



The July Diary

- 3rd C & V meeting*
 - Classification &*
 - Membership Committee*
- 5th Rotary Lunch – Presidential Handover*
- 10th Youth Services Committee*
 - Foundation Committee*
 - International Committee*
- 12th Rotary Lunch*
- 16th Sport & Entertainment Committee*
- 19th Rotary Lunch*
- 24th Council Meeting*
- 26th Rotary Lunch*

For the full year's diary visit
www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk



President's Pen for June

I need to thank Eric Woodruff and Maurice Humphris for standing in as Acting President and Acting Secretary respectively while the absentees were enjoying Contact Weekend with our European Rotary colleagues. I have already reported about Contact weekend in May's President's Pen.

We enjoyed an Early Bird Supper on Thursday evening in the usual good company and on Friday at our Lunch Meeting we had Victoria Woods and Sara Bailey from St. Mary's School in Banbury talking to us about "Reducing Poverty Through Education". It was an interesting and thought provoking talk about their work in South Africa with schools.

The Banbury Show was held on Sunday and we had a stall and also a Shelterbox display - members spoke to many people and distributed some of our Membership leaflets. Many thanks to all involved in planning and manning the stall.

On June 11th we had our last Crocus Concert of the Rotary Year at St. Mary's. The singing was provided by BGN, St. John's and St. Joseph's choirs - it was a great evening and many congratulations and thanks to the choirs and their teachers and accompanists. This was our third Crocus concert this year all in aid of Helen and Douglas House Hospice for children and our own Polio Eradication work.

On Thursday evening many of our members attended an Inner Wheel meeting where Carole, their President, presented cheques to her chosen charities - The Alzheimer's Society and Katharine House Hospice.

Our Friday lunch had our own Fred Riches as the speaker. He gave a very enjoyable and amusing talk about his personal seven

ages of man but still has lots planned to do.

After a quieter week the next Friday was our Club Assembly when next year's team with Surinder as President laid out their plans for the next Rotary year. As retiring President I wish Surinder and her team very best wishes for a successful year.

On Tuesday 25th Surinder and I were guests at Cherwell Rotary for their Handover meeting where Laurie Cunningham stood down and Chris May and Tony Carney became joint Presidents for the 2019/20 Rotary year. Both have been Cherwell Presidents before and we gave them our very best wishes for the year to follow.

The next evening was the last Council meeting of the year - we dealt with the business side of the evening and then enjoyed a pleasant social event including our wives and partners. Many thanks to all Council members for their support this year dealing with a vast amount of work with much good humour.

Friday was the Valedictory meeting where I gave a review of the year, gave my thanks and said farewell as President. I've had the best seats at all the events for the last year and have enjoyed every minute of it. I thank the Club for giving me the opportunity of being President, it's been an honour. Next week at our Handover meeting Surinder will be given the chain of office and I wish her the very best of fortune and advise her to enjoy it all. I would like to close with the Rotary toast - "Rotary and Peace the World Over".

President Paul Gardiner

President's Valedictory Speech – 29th June 2019

It's said that as you grow older the time goes quicker, the time has shot by since last July and I have certainly got older!!

The idea of the Valedictory address is to give a review of the year, give thanks and say farewell as President.

Beginning with Assembly last year, we talked about developing the PR and Communications function in the Club to show the Public who we are, what we do and how we do it. The Committee under the guidance of David Sullivan have achieved a lot this

year but it is a big job that will take time and continual monitoring. A big thank you to David and his Committee for their work especially to John Groves our new Webmaster and to Fred Riches and Tim Bryce for our regular column in the Banbury Guardian.

We also talked about trying to establish a relationship with Young Carers with a mind to try and create an Interact Club with them as the BGN Interact Club was not successful. Ian Anthistle and John Bennett have worked hard to try and achieve this but to no avail. However, later in the Rotary year BGN contacted us to see if we could re-establish the Interact Club with them. After discussion it was agreed that we would try to do this but under our own terms - we had shown that for a chance for it to work we needed a larger year base - perhaps four or five years not the two previously used. The school has agreed to this and we will be working with years 9,10,11 and 12 and currently Ian and John are awaiting a meeting with the school's 6th Form Tutor and Lower School Tutor to progress this which is very pleasing. Thank you Ian and John for your efforts.

We have been in good contact with Cherwell Rotary and Inner Wheel and have helped each other when possible and have attended each other's events. In fact the successful War Horse event at Tudor Hall School in October was a joint event between us and Inner Wheel, my thanks to John Webb for the paperwork he provided and for looking after the car parking arrangements.

The other main thing discussed in Assembly was the need to identify new members. From July 2015 to January 2019 the Club had lost 14 members - an average of 4 per year leaving us with 62 active members at the beginning of this calendar year - we had sadly lost Stuart Maxwell who passed away on 4th September and also Harry Matthews who resigned from the Club before Christmas. Also during this 3.5 year period we only had 3 new members join us. I'm pleased to report that in the second half of this Rotary year we have had four new lady members join us, sadly we have lost one and another is suffering from ill health, which means we now have 65 active members in total. So we seem to have turned the corner in that this year we didn't lose four members from our total, we increased by one. Further good news is that we have a further five good prospects in the pipeline - two from Surinder, one from me, one from Andrew

Fairbairn and one through contact to the Hon. Sec. through the Website. We have shown this year that there are people who wish to join us but we need to be vigilant and make sure we do not relax. All members need to be aware of trying to find new members - many thanks to those involved in finding and processing our new members this year.

I think that deals with last year's Assembly.

There are many to thank for their work this year starting with:-

Mark Recchia, our Hon Sec, has been a great support to me supplying paperwork, discussing problems and in general being my right hand man - also we have had many a laugh along the way at his expense but some at mine as well. He retires now as Hon Sec after three years for a well earned rest from Club secretarial business so thank you Mark from me and on behalf of the Club.

Malcolm, our Hon Treasurer, who is completing his second year, is another who has worked tirelessly for the Club, he also deserves a big thank you as does Ian Parker of Whitley Stimpson who checks our accounts each month and prepares our accounts for inspection free of charge.

I also have to thank David Richardson - I have been lucky to have the AG on the doorstep for discussion and advice when needed. Also he has worked hard liaising between PR and Communications and Membership and produced our membership leaflet.

Many thanks to Council for all their help and guidance - we have dealt with a vast amount of work with a smile and a few drinks and a few snacks. Also many thanks to the Chairs of all our committees and their members for doing much hard work during the year planning and organising events and functions. I have not been to a single committee meeting this year because I have always believed that Chairmen should be allowed to run their committees without interference - the Club has delivered our normal excellent programme this year which proves that I made the right decision so thank you all.

Many things happen as if by magic and I list them below with appropriate thanks:

Friday lunches run like clockwork due to the efforts of Fellowship and House led by Stephen Jakeman. He has now moved to Oxford but, I am pleased to say, will remain a member of our Club but he is

standing down as Chairman - many thanks for all your work over the years Stephen and also Sancha and her team for the excellent food they provide us with.

We have an excellent Speaker Finder in Nigel Halfpenny who goes about his work very quietly and efficiently, Welfare Officer Maurice Humphris and his poetic helper Tony Wiltshire, Helen's photographs, John Webb our Club Protection and Safety Officer, Our Accounts Examiners Graham Anker, Geoff Pollard and David Hitchcox, Ron Barnett for the Club Directory, Ashley Bedding and Ian Calderbank for all their work arranging the Fifth Friday meals and the President's Lunch and last but not least Andrew Fairbairn for preparing the regular monthly Bulletin for which he received the District award for the best Bulletin last Rotary year. Thank you all.

I need to mention Andrew's statement to the Club last week when he decided to return his Paul Harris Fellow award to the Club - I know how difficult it was for him to do that but he did it to highlight how he felt about negative feedback from just a few members towards projects he and others are involved in - please don't let his sacrifice be wasted - we all need to be positive and supportive to our colleagues and their work at all times.

Harry Matthews began the work on getting a storage container before he left the Club - the project continued and on 19th March our Container arrived. Thanks to Harry and those who committed themselves to accumulating the money we needed to pay for the Container.

Also I need to thank Nigel Yeadon's Sports and Entertainment Committee for their work making sure we all enjoy ourselves during the year with theatre visits courtesy of Bob Thompson, darts matches which we invariably lose, Aunt Sally, Distillery visit and much more.

In August 2017 I asked Martin Phillips to Chair a committee to arrange the Contact Weekend here in 2019. I also asked Phil Cavill, John Hansford, John Bennett and Owen Kyffin to join him and they all agreed. I was allowed to attend the meetings as long as I didn't say too much. The amount of work to arrange the weekend is tremendous and it seems to be driven by red wine but the Committee coped with it all and the Club successfully entertained 46 of our European Rotary colleagues from 30th May

until 2nd of June. So many many thanks to the Committee and also to those in the Club that supported the event by driving and hosting our guests. Contact next year is in Germany. Finally concerning Contact, Council has agreed to make the Contact Committee a permanent committee to be chaired by Martin Phillips and will promote Contact especially to new members, give help to those going to Contact each year and to try and make the financial future of Contact secure in our Club.

Looking back at the year is quite a shock when you see what we have all achieved, I have heard it said that we do too much for our numbers and age profile but I don't accept that also we have new members and I hope more to follow and we don't have to plan for a Contact weekend in the near future which ties up members.

As a reminder we began with a Curling Challenge, August Fifth Friday, Stephen's Summer Steaming (sadly the last), Warhorse, Meet the Scholars, Children Singing for Children, November Fifth Friday, Tour de Trigs, Xmas Food Parcels, Christmas Collections, Carol Service, Christmas Lunch, Christmas Float, Young Musician, District Conference, President's Lunch, 3 Crocus Concerts, Contact Weekend and probably a few more things I have missed.

We are a very busy and successful Club and we raised in the order of £62,000 this year including Alan Wolstencroft's amazing Sierra Leone work. The reason we can do this is that in general we have a Club with many hardworking people but also a Club with people who offer fellowship and support to their colleagues as well as large amounts of banter on a Friday lunchtime. I must say that I have benefited greatly from the fellowship and support of Club members in all my time as a Rotarian but especially this year as President. Whenever we have needed the extra mile it's been given. Our Club is the largest of the 57 Clubs in District 1090 and is also the very best.

I've had the best seats at all the events for the last year and have enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity of being President, it's been an honour. Next week at handover meeting the chain of office will be passed to Surinder who I wish the very best of fortune and advise her to enjoy it all.

Now, I have one further thank you to make, this last

year has been very demanding on our time, more or less taking over, so in the hope of gaining a few brownie points and promising to go on holiday in July - I have the tickets - I would like to thank my wife Jen for all her amazing support during the last twelve months.



FLOWERS Thank you all!

Now we reach my last closing toast as President -
Rotary and Peace the world over!!

Speaker Reports

Rob Diaz – Children Heard and Seen

Over 200,000 children in the UK have a parent in prison. Statistics show that 65% of boys with a convicted parent go on to reoffend themselves.

No public money is spent on specific support of these children who can understandably find life very challenging on many levels. Rod Diaz works for the charity 'Children Heard and Seen' which helps these 'forgotten' children and he painted a vivid picture for us of the real need for these children and families, and how the charity works to support them.

A key element of the support is to provide mentors who can be a positive role model in the child's life. These mentors work with a child, giving a couple of hours a week for a year. The charity is becoming active in Banbury where there is a particular need. A mentor is paired with an appropriate child who they would meet within a safe and stable environment outside the family. Rod is interested in hearing from anyone who could help with this vital and rewarding role. He can be contacted by phone on 07949305882 or via e-mail at rod@childrenheardandseen.co.uk. Feel free to call him if you are interested (a job description of the role of a mentor is available on their website at www.childrenheardandseen.co.uk).

On another note, Rod has worked for three decades as a police officer, and for a large part of that as a detective superintendent in Hong Kong. He has agreed to come and speak to the club on some of his experiences. Having heard about a few of them, it promises to be an interesting talk!!

Rtn Nigel Deakin

Victoria Woods – Reducing Poverty through Education



Victoria is the Head Teacher at St. Mary's School, Banbury. The school is twinned with a school in South Africa in the Eastern Cape via the charity - The Borien Educational Foundation for Southern Africa (BEFSA).

For charitable work to be a hand up rather than a handout, it needs to be sustainable and one of the best methods of achieving this is through improving education by providing effective support for teachers and creating opportunities for students.

Help comes in the form of leadership, management and training programmes, provision of equipment with technical support, school furniture, safe educational environments and decent sanitation.

In a world which is effectively increasingly smaller through the availability of communication both in person via travel but also online, together with increasingly inter-linked and inter dependent international economies, it is also important that UK students understand conditions overseas relative to their own. Consequently, BEFSA is active in helping South African and UK students to liaise with each other and develop constructive relationships.

Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn

Ed. A very successful fundraising concert was subsequent held at St. Mary's Church on 25th June. This involved performances by schools from all over the region and teachers from South Africa.

Fred Riches – My Life Talk



Fred prefaced his talk by explaining the format of his presentation had been inspired by a Poetic Licence presentation at St. Hugh's Church a few weeks ago of 'The Seven Ages of Man'. He proceeded to entertain us with the history of his life from the 'mewling and puking' stage, on through his years 'creeping unwillingly' to school and his recollections of life as a young lover 'sighing like a furnace'.

He then pointed out that Shakespeare's speech did not allow for the character to be married with a

family and grandchildren. He could not begin to imagine what life would have been like had he not met Sue and had four super children and ten lovely grandchildren.

Fred went on to enlarge on his career as a teacher and headteacher, which he portrayed as Shakespeare's 'soldier' phase - fighting for fairness and seeking to do what's good and right to educate the children in his care. The fifth age, the Justice 'with eyes severe', Fred likened to his time as a Schools inspector, though he hoped he had made judgements 'without fear or favour' as his rubric required rather than 'stern'!

Fred closed by querying whether he was entering the sixth age of the 'lean and slippered pantaloon' but felt his capon was still well lined and hoped to remain active in Rotary for a few years yet.

After quoting some wise sayings from Jean Vanier and Richard Harries, Fred ended by brandishing a copy of Rotary's latest magazine with the headline 'Dementia' and hoped our Club could do something to address the issues of today for those in 'second childishness and mere oblivion'.

Rtn. Gareth Jeremy

APS (for further information refer to www.aps-support.org.uk)

4 June 2019

On behalf of APS Support UK, I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Banbury for the kind and generous donation of £100 towards Phil Godfrey's APS awareness and fundraising campaign.

As you know, Phil is fundraising in memory of his lovely wife Christine who had APS and his efforts have allowed us to launch the first ever GP e-Learning training courses about antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) with the Royal College of GPs.

Phil has done such a great job and, thanks to the support of people and groups like yours, we have been able to set up our new research fund that aims to further scientific research into APS. Your generous donation will help us continue with this project, so thank you again.

With Kindest Regards, Kate Hindle (Charity Manager)

Katharine House Hospice Midnight Walk – 22nd June

Various Club members were involved helping. The start changed to 9pm and there were nearly 600 walkers. The event was a great success and the organisers are hoping to have raised up to £65,000.

Council Update

The President reported on the recent Contact meeting thanking the organising Committee for a splendid weekend much enjoyed by our visitors and our Club members. Council agreed that this Committee should become a permanent feature of the Club to arrange our trips abroad and plan future hosting.

Rtns. Alan Wolstencroft and Nigel Randall will consider whether to select a new member for the Disaster Committee to replace Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn.

The issue of copyright for photographs used in Rotary publications and websites has been highlighted by RIBI, as problems have occurred with infringements leading to legal action at some clubs. Rtns. David Sullivan and John Groves have checked all our material and confirmed there are no problems.

Discussions took place on the timing of Club Assembly meetings in future, to ensure the incoming Committees have a meeting prior to the Assembly to formulate their programme which can be presented for the coming Rotary year.

Funding was agreed for £100 vouchers for Polly Preedy (food bank) and £250 to Banbury Cricket Club towards new nets.

Lesley Mann has resigned from Club and we wish her well for the future. We will therefore need a new quartermaster for the container.

The Council members and their partners enjoyed excellent hospitality provided by the President and Jenny his wife.

The President closed the meeting by giving his thanks to all committee members for their hard work.

Rtn. P M Wilkins Hon Assistant Secretary

Weekly Meeting Duties for July 2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
05 July		R McLean J Meredith	N Randall	A Wilshire
12 July	K Manning H Morris M Phillips G Pollard P Richardson M Recchia	I Rodrick J Smith	F Riches	I Calderbank
19 July	P Thomas R Thompson A Warren J Webb A Wolstencroft N Yeadon	R Worrall G Anker	E Woodruff	S Crump
26 July	I Anthistle A Bedding J Bennett J Bond J Brodey P Cavill	H Braisby M Budd	S Bion	D Hitchcox

PLEASE REMEMBER - If you are unable to carry out your duties as shown above, it is your responsibility to arrange a substitute and amend the list. This applies to all duties, including table duties.

Speaker Programme for July & August

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
05 July	Surinder Dhesi	President's Handover	
12 July	Jamie Polk and Colin Carer	Living with spinal cord injury and the work of Stoke Mandeville Spinal Research	
19 July	Robert Aplin	Oman and the Dhofar War	John Groves
26 July	David Richardson	Notable Events and Peculiar Rotarians	
02 Aug	Julie Hellon	Kenyan Kids	Sakine Faulkner
09 Aug	David Hitchcox	Hitchcox's in Banburyshire	Maurice Humphris
16 Aug	Malcolm Dibb	Something	Roger Worrell
23 Aug	Fellowship Meeting		
30 Aug	Fraser/Sharon Liversage	Medical Detection Dogs	