnage!

Back Again! Yes, featured on the Front Page of the Gazette after last year's Soapbox Derby, Complete CARnage, four local boys who have thrilled the watching thousands for three years as they "thundered" down London Road as Wacky Racers in the Rotary Club of Billericay's spectacular Soapbox Derby are back again.

Spot the Soapboxes

Here's how to look out for them on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6.

Colours – Yellow: That's entry one, their Yellow Submarine;
Red: That's entry two, Hogwarts Express. Colours have changed, soapboxes are rebuilds. Remem-



ber the Bathtub in year one and the Black Pearl and Flying Scotsman in years two and three?

Substantial Repairs

As team leader Jan "Suit" Lewis, the mechanic,

explains: "Both soapboxes sustained substantial damage after last year, but same chassis, different soapboxes and names. A massive piece of rebar has been hammered through the connecting bar to support it. Simples! Final word for Jan: (continued on Page 27)"



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Complete CAR-nage (continued)

34 GAZETTE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Soapbox derby means utter CAR-nage

Complete CAR-nage are back at the Billericay Soapbox Derby for another year



Complete CAR-nage are back. The team is made up of four men who have thrilled the watching thousands for three years as they thundered down London Road as wacky racers in the Rotary Club of Billericay's Spectacular Soapbox Derby.

They have more than one entry this year. Look out for their yellow submarine and their black Hogwarts Express. The team have spent time rebuilding their bathtub from year one, the Black Pearl from year two and their Flying Scotsman from year three.

As team leader, Jan 'Sult' Lewis, the mechanic, explains: "Both soapboxes sustained substantial damage after last year, but they use the same chassis; they're just different soapboxes with different names. A massive piece of rebar has been hammered through the connecting bar to support it. We will not be the first team to underestimate just how time-consuming it is to get something robust that passes scrutineering."

Like the soapboxes, the personalities have changed slightly over four years but the team still consists of four men from Billericay. Jan Lewis is the inspiration behind the builds; the other three this year are Tony "TC" Cooper, fancy dress, Steve Hardy "Skip Rat", mechanic and parts finder and Neville "Gadget" Brooks, electrics and sound.

"Our designs are inspired by fancy dress", says Jan. "The soapboxes have to be something that moves like a submarine and a train but also have a fancy-dress theme, hence Harry Potter and the Beatles. We have a great support team of family and friends. All will be dressing up on the day and having some fun."

For the tech-minded, the Hogwarts Express chassis is formed from two full suspension mountain bikes with the bike frames joined through the crank.

It's not too late to enter a Soapbox. Visit www.billericayssoapboxderby.co.uk to enter or, for spectator tickets, go to www.rcsbsoapbox.co.uk

cally four boys from Billericay. Jan Lewis is the inspiration behind the builds; the other three this year are Tony Cooper "TC", fancy dress, Steve Hardy "Skip Rat", mechanic and parts finder and Neville "Gadget" Brooks, electrics and sound.

Inspired by Fancy Dress

"Our designs are inspired by fancy dress", says Jan. "The soapboxes have to be something that moves like a submarine and a train but also have a fancy-dress theme, hence Harry Potter and the Beatles. We have a great support team of family and friends.

All will be dressing up on the day and having some fun."

For the techno-minded: Hogwarts Express chassis is formed from two full suspension mountain bikes with the bike frames joined through the crank.



(continued from Page 26)

"We will not be the first team to underestimate just how time consuming it is to get something robust that passes scrutineering."

Like the soapboxes, the personalities have changed slightly over four years but they remain basi-

True Heart Throbs!

As Paul Beesley explains: "When you live next to the race track, it seems rude not to enter."

Paul is the self-described 'idiot' of the Heart Throbs team who will be driving soapbox 301 right outside his house down London Road, Billericay on May 6 - the

day when the Rotary Club of Billericay stages its fourth annual spectacular soapbox derby.

Three of the team, Paul, engineer and driver, Jon, captain, ideas man aka 'the big kid' and Ian, engineer and chief pusher, all live in the same "Thunder Road" down which forty-plus soapboxes

will be racing on Bank Holiday Monday. Outsider is Jim from Shenfield.

Jim is the artistic one and inspired their two previous entries, "Team Golden Shower" in 2016 and the year after, "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly". That was the wild west stagecoach which as
(continued on Page 28)

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True Heart Throbs (continued)

(continued from Page 27)

Paul says: "Was probably more at home in a street parade than hurtling over jumps, but we did get a close Wacky Racers second place."

Car-diac Arrest

Back again after missing last year, the new design follows more beers in the Red Lion in Billericay high street. "The design will stay secret until the day of the Soapbox Derby. The only clue is in our Soapbox name - Car-diac Arrest".

All the team get involved in the design and build.

Paul and Ian are the IT geeks and the mechanical side; Jon and Ian fine-tune the theme to make it life-like. All done in the well-equipped garage of Paul's dad,

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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Heart Throbs are all set to tackle derby spectacular

PAUL BEESLEY will be driving soapbox 301 right outside his house down London Road, Billericay, on behalf of his team, the Heart Throbs, on May 6, when the Rotary Club of Billericay stages its fourth annual spectacular soapbox derby.

He said: "When you live next to the race track, it seems rude not to enter."

Three members of the team, Paul, the engineer and driver, Jon, the captain and 'ideas man', and Ian, engineer and chief pusher, all live in the same road - 'Thunder Road' down which forty plus karts will be racing on Bank Holiday Monday. Jim is the only outsider in the group coming from Shenfield.

Jim is the artistic member and inspired their two previous entries: Team Golden Shower in 2016 and The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, a wild west stagecoach the year after. Paul said the kart was: "Probably more at home in a street parade than hurtling over jumps, but we did get a close wacky racers second place."

Back again after missing last year, the new design follows more beers in the Red Lion in Billericay High Street.

"It stays secret until the day. Our clue is in our kart name Car-diac



Arrest." All the team get involved in the design and build. Paul and Ian are the IT geeks and work the mechanical side; Jon and Jim fine-tune the theme to make it life-like.

This is all done in the well-equipped garage of Paul's dad. "Billericay is a great town," said Paul.

"Events like this really separate it

from other towns. It's so much fun building and taking part. We don't have a sponsor; we all chip in. It didn't seem right for others to pay for our fun."



another "car nut".

"Billericay is a great town," says Paul. "Events like this really separate it from other towns around.

So much fun building and taking part. No sponsor but we all chip in. Didn't seem right for others to pay for our fun."

Nice female touch

Wives and partners are all Mad About The Boys and have named themselves "The Soapbox Widows."

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*Spectacular
Charity*

Soapbox Derby

Rotary
Club of Billericay



Soapboxes For Disabled – A Very Special Entry

Many of this year's forty-plus entries for our fourth Spectacular Soapbox Derby have entered for fun, fellowship and a chance to make exciting, entertaining fools of themselves when they compete down "Thunder Road" on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6

The bottom line is that they are all supporting charity and good causes. The event organisers, the Rotary Club of Billericay, is overwhelmed by the response from soapbox entries, past and present and from local schools who have come on board and can't wait to run and race on the day.

We have one very special entry this year. Have you heard of REMAP? No, well you should. They are a little-known charity that designs "one-off" pieces of equipment to help people with disabilities lead improved and more independent lives.



Custom equipment for
people with disabilities

Remap

Essex Groups
Charity No. 1137666

Taking a Flyer

All their members are volunteers and they all work for nothing. There are four groups in Essex and 73 in the UK helping some 3,500 disabled people each year. So, welcome aboard REMAP. We have a photograph of their chassis design and internals, but no name yet except maybe the

REMAP Flyer, which according to head honcho, Peter Livingstone, is a three-wheeler with disc brakes front and rear. It is being built by a sub-group of Remap in his garage in Woodham Walter.

Peter adds: "One of the key participants lives in Billericay. We plan for one of our engineers to be the driver."

We were approached by the President of the Rotary Club of Billericay, Les Sheppard, after he attended a meeting where Remap gave a presentation on what we do. We were asked to do an entry, so here we are."

We Can Help

Peter did not hedge. "Yes, our prime reason for entering is publicity. We are little known as a charity but could help so many more people if they knew what we do. We do many talks to
(continued on Page 30)



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Soapboxes For Disabled (continued)

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Rotary's charity Soapbox Derby is all ready to thrill for a fourth year

Little known charity that helps disabled people among entries

MANY of this year's 40 plus entries have entered for fun, fellowship and a chance to make exciting, entertaining fools of themselves, but all are doing so to support charities.

One of this year's entries comes from REMAP – a little-known charity that designs 'one-off' pieces of equipment to help people with disabilities lead improved and more independent lives.

All of their members are volunteers, with four groups in Essex and 73 in the UK helping some 3,500 disabled people each year.

Their kart is a three-wheeler with disc brakes front and rear. The body design remains a closely kept secret.

It is being built by a sub-group of Essex REMAP in Woodham Walter.

Peter Livingstone, of REMAP, said: "One of the group's key participants lives in Billericay. We plan for one of our engineers to be the driver."

"We were approached by the president of the Rotary Club of Billericay, Les Sheppard, after he attended a meeting where REMAP gave a presentation on what we do. We were asked to do an entry, so here we are."

The charity gives many talks to Rotary clubs, stroke and polio associations and community hospitals describing the 'small but vital' things they can provide people with to make their lives that little bit easier.



(continued from Page 29)

Rotary, stroke and polio associations, community hospitals and talk titles basically are making disabled people aware of what equipment is available to help

them feel independent, things like linking wheelchairs and even small things like door wedges on a long handle for easier access. Small things but vital."

At that time we had no clue

what the soapbox would look like on the day – the body design remained a closely kept secret - except that it would be fun. (Now it's after the event you can see the final design above - Editor)

Musical Magic And A Welcome Star Wars



Calling all Star Wars fans – there's a new kid on the block for our Spectacular Soapbox Derby on May 6 – and it is being built especially for you!

Entering a Soapbox for the first time are Sorella Sound, a relatively new Billericay company offering many musical services and specialising in post-production sound for image, including composition

(continued on Page 31)



**SORELLA
SOUND** EST. 2016



Catherine Nuttall



Jade Ashleigh

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A Welcome Star Wars (continued)

(continued from Page 30)
and sound design. It also serves
the local music community.

Behind the company which was
set up in 2016 are two univer-
sity friends, Catherine Nuttall
and Jade Ashleigh who say: "We
have brought all our passion for
music to Billericay."

Epic Movie Music

Why the design name of
Star Wars? "It had to be a
movie with epic music," says
Catherine. Whose idea? Greg
"Lucas" Meade, Catherine's
uncle.

Last year's spectacular event
inspired them to build and
enter a soapbox this year. It was
designed and built by Greg Mead
at Harold Wood using materials

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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Rotary's charity Soapbox Derby is all ready to thrill for a fourth year

Music company feels the force of the event and devises Star Wars entry

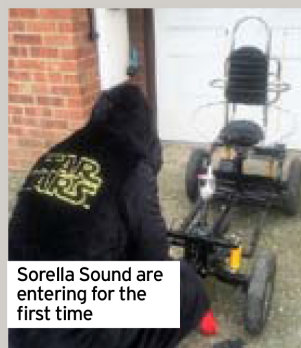
STAR Wars fans have something to
look out for at the Billericay Soap-
box Derby on May 6.

Sorella Sound, a relatively new
Billericay company offering many
musical services and specialising
in post-production sound for
image, including composition and
sound design, are entering a soap-
box for the first time.

Behind the company, and the
soapbox, are two university friends,
Catherine Nuttall and Jade Ash-
leigh.

When explaining their decision
behind a Star Wars themed design,
Catherine said: "It had to be a
movie with epic music."

Catherine's uncle, Greg 'Lucas'



Sorella Sound are
entering for the
first time

Meade, came up with the idea.

Last year's event inspired them to
build and enter a kart this year. It

was designed and built by Greg
Meade at Harold Wood using
materials from his family.

Jade will be the driver behind the
wheel as the kart races down Thun-
der Road.

Catherine said: "We are entering
for the first time. Supporting char-
ity and good causes through the
Rotary club event is brilliant."

All of their supporters - ladies,
wives and partners - are involved.
Jade said: "We will all be boosting
the proceeds in our hospitality
tent."

Sorella Sound has organised
their own sponsorship which can
be found on the website www.rotary-ribi.org.

from his family.

"We are entering for the first
time. We think it's brilliant to

be able to support charities and
good causes through the Rotary
Club of Billericay's Soapbox
Derby.



And, yes, Sorella Sound
wants the town of Billericay
to know about our services.
We have organised our own
sponsorship – well worth
it."

All their supporters, ladies,
wives and partners are
involved. "We will all be
boosting the proceeds in
our hospitality tent", adds
Jade "Chewmacher" Ash-
leigh who admits she is mad
enough to drive the Soap-
box.

Good luck Jade and thank
you Sorella Sound.

....What no Luke
Skywalker?

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The Wizard Of Oz!

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019 CHRONICLE 37

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Email your news to:
communitynews@gazette.co.uk
communitynews@essexchronicle.co.uk

Rotary's charity Soapbox Derby is all ready to thrill for a fourth year Thunder Road set for Down Under inspired entry

THE Billericay spectacular soapbox derby has a brand new competitor this year in the form of the VW Down Under team.

Paul 'The Stig' Barnett will take the wheel down Thunder Road on May 6.

He said: "After having a great day out attending last year's soapbox derby with the family, I just knew that this year we'd have to come back - but not as a spectator, as a competitor."

"We don't just want to race. We want to race in style and are in the process of building the coolest soapbox entry ever."

The team has based the design of their kart on a classic Volkswagen Split Screen and are putting in a lot of effort during their spare time to make it look accurate. Pictures which document the kart's progress can be viewed at www.vwdownunder.com/soapbox-derby.

The name VW Down Under came about after team manager Paul Mulligan came back to Britain from Australia to restore air-cool camper vans and now runs a successful business with driver and mechanic Paul, welder and mechanic Trevor and bookkeeper Claire.

Paul Barnett said: "This is a

charity event, another thing that gives us added motivation. The Rotary Club of Billericay always chooses a whole host of good causes - both local and international. Every penny donated will be given to charity."

The company has set a sponsorship target of £2,000 and has raised £1,000 already.

Paul Mulligan said: "If you can spare some of your hard-earned cash, we'd be really grateful if you could go to our sponsor page and donate towards these good causes."

Teams can be sponsored online at www.rotary-ribi.org.



The VW Down Under team are entering for the first time this year

All the drivers who will be racing soapboxes down "Thunder Road" on May 6 might like to take a fitness tip from Paul "The Stig" Barnett.

Paul will be driving "the beast" - VW Down Under's entry named, appropriately "BRUCE". It's a wonderful first entry to the Rotary Club of Billericay's

spectacular event on Bank Holiday Monday.

Paul Barnett says: "This is my big moment. I've been waiting for such an opportunity all my life. I've set myself a target for the race - to push myself to the limit." Just how? "By eating lots of high-fat milk chocolate and crisps. That's the food intake.

Also, I shall be walking from my car to our workshop instead of Paul Mullinger, our manager, giving me a piggy back." So now you know fellahs!

Official Contenders

If driver Paul Barnett is teasing, then manager Paul Mullinger certainly isn't. He says: "After having a great day out attending last year's soapbox derby in Billericay with the family, I just knew that this year we'd have to come back - but not as a spectator, as a competitor!"

So, the registration forms were sent off in January and "VW Down Under" are now official contenders.

"For anyone who knows us, you won't be surprised to hear that we don't just want to race, we want to race in style, so we're in the process of building the coolest soapbox entry ever!"



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The Wizard Of Oz! (continued)

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A Classic split screen Camper Van

"Everyone loves a VW camper van, so it's a no-brainer that ours is based on a classic VW Split Screen. All we need are the upgrades on the exhaust and fuel lines to arrive, and we'll be good to go!"

That last line is joking of course, but he adds: "We ARE putting in a lot of effort during our spare time to make it look extra cool, and, if you want to share the process with us and follow its progress, we'll be regularly



posting photos up on our website. www.vwdownunder.com/soapbox-derby

So, why the name VW Down Under? Paul Mullinger came back to "Old Blighty" from Australia to restore air-cool camper vans and now runs a successful business with driver and mechanic, Paul, welder and mechanic Trevor and bookkeeper Claire.

"What else would we call it after living in Australia," says Paul, "and, no, we are not based in Oz – Fobbing in fact."

Good Causes

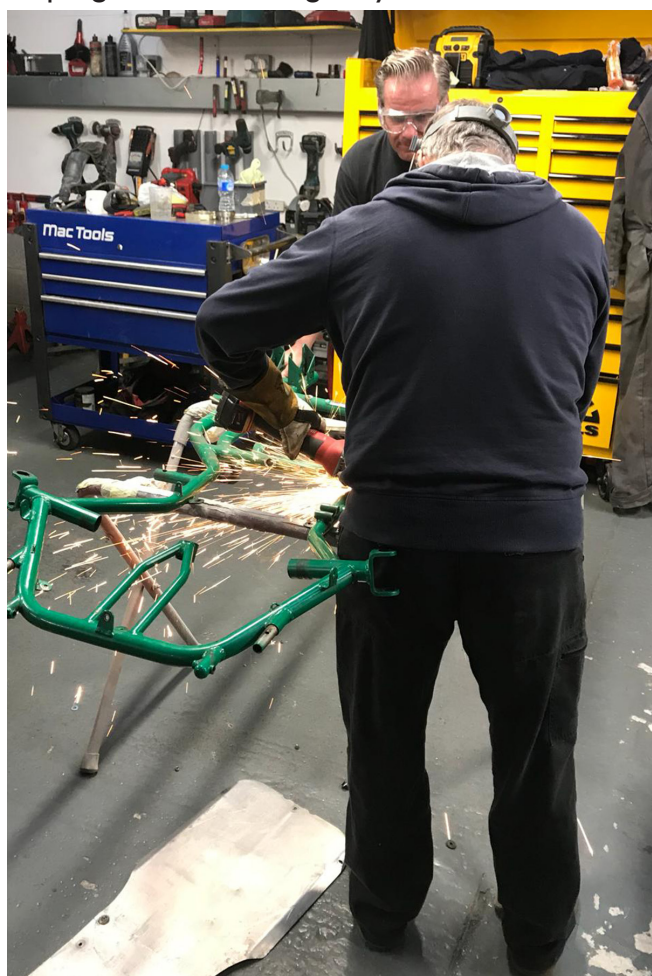
"This is a charity

event, another thing that gives us added motivation. The Rotary Club of Billericay always chooses a whole host of good causes - both local and international. They will benefit from this, and every penny donated to sponsoring us will be given to them."

Driver Paul is not the only one setting targets. The company has set a sponsorship target of raising £2,000. When it was over £1000 Manager Paul pleaded: "If you can spare some of your hard-earned cash, we'd be really grateful if you could go to our sponsor page and donate towards these good causes."

They certainly did that - their sponsorship total has exceeded £2200!

"And anyone's welcome to come to our yard and say hi to Paul 'The Stig'. You might not see him again after he's driven this beast down that hill."





Task Force Set To Go – Scouts Honour!

Remember the Wombles? They made a great first appearance in the Rotary Club of Billericay's 2017 Soapbox Derby, as one of two teams from Basildon Council.

The Wombles aren't coming back but Lee Summerfield, inspiration behind the memorable theme kart is. Instead of the "Wimbledon Common" characters, he is entering a task force – of beavers (the human kind!), cubs and scouts who are real and ready to race.

Lee explains: "Sadly I had to miss last year's race after having surgery. I have now coaxed 9th Basildon Kingswood Scout Group into entering this year's race. It's a first time for them and they are thrilled to bits."



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Rotary's charity Soapbox Derby is all ready to thrill for a fourth year

Scout Group will be ready to Womble

A TASKFORCE of beavers, cubs and scouts are ready to take on the Billericay Soapbox Derby.

Lee Summerfield, the creative mind behind the Wombles who made a great first appearance in 2017, is back with a new group.

Lee said: "Sadly I had to miss last year's race. I have now coaxed the 9th Basildon Kingswood Scout Group into entering this year's race."

"It's a first time for them and they are thrilled to bits."

Inspired to enter as part of their celebrations of 100 years in scouting for Essex, all of the group's sections will be able to gain a few badges: DIY, Skills, Teamwork, Creative, Fundraising and Mechanic, some of which will go towards their chief scout awards - the highest award for each section of the group.

The group consists of 20 beavers, 20 cubs and 18 scouts and they were all tasked to be involved in the construction of the soapbox, named Badge of Honour.

Lee explained: "The cubs had the honour of trying to come with the



The 9th Basildon Kingswood Scout Group are entering this year's Billericay Soapbox Derby

design of the kart itself. With 20 designs, we had to whittle them down."

The build has been passed to the scouts, who have already made an enthusiastic start by dismantling the Wombles soapbox.

The final task of decorating is being left to the beavers.

The racing team is made up of four of the older scouts: Reece

Riches, 13, who is team captain; Zoe Footer, 13; Harry Jones, 13; and Owen Warrington, 13.

Lee said: "It is such a great event. We will also be running a stall along with helping out the Rotary club during the event."

"We are hoping to have a large contingent of support too from the beavers right through to the scouts, along with leaders and parents."

100th Anniversary

"We have been inspired to enter this year as part of the celebrations of the 100th year in scouting for Essex. All of the group's sections will be able to gain a few badges, some of which are, DIY, Skills, Teamwork, Creative, Fundraising and Mechanic. Some of which will go towards their Queen's Scout Awards, this being the highest award for each section of the group."

So, who are they? Made up of around 20 beavers, 20 cubs and 18 scouts, all from 9th Basildon Scout Group they are "Scouting Ahead". The task was set for them all to be involved in the construction of the soapbox, which is named "Badge Of Honour".

Lee continues: "The cubs had the honour of trying to come up with the design of the kart itself."

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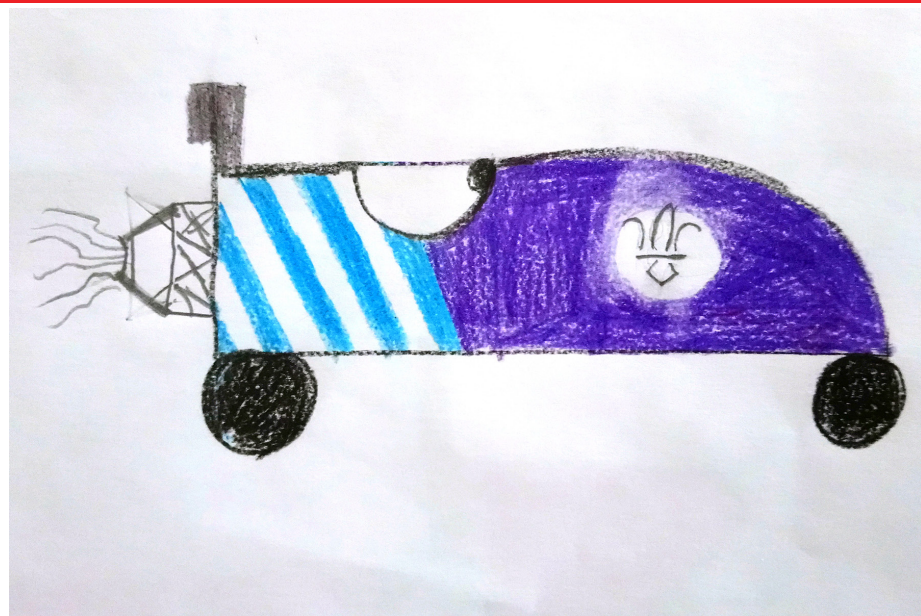
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Scouts Honour (continued)



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For two weeks they “ummed and aaahed”, scribbled and coloured. Some ideas were wild and wacky, some were out of this world and others, Ferrari themselves would have been keen to have.

Final Three

“So, with twenty designs we had to whittle them down. Scouts decision. They ran the rule over all twenty and finally selected the final three. Then after a round of dodgeball, and jets and bombers, they finally got it down to one. “Hooray” was the cheer from the leaders!

“The build has been passed to the scouts and they have already made a start by dismantling the wombles soapbox, with plenty of enthusiasm. For me, it was like losing an old and dear friend!”

Final task of decorating the

soapbox is being left to the beavers once the scouts have finished, along with the help from the rest of the other sections.” Could this all be a recipe for disaster?” I hear you say.

Lee is adamant: “Not if I know

this scout group, they are very determined and will always try to work as a team.”

Fundraising Stall

Work done, the racing team, made up of four of the older scouts, will be ready for the big day. They are: Captain – Reece Riches, aged 13; team members, all 13: Zoe Footer, Harry Jones and Owen Warrington.

Lee concludes: “It is such a great event that, not only will we be entering a team but we will also be running a stall, along with helping out the Rotary Club during the event.

“We are hoping to have a large contingent of support too from the beavers right through to the scouts, along with scout leaders and parents.”



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The Prize Winners

Fastest Soapboxes - 1st. 2nd. 3rd.



Student Class Winners - 1st. 2nd. 3rd.



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The Prize Winners

About 8,000 spectators watched the event, and total profits exceeded £25,000 despite the lack of any sponsors and the cold weather. Final figures will appear on our website, Facebook and Twitter.

Derby Day Results

These are the final results.

Fastest Soapboxes

1. **Team 315**
The Squirts
2. **Team 308**
Q-Express
3. **Team 310**
Yellow Submarine

Student Class

1. **Team 330**
Brightside
Bullet
2. **Team 308**
Q-Express
3. **Team 317**
Colchester
Royal
Grammar
School 'Harold'

Corporate Class

1. **Team 327**
SPECTRE - Day of the Dead
2. **Team 329**
Back to the Future
3. **Team 309**
Law and Disorder

Wacky Racers

1. **Team 316**
The Scrapper
 2. **Team 338**
Hogwarts Express
 3. **Team 310**
Yellow Submarine
- Best Constructed Soapbox Winner**
1. **Team 322**
VW Down Under

Winners:

- **Ms. Sian Miller**
- **Mrs. Suzannah Whelan**
- **Mrs. Clare Brown**

All three win a donation of £250 to a charity of their choice in their own name.

Raffle

Winners of the raffle for those buying Race Cards at the Soapbox Derby was drawn on the day and were as follows:

- **Claire Headley**
- Mercedes Luxury Saloon for the weekend (courtesy of Mercedes-Benz of Lakeside).
- **Eddy Stuart**
- Turn1 Racing Simulator - Two hours professional tuition on the "race track" (courtesy of Bumps Away).

The following each won 4 free tickets to the Fathers' day Essex Motorfest

in Chelmsford. (Courtesy of Essex Motorshow Events.)

- **2308 James Ilesley**
- **2318 Pat Stratton**
- **2116 Mandy Wesson**
- **2779 Jon Bilby**
- **2042 Mark Ross**
- **2773 Toni Townhill**
- **2797 Jon Bilby**



Invitation Challenge Winner

1. **Sonny Lindfield**

Social Media Challenge

The draw was completed on the night before the Soapbox Derby, for all those who shared their ticket purchase with their friends on Facebook and Twitter:

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The Prize Winners

Winners Wacky Racers - 1st. 2nd. 3rd.

**Winners Corporate - 1st. 2nd. 3rd.**

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The Prize Winners

Winner - Best Constructed Soapbox



Winner - Invitation Challenge



Let's Get Some Air - I

Team 322 -
VW Down Under



Team 341 -
Royal Snail



Team 334 -
Bath Bomber



Team 329 -
Back to the Future



Let's Get Some Air - II

Team 328 -
Canvey Chugger



Team 308 -
Quilters Express



Let's Get Some Air - III

Team 330 -
Brightside Bullet



Team 307 -
The Lion King



Team 332 -
Badge of Honour



Team 342 -
Connor's Stars



Let's Get Some Air - IV

Team 338 -
Hogwarts Express



Team 327 - SPECTRE -
Day of the Dead



Let's Get Some Air - V

Team 309 -
Bills on Wheels



Team 311 -
FireFly



Team 302 -
Lego Karters



Team 331 -
Purple Rocket



Leaping for Joy! - I

Team 331 - South Green
Superheroes



Team 303 - Canvey
Coast Rotary
Horrors



Team 303 - Canvey
Coast Canvey
Chuggers



Leaping for Joy! - II

Team 310 - Yellow
Submarine - The Beatles



Team 324 -
BumbleBee



Team 329 - Back to
the Future



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Reflections By Our Members

Another Brilliant Show-Stopper! - Roger Kettle



As one of the members involved from start to finish, I am thrilled that our 2019 Soapbox Derby was again, thanks to excellent co-ordination on all fronts, a major success and credit to our Club.

These things never just happen. They are the result of a lot of hard work and conscientious effort by the organising committee over a lengthy period of time, supported by all our Club Members. Added to that, on the day itself, we have the considerable and appreciated help from a variety of other clubs, plus friends and relatives.

My individual responsibility was to try and obtain sponsorship from – well, ... anywhere - but in the end it was again local companies and retailers that came through and supported the charitable initiative. In the end we achieved just under £9,000

in sponsorship, approximately £2000 up on last year

Good Fun

We obtained 144 sponsorship banners to put along the race-track on the day. Always good fun, as we need to have a plan to make sure they all fit in and get them all up in the limited time between the road closure and the first race. Once again, the team of non-Rotarian volunteers did this in some style and finished the task well inside the time limit.

How lucky we are to have these people help us, but also all the Cub Members who, over five weekends prior to the event, helped in a variety of weathers to advertise the Derby on the High Street, in Waitrose and at the Co-op in Queen's Park - a key element in raising awareness with the public

Despite the cold weather, a turnout of thousands of spectators enabled the Club to raise, I understand, over £25,000 for distribution to our Soapbox charities. A fitting reward. As is the excellent feedback from spectators that it was also such a good community event.

Six-Hour Spectacle

For the price of a £5 ticket they experienced a six-hour spectacle that appealed to all ages and sexes with the fun of the soapboxes themselves, their fancy dress formats, pre-race

cabaret entertainment, backed up by lunch time entertainment that featured spectacular dancers and singers plus, throughout the day, refreshments and numerous children's activities and games on the adjacent Queen Elizabeth field. Trophy winners apart, the real success story was the spectators and our Club.

Thoughts of an MC – Ken Smith



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

My good friend Graham agreed to join me again this year, at the finish line in the morning, start line in the afternoon and fellow "banter" provider. We arrived at 6.00 am (I know, late for some!!!)

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Reflections By Our Members

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and for me, the immediate feel was one of fellowship, friendship and keen anticipation. Graham & I got stuck in straight away helping with the 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. Aaahh! Breakfast, that's more like it. And the witching hour was getting ever closer and my stomach was getting ever more practiced at somersaults!!

You'd think that with three events under my belt, it would be easier? Think on!!! Graham and I spent time wandering the pits and chatting to the entrants. What a fun crowd they all were.

Everyone deserved to win, just by being there.

And then it was time. Looking down Thunder Road with mic. in hand is hard to put into words. Daunting, terrifying, exciting? Knowing how many were relying on me, yes, all of that! So, as for the last three years it was a case of, deep breath, mic to mouth. inhale and ... the first words issued forth. We're off!!! And for another year "motormouth" did his thing! My overriding memory is of "having a ball" with very responsive spectators, competitors and organisers. We achieved the "Billericay Wave" this year too. All the way to the finish and half

way back. The weather started well but was mainly dull and a little "fresh"! But with motorcycle thermals and adrenaline, I didn't notice it!! Did you?



This year we had the new invitation challenge. Well, I had to do it didn't I? Unfortunately, the "burden" of years of good living overwhelmed my cart and were it not for fellow Rotarian Margaret, I'd still be sitting, stationary, on the road well short of the finish. And this had been moved halfway up the track!!! The photos are evidence of my attempt, and another of how I remember my early days "soapboxing".



And at the end? I was totally exhausted, mentally and physically. What a great and memorable day. Well done everyone.

Last Chance Saloon - Patrick Rothern



This year was planned well ahead of the day to run like clockwork. However, we had a last-minute hitch when our caterer advised us he had not applied in time and his Liquor Licence had been refused. Could we assist?

Having spent almost a day arm-twisting and using up all my favours with Basildon Council we came to an unofficial agreement to proceed, thanks to the lack of any previous issues and the police had no objection. Phew!!

A Breakfast To Die For!

Most of Billericay appeared to be aware of the event when we were promoting on Saturday mornings. However, the highlight for me was the full cooked breakfast before we set up!

Despite the weather being cold on the day, luckily it did not rain and then it poured for the rest of that week. How fortunate is that! The usual thanks go to

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everyone concerned. Setting up is a three-day process and apart from all the endless meetings it is a massive effort for only a few of us. On the day, some of our Members started at 5.30am and stayed until 8.00pm.

Like all of us I am delighted that the event was such a great success and really puts Billericay on the map. Quite an achievement considering the size of our Club.

Editor's note - Patrick is far too modest and doesn't do himself justice. Amongst many items, he solved the road closure, obtained the road signage, reserved Sun Corner and the QEII field, negotiated St John's Ambulance attendance, and ensured Truestaging collected, transported, set up and took down the ramps. Not to mention how to get our soapboxes from London Road onto the QEII field.

Change Of Name And Better Raffle - Keith Wood



Amongst our many vital money-raising charity projects on Soapbox Derby Day is our special raffle, but it has always

raised less than we wanted.

This year we introduced some innovations which we hoped would generate more sales, and thus more revenue for our Soapbox charities.

What did we do?

First of all we changed the name – our previous “Run Card” and “Schedule” just didn’t resonate with the potential customers, ... welcome “Raffle Programme” instead – much more meaningful. Then we moved the Raffle Tent, our headquarters for selling the Programme, from its isolated position near Gate 2, down to near the big video screen and the Helen Arber Performers, so we were in the centre of activities. Finally, we issued the low volume Gates with their own supplies of Programmes so they could sell them too.

Five For A Fiver!

And we didn’t stop there, we had additional volunteers - my wife Gill, and Gill’s niece, Mike Sinclair’s wife Liz., Chandra, President Les’s wife Val and daughter Helen, Carol Rothon’s sister Sandra, and Peter Strong and President-Elect Ben (part-time). My thanks to them all.

As a result of their participation, we were able to seek out customers by stationing ourselves at the high-volume gates, and pro-actively walk the track, selling programmes to those waiting there for more action.

This was particularly effective at

lunchtime when spectators were “guarding” their track-side places but had to listen to our pitch and pay up. We even experimented with selling “five for a fiver” with some limited success.

There’s much more we learnt and could do better, but we had a 30% increase in sales compared with last year – which must be good for our charities!

And it all worked! – Peter Greene



Now that the Soapbox Derby is over (apart from the mammoth task of producing this “Souvenir Newsletter”), it’s time to reflect on the last few months.

Exhausted? Why?

Thanks to our previous Soapbox Derbies, we already had documentation, processes, maps, plans, and charts for everything that needed to be done. Pages of them!

But every year there is something new, from changing the date on every document, to coping with the Council’s new field entry from Gilmore Rise. From arranging for the BBC to be
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part of our event, and ensuring it all went well, to Sunday night up on the field re-numbering the Pits with team numbers and then sending all the teams a plan of the pit locations so they could go straight to the right place.

Bigger Every Year

It takes so much effort to keep the information flowing between us and the teams, the service clubs and all the individual helpers, the press, the radio and the TV companies - the weekly Newsletters just get bigger each week with fresh information, tips, and vital information.

Then on the day, it takes 200 people to run the event, for each of which we need updated manuals, instructions and the processes, and to provide training where necessary. Then each of them has to be given instructions and assigned tasks so that everything that needs to be done, is done. All this apart from whether all the suppliers will deliver on time, will the timers work, will the cables connect, etc. etc. And Finally, will the weather be dry and spectators come.

Little wonder that the Soapbox Derby dominates everybody's time for the 6-8 weeks before and during the event!

Grateful Thanks

My thanks to all the service clubs who again manned the Gates and the road barrier, the scouts for delivering the warning letters and general help on the day, the

Billericay Youth Town Council for acting as Marshals, the Billericay School 6th Form for being Scorers, and especially Tony Sprackling and Dikster for ALL their help. And all the Members of our Club, their relatives and friends who individually turned out to make up the numbers we need to make it work.

My personal thanks to our two photographers, Peter Mitchellmore and Phillip Whalley, who gave their time for free and to our special videographer, Jessica Crosby, who stepped in at the last moment, was at the event all day and produced edited highlights for us within three days. Sorry, Jessica for all my changes! And also, for adding the second video "Jumping for Joy" which you produced equally speedily. Finally, our thanks to young Daniel Lang who developed the computer timing and scoring system, and worked all day in the Race Control tent recording the scores and displaying them on the big Screen.

In Conclusion

Yes, it's an enormous workload and the stress is unbelievable, but it's all worthwhile because it was financially a great success again despite a cold weather snap so much worse than last year's glorious heat.

Yet again, face to face comments, emails, Facebook, Twitter and Messenger comments, were universally positive, with many teams already discussing what they would build next.

Despite the occasional frustration, my thanks to all the teams because without you, there would be no Derby! Your enthusiasm, dedication, hard work, and on the day, performances and runs down the track, REALLY DO MAKE IT ALL WORTHWHILE. Thank you all.

A Carnival Spirit – Mike Sinclair



Staggered out of the shower at 05.15. Confused. What to wear? Bright morning but, cooler than forecast. No, I wasn't setting off for a walk on a bare Mountain with Bear Grylls – just preparing for our soapbox derby that day. Last year – 29C; this year down to 11c. What a shock!

Decision: Plenty of layers to adjust as required. Next step – loading the car with boxes of kit to be delivered to the gates, and to set off to Sun Corner to beat the road closure.

So where was I involved? Field already populated with workers ants. Many of the commercial

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concessions were in place as they had been delivered on Sunday and left overnight.

Pit Success

Still much for me to do. Soapboxes began to arrive, and their excited team leaders were looking for their allocated space in the pits, a process which had not been straightforward in previous years. This year it worked well.

Simultaneously, the fencing, the inflatables and banners appeared. The seamless way this "happened" belied the enormous amount of physical work and organisation which were involved. The harder we worked, the easier it looked.

Jeremy French and his motorised lifting equipment saved us weeks of man hours - popping up all over the track, lifting, unstacking and transporting. It was like a scaled-up computer game. The ramp appeared to be a giant jigsaw, with all of the pieces fitting together well and fortunately none were missing. Everything was in place and ready to roll by 9.00am. The miracle that is the Soapbox Derby was under way.

Gate Issues

Most of the day I confined myself, as usual, to the secure location, escaping briefly from time to time to follow up on occasional issues at a gate, or to see how things were going. Very occasionally I caught a glimpse of a soapbox defying gravity momentarily before crashing back to earth.

The crowds which gathered throughout the morning and early afternoon with the gates processing the entries in their usual efficient way, seemed in carnival spirit, spilling along the pavements on both sides of the track and also gathering in front of the large screen on the field.

Finally the long wind down began as the prize-giving began. People began to drift away, and the site deconstruction started to gather pace.

What An Effort!

I was not involved directly as priority was given to clear the track to enable the road to reopen at 8.00pm. Even the men who reopened the road had to operate a plan to ensure there was no-one coming through at one end who could not escape at the other. Thanks to efforts of Basildon Council employees, the work was finished punctually, the road swept, the bins emptied into the refuse collecting vehicles and litter picked from all quarters of the field. A supreme effort.

I am sure we all felt relief that it was all over and my final thoughts turned towards all of the follow-up tasks which lay ahead to close off another successful Soapbox Derby. That, perhaps, is for another day.

Extremely Positive Comments - Malcolm Acors

Once again we were lucky with the weather. The crowds came



out and we made a good profit.

The number of soapboxes participating was down again to 31 this year, which makes you wonder if the event has run its course.

But the excellent entertainment during the lunch break with the talented Mabel Rogers singing and the HAPA performing arts school turning Thunder Road into a Disney parade, ensured the public enjoyed themselves. The comments I received from the crowds were extremely positive.

On the day, due to careful planning and the enthusiastic and sterling help of all Members of the Club, their families, friends and other service clubs, the set up was like a well-oiled machine.

All was in place by 9.00 am ready for racing, and taken down swiftly with the road opened on time and the field left spotless.

The charities supported by our Club will benefit from donations in excess of £25,000. Well done everyone involved!

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Ticking All The Boxes

It may have been more Siberia than Sahara but it did not stop the fans turning out in force. Not quite the 10,000 in 2018 but 8,000 hardy souls braved the cold to watch some spectacular racing down Thunder Road, laugh at the fancy dress antics and flood the QEII field at Sun Corner for all the fun of the fair.

Mabel Rogers Delights

The musical entertainment provided by singer Mabel Rogers, back by popular request, and the first dramatic appearance of the Helen Arber Performing Arts company (HAPA) who braved the cold in costumes that dazzled the eye and made one shudder at their bare arms and shoulders and then delighted in a magnificent performance.

Our sincere thanks to Roger Kettle and Malcolm Acors for making this happen. Roger summed up the reaction to Mabel's contribution:

Roger says: "Last year we were looking for a singer to entertain the crowd during the lunch break. Then, thanks to Lee Edgell, proprietor of Bumps Away, we met Mabel. Problem solved. Local young lady, growing reputation and willing to support our charity event – at no fee!

She was good - very, very good and we were thrilled when she agreed to support us this year and perform again for us.



"Her reputation has grown. She has links with a record label and a possible album. This year she came with close friend Beth who runs her own charity events which Mabel supports. Talented ladies who did us proud"

HAPA Parades Delight All
Malcolm arranged for the two fantastic parades by the HAPA Dance Group, a Disney Princess parade complete with Cinderella Coach drawn by two white

(continued on Page 55)

SUN CORNER
BILLERICAY
6th May 2019

*Spectacular
Charity*

Soapbox Derby

Rotary
Club of Billericay



SUN CORNER
BILLERICAY
6th May 2019

Spectacular Charity Soapbox Derby

Rotary
Club of Billericay



Ticking All The Boxes (continued)

(continued from page 53)
horses, and other characters from Disney films like a smiling Snow White. And more, a Lion King performance with very realistic animals including an elephant and a giraffe.

Malcolm added: "The level of the excellent entertainment during the lunch break with the talented Mabel Rogers and the HAPA performing arts school turning Thunder Road into a Disney parade, ensured the public really enjoyed themselves."

World's Fastest Tuk-Tuk

And that wasn't all. We featured one of the first public appearances of Matt "Tuk-Tuk" Everard and his "Fastest Tuk-Tuk in the World" - see left and below. Matt drove his customized Tuk-Tuk down Thunder Road, giving a preview of his machine before his attempt on the Guinness World Record on May 13 in Yorkshire.

Matt had bought his 1971 Tuk-Tuk off the internet in 2017, and spent £20,000 on rebuilding it

over five months. There were cheers all round as he drove slowly down the track and back up again - no record attempt here for obvious safety reasons! Matt had the Tuk-Tuk on show on the field both before and after the lunch break, answering curious spectators' questions about the forthcoming attempt. We were delighted to hear that, set a target of over 68 mph, Matt smashed the record and achieved over 74 mph measured over two runs in opposite directions, with his cousin as passenger.

Malcolm reports "I received only extremely positive comments to both the entertainment and Matt's appearance."

Do It Yourself

New this year for the first time, were two special "skeleton" soapboxes - traditional soapboxes with rope steering and hand operated levers for the rear wheel brakes. Members of the public were offered the chance to drive one down the course. Eight

brave spectators (or should we say seven spectators and our own MC) had a go, much to the crowd's amusement as many found it wasn't as easy as they had thought, and suffered the indignity of falling off to the cheers of the spectators!

And Finally ...

It was a great family day out, raising over £25,000 for our chosen charities, and a grand total of over £120,000 in the four years of the event. Our charities, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, Rotary Foundation - End Polio Now, Ciamanda School in Kenya, Little Havens Children's Hospice, local schools and other charities supported by Rotary, will all benefit.

Once again, we ticked all the right boxes and gave ourselves a big pat on our backs for a stupendous effort by all Club Members and the many service clubs who rallied to our cause, and were there for us on the day. We thank them all.



**SUN CORNER
BILLERICAY
6th May 2019**

*Spectacular
Charity*

Soapbox Derby

Rotary
Club of Billericay



Our Grateful Thanks

Soapbox Derby Raffle

Rotary  Club of Billericay

1st Prize

Use of a luxury Mercedes Car for a weekend
(courtesy of Mercedes-Benz of Lakeside)

2nd Prize

Turn1 Racing Simulator
2 hours free tuition worth £400
(Courtesy of Bumps Away)

3rd to 7th Prize

5 Prizes of 4 tickets to the Fathers' Day
Motor Show
(Courtesy of Essex Motor Show Events)

Roll of Honour

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

The Judges

Alan Clark | Maureen Larkin | Jim Devlin

Service Clubs

Billericay Round Table
41 Club
Billericay Lions
Rotary Club of Basildon
Rotary Club of Basildon Concord
Rotary Club of Wickford
Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower

Tom Acors of Acors Press

~ For all design and printing work

Daniel and Nick Lang

~ Computer Scoring and Timing System

Eurovia

~ For all works re diversion and road closure

All volunteers with a special mention for:

Tony Sprackling Richard Leahy
David Randall Ian Miller

Jerry French & The Charge Family

~ For use of loading machinery and straw bales

Billericay Youth Town Council

~ For marshalling the races

Billericay School 6th Form

~ For multiple stewarding functions

Essex Highways ~ For advice

Billericay 6th & 8th Scout Groups

~ For letter delivery and Tea/coffee.

Mercedes Benz of Lakeside

~ For Raffle First Prize

Bumps Away

~ For Raffle Second Prize

Essex Motor Show Events

~ For Fathers' Day tickets

Billericay Gazette

~ For coverage of the event

Retail outlets who sold programmes:

Anna's Newsagents,
The Railway Pub,
Slipped Disc,
Fisher Jones Greenwood Solicitors,
Ashton & Charters Estate Agents,
Creatures Great and Small,
Cellers Newsagents,
Quilters School,
Buttsbury Junior school,
The Red Lion,
Smokers Paradise.

TrueStaging

~ For building the start ramp

TFH Gazebos

~ For loan of gazebos

RedBoxTickets.com

~ For providing our online ticketing system

Churches Together / Street Pastors

~ For all their help on the day

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