



## *The August Diary*

2<sup>nd</sup> Rotary Lunch  
7<sup>th</sup> C & V meeting  
Classification &  
Membership Committee  
9<sup>th</sup> Rotary Lunch  
14<sup>th</sup> Foundation Committee  
16<sup>th</sup> Rotary Lunch  
20<sup>th</sup> Sport & Entertainment  
Committee  
21<sup>st</sup> International Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> Rotary Lunch  
28<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting  
30<sup>th</sup> Rotary Evening Meeting

*For the full year's diary visit  
[www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)*



## *Dhesi's Diary for July*

On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Rotarian Cllr Surinder Dhesi was elected the first woman President of Banbury Rotary Club. Surinder thanked her fellow Rotarians for giving her the opportunity to serve and said

"It is an honour and a privilege to serve the community. Banbury Rotary Club is recognised locally and in the District for delivering projects abroad whether it is building schools, supporting education programmes for girls, water aid projects and Emergency Projects and End Polio Now and locally Young Musician, Young Chef, Party for the blind and disabled, food parcels for the needy, Santa Float, Children Singing for Children, Crocus Concerts and much more helping vulnerable families in the community and making a difference. Rotary Connects to the World and makes a difference."

Surinder thanked former President Paul Gardiner and former Hon. Secretary Rotarian Mark Recchia for their hard work.





If anyone wants to join Rotary, go on the Rotary website, have fun and make a difference to someone's life here and abroad.

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June Rtms. Surinder Dhesi and Maurice Humphris attended Armed Forces Day at Banbury Town Council. The Event was well attended by members of the public, Armed Forces Cadets and veterans. There were many stalls and entertainment provided by the Air Cadets' Band.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July President Rtn. Surinder Dhesi went to Bicester to celebrate Freedom of Entry for Defence Explosive ordnance disposal at the Munitions and Search (DEMS) Regiment and met with Lt. Col Lyndon Robinson and Mr. Lis from former Bicester Rotary Club who has joined Oxford Spires Rotary Club.

On the same day it was the annual Sportive Charity Event organised by Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club. Over 500 riders participated and it was another successful event enjoyed by everyone involved. I would like to thank all our members who volunteered on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July either marshalling or helped serve refreshments.

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July President Surinder Dhesi and First Vice President David Richardson attended the handover of the Ladies Inner Wheel. Carole Humphris gave a review of her year and thanked officers and committee chairmen for their contributions in helping her raise funds for her charities. Carol Adkins was elected President and she outlined her dairy of events for the forthcoming events. It was a very enjoyable evening meeting new and familiar friends.



On 19<sup>th</sup> July Robert Aplin gave an interesting talk about his time in Oman and Dhofar. Robert was at Sandhurst for two years and was in the army for ten years. He gave a brief description of the different warring fractions and how he survived during this difficult period.

Later that day Rtms. David Richardson, Phil Cavill, Nigel Halfpenny and Andrew Fairbairn braved the elements and did a sterling job as stewards at the Age UK Jazz Event held at Broughton Castle. The Event was attended by Banbury Deputy Mayor President Rtn. Surinder Dhesi.

*Ed - reported further on is the Peoples' Park Centenary which the President attended. Rtn. Alan Wolstencroft Is pictured below taking a break from his duties controlling the procession.*



On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Banbury In Bloom judges visited Banbury and toured around the Town looking at floral displays and Rotarian Maurice Humphris



impressed the judges when he explained how the idea came into fruition about planting purple crocuses and how Banburyshire primary school children are involved planting and performing concerts at St Mary's Church.

On 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Rotarian David Richardson gave an interesting talk about amusing incidents that happened in other Rotary Clubs that he attended. The talk was very witty and thought provoking.

President Surinder Dhesei

## *Speaker Reports*

### *Jamie Polk – Life after Paralysis*



Jamie gave up his job as a City fund manager at the turn of the millennium to seek new challenges. While in South America researching a book on the Inca he was involved in a diving accident, suffered a fractured spine and was rendered paralysed from the neck down. The next nine months or so were spent in the Spinal Injury unit at Stoke Mandeville. Faced with a life in a wheelchair he decided that he would have to get on with things, make the best of a bad thing and subsequently set up his own art dealership "The Animal Art Fair".

He maintained close contact with Stoke Mandeville and became a trustee of the small charity "Life After Paralysis" which has three main aims:-

1. To fund research to alleviate the common complications of paralysis - pressure ulcers, bladder infections and nerve pain.
2. To develop technologies to improve neuro-rehabilitation of those with spinal cord injuries thus improving their lifestyle.

3. To enable those affected to realise their full potential.

Jamie illustrated this very serious subject with anecdotes and amusing stories about his life in a wheelchair with its difficulties and many frustrations. He proved to be an excellent speaker and ambassador for his charity. We are most indebted to him for speaking to us and wish him well for the future.

Rtn Ian Rodrick

### *Rtn. David Richardson – Peculiar Rotarians and Notable Events*



Our fellow Rotarian, David Richardson, started his highly entertaining talk by telling us about his experiences in other Rotary Clubs before he moved to Banbury.

He drew his audience's attention to a certain Rotarian in one of his previous clubs who was known as "Major Minor" and another Rotarian at another club who was known as, "Major Major". He qualified his descriptions which were about to follow by saying that any similarity to other characters would be, "purely coincidental and of no significance". Both of these Rotarians were described as having an unhealthy opinion of their own self importance and various incidents involving these characters were described. Major Major had a habit of writing, 'without prejudice' at the bottom of correspondence which David explained was not appropriate and was of no significance.

David then moved on to talk about an incident in Peasenhall, Suffolk, using his best Suffolk accent. Some in the audience thought he was talking in a



Norfolk accent so David had then to explain, very patiently, that Norfolk is not Suffolk as "there is a river between the two counties".

David went on to talk about the notorious unsolved murder of Rose Harsent, a servant girl in Peasenhall in 1902 who was stabbed to death by an unknown assailant. She was unmarried but found to be six months pregnant. The police originally thought it was suicide, but after investigation local Methodist clergyman William Gardiner was arrested, and tried twice in 1902 and 1903.

Both trials ended in no verdict which is distinct from a formal acquittal. The consequence of this is that Gardiner is one of the few people in English history to have been tried for murder and to have no verdict ever returned.

Throughout his talk, David very kindly and with good humour patiently dealt with various lively interruptions from the floor, for instance the confusion of Suffolk with Norfolk described above but also the accused murderer who, "was not a gardener, his surname was Gardiner".

Rtn. Nigel Halfpenny

### *Daubenhorn Challenge – 16<sup>th</sup> July*



Together with Jeremy Wilton, editor of The Four Shires magazine, Rtn Andrew Fairbairn has completed a challenge to ascend the 1,000 metre sheer rock face of the Daubenhorn (Leukerbad, Switzerland). An 8 hour via ferrata route and the longest in the Alps. This is a sport which has its principal, though not earliest, origins in the Great War.

Why the ascent? To raise money for two charities - a building project for a school in The Gambia and to support the important work of Katharine House Hospice, Banbury.

#### Education in The Gambia

Three years ago the Rotary Club of Banbury along with the Rotary Club of Tonbridge engaged in a project to fund a borehole at Prospects Upper Basic School, Mariama Kunda Village, The Gambia. It aimed to provide improved quality water thereby reducing health risks to pupils and staff. The borehole has been completed.

The school is currently expanding and has a two-storey building under construction but this can only continue as funds become available.

This project is being overseen by the Rotary Club of Bijilo and the ground floor and some of the walls are in place taking it to the stage of needing the structural concrete floor of the second storey to act as an interim roof over the three classrooms and examination hall to make it useable in the rainy season.

The school had sourced a donor offering 50% of the funds for this phase but that donor has withdrawn.

Banbury Rotary has donated £5,030.68 but is now seeking to fundraise a further £5,600 towards the approximate £10,600 needed.

#### Katharine House Hospice

Many people have cause to appreciate the services provided by this hospice in supporting a family member or friend. It not only provides accommodation and day treatment but is also active in care in people's homes. More information is available on the following website - [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk).

#### Fundraising

If you wish to sponsor Andrew on the ascent of the Daubenhorn, you can choose for your donation to go to either or both recipients. If you are a tax payer then a Gift Aid form can be forwarded to you for you to complete in order that an additional 25% can be added to your generous donation.



Please contact Andrew on either 07711 142887 or via e-mail at [andrew@whitecommercial.co.uk](mailto:andrew@whitecommercial.co.uk) if you wish to have a guest speaker and/or are willing to make a donation to these deserving causes. 100% of your donation will go to the recipient(s). No amount will be deducted for expenses.

Alternatively, or in addition, if you know an organisation who would like a presentation regarding the ascent then please forward contact details to Andrew.

Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn

### *Council Update*

Youth services committee reported that unfortunately they have decided to not proceed any further with the school interviews.

Subject to Club approval, the funds raised from Children Singing For Children (CSFC), the recommendation from Youth Services is this should be split 45% to the Children Heard and Seen project; 15% to the Borien Educational Fund for South Africa (as sponsored by St Mary's Primary School); 15 % to The Gambia Schools project; 15% to the Sierra Leone project and the remaining 10% ring fenced in Club funds for use on local childrens' causes.

The draft Club accounts are being examined by Rtns. Anker and Pollard. The auditor will start on the Trust account shortly. The Honorary Treasurer is now away on holiday for three weeks, but reminds members with outstanding subscriptions to pay them, please. They are £120, not £110. Please also complete the gift aid form.

Funding requests were received: £100 for set up of a curling evening for a new members' evening; £400 for refurbishment of the next Syrian refugee home (both by International committee); £600 set up costs for Young Chef, £2,500 set up costs for CSFC and £900 for the Calvert Trust, all three from Youth Services.

The first meeting of the new Interact Club is due to take place in early September. Christmas parcels collections to go ahead on 7<sup>th</sup> December with distribution on 9<sup>th</sup> December. New venue to be found. The Christmas carol concert for service clubs to go ahead at the Methodist Church, Marlborough Road at 6pm on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Rtn. M Nutt Hon Assistant Secretary

### *Peoples' Park Centenary*

A celebration was held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in the Park preceded by a procession from the Town Hall. The Club was represented at this event.



The photograph above shows Sir Tony Baldry, High Steward of Banbury and Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Banbury, alongside Surinder Dhesi, Banbury Town Mayor Elect for 2020/21 and this year's President of the Rotary Club of Banbury and Mark Recchia, Banbury Town Clerk and retiring Honorary Secretary of the Rotary Club of Banbury.

Peoples' Park was opened in 1919 to commemorate peace after the ending of the Great War. The land was purchased for the community, much of the money donated by a George Vincent Ball in his will for this purpose.

It is a testament to the sustainability of the original investment that the facilities continue to be widely used by the local community both informally and for organised events.



# **STOP PRESS - LATE NEWS**

## **THE ROTARY CLUB OF BANBURY PRESENTS**

### **“SIX OF THE BEST” A GALA CHARITY CONCERT**

**7.30pm on SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup>  
SEPTEMBER at ST MARY’S  
CHURCH BANBURY**

### **BRINGING TOGETHER SIX OF BANBURY’S BEST SINGING AND PERFORMING GROUPS**

### **IN AID OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL’S FLAGSHIP CHARITY - END POLIO NOW**

### **AND THE UK’S FIRST CHILDREN’S HOSPICE - HELEN AND DOUGLAS HOUSE**

## **Introduction and Background to this Event:**

Six local adult choirs and singing groups have risen to Banbury Rotary Club’s challenge to emulate the achievements of over thirty local primary school choirs alongside our local special school and all local area secondary schools.

Banbury Choral Society, Banbury Operatic Society, Banbury Rock Choir, Impromptu, Milltown Singers and Warriner Choral Society will each perform their chosen 20-minute programme before joining together in one massed finale number.

This follows the pattern of concerts established in 2001 with the Club’s first “Children Singing for Children” Concert involving local primary school choirs and Frank Wise School. This was also in aid of Rotary’s worldwide campaign to eradicate polio.

Each autumn since then has seen up to 28 schools perform two songs and come together for a massed finale over four evenings at St Mary’s - raising over £80,000 for local and international children’s charities.

A series of secondary school “Crocus Concerts” began in spring 2013, when the Global Eradication Initiative set a target to eradicate polio by 2018. Again - each school chose its set of items to perform and combined for a spine-tingling massed finale.

Since 2013, in partnership with 43 schools, Cherwell District and Banbury Town Councils, St Mary’s Church and a number of local businesses, community groups, faith groups and individuals, Rotary members have planted over 100,000 crocus corms in various locations in and around the town, creating carpets and splashes of colour in our parks, churchyards, school grounds, roundabouts and gardens.

Associated with the planting, every year the Rotary Club has promoted “Crocus Concerts” at St Mary’s Church to welcome the new year’s purple crocus blooms. Within the five-year programme we have calculated that the partnership’s efforts raised sufficient funds to immunise a third of a million children.

For information on the current worldwide position with the polio eradication campaign, please visit [http://polioconcert should eradication.org/polio-today/polio-now/](http://polioconcertshoulderadication.org/polio-today/polio-now/).

In 2018, following the completion of the local five-year partnership, the secondary schools expressed a wish to continue the partnership and to add a local charity as an additional beneficiary. Helen and Douglas House was agreed as the local charity for the 2019 concerts. The three school “Crocus Concerts” this year raised just under £2,000.

The adult choirs agreed with Rotary that profits from their concert should be shared equally between the two charities. For further information on Helen and Douglas House, please visit <https://www.helenanddouglas.org.uk/>.

**Tickets will be £10 (£25 family of 4) - obtainable from Henry’s Menswear at 52 High Street, Banbury**

Rtns. Fred Riches, Charles Hughes, Maurice Humphris and Ian Rodrick

## *Weekly Meeting Duties for August & September 2019*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&amp;H in charge</u>
2 Aug	M Douglas J Bennett P Gardiner N Halfpenny J Hansford C Hughes	J Bond B Goodchild	J Groves	M Humphris
9 Aug	T Iles J Meredith H Morris M Nutt M Phillips P Richardson	J Donaldson D Richardson	K Manning	A Ilott
16 Aug	N Randall F Riches I Rodrick J Smith R Thompson A Warren	G Pollard P Thomas	M Recchia	S Jakeman
23 Aug	J Webb E Woodruff N Yeadon I Anthistle R Barnett	A Wolstencroft G Anker	R Worrall	D Hitchcox
30 Aug		S Bion J Bennett	P Cavill	A Wiltshire
06 Sep	J Bond B Cornley N Deakin M Douglas A Fairbairn N Randall	J Brodey J Donaldson	I Calderbank	

## *Weekly Meeting Duties for August & September 2019 contin.*

13 Sep	J Groves N Halfpenny J Hansford C Hughes T Iles G Jeremy	P Gardiner B Goodchild	S Faulkner	S Crump
20 Sep	J Meredith R Nurden M Phillips G Pollard M Recchia P Richardson	K Manning M Nutt	H Morris	R Kipping
27 Sep	I Rodrick J Smith A Warren J Webb A Wolstencroft E Woodruff	P Thomas R Thompson	F Riches	M Humphris

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 August & September*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
02 Aug	Julie Hellon	Kenyan Kids	Sakine Faulkner
09 Aug	David Hitchcox	Hitchcox's in Banburyshire	Maurice Humphris
16 Aug	Malcolm Dibb	Something	Roger Worrall
23 Aug	Fellowship Meeting		
30 Aug	Fraser/Sharon Liversage plus Detection Dogs Lottie & Elsa	Medical Detection Dogs	
06 Sep	Frank Quinn & Ros	District Governor	Pres. Surinder Dhesi
13 Sep	Bob Langton	Tooley's Boatyard & Banbury Museum Development Plan	Maurice Humphris
20 Sep	Phil Cavill	Longer Serving Member	Malcolm Douglas
27 Sep	Charles Atkinson	The Racing Tribe	