



The April Diary

- 1st Community & Vocational Service Committee Meeting
- 1st Sports and Entertainment Committee Meeting
- 3rd Good Friday
- 6th Easter Monday
- 7th Club Outing
- 8th Classification, Membership & PR Committee Meeting
- 8th Foundation Committee Meeting
- 10th Rotary Meeting
- 15th Youth Service Committee Meeting
- 15th International Committee Meeting
- 17th Rotary Meeting
- 22nd Council Meeting
- 24th Rotary Meeting
- 25th President's Night Dinner
- 26th South of England Young Musician Finals

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

The **Rotary** Club of Banbury Annual General Meeting



President's Report

Tonight's agenda says the President's role is to deliver his annual report at this meeting. I don't want to bore you all by saying the same things at the end of June, so my comments tonight reflect on how the club works, its general health, and impressions of its standing in the community. My valedictory in June will be focused on personal reflections and highlights of 2014/15.

We are a large club with a full programme of community and social events, every President wants his year to run smoothly and avoid major traumas, so it can be a bit daunting at the start of the year in office.

They depend upon support from the Club's Officers, Committee Chairs, Project Chairs and members and you have all helped to keep our well-oiled machine running smoothly. In particular could I thank the clubs officers: Our Hon Secretary, Paul Gardiner, has given me guidance when it has often been needed; Asst Hon Sec, Mark Recchia, stepped into the breach for about 8 weeks at the start of the year after Paul broke his hip; and our Treasurer, David Hitchcox, fulfils a vital role and keeps our finances in good order. So thank you Paul, Mark and David.

In the planning stages for the 2014/15 year, 1st and 2nd V.P's, Ian Calderbank, Owen Kyffin and I completed a SWOT analysis on our club's health and agreed what the key focus areas were. The ideas were shared at the Shadow Council meeting and Club Assembly, we agreed to work towards a three year plan to improve consistency and succession planning.

In particular we improved our internal and external communications with a new members' handbook, Rotary branded gazebo, pull up banners and flags, new look bulletin, website and more effective use of social media. So a big thank you to Ian, Owen, all Council Members and House Committee Chairs and members for your help and support.

The Committees and Project teams are the engine rooms of Rotary and in our club they work well. I have attended a number of meetings and will continue to do through to June. Thank you to all the members who support them and for everything you do for the club.

Simon and his Community and Vocational team hold lively meetings. Our Community comes to life in this committee through the Christmas Street Organ Collections, Party for the Blind, the Civic Events we support and donations to individuals in need.

In most other Rotary Clubs individual members are encouraged to make monthly donations to Foundation. Our club's Foundation Committee is responsible for raising its own funds and manages to deliver the guideline \$100 per member to Foundation and minimum \$1700 to End Polio Now. This committee also arranged at short notice, the Round Table Christmas Parcels project and delivered 300 parcels to people in need. Thank you Alan and your Committee.

The International Committee under Ron's guidance has organised an Ebola appeal, a Film and Curry fund raiser and keeps us up to date with Alan's work in Sierra Leone.

The Youth Services Committee under Geoff Pollard and through project teams manages our Youth events. Children Singing for Children, Young Musician, Practice Interviews, Young Chef, RYLA and Youth Exchange visits. Some are huge projects with high manpower needs, well done Geoff and your committee for your great organisation and team working skills.

Every week we meet at this hall and with hardly a blip, thanks to our Fellowship and House team, the whole show seems to run like clockwork. We have had three excellent 5th Friday meetings so far and have a wine tasting and tapas evening to come in May. Thank you Stephen and your team for all you do for the club.

At the outset we asked all members to invite one person during the year to a weekly meeting, if they like what they see, we hope they will join us. So far we have inducted 2 members and there are three more in the pipeline, so thank you all members for

your support in this goal and especially to John Smith and his Membership Committee.

We said that Fellowship and Fun were important to us and wanted to keep that quality in the club. The Sports and Entertainment team have delivered an excellent programme for us so far with Go Karting, the Aylesbury Theatre Trip, Golf Tournaments, Darts Matches, a visit to Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Club outing to the Tower of London / HMS Belfast still to come. Thank you Nigel and your team.

It is important that we take time to thank members who fall ill, and bereaved Rotarian partners, for their past contributions to this club. Our Club Welfare Officer Maurice Humphris and his deputy Shirley do a fantastic job keeping in touch with them. They all receive a copy of the Club Bulletin and partners of past Rotarians are welcome to join friends at our Christmas lunch and 5th Fridays. Thank you Maurice and Shirley.

We have had high profile coverage for a number of our events in the Banbury Guardian this year, thanks to Press and PR officer, Bernard Goodchild.

Chair of Programme, Helen Morris, will have completed three years in the role this June. Helen you manage a diverse range of speakers and have helped arrange two great 5th Fridays, the Antiques Roadshow and Halloween night. Thank you for your support.

The legislation around Health and Safety, Diversity, Protection and Food Service is very complicated and I would wish to thank John Webb for keeping us legal and giving good advice.

To our Webmaster and Bulletin Editor, Ron Barnett; thank you for all you do for our club communications and your advice and support.

There are one or two things we can still do better, e.g. Internal communications from committees and project teams to our webmaster and PR Officer. And as I said earlier the Committees which are the engine rooms of Rotary get great support from most people but there are still a few who don't attend frequently or even at all. However Rome wasn't built in a day and I know the Committee Chairs will address this.

Finally I have to say that at all of the Civic, Club, District and non-Club events attended in the year so far, it's clear that in our community the Rotary Club of Banbury is held in high regard. Di and I have tried to maintain the high standards set by my 79 predecessors. It's clear that members who

participate do so with a positive attitude and in good spirit because we manage our many events in a professional manner. This often shows when people who come into contact with us pass complimentary comments about how well organised our events are.

So could I thank all of you for doing what Rotarians do, 'Giving Service above Self' - You have done a great job and your club is in good health.

Phil Cavill

Membership, Classification & PR

This last year has seen a number of new members who have either been inducted or are waiting to be inducted including: Peter Wilkins, Simon Porter, Colin Clarke and two further potential members. This will increase the membership once again after the creation of a number of well-deserved honorary memberships.

Tony Brace has done a superb job of steering the sub-committee ensuring applications are dealt with efficiently and effectively.

Bernard has quietly and skilfully built up a very good rapport with the Banbury Guardian which means that few weeks go by without them reporting on some Rotary activity, thereby improving awareness within the community of what Rotary does locally, nationally and internationally.

Tony Wiltshire continues to provide the committee and council with valuable attendance statistics.

Maurice Humphris continues to visit the many sick Rotarians and has become a fine judge of tea and cake quality in the process.

I would also like to thank the other members of the committee who have added significantly to the general debate at our well attended committee meetings namely: John Bennett; Brian Gardener; Brian Cornley; Keith Manning; and Ian Rodrick.

The committee also attended the Banbury and District Show in June and Canal Day in October.

Looking forward the committee would like to change their meeting day to the 1st Wednesday of the month which will make membership applications less rushed and more manageable.

For the rest of the year more of the same.

John Smith

Attendance

We started the Rotary year with 72 members. Peter Wilkins joined us in September and we lost Michael

Banks in December so that we again had 72 members. Simon Porter joined us recently, taking the number up to 73.

We also have 5 Honorary Club members including Lord Saye and Sele.

There are several potential members in the pipeline and we could have as many as 76 members in the club by the end of April. The last time we had 75 members was 2010.

Attendance this year has been 66.3% so far. Last year it was 66.6%.

We have however created two new Honorary Members. These were members unable to attend meetings due to health problems, and they are not included in the statistics; which obviously improves the overall returns.

Other Rotary Activities so far add up to 1050, a very satisfactory return.

Previous years: 2014 746
 2013 934
 2012 875

Crocus planting, Young Musicians, School Interviews, Concerts and various other functions have all helped to achieve this excellent figure.

The age distribution for our 72 ordinary members is shown in the charts below:

Age	Group No:	%
>80	15	20.8
70-79	21	29.2
60-69	21	29.2
50-59	14	19.4
40-49	1	1.4

These figures suggest that our efforts to reduce the average age of our Members have not been very successful recently.

(Our first Lady members joined in 2010).

Tony Wiltshire

Fellowship and House

As usual the committee failed to meet again this year. I would like to thank all my committee members for doing their duties each week. In particular I would like to thank Stan Crump for preparing the weekly rotas each month and Stewart Maxwell for standing in for me when away.

I would also like to thank the members for their patience with me when I issue the brown envelopes, occasionally in error!

Stephen Jakeman

Programme

I have been the Programme Chairman for nearly three years now and have again enjoyed it. Fellow Rotarians have kindly advised that they were mostly good talks and I would like to know if they have not thought they were good, especially if it was when I had not been able to attend to witness it myself. Any advice or comments would also be helpful.

I have appreciated lots of potential Speakers contact details being sent to me via the Secretary Paul Gardiner and members who have heard or know the Speakers they recommend. Thank you.

The Longer Serving Member Speakers have continued to be brilliant and it's been lovely getting to know more about them through their lives. We are now up to members who joined the Club in 1984 and I feel that other members are starting to look forward to giving their My Life Talks.

I would like to thank the members who have hosted the Speakers and sent the reports for the Bulletin. Sending the reports to the Bulletin as promptly as possible is really helpful for the Editor to get the Bulletin ready to be printed by the end of each month. Thank you.

Other members I would like to thank are Andrew Fairbairn, Alan Wolstencroft, John Bennett and John Webb for sorting the slide show equipment when needed and setting up the microphones.

Next year's President, Ian Calderbank, has asked me to continue for another year and I will for the last time as I will have a busier year 2016/17. I will continue to concentrate on a balance of Charity Speakers, non-Charity Speakers and the Longer Serving Members Talks.

Of course we have some new members about to join and in due time they will be Speakers and I'm sure we will look forward to hearing who they are. So, I would really appreciate the continued support of members recommending Speakers and agreeing to be their hosts.

Helen Morris

Bulletin

A brief report was given in which the Chairman thanked contributors for their input which was given without chasing.

Sports and Entertainment

This year has seen a mixture of old and new events.

Old events have included darts (unsuccessfully) and golf (a little more successfully).

New events have included Go Karting at Oxford which was well supported and enjoyed by all who went; and a recent visit to the Guide Dog Centre in Leamington Spa.

A trip to an early Christmas "That Will be the Day" at the theatre in Aylesbury made for a rousing evening and we have the Club Outing on the horizon taking in HMS Belfast and Tower Bridge.

So quite a mixed bag this year.

I want to thank the members of my committee for their support and help in organising events and in particular I would like to single out the late Michael Banks who was busy helping to the end. Who will ever forget the wonderful evening he organised last year taking us to the Oxford theatre to see Pam Ayres. A truly memorable evening out expertly chaperoned as ever by Michael.

Nigel Yeadon

Community and Vocational

The involvement, energy and commitment of this Committee continues to be maintained at a high level and there are many unsung heroes that seem to go that extra mile. I am so grateful for all their support.

The past year has, as always, been full of commitments to provide support to deserving charitable causes, both to individual and groups in the Banbury area. Examples of significant activities have thus far included:

- Arranging for stewarding at the Broughton Castle jazz festival organised by Help the Aged
- Organising the annual party for the blind
- Canal day-stewarding and fund raising
- Xmas street organ collection at Tesco and Sainsburys
- Check point stewards for 7th Banbury Scouts charity hike

None of the above would have been possible without support from our Club's membership.

As indicated in last year's report, the Committee has always felt that well targeted 'small' amounts of financial support can make a big difference to a deserving individual or family. The donation (£327.00) made towards the purchase of a special

trike for a young boy suffering from quadriplegic cerebral palsy has vastly improved his quality of life and that of his parents.

Clarity about the purpose of any fund raising activity event well in advance was a lesson learnt from last Rotary year. Currently we are apportioning 75% of funds raised at public events to KHH the balance available to support other requests.

This year has seen two new involvements with our community namely:

- Working with the Trussell Trust/Banbury food bank to provide Rotarian volunteers for three days of food donation collection outside Tesco's.
- Two members volunteering to work a shift with the street pastors giving us valuable insights into what really happens in our town throughout a Saturday night and the issues that the Club may be able to help with going forward.

New activities and challenges will inevitably be initiated and faced by the Community and Vocational team going forward and these will be pursued with our customary rigour, sense of purpose and fun.

Simon Bion

Foundation

The year started with members making donations to Foundation along with their annual membership fees and I would like to thank all those who supported this initiative.

Our first event of the year was Stephen's Summer Steaming hosted by the Jakemans and once again this was a superb day of fun, fellowship and fundraising and our sincere thanks must go to Stephen and Clare for their hospitality on the day, to all those who helped organize the event, those who donated raffle prizes and all members and their families for their attendance. The event this year will be on Sunday 19th July.

The Family Festival of Christmas music was organised by John Bennett and despite a good programme of music by the Banbury Symphony Orchestra audience numbers were disappointing and as a result we have decided to drop this event from next year's Foundation programme. Thank you to all members who either attended or stewarded at the event.

Once again Brian Doe co-ordinated the donations in lieu of Christmas cards and has decided having

raised more this year than in past years he will go out on a high and has handed the job over to Rotarian Bennett. Many thanks to Brian for all his hard work with this fundraiser over the past few years.

The frugal lunch was held on the first Friday of the New Year to help us all get over the excesses of the Christmas period and as always raised funds for Foundation and a few grumbles, as always, from some members.

The Crocus concerts for secondary schools took place recently and were great successes showcasing the musical talent of our local secondary schools. A lot of hard work went in to organising the event by Rotarians, Riches, Matthews and Bennett who deserve a special mention and our thanks go to all members who stewarded at the concerts and those that supported the cause by attending and/or selling tickets. On Thursday this week Bloxham Primary School are holding a crocus concert at St Mary's Bloxham at 6pm - all Rotarians are welcome and NO stewarding duties are involved! On 19th May Middleton Cheney Primary School are holding a Crocus concert - details to follow.

We have recently sent £4,700 as our contribution to Foundation having once again raised the required \$100 per member through our various Foundation activities.

A few weeks ago Rotarian Riches and I went "over the top" of the Millennium Dome to celebrate Rotary's birthday and in doing so have raised in excess of £1,000 for End Polio Now and Walk for Water. We had a great day out, despite the hail and sleet storm whilst we were on the observation platform on top of the Dome and we would both like to thank Club members who sponsored us in this venture.

The introduction of the President's Polio Penny Pot has resulted in £345 being raised so far. A donation from John Smith, in lieu of wine, at a fifth Friday meeting takes the total to £480. Thanks to ALL who have contributed "small change, makes a BIG difference".

Foundation is OUR Rotary Charity and over the last few years we have received 4 District Grants for the Sierra Leone Schools Projects and another grant is in the pipeline. Thank you to my Committee for their contribution and involvement so far this year and thanks also to Club members who have supported our Foundation events.

Alan Wolstencroft

International Committee

The Committee has held 9 meetings so far this year with an average attendance of 5.6 members.

We've continued through Alan Wolstencroft to support the progress of work at:

1. Waterloo School
2. Christian Hope School
3. Calvary School

And also the promotion and fundraising for:

1. Shelterbox
2. Aquafilters

It has been a mixed year for work in Sierra Leone as the Ebola outbreak has not only created severe health problems, but as a consequence has disrupted work on the schools, attendance of children at the schools, as well as drastically effecting the country's economy. Hopefully with the subsidence of the outbreak work can resume helping provide children with healthy places of education.

The Committee through the good services of Andrew McHugh organised the first of many social/fundraising events - A Bollywood Evening - consisting of a curry supper at the Sheesh Mahal followed by a screening of "Bride and Prejudice". A fun evening enjoyed by all those who attended which also raised funds towards the purchase of a Community Aquafilters.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee who have given their support during the year.

Ron Barnett

Youth Services

As a Committee we have continued with well established procedures of previous years with all long standing and existing projects.

RYLA this year under the oversight and organization of Nigel Randall our Club again are sponsoring two students from Frank Wise School to attend an outward bound style experience with the Calvert Trust. Thanks are due to Nigel Randall for his time and skilful endeavours.

Shirley Kershaw has continued sterling work experience interviews at the Banbury Young Homeless Project. Numbers go up and down but the experience is valued both by volunteers and the young people, some of whom have gone on to find

either placements or embark on further education courses.

Jonathan Meredith, Fred Riches and Alan Wolstencroft produced yet another successful round of Children Singing for Children concerts in November raising just over £6,000 for Children's Charities - "One-Eighty", an Oxford based charity who work with children in our area on the fringes of education and society, "Sierra Leone Schools Projects", and other local Rotary Children's Charities. Gratitude is also due to Ian Anthistle for arranging Stewards, compere John Bennett, and all Rotarians who gave their time to ensure the programme could be run.

At the end of February Gareth Jeremy, Nigel Randall and Shirley Kershaw joined by Ron Barnett organised and led the 25th Anniversary Young Musician competition at Sibford School. Since its inception it has seen over 2500 young people take part.

Four of the category winners are going forward to the South of England Final 26th April in Reading. Additionally another event at which some of our finalists will be taking part is scheduled 30th April at Dorchester.

Gareth is arranging a celebratory Concert at Tudor Hall School in June.

Bernard Goodchild and Shirley Kershaw again organised a very successful Young Chef competition in partnership with the Cherwell Club. The Banbury winner, Christina Welz, went forward to the Regional Final at Westminster College London on March 21st, where she did extremely well and narrowly missed going through to the national finals.

The Practice Interview Programme continues under the guidance of Nigel Randall and Mark Recchia. BGN interviews were completed over two days in March from which seven students were selected for second interviews to find the best Student interviewee (at the request of the school - not Rotary). The winner will receive a £50 book token. Warriner interviews scheduled for May have been cancelled by the School due to an administrative oversight resulting in no availability of office space for the project. Next year this project will certainly require fresh input from interested Rotarians to help run the events.

We continued our involvement with Rotary Youth Exchange under my guidance and this July have arranged an Exchange for 17 year old Lucy Cross from Bodicote who will be traveling to Osaka, Japan to stay with a family for 2 weeks before returning

with Maki Yoneda, also aged 17, for a stay with Lucy and her family.

This committee's way of working continues to be an excellent example of the advantages of using cross-committee working groups.

Mark Recchia is brilliant at the thankless task of relieving me of the arduous task of writing up minutes and if I have missed anyone else my profound apologies but thanks to all those members of the committee who have been involved throughout the year.

Geoff Pollard

Brodey Engineering Memorial Bursary

For the benefit of newer members I should explain that this committee exists to administer a sum of money left by Rtn. Ian Brodey in his will to help and encourage local A level students wishing to go to University and study any of the engineering disciplines.

Names are requested from the head of science or careers personnel at local schools which have a sixth form and application forms are sent whenever possible direct to the applicants as they tend to get lost if they are sent to the schools themselves.

Applicants who meet personal and educational requirements then go to the selection panel in September held at Norbar Torque Tools in Beaumont Road involving the MD of Norbar (Ian Brodey's son), myself and Rtn. Mike Budd.

The two successful candidates receive a bursary of £1,500 which is paid in £250 tranches over three years of their engineering studies.

The bursary has been running since 2007 during which time we have helped or are currently helping 16 local students, 6 of which are still studying.

The remaining funds in the bursary stand at £11,468: if we take on two more students in 2015 and 2016 the Club will be committed to a further outlay of £10,500. As it will take until 2019 to pay off our commitments to these young people, albeit on a diminishing scale in later years, I recommend that we consider our commitment carefully before looking beyond 2016.

Since Mike Budd stepped down as Chairman of this Committee in July 2014 I have been running the bursary virtually on my own, which I don't mind from a work point of view but am uncomfortable about it from a democratic point of view as large sums of money are involved.

Meanwhile everything is running smoothly and we must now actively seek new applicants for this year.

John Brodey

Club Finances

Following an explanation of the proposed Club budget for new Rotary Year, the Members voted unanimously and enthusiastically for no increase in the Club Subscriptions and Joining Fee.

Ordinary Members of Council

The following members were elected as ordinary members of Council for the next year:

Simon Bion
Andrew McHugh
Ron Barnett
Geoff Pollard

District Conference



Our visit to the District Conference started on the Friday afternoon for those attending the Inner Wheel session at which Joan Greening gave another interesting talk on Inspirational Women.

We then all came together for an enjoyable Club Dinner in the Holiday Inn where we were staying right next to the Telford International Centre, convenient for all the Conference activities.



A number of us then went on after the meal on Friday evening to District 1090 Fun Factory which opened at 8:30pm. It was a fun filled Evening with

Casino games including Roulette, Black Jack and Craps tables. There were Simulator Games and the Banbury Team did well on F1 racing and President Phil Cavill showed everyone how to swing the golf club on the Golf simulator. In the 8 lane Scalextrix, Team Banbury gave other Clubs a chance to win as we came last by crashing the car.

There were games to play that really had you biting your nails while you took a wooden brick out of a giant Jenga Stack and had to place the brick on the top. There was a Giant Connect 4 game that had everyone trying to get their counter in first to get connect 4. The most competitive game was Table Football in which the ball was going the opposite way to the net. It was an amazing evening and everyone who participated had great fun.

Prizes of tickets to Ascot races were offered for individuals, table or Clubs who cumulatively had won the highest number of District Dollars and had their cards stamped for completing the 3 Simulators and 3 Games.

Being located so close to the Conference saw us with a leisurely start on the Saturday morning. The various charity stalls in the Village of Opportunity were open from 9.00 am and the Conference itself opened formally at 10.00 am with a dramatic video of an intergalactic journey to Telford accompanied by the music from Star Wars - A New Hope.



This was then followed by the ringing of the bell, lighting of a rather huge friendship candle, an introduction by our DG Tim with a reminder of the theme “Light up Rotary, Light up the World” and a welcome from the Mayor of Telford, Councillor Malcolm Smith who gave us a brief history of Telford, its formation and development and the importance of the Darby family to its past.

The RI’s representative, Günes Ertas from Turkey, brought greetings from RI President Gary C. K Huang and then spoke briefly about the Rotary family, the importance of activities with Youth and means by which to improve public image. He is as keen a “flasher” as one of our members and displayed on

the screen a number of photographs from the previous evening at the Fun Factory.

This contribution was then followed by one from our own RIBI President Peter King, who we know will also visit our Club on 1st May. He spoke about the need for change throughout RIBI, being prepared to take risks (“Better to get out in the rain rather than wait for the storm to pass”), engage more closely with other organisations on a partnership basis, encourage others to volunteer and work with us even if not as members.

We need to be innovative and facilitators of other volunteers’ activities as well as our own “hands on”. He referred to the benefits of consistency and perseverance (“Never let a stumble on the road be the end of the journey”).

The Inner Wheel Chairman of District 9, Margaret Groom then closed this opening session by describing how their support is given to Rotary with a theme “Light the Path” and pointed out that their team of “seamstresses” had recently made more than 400 sleeping bags to go to Sierra Leone.



The first plenary session saw Dorothy Dix of the Reading Matins Club talk about “Creating Better Futures”, a charity she has founded to help children in Zimbabwe towards education, providing classrooms and toilets, medical care, clothing and free if simple maize porridge meals with a “Mahea” energy drink to more than 1000 children every day on the principle that it is hard for hungry children to learn.

She gave a graphic description of her own poor start to life there as an abandoned child but who benefited from Rotary projects, eventually studying in Norway and Reading University. Among other things she is now a UN student Ambassador for Education and Culture, representing Africa. She gave a good idea of the scale of the problem facing her charity with 135 children presently at the school but more than 300 on a waiting list and with more than one million children orphaned by AIDS and HIV in Zimbabwe alone. She pointed out that,

although the problem is huge, the approach of “changing one life at a time” through child sponsorship has a significant impact. An interesting and moving talk but delivered with a balance of appropriate humour.

Brian Jonson, President of the Marlow Club, then described how they became involved with the Rotary Club of Monrovia to help in tackling the Ebola crisis in Liberia. The speedy response of the Monrovia Club was quite remarkable initially with a focus on providing protective equipment for the medical staff and volunteers but, as more organisations became involved in helping, they changed the focus to educating people on how to avoid transferring the virus, e.g., by not washing the bodies (a difficult change in culture!).

Brian’s talk was interspersed with video clips interviewing President Victoria of the Monrovia club and representatives of the Liberian Ministry of Health, and slides showing interesting statistics which highlighted how relatively successful the approach in Liberia has been.

There is now a lot to be done in recovering from the damage done and rebuilding communities there and the Marlow Club intends to continue offering support, including eventually supplying a medical oxygen plant, presently not available in Liberia, essential in providing appropriate treatments. They also have other projects under consideration and hope to obtain a global grant. Clearly the funds raised from our own collection for this cause in Castle Quay some weeks ago will have been used well.

After a coffee break, Stephen Howard, CEO of Business in the Community, talked about the need for more businesses to become involved in volunteering activities. Business has serious image problems whilst having to deal with an era of great uncertainty and rapid market reactions.

When the Swiss franc was decoupled from the euro recently the rate of exchange moved 17% in 52 seconds whereas when the UK left the ERM some years ago it was three weeks before any real impact was felt. Issues which businesses now have to face include sustainability, social justice and the environment as well as the increasing gap between rich and poor.

Individuals also need to review their own career paths, maybe with a focus on seeking economic success in the first part of their life only, looking for satisfaction in other ways during the second half.

He described his experience when he found himself sitting next to Mother Teresa on a flight one day. She asked him what he did but after he had replied said “Yes, but what do you do that matters?” It was this that made him become involved in what he does now, trying to encourage businesses to ask what their purpose is (“being a pebble in the CEO’s shoe”).

There are now eight million people employed by members of BIC in the UK and he hopes to grow this. One area he has focus on is providing opportunities for unemployed young people who might be the third generation in a family without employment. He encouraged us to think what our own purpose is within the community.

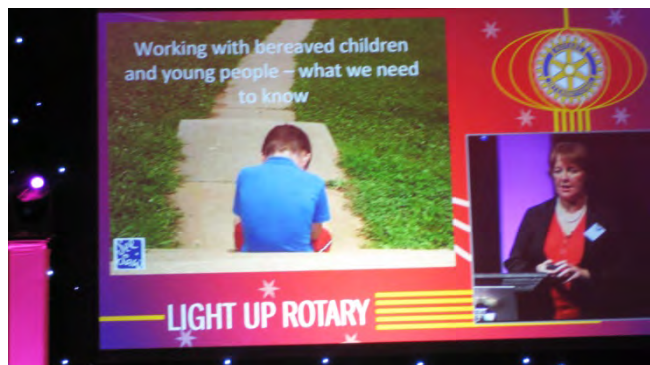
The final talk of the morning, “Tim, An Ordinary Boy”, was given by Colin Parry whose son was killed by the IRA shopping centre bomb in Warrington on 20th March 1993. Following this terrible experience Colin and his wife founded the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace and created a unique Peace Centre in Warrington where people from conflict regions are brought together to meet and share experiences. He described in detail their experience and feelings on that fateful day and during the ensuing days while the surgeons fought to save his son.

He quoted a few statistics that suggested that the results of conflict are worse now than previously. In Northern Ireland between 1969 and 1998 (the Good Friday agreement) more than 3,000 people died of whom over 300 were children. However, the UN estimates that for 2014 alone the ISIL, ISIS activities resulted in more than 9,000 deaths. Colin and his wife believe that it is vital to continue providing opportunities for potential enemies to meet and share experiences which might then prevent subsequent conflict.

It was altogether a morning of interesting, sometimes amusing and often emotional presentations which set a good marker for the Conference.

The Afternoon session was introduced by District Governor Tim Cowling, he had a particular affinity to the next speaker’s subject as he lost his mother at the age of four.

The subject was SeeSaw a Child Bereavement Charity introduced by Helen McKinnon. The charity operates in Oxfordshire and responds quickly to bereavement and also assists prior to death for someone with a terminal illness.



The focus is on bereaved children and has helped more than 2,000 families. They have four paid staff plus volunteers, the annual cost is around £300,000. Their remit does not just cover illness but also other traumas such as suicide and road accidents. They also give support to schools and support workers. Events are also organised to allow bereaved children to meet up and enjoy each other's company.

Helen completed her talk by having members of Rotary appearing on stage with drums and for the audience to participate in four groups beating out "Light up Rotary" "Making a Difference" "Give Opportunity" "Peace in the World", and then singing "You'll never walk alone". This emphasised the way in which their side by side activities are carried out. A very moving and informative presentation.

Next was the Foundation update. Karen Everleigh gave us an update on last year's Polio eradication giving, our District contributed \$107,000 with Banbury getting a mention among the highest donors.

The Annual Programme almost made the \$100 per member finishing at \$94. She then outlined the District Grants and Global Grants to Kenya, Nepal and to the Kimuli Project. Aisha Alzoubi then spoke of the Vocational Training Teams which go out mainly to Africa and teach the local hospital workers various health care skills. They also train tutors so that the work is extended within the community. Jim McWhirter who started the Doctor Bank scheme was presented with the International "Service Above Self" award. There then was a short presentation by the Rotary Scholars from the U.S.A., Germany and Australia.

A Rotakids film followed and showed the great joy and benefit in involving these young children the presentation gave the audience a humorous look at Rotakids.

R.Y.L.A. then gave an unusual presentation of International R.Y.L.A. in India.



Next came Banbury Rotaract they started with 3 members then 7 and now flourishing, they were chartered in 2013. Their now 22 members have fun including climbing Snowdon Twice. They then showed a film of their activities during the year these included many fun events but also helping the community and fund raising projects and helping with our Christmas parcel distribution.

The change of format to the Saturday afternoon session ensured a good audience which in past years had been somewhat lacking. An altogether enjoyable and sometimes emotional session.

President Phil and wife Di, very kindly invited fellow Rotarians and Cherwell Rotarians with their guests for pre-dinner drinks at the International Hotel. Lovely red bubbly champagne, and some soft drinks, to be able to chat with each other in anticipation of the Saturday Night Dinner Dance that was held at the Iron Bridge Suite Telford International Centre which started at 7.30pm.

The venue was the same place that the District Conference was being held but was transformed magnificently to a dining room.



I wonder why nobody else is dancing with us!

The theme was dinner jacket or lounge suits with Ladies in evening wear, with a hint of Black White and a Touch of Red. A great turn out with most men wearing red bow ties and ladies wearing stunning dresses with their red roses/necklaces/bows and

even red shoes. To enhance this there were large black, red and white decorations on the tables.

District Governor Tim Cowling welcomed everyone and then some great music started - "Real Class" played the super music throughout the evening and after a lovely dinner there was dancing at both ends of the dining room until midnight. It was a really super evening.

Sunday started with what was billed as "Sunday Service" "A time for reflection".

The worship was led by Dr Nicolas Wood, Dean, Fellow in Religion and Culture and Director of the Oxford Centre for Christianity and Culture at Regent's Park College at the University of Oxford. He is honorary Vice-President of the Christian Muslim Forum and Vice-Moderator of the BWA Commission on Baptist-Muslim Relations.

We sang a number of well-known hymns and the prayers were those used by a wide cross-section of faiths.



Rather than listening to a Sermon, Dr Wood led a discussion with Dr Musharraf Hussain, who came to Britain in 1966 and later studied Biochemistry. He worked as a scientist until 1990. He then decided to serve the Muslim community; he read Islamic studies at a seminary in Pakistan and then at Al-Azhar University, Cairo. In 1995 he helped set up Al-Karam Muslim Boarding School, being head teacher for 3 years. In 1997 he was appointed director of the Karimia Institute which is a premier Muslim organisation in the UK. In 2005 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Staffordshire University and in 2006 he was asked by the Prime Minister to chair the UK - Indonesian Islamic advisory group.

Being well qualified, he spoke with authority about the Muslim Community in Britain. He explained that the vast majority of Muslims in Britain loved the country, worked hard and were nothing to do with the present problems. The Islamic faith and the Quran teach people to love and respect one another, to be tolerant and help those in need,

much like any other religion. He said he would like to stop everyone using the name "Islamic State."

He declared emphatically that what they were doing contravened all the teaching of his faith. He said they are nothing to do with us. When questioned about why Radicalisation has become such an issue. He said that because of the present bad press and general vilification of Muslims as a whole by the Media, young people were becoming disillusioned, and angry. The Radical leaders were persuading these people to leave the main stream of the Muslim faith to join them and fight, promising eternal salvation after death and martyrdom.

I believe, quite simply, that if all Imams taught and spoke like Dr Musharraf Hussain, the problems would have been lessened or might never have arisen in the first place. Sadly the message that came over today was only heard by about 25% of the conference attendees; it needs to be heard, not only by all of us, but by every person in the UK.

Where do we go from here? There is still a long and rough road ahead and there are no simple answers. Perhaps we Rotarians with our worldwide and respected organisation could take our part. Rotarians throughout the world all share the same ideals, regardless of language, country, colour or creed.

Once more R.I President's Representative - Gunes Ertas addressed us all, finishing his talk of Saturday morning. He obviously enjoyed his visit telling us that he had taken hundreds of photographs. I believe we will have the opportunity to see these in some form over the internet.

His own personal job in Rotary is to develop better systems of Communication, using modern technology in particular. His job title is currently, Rotary Public Image Coordinator in Zone 20B.

Another talk by an inspiring speaker, Anne Wafula Strike MBE, who overcame disability, through education, sport and sheer determination was entitled "In my Dreams I Dance".

She was born in Kenya. She was a fit and healthy child until struck down with Polio when she was only two years old. Superstitious villagers believed the family was cursed following Anne's partial recovery, so her family were forced to move into Nairobi. Anne started her schooling in an excellent Salvation Army school for the Physically Handicapped.

Despite her disability and being confined to a wheelchair she adopted a positive attitude and said

to herself; "I still have a brain and I can use that". She worked hard and achieved a BA Degree at Moi University. She said, "With education I found the key..." She became a teacher at Machakos Technical College in 1998 and soon after met the man she would marry, who took her to Britain, motherhood and Wheelchair racing.

In 2004 she became the first wheelchair racer from East Africa to compete at the Paralympics in Athens. After gaining British citizenship in 2006 she joined the GB Team. In 2014 she was awarded the MBE and in December of that year she was appointed a non-executive director of UK Athletics.

She now thinks of herself as "Differently Able" and talks of "Being a complete person." What a wonderful attitude.

You can read more in her book "In My Dreams I Dance".

A collection was made to assist her in her work, during the coffee break.



We were then addressed by RIBI President, Peter King. Peter is qualified as a Barrister at Law and has served in many positions using his legal expertise.

He is a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators; a Freeman of the City of London and an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He has also done 25 years in the Territorial Army.

Peter has been in Rotary since 1984 and has held nearly all the positions you could imagine.

He talked with enthusiasm for the future, suggesting we should think, "Work with and not for".

He emphasised his wish to see a growing and younger Rotary Membership. He talked about Youth Activities, Rotaract, Rotakids and RYLA as well as his contacts with other organisation such as the Scouts. He emphasised that these should lead to the source of Membership in the future and we should never ignore them.

I believe he will be visiting our Club later this year.

After the Coffee break our District Governor presented all the District Trophies and Awards including those of the previous day's golf competition. Perhaps a significant winner was the Club that had the highest attendance at Conference - I forget the name but I did note that they achieved the figure of over 51% of their membership!!

Then came "Standing Tall" - by Andy Reid.

Andy was one of those unfortunate victims of the Afghanistan conflict. But like others we have heard from at this conference, able to overcome adversity in a very positive way. He spoke well and with a lot of humour. Andy was a Corporal in the Yorkshire Regiment, in which he served for 14 years. He served in Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

In October 2009, whilst on patrol, he stepped on an ID losing both legs and his right arm. He spent time in Selly Oak Hospital but by November 27th he was walking again using his new prosthetic limbs.

Andy sees himself, not as a victim but as a survivor. He constantly sets himself goals and has a very positive mind set. He said laughter and banter got him through. He has got married and I am sure that has helped him as well.

Undaunted he has been skydiving, has taken part in a 10K run, biked the length of the country (with specially made limbs), cycled 60 miles on a hand bike and completed the Washington marathon last year on his bike with a team of assistants running along beside him. He said he could have done that faster but his assistants would not have been able to keep up with him!

He has written his autobiography, "Standing Tall". He is an accomplished speaker and now in demand all over the country.

We then had a short presentation about next year's conference. It is to be held in the Savill Court Hotel, Windsor Great Park on Friday and Saturday 11th and 12th of March 2016.

The new idea is that the whole event will be held under one roof. Lunch on Saturday will be included in the cost of the delegate rate. You will be able to go for one or two days or any part thereof. Stay over-night or travel home, Windsor being fairly handy for many in the District.

Our final speaker was Gail Morecambe talking about "Morecambe Moments".

Gail was born in 1953, the first child of Eric Morecambe. Eric died thirty years ago and it was

only 8 years ago that Gail was asked to give a talk about living with the famous comedian.

She now travels widely giving a talk titled "Life with my father, Eric".

She talked of father's school days. He played truant, was banned from all the local cinemas and one report about his hand writing said "I would comment if I could see any". Mother was in despair about what they could possibly find for him to do after leaving school. He was taken to an audition and there he met Ernie Wise and the outcome of that, you will know all about.

Gail talked of her childhood with her brother, Gary, as chaotic, a home full of jokes and never knowing what was going to happen next. When Gail was young she simply thought all fathers behaved like that. She said "Embarrassing" to explain it all in one word. She related any number of amusing incidents. When at school she told us she would never let on that Eric was her father; Morecambe is of course his stage name.

One day her best friend said to her "You won't believe this but I have just found out the Eric Morecambe's daughter is at this school - Who do you think it could possibly be? I think that ruined that friendship. When it came to boyfriends, dad destroyed some of those friendships as well. One boy rang, Eric answered, and when the boy asked for Gail, he simply said "Sorry there is no phone here!!" Another boy who decided to arrive on the doorstep wearing leathers and the latest fashions of the age was greeted very politely by Eric who hesitated but then said, "You look like a very large wallet".

A light hearted and enjoyable session. Thank you Gail.

Now we have got to the Closing remarks. Tim Cowling did a fine job giving his heartfelt thanks to all those that had worked so hard to make the Conference the success it was. He even thanked all of us for coming along. Special thanks were also given to his wife, Linda, who was presented with a huge arrangement of flowers. And Tim's committee did the same for him but in a more frivolous manner.

A good conference, we all learnt a lot and fun was had by all.

Ian Calderbank
Surinder Dhesi
Helen Morris
David Hitchcox
Tim Bryce

Young Chef



Following her success in winning the local Banbury event in January, on February 21st Christina Welz and her father travelled down to Sandhurst College in Berkshire to take part in the Rotary District competition where she joined 6 other contestants in cooking a three course meal for two of her choice, in a two hour cooking session. Once again she impressed the professional chef judges with her culinary skills in her organisation, time management and presentation in cooking the following attractive meal:

Starter - Green bean salad with almonds and bacon. Pepper crusted goat's cheese.

Main - Pan fried salmon with mushrooms, chorizo, grapes, onion puree and a beetroot oil

Dessert - warm orange cinnamon sponge with cranberry granola, honey and raspberry syrup

After careful consideration and very positive feedback on all participants representing other local Rotary Clubs, the judges announced Christina as the District champion. She received a super glass cut trophy and automatic entry to the following Regional competition.

On Saturday March 28th Banbury Rotary President Phil Cavill and his wife Diana drove Christina down to Westminster, Kingsway College in South London to take part in the Regional Final alongside seven other representatives of Rotary Clubs throughout the South East of the country who were all competing for the Regional trophy and to take part in the National Final in Wales.

The contestants were closely monitored during their two hour cooking time by the three professional judges - Christopher Basten, the National Chairman of the Craft Guild of Chefs, Tony Tobin well known BBC Ready Steady Cook host, and Stuart Williams,

Operations Manager for Thomas Franks contract caterers.

Another high pressured and nerve racking cooking period ensued in which Christina repeated the meal that had brought her success in the previous round. All those attending then came together for the presentation ceremony and to hear the thoughts of the judges. All three commented on the very high standards achieved in the event and the attractiveness and wide range of the meals they had tasted during the competition. In addition they emphasised how close the contestants were with only one point between the winner and runner up for a place to take part in the National Final in Wales in April 2015.

Christina won the trophy as Runner Up Award. A tremendous effort on the part of this Local Banbury and Bicester College student.

The Rotary Clubs of Banbury are very proud of her achievements in reaching this late stage of the competition. In praising her for her efforts Phil Cavill, President of the Rotary Club of Banbury, commented that her hard work and commitment provided a great inspiration to Rotary Clubs in Banbury to continue this Youth Services local event that provides such an excellent personal development opportunity for young people, for many years to come. The Clubs are extremely grateful for the support that they receive from Banbury and Bicester College and in particular Peter Harvey, Hospitality and Catering Lecturer in assisting to organise the local competition.

Bernard Goodchild

Young Musician



Two of the winning entries for the Banbury Young Musician of the Year competition have gone on to success in the District Finals.

Tavia Lewis came second in the District vocalist finals, and Bella Bourne Swinton-Hunter won the

District instrumentalist finals. Both contestants now go on to the South England Finals on 26th April.

In addition to which both finalists have been invited by the District Governor to perform at a Gala Concert featuring Young Musician winners on 30th April in Dorchester Abbey.

AGR

Practise Interviews



For the 12th year Rotarians and friends gave up two mornings of their time to give 140 Year 10 students at Blessed George Napier School the opportunity to develop their interview skills.

Following the initial round of Practice Interviews, seven students were subsequently invited back for a second interview as a result of interviewers' individual nominations. The eventual winner of a £50 book token was a young lady who aims to follow a veterinary career following her recent work experience at a local vets' practice, and whose outside interests include karate, first-aid and lifeguard training.

Congratulations to the winner and a thank you from the Headteacher to all those who took part for assisting the career development of BGN pupils.

Nigel Randall

Crocus Concerts



Following our review of 2013/4 Project (feedback sheets returned, meeting of music staff involved

and Rotary Working Group/Foundation Meeting) it was decided to repeat and develop the project for another year with a view to it being a five-year project - running up to the WHO's proposed eradication target date of 2018.

Invitations were sent to all nine schools - Heads of Music and Headteachers - and a new Rotary Working Party was established.

Thanks to the generous donation of 5000 bulbs by Cherwell District Council and 1000 bulbs by Banbury Town Council, bulb Planting was undertaken by students at each school in October/November and Harry Matthews organised planting by Rotarians at Bridge Street Park, St Mary's Churchyard (with Frank Wise pupils and staff), Princess Diana Park (with North Oxfordshire Academy Students and staff) and Sanctuary Housing Retirement Living Sites (Gillett Road, Penrose Close, Union Street and Yule Court).

After purchasing 2000 crocus lapel badges, forty boxes were circulated in various town locations and schools. Media coverage was good, and after £2000 sponsorship was secured through the generous support of Sanctuary Housing, Banbury Charities and Banbury Town Council, we approached two primary schools who'd missed out on "Children Singing for Children 2014" to join the project.

Rotary Crocus Packs were purchased and planted by choir members with Rotarian support. Our working group met three times, tasks were shared, concert dates and venues booked, guests invited, programme content planned, stewards and LiveArts support negotiated.

The two concerts at St Mary's, involving collaboration among our local secondary schools, took place on March 5th and 10th, accompanied by the punctual blooming in the churchyard of the 1000 crocuses planted over the past two years and marked by a newly-painted Swan Foundry plaque.

Once again audiences were treated to some amazing singing both by choirs and soloists from the schools - and to some equally high quality instrumental performances.

Initial feedback discussions with teachers involved suggest the project is likely to continue for at least one, if not three more years (up to the latest target polio eradication year of 2018).

With one mini-concert for Sanctuary Housing residents and one primary school concert to come, we have still a few ends to tie up, but at the time of

writing, by my reckoning we have just overtaken last year's fundraising total of £3250.

This is in no small way due to the incredible efforts of Bloxham Primary School, who really entered fully into the project from crocus pot planting through to an amazing final fundraising concert. Some 120 pupils were involved at Bloxham Church on March 26th, with more than a score of ukulele players, a brass band, saxophone and recorder groups, the school orchestra, a solo trumpeter, a girl band ("Girls United") and the school choir of 70 - not to mention two local Brownie groups as stewards and ushers, two pupils who were excellent M/Cs and a willing 'backstage' and 'front of house' support cast of staff and parents.

A huge "thank you" to Music Teacher Michelle Noble-Coles and Headteacher Matthew Ingall. A cheque for £734.50 will land on the honorary treasurer's doormat next week as a result of this one school community's support.

Many thanks once again to the whole team of Rotarians who formed this year's working group, especially Harry Matthews and John Bennett - to Ian Anthistle for his continued command of stewarding arrangements, and to Ron Barnett and Bernard Goodchild for their excellent support with publicity.

Fred Riches

Past President Bill Trinder



On Saturday 28th March Mrs Cynthia Turner, Bill Trinder's daughter, helped the Banbury Civic Society and Tallylyn Railway Preservation Society with the ceremonial unveiling of a commemorative plaque to mark the birth of the world-wide railway preservation movement at 84 High Street, Banbury.

Bill Trinder is shown above cutting the tape at Wharf Station in Tywyn on the first day of TRPS operation 14th May 1951.

You may be wondering what a small shop in Banbury High Street has got to do with The Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society and steam railways all around the world.

The answer is that Banbury may fairly lay claim to be the birthplace of the Railway Preservation movement because of the endeavours of local businessman, enthusiast and committed Rotarian, Bill Trinder, who ran his radio and gramophone record shop from 84 High Street.

It was a defining moment in the bid to save the Talyllyn Railway, when Bill Trinder's friend Tom Rolt walked into the shop at 84 High Street and showed him a copy of the Bill to nationalise the railways in the winter of 1947/8. The two men were gripped by this news and it transpired that the ancient but failing Talyllyn Railway in Mid Wales was to fall outside the net of state control. During discussions in Bill's flat above the shop, Trinder and Rolt resolved not only save the Talyllyn Railway, but to run it using volunteers. Following the inaugural meeting of the Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society in 1950, Bill Trinder was appointed its first Chairman.

Following the success of Talyllyn -the Talyllyn Railway turns 150 years old this year and remains a leading example of its kind - there are now countless heritage railways around the world, most of them wholly or substantially staffed and run by volunteers, following the model pioneered by Trinder and Rolt. Every one of them can trace its origin to Trinder and Rolfs decision to save the Talyllyn, and thus to 84 High Street, Banbury.

The Banbury Civic Society and Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society have jointly commissioned the commemorative plaque which is situated just above the shop where everything started - 84 High Street - now occupied by The Men's Room hairdressers.

Bill Trinder and Tom Rolt made their first visit to the Talyllyn Railway in the last weekend in March, 1948, hence the chosen date for the unveiling.

As a past President of our Club, Bill was a definite trend setter as it was Bill who first made the first approaches to our Contact Club partners in France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, starting an international circle of Rotary Fellowship that is still thriving today.

With thanks to the Banbury Civic Society for the text.

Welcome to Rotary

We are absolutely delighted this month to have welcomed two new members into the Rotary Club of Banbury and the worldwide family of Rotary.



Simon Porter whose Classification is "Hotel Group Management".



Colin Clarke whose Classification is "Public Community Services".

We extend a very warm welcome to you both and very much look forward to getting to know you better over the coming weeks, months and years.

The club darts match on 16th March was won by Peter Williams in a closely contested 3 way final,

Phil Cavill

Speaker Reports

Sophia Stone and Charlotte Parkeve - The Children's Radio Foundation



On Friday the 27th of February we were treated to a remarkable talk by two charming Ladies who represent The Children's Radio Foundation.

Sophia told us that they broadcast in five countries across south and central Africa with seven million listeners plus many more millions online. Whilst many Africans don't have access to TV, many have radios, thus it is the ideal medium for young people to speak to others.

Tribal, Religious and Political differences and misunderstandings can be aired and thus avoid the sort of problems that have plagued Africa for generations.

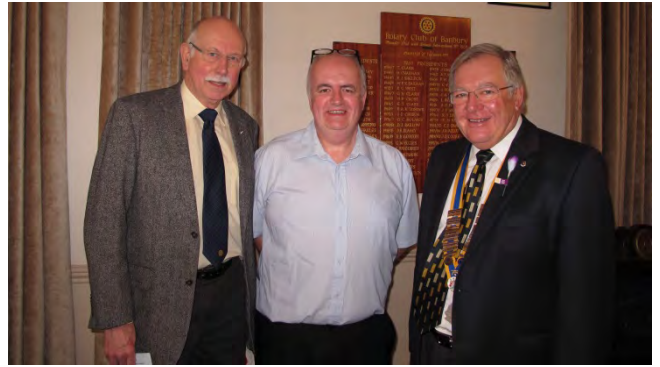
Music and poetry also are a large part of the programmes, which keep the music-loving youth of these vast counties informed.

Charlotte told us how funds and grants were obtained from both Government sources and public donations.

This was a really professional presentation much enjoyed by all.

Malcolm Douglas.

Gerry Weetman – From Sligo to The Somme



On Friday 13th March (unlucky for some!) Gerry Weetman spoke to us about his hobby of tracing his Family Tree, which has turned into a business.

His interest was prompted in 2014, by the approach of the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1.

The family had always assumed that, because his Grandfather James was a miner and therefore not eligible to be called up, they had no family members who took part in the conflict.

Curiosity stirred, Gerry decided to do some research and so started his interest in Genealogy - that's the big word for finding your long lost ancestors!!

Gerry came to live in Oxford 7 years ago, but he is originally from Durham, so he started his search by contacting his family in his home village of Horden, and discovered that his grandfather had a brother, James.

By going on line, he discovered his great uncle James details on the National Census of 1911. From there he was able to obtain a copy of James birth certificate, which led him on to tracing his great uncle's military records in the Northumberland Fusiliers.

These records enabled Gerry to follow James movements through the war, only to discover that he died at the Battle of the Somme.

Through his researches, Gerry has also discovered that his great grandfather came to England from Ireland during the second potato famine, needing work to be able to feed his family. His search leads him across the country to Co Durham, where he found employment as a miner.

Having moved to Oxford with his job, Gerry was made redundant 18 months ago and has decided to turn his hobby of Genealogy (that big word again) into a business under the name of "Family Tree Finders". So if you would like to know more about your ancestral past (see if you're related to royalty or discover the black sheep!) and don't want to do the research yourself, he'd be more than happy to

help you. Tel: 01865 770310 or his web site is www.familytreefinders.co.uk

John Bennett

Fellowship Meeting



On Friday 20th March we had one of most enjoyable “Fellowship Meeting”. Much the same as a normal Friday meeting but without a guest speaker, just lots of time to chat amongst ourselves and enjoy each other’s company.

President Phil reminded us that it was International Day of Happiness, the objectives of which are:

- Giving - Do things for others
- Relating - Connect with people
- Exercising - Take care of your body
- Appreciating - Notice the world around
- Try Out - Keep learning new things
- Direction - Have goals to look forward to
- Resilience - Find ways to bounce back
- Emotion - Take a positive approach
- Acceptance - Be comfortable with who you are
- Meaning - Be part of something bigger

These all sound much like what we do as Rotarians.

AGR

Sheila Finlayson and Pip Dealtry - Making Volunteering Easy in Cherwell



The speakers on Friday 27th March were Pip and Sheila from “Volunteer Connect”. This service, which is accessed through the Citizens Advice

Bureau, is funded by Cherwell District Council and started in October 2012.

The object of the service is to provide transport for those who request it for journeys to hospital, to see family and friends and for shopping. The service is aimed at anyone who has a transport problem, but especially those who live in villages and do not have access to a ‘bus service or people who can offer them transport and live locally.

Another aspect of the service is to place volunteers into the voluntary sector which in some cases leads to permanent employment.

The main reason that this service was required was for hospital appointments and this was necessary because travelling to and from these appointments usually involved split journeys on public transport, long waiting time for ‘busses and trains, and inconvenience because the treatment had made the user feel a little fatigued and getting home to rest as quickly as possible was their priority.

The patient transport provided by the NHS had been abused in the past and the new governing body of the NHS had seen it as a priority to curtail this use and only make it available to those who required it because of their medical condition.

The service cost 45p a mile for users but the drivers would provide a “door to door” service for the user and would also wait while the user had treatment or did shopping and then take them home again, so once a driver was assigned to the duty they would be there for the user until the duty was completed without interruption to their availability, a very assuring part of the relationship between provider and user.

The service had been running with CDC funding for three years and the funding had recently been renewed for a further two years. This covered office staff and organizational costs for the service which has 535 registered users of the scheme at present and organizes over 3000 journeys a year.

There is no age restriction to the users but the majority are over sixty years old. There is some restriction on users who have a medical condition which requires a second person to be with them and the user must provide their own assistance as it is the drivers job only to provide and drive the transport and in no way to act as a carer.

People are referred to the service by other voluntary bodies but people do not seem to want to know what services are available to them until there is a crisis, and one of the main functions that this

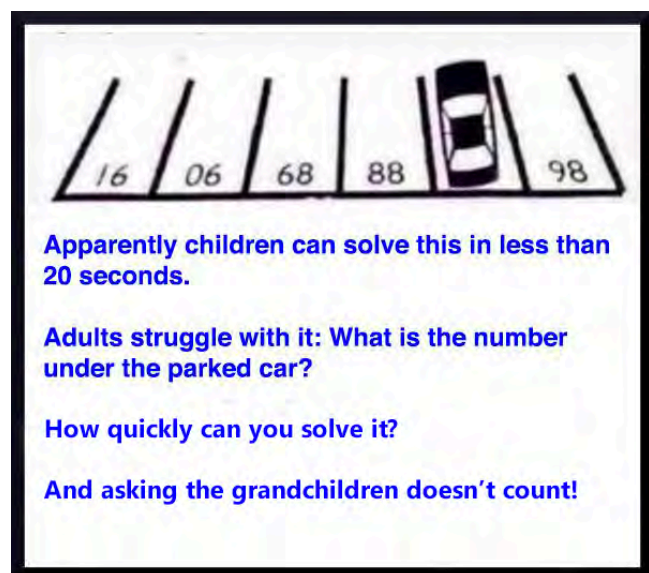
organization has, as well as the provision of transport, is to get the knowledge that they are there for the community out there amongst the public they aim to serve. This entails visiting Job Fairs, Schools, Colleges, and Volunteer Fairs amongst many other places visited in order to get the message across.

The scheme has a bank of volunteer drivers who give their time free of charge. The driver is not committed to any number of hours per week and can be available as often as they like. Some drivers volunteer almost every day whilst others are only available once or twice a month. Needless to say there is always room for more volunteers who will be DRB checked by the scheme prior to being made available to the users at no charge to the volunteer.

The two representatives invited questions from the assembly which were answered comprehensively, and after a vote of thanks by Rotarian Webb they were shown the appreciation for their endeavours by the assembled Rotarians in the usual manner.

J. Webb

And now for something different



The Month in Pictures





Weekly Meeting Duties for April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
3 Apr	No meeting (Bank Holiday)			
10 Apr	S. Bion T. Bryce M. Budd I. Calderbank B. Cornley G. Csecs	H. Braisby J. Brodey	J. Cooke	M. Humphris
17 Apr	S. Dhesi M. Douglas A. Fairbairn B. Gardner B. Goodchild J. Hansford	B. Doe J. Donaldson	T. Taylor	R. Kipping
24 Apr	T. Iles A. Ilott G. Jeremy S. Kershaw O. Kyffin K. Manning	J. Meredith H. Morris	E. Woodruff	S. Crump

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 April and May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
3 April	Good Friday		
10 April	Gareth Jeremy	Longer Serving Member	Ron Barnett
17 April	Professor Paul Johnson	Pancreatic Islet Transplantation for Type 1 Diabetes - Current Status and Future Potential	Rupert Kipping
24 April	Chris Windass	Music in Adderbury	Gilbert Csecs
8 May	Meera Murali	Sanctuary Housing	Fred Riches
15 May	Neil Rowe Agricultural Consultant	Send a Cow	TBA
22 May	Bruce Duncan	Scottish - Title to be advised	TBA
29 May	Fifth Friday Evening at Freemasons' Hall	Tapas and Spanish Wine	Philip Cavill