



humanity in motion

PRESS RELEASE

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rotary in London/district 1130
district governor Colin Mathews

American Police Officer speaks at the Rotary Dinner

A recent dinner speaker at the Rotary Club of Leytonstone & Woodford Rotary Club was Detective Sergeant Eileen Gilleece from the New Jersey Police Force, USA. Eileen was no stranger to Rotary having spent time in the UK as a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar during 1999.



Eileen explained her background in the Police Force having served 24 years in the New Jersey force. She started with the traffic police in her early years mainly in the rural part of New Jersey but moved on to more serious matters which covered investigations into war crimes, terrorism, homicide, missing persons, paedophiles, official corruption, cargo theft and robbery and organised crime. She has also recently provided training to the Iraqi War Crimes Tribunal in interviewing and investigation training.

Her work has taken her around the world and she clearly relished the opportunity to see different parts of the world and the different cultures. Her work has also been rewarded with many awards, but she explained that the greatest satisfaction was in seeing a young child recovered safely from a paedophile investigation and being reunited with her parents.

Questions were freely asked and answered following her speech and one question concerned the subject of police carrying arms in the USA. She explained the awesome responsibility of having to carry an armament 24hrs a day 7 days a week wherever she went and the thought of the damage that can be done, especially in the wrong hands. Her personal view was that she would do away with the carrying of arms by the police and restrictions of guns to the public. She explained that in some parts of rural USA it was standard practice to carry arms and that it was part of the written constitution. If she could put the genie back in the bottle she would wish to do so, but the gun lobby was politically strong and it would take some time to change opinion.

The President of the Club, Mary Barrett, thanked Eileen for her very interesting speech, her open and honest view of her work. She was to come back on her next visit to the UK. The photo shows Eileen Gilleece (left), President Elect Geoffrey Stimpson (centre) and Club President Mary Barrett (right).

For more information about Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars, please contact the Scholars Coordinator on scholars@rotaryinlondon.org For more information about the Rotary Foundation, please contact the District Rotary Foundation Chairman Tim Raath on foundation@rotaryinlondon.org

t: 0207486 0632 f: 020 7935 2587 e: secretary@rotaryinlondon.org
a: 6 york gate, london NW14QG w: www.rotaryinlondon.org