



## The November Diary

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rotary Lunch
- 6<sup>th</sup> C & V meeting  
Classification &  
Membership Committee
- 8<sup>th</sup> Rotary Lunch
- 9<sup>th</sup> Foundation Committee
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Children Singing for  
Children Concerts
- 14<sup>th</sup> Foundation Committee
- 15<sup>th</sup> Rotary Lunch (SGM)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sport & Entertainment  
Committee
- 20<sup>th</sup> International Committee
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Rotary Lunch
- 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting
- 29<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 October



On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October Rtn. David Hitchcox, a former President in 2006/07 who was appointed Assistant Governor in 2009 for three years, a treasurer for over three years and former chair of Fellowship and Youth Opportunities Committees, received a great honour by receiving a Paul Harris Fellow Award which is only issued to members of Rotary Clubs who selflessly have given up their time in serving the Community and the Club. There are currently only nine other Paul Harris Fellows at Banbury Rotary Club – Mr Neil Gadsby and Rtns. Tim Bryce, Maurice Humphris, Gareth Jeremy, Jonathan Meredith, Martin Phillips, David Richardson, Fred Riches and Alan Wolstencroft.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October President Rotarian Surinder Dhesi attended the Tangent Friendship Meeting held at Banbury





Cricket Club. It was a wonderful meeting with members from Leamington Spa and surrounding villages and the guest speaker was Vice President of National Tangent Tracey Pickin who talked about the challenges facing Tangent and the exciting new forthcoming events.



On 25<sup>th</sup> October Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn, who is the Action Man of Banbury Rotary Club, gave an interesting talk about his adventures climbing the mountains in Switzerland with Jeremy Wilton. A picture of Andrew Fairbairn ascending the steep mountain nearly made one of the Rotarians go into shock, Rtn. Tim Bryce was taken aback by Andrew's

bravery and stamina. The main reason for undertaking these amazing adventures was to raise money for two worthwhile charities, Katharine House Hospice and for a school in The Gambia. We are lucky to have an amazing Rotarian who does breathtaking fundraising activities.

President Surinder Dhesi

## *Speaker Reports*

*Jane Rogers – Extinction Rebellion*



Extinction Rebellion, (sometimes shortened to XR) is an international social movement that aims to drive radical change, through nonviolent resistance, in order to minimise species extinction and avert climate breakdown. Jane Rogers is a member of XR in Banbury and she addressed the club as our speaker on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. It was an interesting yet disturbing talk, given the climate change situation, and highlighted that it is now considered beyond scientific doubt that climate change is a hugely serious concern for all of us. Jane spoke about the forthcoming disruption in London the group planned to highlight their concerns. Jane was thanked for her talk in the usual manner.

Since giving her talk, Jane did join the protests in London starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> October and sent the following "I was arrested on Tuesday for being part



of the protest blocking Whitehall. I have to say the police treated us very well and we were released the next day. I just hope all the effort and energy going into these protests will have some effect on politicians and indeed help to make people take the very real dangers of climate change more seriously."

She also said the cost to the organisation was huge as the police were confiscating all their infrastructure on a daily basis, taking food, tents, toilets, first aid posts, gazebos, water containers, cooking equipment, etc etc. Jane said that Banbury XR would accept donations very gratefully if any individuals were willing to help.

Whilst the methods adopted by XR are not endorsed by all, it is certainly important that this issue remains high on the agenda.

Rtn Nigel Deakin

### *Ian Charles – Banbury to Vladivostok*

Ian started his talk with some family history, he was born in Banbury the son of Rotarian Past President Reg Charles. He then spoke of his family including his maternal grandfather Malcolm Spokes who was a Mayor of Banbury. Other ancestors came from many of the surrounding villages so Ian is a true child of this area.



Ian then told us of his own life. Born in Banbury he attended Dashwood Road School when Rotarian John Proctor was Headmaster and he then gained a scholarship to Bloxham School. This then led to the University of Southampton. On leaving University he worked at Deloitte's having decided on a career in accountancy. He passed his exams and became a

chartered accountant. He left Deloitte's and began his career as a financial trainer.

This developed into an international presence with regular appointments in Russia and particularly Moscow. This led to a number of events during the time of Boris Yeltsin including being kidnapped by the local Mafia from which he escaped. The furthest journey in Russia was to Vladivostok which included having to help buy fuel for the aircraft to continue.

The international work continued with a lot of work in the Middle East, working for the large oil companies and major banks. His count of countries visited is 62. Ian continues with this work and was flying to Dubai the day after speaking to us. A fascinating talk which left one feeling that given more time there were many more stories to tell.

Rtn. David Hitchcox

### *Cymon Snow – TEDx*



Cymon is well known locally as the former Manager of Sulgrave Manor and has spoken to the Club previously regarding his former role.

He is a member of the committee developing TEDx in Banbury (first public meeting scheduled for 29/02/20). This is a worldwide organisation that originates from the mid-west in the USA, started by the founders in 1984. It has grown substantially as a result of interested parties in towns and cities across the world, applying for a license to form a group in the name of TEDx in their local area. There is a strong/very disciplined Constitution that must be strictly followed if an operating license is to be approved.



The website describes the organisation 'as the creation and management of local self-organised events', effectively inviting well known, interesting and local speakers to present to a restricted audience on their specialist subject. In addition to the speeches and on-stage interviews these are all filmed and placed on the TEDx website so that individuals may benefit from listening and educating themselves further.

An example would be Ken Robinson an International speaker, author and educationalist who lives in Banbury and whose filmed presentation for TEDx has attracted a record of more than 62m hits on YouTube. Another well-known speaker, from Leamington, filmed for inclusion on the website, has had 18m hits as individuals. In addition to taking advantage of local organised events, interested parties use the TEDx website to inform them further on major worldwide topics as a form of personal education.

Another interesting example is the on-stage interview with Daniel Gilbert, a Harvard based psychotherapist, whose presentation is shown on the TEDx website when explaining human behaviour in relation to happiness. Most minds, he informs listeners, worry about unnecessary things but fail to pay attention to what's really important in life. In addition, psychologically humans make things up to enable them to turn negatives in their life into positives.

Cymon also highlighted a website recorded presentation from a local Banbury resident who manufactures high quality cellos.

Cymon advised that the organisation is a 'not for profit' and local branches cannot raise funds from sponsors, to prevent strongly influential P/R activities. The principal source of funds is from selling tickets for locally organised events and that is used to cover venue costs and speakers' expenses. In the event of a surplus any must be reinvested into future events. He also indicated that the constitution demands that audiences are limited to 100 as a maximum, although some concession is made for presenters' key supporters. Cymon confirmed that an exception had been agreed for the first meeting in Banbury that may increase overall attendance to 150.

Rtn. Bernard Goodchild

## *Rotary Events*

### *Paul Harris Fellowship Presentation*

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October Rtn. David Hitchcox was sitting on the top table having hosted the speaker Ian Charles and his father Past President Reg Charles. Towards the end of the meeting David was very surprised to see his wife Ann enter the meeting. He was then further surprised when President Surinder Dhesi asked him to stand as she produced the folder containing the Paul Harris Fellowship award. Surinder then said a few words and presented David with the award and medal. The look on David's face was one of complete astonishment that the club had honoured him in this way. He was then just able to say a few words thanking the Club.

It was particularly fitting that Past President Reg Charles was there now aged 97 as he was the President who inducted David into the club in 1983. During the past years David has chaired several committees including Youth Operations and Fellowship as well as being active on most other committees. He became President in 2006/07 which was "a very enjoyable year". After this he was asked to act as an Assistant District Governor, a position he held for three years assisting eight Clubs in the area attending many of their functions. After this he again concentrated on his own Banbury Club. He became assistant Treasurer to Bernard Goodchild and then took on the role himself for over a further three years.

David continues to be active in Banbury Club after Thirty Six years of Service.

Ed

## *Project Updates*

### *World Polio Day*

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October: Banbury Town Hall goes Purple4Polio to mark World Polio Day and to celebrate the town's involvement in helping to eliminate Polio worldwide. Hundreds of singers - from school and adult choirs across Banburyshire - have raised £3,000 for the cause at the four "Crocus Concerts" staged at St Mary's Church by the Rotary Club of Banbury during the year. More crocus corms will be planted this autumn to add to the purple





displays (the symbol of polio eradication) that brighten our town each spring and remind us to continue working towards the goal of total eradication.

Rtn. Fred Riches

### *Sierra Leone Update*

Work has begun at the Kundama school to build a 3 no. cubicle toilet block and progress is going well.

I will remind you that EVERYTHING is done manually but the benefit of this is that local guys are earning a wage which will help them provide for their families and it also gives them a sense of ownership of the project.

As you can see from the following photos they have started to dig the pit and another team of guys have started to make blocks ready to build the tank.



The Calvary School gravity fed water project is nearing completion. This is a major step forward for the community with nearly 1,500 local people benefitting from the new water system.

Rtn. Alan Wolstencroft

### *The Gambia Update*

Fundraising is at a critical time for the school's project. Book a speaker to recount ever more demanding challenges undertaken to promote



progress for education in this country.

Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn

## *Weekly Meeting Duties for November & December 2019*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&amp;H in charge</u>
01 Nov	F Riches J Webb A Wolstencroft E Woodruff R Worrall N Yeadon	P Thomas R Thompson	J Smith	A Wiltshire
08 Nov	I Anthistle R Barnett J Bennett J Bond J Brodey T Bryce	A Bedding S Bion	G Anker	S Crump
15 Nov	M Budd G Coates J Donaldson M Douglas A Fairbairn P Gardiner	P Cavill N Deakin	B Cornley	D Hitchcox
22 Nov	Fellowship Meeting	J Groves R McLean	B Goodchild	A Ilott
29 Nov	5 <sup>th</sup> Friday	T Iles I Rodrick	R Kipping	M Humphris
06 Dec	J Hansford C Hughes O Kyffin J Meredith H Morris R Nurden	K Manning R McLean	G Jeremy	S Jakeman
13 Dec	P Richardson F Riches I Rodrick J Smith R Thompson A Warren	G Pollard M Recchia	M Nutt	R Kipping
20 Dec		E Woodruff G Anker	R Worrall	A Wilshire
27 Dec	No meeting			

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 November & December*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
01 Nov	Karen Newman	Syrian Refugee Families	Andrew Fairbairn
08 Nov	Neil Urquhart	My Kayaking Journey	Nigel Halfpenny
15 Nov	Rotary SGM		
22 Nov	Fellowship Meeting		
29 Nov	Christine McElhill	Friends Against Scam	
06 Dec	Phil Cavill	My Life part 2	Malcolm Douglas
13 Dec	Bee Myson	Age Friendly Banbury Themed Working Groups	Andrew Fairbairn
20 Dec	Dr John Long	Cluster Care Group	President Surinder Dhesi
27 Dec	No meeting		