



July 2020

## Surinder's year at the helm

It is amazing how quickly the year has flown by...

I feel very humble and honoured for you giving me the opportunity to serve as your President.

President Mark Daniel Maloney of Rotary International has spoken about how 'Rotary Connects The World'. This is a great theme and illustrates how we connect to the world and make a difference globally.

In my year I wanted to build stronger relationships with other service groups in Banbury, the Lions Club, the Ladies Inner Wheel, Tangent and Cherwell Rotary Club and to carry on the good work of former President Paul Gardiner in recruiting new members.

This club is renowned in District 1090, being a trail blazer in organising fantastic events. Rotarian Alan Wolstencroft with his Sierra Leone Project and Rotarian Andrew Fairbairn with Gambia and the water aid



projects are two good examples.

Last year Banbury Rotary Club organised *Children Singing for Children*,

The Rotary Club of Banbury  
Rotary International  
Club no 19229 District 1090  
President: Surinder Dhesi

the *Young Musician*, *Six of the best choirs in Banbury Concert*, the *Young Chef* awards, the *Crocus Concerts*, Organ Christmas Collections and local super markets.

The RYLA has organised weekend activities for less able students and has given them the opportunity to enjoy activities we all take for granted.

Rotary members have been involved in helping to steward at Town Council Events, at the Tour de Trigs hiking competition the Christmas Santa Float collections and helping at Cherwell Rotary

Club's Sportive Event at Broughton Castle.

Rotarian Sakine Faulkner had a



Rotarian Andy Fairbairn on the summit of the Daubenhorn in the Alps and pictured left, crossing a Tyrolean Bridge

event at St.Mary's Church where her daughter performed to raise funds for the charity *Kenyan Kids*. I attended the the Ladies Inner Wheel 1940's tea dance along with fellow Rotarians.

During the year we have had some amazing speakers: Julie Hellon gave a talk about *Kenyan Kids* and Frazier

Liversage gave a talk about *Medical Detection Dogs*.  
District Governor



Surinder with Gareth Jeremy

Frank Quinn gave a talk about Rotary International, whilst Bob Langton talked about Tooley's Boatyard and the Banbury Museum Development Plans. Charles Atkinson gave a talk about horse racing enthusiasts and celebrated author Jane Rogers gave a talk about the *Extinction Rebellion* pressure group. Cymon Snow gave a talk about the TEDX organisation whilst Neil Urquhart entertained us all with his adventures whilst kayaking. Christine McElhill gave a talk about *Friends Against Scams* and Bee Myson gave a talk about *Age Friendly Banbury*. Dr. John Ong gave a talk about *The Cluster Care Group*, and Chris Brockbank presented a great deal of information about Bomber Command.

In August last year, we had the



honour of entertaining our guest of honour: former President of Banbury Rotary Club, Reg Charles. Earlier in the day Reg had unveiled a plaque on the remaining Cowley Barracks in Oxford where he trained back in the 1940s upon joining the army.

At nearly 97 years of age he is one of the oldest veterans still living.

Our own long time members gave interesting talks throughout the year.

Rotarian David Richardson gave a talk about notable events and peculiar



*The Rotary cycling sportive*

Rotarians; Rotarian Malcolm Dibbs gave a talk titled: Something; Rotarian Malcolm Douglas gave a talk about his life, and Rotarian Phil Cavill gave a talk about his life part 2. Rotarian Roger Worrall gave a talk about his life and the late Rotarian, David Hitchcox gave two talks about the Hitchcox's in Oxfordshire and Rotarian Andrew Fairbairn about his mountain climbing.

This year we had new members Rotarians: Jill Holroyd, Ron Bloxham and Jeremy Wilton and welcomed back Rotarian Harry Matthews.

It was very sad that Rotarian Andrew Fairbairn resigned due to personal reasons but we are fortunate that

he is willing to help with *Shelterbox* fundraising and will help at Rotary Events.

Covid 19 has had a huge impact on our fundraising abilities and we have not raised as much money as we were going to because events like the *Barn Dance*, *Children Singing for Children* and many *International Evening Dinners* were cancelled. Social distancing restrictions will have a great impact on how we organise events in the future and how we carry out our lunch time meetings.

We will have to adapt to the new ways of holding meetings and having a cashless society. We have been resilient with the support of Rotarian Peter Wilkins who has been organising zoom meetings. The Executive Committee has met every week to discuss business and the Committee Chairman of all the main committees have had weekly contact meetings with their members to keep in regular contact to ensure promoting the wellbeing of members of their committee members.

We have had sad news during the year including the loss of Elaine, wife of Rotarian Brian Doe, the loss of Rotarian David Hitchcox and Rotarian Tony Brace.

I would like to give BIG THANKS to the following:

Rotarian Peter Wilkins for his excellent work as secretary and Rotarian Malcolm Nutt for deputising; Rotarian Malcolm Dibbs for his work as treasurer - in which he has excelled; Rotarian Maurice Humphries for Welfare; Rotarian Ian Calderbank, Rotarian Ashley Bedding and Rotarian Graham Anker for organising the fifth Friday Evenings; Rotarian Helen Morris for taking the photos at events; the Committee Chairmen Rotarian Andrew Fairbairn, Rotarian Ron Barnett,

Rotarian Martin Phillips, Rotarian Nigel Deakin, Rotarian Nigel Randall, Rotarian Ian Roderick, Rotarian Charles Hughes, Rotarian John Groves, Rotarian John Bennett,

Rotarian Nigel Halfpenny, Rotarian Gareth Jeremy, Rotarian Jeremy Wilton, Rotarian Andrew Fairbairn, Rotarian Bernard Goodchild, Rotarian Malcolm Douglas, Rotarian David Richardson and everyone who has helped organise events and last but not least our Health and Safety Officer Rotarian John Webb.

Finally I would like to dedicate this poem to all Rotarians:

***The Gift of Time is Priceless  
Valuable is the work you do,  
Outstanding in how you always  
come through,  
Loyal, sincere and full of cheer,  
Untiring in your efforts throughout  
the year,  
Notable are the contributions  
you make,  
Trustworthy in every project  
you take,  
Eager to reach your every goal,  
Effective in the way you fill  
your role,  
Ready with a smile like a  
shining star,  
Special and wonderful- that's what  
you are.***

Best Wishes, Surinder



The  
**Rotary**  
Club of Banbury



## Rotarian passes away

I have received sad news of the death of George Fawdry who was a long term member of the Rotary Club of Chipping Norton. He farmed at Salford on the far side of Chipping Norton. He was a thoroughly nice man and a good Rotarian. It may be that one or two of our older members will remember him, though not many.  
Maurice Humphris



# Banbury Cross Players with John Bennett

Our speaker last month was Rotarian John Bennett who ran through the history of The Banbury Cross Players first 50 years.

The society was formed on 25th January 1945, before the end of World War II. Their first production on 20th April 1945 was "Hay Fever" and took place in the Great Hall at Bloxham School, there being no other venue available at the time. Because of petrol rationing the audience had to travel by bus, train, bicycle or walk. They decided it was worthwhile carrying on because they played to 400 people over 2 nights.

Over the years their other "theatres" have been Banbury Town Hall, Christchurch Hall, The Church House, College Theatre and their current home, The Mill. John recalled various successes, failures and heart stopping moments that had happened in their productions up to their 50th celebrations in 1995. He also pointed out that, if it was not for Covid 19, they would have been celebrating their 75th anniversary this month by presenting a festival of one act plays featuring other drama groups from far and wide.



*The BCP committee on their 70th birthday*

## The A12 aircraft with Nigel Randall

Nigel Randall kindly agreed to speak at a Rotary Zoom Meeting last month and chose a subject close to his heart – an aircraft!

It was a famous and special one to interest us all!

Most of those attending had little or no knowledge of this plane, which is not surprising as it was developed and manufactured by the Lockheed Corporation, in the USA, in the early 1960s.

The A12 was developed as a follow-on aircraft to replace the U2, (the existing major reconnaissance plane at the time) to overfly the Soviet Union that was being closely monitored in view of the Cold War.

The new plane was designated A-12 because it was the twelfth internal design for the code-named project 'Archangel'.

In 1959 the Lockheed design was chosen by the C.I.A over its competitors because of its higher specifications and projected lower costs.

The aircraft was manufactured from 1962/64 and flew from 1963/68. The plane began flying missions in 1967 and its final flight was in May 1968. Nigel supported his presentation with several slides highlighting images and performance details of the very impressive plane in use,

After development and production, the first A-12 was transferred to the

Groom Lake test facility and in April 1962 it was flown unofficially and unannounced by a Lockheed test pilot. Five days later the first official flight took place and subsequently supersonic the A-12 reached speeds of Mach 1.1 at 12,000 feet.

The first loss was seen in 1963 when a test aircraft crashed but the pilot parachuted to safety. The reaction to the crash illustrated the secrecy and importance of the project. The CIA issued an inaccurate report of the name and model of the plane and two farmers who assisted the pilot were advised that the plane was carrying nuclear weapons to discourage any tampering with the wreck. In addition, a law enforcement officer and a passing family were paid \$25k dollar each to keep quiet.

Three more losses due to technical problems were seen but each time the pilots ejected safely. The first human fatality was experienced in 1967. The pilot escaped the crash but regrettably he could not separate himself from the ejection seat and died on impact.

The introduction of space satellites meant that the original purpose of the plane was no longer relevant with the superpowers monitoring the activity of each other from space. The planes were used however in the Cuba crisis, in relation to North Korea and the Vietnam war. In 1968 three missions were flown over North Korea



*The A12 reconnaissance plane*

following the capture of the U.S.S. Pueblo to monitor the subsequent activity of the North Koreans and the potential for a further attack on the U.S.

Even before the A-12 became operational, its intended purpose of reconnaissance flights over the Soviet Union became unlikely and unnecessary, as the Soviets improved their radar considerably leaving the A-12 more vulnerable. In any event President Kennedy confirmed publicly that the U.S would stop these flights.

Our thanks to Nigel for making the effort to become the first Friday Rotarian lunchtime speaker at a Zoom meeting. He still has the interesting slides that alongside the Internet offer further interesting facts and performance details regarding the A-12.

# Annual subs

It's that time of year again when I tell you the annual subscriptions are now overdue.

The agreed subscription this year will be £121 (an increase of £1 over last year) so please will you ensure your Standing Order or Internet banking transfer is correct -it should be paid to Lloyds Bank, Account "Rotary Club of Banbury - General Fund", Sort Code 30 90 42 Number 00493323 with your name in the reference please. We need to receive all the subscriptions in time to pay our capitation and hopefully obtain a discount by the end of July.

In addition you may also want to donate to Rotary's Foundation Account which I am sure you all know about. This would be a charitable payment (Gift Aidable) and along with other charitable donations is payable into Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30 90 42, Account "Rotary Club of Banbury - Trust Fund" Number 00493986 again with your name in the reference please.

If you go into Lloyds to pay in cash or cheques please ensure you email or ring to tell me as the bank's statement entries for deposits don't have any details for the person paying in. If it's after Andrew takes over I will tell him.

I hope this is clear but if you have any questions please let me know.

Malcolm Dibb Hon Treasurer

# Committee memberships

Dear Member.

It is that joyous time of the Rotary Year when we have to consider the membership of our Committees for 2020/21. In view of the unprecedented times that prevail The Executive Committee feel that we will keep the membership of the Committees similar to this year unless any member feels they would like a change. The overall structure of our Committees is altering so that PR and Membership will combine with Rtn Alan Wostencroft as Chair, and International and Foundation will join, with Nigel Randall as Chair with Rtn Nigel Deakin as Vice Chair. Rt. Charles Hughes is appointed as Chair of C&V, Youth services will be led by Rtn Ashley Bedding. Other Officers will remain in their posts for this coming year. These adjustments will require some changes to personnel.

So if you are content to stay in a similar position as last year there is no need to contact me however if you desire a different position or wish to comment or have any queries please let me know.

For new or returning members during year 19/20 Executive felt they may wish to rotate through several committees to gain experience.

I would appreciate your assistance in formulating these choices as soon as convenient.

best wishes Peter Wilkins Hon Sec