



The December Diary

- 1st-4th Town Mayor's Toy Appeal
 - 2nd Community & Vocational Service Committee Meeting
 - 2nd Sports and Entertainment Committee Meeting
 - 2nd Classification, Membership & PR Committee Meeting
 - 4th Rotary Meeting
 - 4th Sainsburys Food Collection
 - 5th Town Mayor's Celebration of Christmas
 - 5th-6th Tour de Trigs
 - 6th Katharine House Hospice Santa Fun Run
 - 6th Inner Wheel Christmas Lunch
 - 9th Foundation Committee Meeting
 - 11th Rotary Meeting
 - 13th Joint Service Clubs Carol Service
 - 16th Youth Services Committee Meeting
 - 16th International Committee Meeting
 - 17th Club Darts v Witney
 - 18th Rotary Christmas Lunch
 - 19th Christmas Float
 - 21st-24th Street Organ Collection
- For the full year's diary visit
www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk

Christmas Greetings



I know that it is early but I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and successful 2016.

This is a busy but rewarding time of year for our Club. We have recently experienced four evenings of delightful "Children Singing for Children" concerts with 27 primary school choirs taking part this year. These concerts bring so much pleasure to the children, teachers, families, and of course ourselves. Those taking part, by their efforts to learn and perform five songs, exemplify our Rotary motto "Service above Self".

Although taking place in November the concerts also typify the spirit of Christmas, this time of year when we remember the birth of Jesus and the messages of peace and goodwill associated with his life on Earth.

Christmas really starts for our Club though with the Service Clubs Carol Service at Marlborough Road Church on Sunday 12th December, a truly enjoyable evening with carols, readings, and musical entertainment, followed by mince pies and social chat.

Next up is our Club Christmas Lunch on 18th December when we welcome our spouses and other guests to share our traditional fare.

Then on Saturday 19th December we can have the pleasure of watching the excitement of children as we take the Round Table Father Christmas Float around some of the nearby villages - a wonderful experience, not to be missed if possible - again followed by appropriate refreshments and chat.

Our Street Organ collections this year will be at Tescos and Sainsburys from 21st to 24th December and the funds raised will help our local community and make a difference!

We shall also compile and distribute Christmas Food Parcels to needy families and senior citizens in Banbury, having now taken over responsibility for this from Banbury Cross Round Table who had done so in previous years.

These are all rewarding activities which help to put us in the Christmas mood and they give us the opportunity to raise the profile of Rotary in Banbury. So, please share the necessary workload by being involved in as many events as you can and enjoy the fun and fellowship at the same time, for this is what Rotary is all about.

Let us be a "Gift to the World"!

Thank you everyone for the support you are giving to me and to our Club. At this time of Christmas, when we experience the fellowship of personal families and friends, it is good to reflect on how our own club is like a big family with all the mutual care, fun and of course the occasional disagreement that this entails.

We are blessed in being part of this family and also the larger family of Rotary worldwide.

As the currently fashionable saying goes - Enjoy!!

Ian Calderbank

Style Acre



For some time, the Community and Vocational Services Committee have wanted to organise visits to local organisations who are working to offer service and support to local people who are in need of specialist help and thereby be more in tune with what is actually going on in Banbury.

Hence our visit on 30th October to SABRe, the latest centre opened by the Style Acre charity for people aged 18+ with mild/moderate learning difficulties. Its broad aims are to help these people to grow and develop life, social and work skills that increase personal strengths and confidence leading to greater independence and improved life style.

The Centre, formerly a night club, is spacious, bright and very well equipped with facilities to help their clients to learn new practical skills including cooking, computer usage, telephones, personal health and safety. SABRe welcomes permanent residents and occasional 'drop in' users.

Four new self-contained flats have been opened on the first floor which provide permanent homes for seven people where they are able to develop their wider skills to live increasingly independent lives in a 'protected' and assisted environment.

Hannah Wolstenholme the centre's manager and her team, (some of whom are volunteers), have created an atmosphere of calm, patience and enthusiasm that is palpable. They ensure that clients have a framework of activities that are tailored to individual needs and achievement without creating unnecessary pressures.

Significantly many activities are arranged outside the centre whether it be shopping, walks, using leisure centres, playing sport or even ten pin bowling. Work experience is encouraged and hopefully will expand as the Centre becomes more established.

Future plans for a second hand bookstore at the front of the Centre, staffed by attendees, are in hand and will be a considerable asset as a practical learning resource. Our Club will surely be able to help with setting this up.

The consensus feedback from Rotarians was that this short visit was truly worthwhile providing us with in-depth insights into the fabulous work being done by SABRe, Hannah and her team for deserving members of the local Banbury community. There is little doubt that economic cut backs in the NHS and Social Services is going to put additional pressures on local communities to increase the numbers of these types of provisions.

Simon Bion

Turning the town purple



More Crocus Planting for Rotary's End Polio Now Campaign. Well done the gardening students from North Oxfordshire Academy who worked hard in the rain on 5th November helping members of the Rotary Club of Banbury to plant crocuses at one of the entrances to Spiceball Park.

These purple crocus plants will serve as a reminder later of the immunisation campaign and the need to fund it.



More planting of purple crocus bulbs, this time on Monday 9th November at East Close, Banbury courtesy of Sanctuary Housing. Thank you Steve and Kate for helping our Rotary "End Polio Now" campaign in this way.



More planting of purple crocus bulbs at All Saints Church Middleton Cheney, with students from Chenderit School.

It's a little worrying when you see a retired undertaker digging in a graveyard!

This year we've given ten local primary schools Grow Your Own Crocus Packs.



Pupils of St. John's Priory School showing their newly planted crocus pots.



Pupils of Hill View Primary School assisted by the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Gordon Ross, enjoying planting crocus pots.



Pupils of William Morris Primary School getting their hand dirty.

Other schools who have taken part are: Harriers Ground Primary School; Frank Wise School; St. Joseph's Primary School; St. Leonard's Primary School; Orchard Fields Primary School; Dashwood Primary School; and Hardwick Primary School.

It's difficult to decide who had the most fun: the young students or the Rotarians who helped them.

AGR

Remembrance Sunday



It was a privilege and a moving experience to share in the Remembrance Day Parade through Banbury, the Service at St. Mary's Church and to lay our Club wreath at the War Memorial in People's Park.

Along with representatives of the Inner Wheel, Tangent, 41 Club, Lions, and the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell I was honoured to lay our wreath and pause to pay my respects. By the end of the ceremony the memorial was fully wreathed.

Congratulations to the organisers and all those who obviously worked so hard to make the day memorable and respectful to the fallen who have given their lives for our freedom.

Ian Calderbank

Children Singing for Children



Monday 9th to Thursday 12th November saw four fantastically successful nights of Children Singing for Children concerts at St. Mary's Church, Banbury.

A record 27 primary school choirs each sang two songs of their own choice, and the massed choir finale each evening sang a further three songs, finishing with the rousing 'World in Union'.

This event lifts the spirits and demonstrates that our future is in good hands. Thank you children, teachers, the audience, sponsors, supporters and

Rotarian volunteers - you have raised at least £6,000, (final figure tbc), for Children's Charities - Frank Wise School, Hope and Homes for Children, Sierra Leone Schools Projects, and other local Rotary Children's Charities.

AGR

Special General Meeting

Friday 14th was an important day in our Club diary when we held our Special General meeting to elect our officers for the coming Rotary year.

Many congratulations to:

- Rtn. Owen Kyffin, President elect;
- Rtn. Alan Wolstencroft, 1st Vice President; and
- Rtn. Fred Riches, 2nd Vice President.

District Council

Our Club was honoured with the award of a certificate for its End Polio Now contributions.

All rooms at Savill Court Hotel are now booked for the District Conference on 11th to 12th March 2016, but accommodation is available elsewhere if required.

The vacancies for Membership Officer and Assistant Secretary are now filled, albeit the latter only from February 2016. Vacancies still exist for the Chairmen of MPRC and Foundation Committees, and some Assistant Governors for 2016/17.

District are proposing PDG Judith Diment for a R.I. role and PDG John Greening for a R.I.B.I. role.

The Financial Reserve has gone up not down. More action is planned to decrease it, including a further repayment of £100 on the Annual subscription. Also, £3,462 of the "Recruitment" budget has not been spent. Qualifying Clubs should claim, if not having already done so, by the end of 2015. Thereafter it can be distributed on a first come first served basis, up to £200 per Club, against some expenditure involved with recruiting.

Last year's District Conference ended with a surplus of £280.

Young Chef District Finals will take place on 27th February at Bracknell, and Young Musician District Finals on 5th March at Reading.

There is a new Challenge for Interact Clubs to enter, by 31st January 2016, for which they must describe a project, old or new to win potentially a first prize of £200 or 2 more of £150.

The Children in Need collection at Heathrow has raised £45,000 vs. an R.I.B.I. estimated total of £80,000.

Presentations were given by Gillian Pearce on the Kamuli VTT medical support project, and by Alistair Knox on Youth Camps. This latter has around 100 per annum in Europe, with 61 people going from R.I.B.I. within the age range 15 to 25. It costs €120 for two weeks of holiday and applications should be in by the end of January 2016. District will host such a camp in 2017.

Ian Calderbank

Ian's Items



5th November

Good fun in the rain helping the gardening students from North Oxfordshire Academy plant crocus bulbs at one of the entrances to Spiceball Park.

6th November

One of our more recently joined members, Peter Richardson, entertained us with a brief review of his life from schooldays to the present time.

8th November

It was a privilege and a moving experience to share in the Remembrance Day Parade and Service.

9th November

More planting of purple crocus bulbs, this time at East Close and St. Leonards, Banbury courtesy of Sanctuary Housing

9th to 12th November

Children Singing for Children Concerts - four wonderful evenings of music from 27 primary schools performing in St. Mary's Church.

13th November

We made a second visit to the Banbury Hub of Style Acre, this time to present a cheque for £250. They now plan to purchase musical equipment with this funding.

Later we held our Special General Meeting when we elected our Officers for next July.



Afterwards, Bob telling us an amusing story also provided a magical picture of our laughter which was well caught by Helen.

When the photograph was posted on facebook with the caption "Who says that Rotary isn't fun!" the response was highly positive with District and others sharing the post.

Also, some of our members were planting more purple crocus bulbs at the William Morris Primary School, Banbury.

14th November

A pleasant evening of fellowship with an early Curry supper followed by private showing of "The Second Best Marigold Hotel". Funds raised will support the toilet improvements and other activities in the Sierra Leone Schools Project.

16th November

More exercises in planting purple crocus bulbs this time at All Saints Church Middleton Cheney, with students from Chenderit School.

20th November

Rupert's niece, Bronwen Thompson was our speaker and she described the various communication and reporting structures within the NHS and how we can best use these when required.

24th November

Andrew Fairbairn and I carried out our last long training walk before the Tour de Trigs challenge, which is supported by our Rotary Club.

We are raising funds for the charity Shelter by attempting to complete it, with David Stevens as the

third member of our team. We are aiming for the full 50 miles. However, since its inception in the mid 1960s, less than 30% of past participants have achieved this.

There are two other “qualifying certificated sections” of 15 and 30 miles which we would hope to achieve at least.

For those unfamiliar with the challenge the test is not just one of endurance but also to navigate from grid reference numbers only (using maps and compass, no GPS!).

In this training session we covered 30 miles, over very muddy terrain in some parts, starting at midday and finishing at 11.30 pm so quite a bit of it was in the dark but with an excellent full moon to help at various times during the evening.

25th November

I attended the District Council Meeting in Henley and more notes from this are elsewhere in this Bulletin.

26th November

Our Club Council Meeting took place and again, more notes from this are elsewhere in this Bulletin.

27th November

Our regular Club lunch was a Fellowship meeting this time which included a Club Draw with the winner celebrating his fourth win in twenty years!

We were then entertained when Bob amused us again with describing how to get lost when navigating around the Oxford Ring Road.

Ian Calderbank

Speaker Reports

Alistair Borland – Blood, Bikers and Babies



On 30th October, so near to Halloween the title of the talk seemed ghoulish enough to be particularly appropriate.

Those Rotarians that were at the lunch at the time of Alistair’s arrival would have seen a man dressed in high visibility motorbike leathers with the words “emergency blood” on the back of his jacket. This of course was a big clue that our lunch time speaker would be giving insights into the world of transporting blood to hospitals primarily for urgent medical cases.

The first thing to clarify is the organisation’s name. SERV stands for- Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers. OBN represents Oxon, Bucks, Berks and Northants. (The eagle-eyed readers will note that there is only one ‘B’ in the title. This is explained by the fact that Berks is a more recent addition to the original three counties covered).

SERV OBN provides a FREE rapid response transport service to the NHS establishments within the four counties mentioned above, transporting blood, blood products, medical supplies, medical equipment and human donor breast milk when urgencies occur “out of hours”. These hours are broadly defined as night, weekends and during bank holidays when other transport options may be limited. It is a 365 days a year operation. On the occasions that I have seen these motorcycles on the road I had always thought they were part of the NHS/ambulance service.

As its name implies the work they do is supported entirely by volunteers using its fleet of specially adapted motor cycles—many of which were originally operated by the police. Although they are equipped with blue flashing lights they are currently not allowed to exceed speed limits. This is likely to change in the near future enabling priority emergencies to be transported far quicker.

All volunteer bikers are advanced motor cyclists, further trained, assessed and qualified by exam in handling blood and blood products. Should legislation change to permit exceeding speed limits then riders will have to undergo even further training and qualification.

Alistair gave an example of the complexity of delivering emergency products. Imagine turning up at a large hospital in the early hours of the morning where the main public reception areas are closed and the emergency products are needed in a non-public location. Each rider has to know entry points, security codes and hospital layouts to maximise chances of delivery within prescribed time

parameters. Through the magic of modern day tracking devices every rider's location is monitored by central control at all times.

Rendezvous points across the UK with the other 26 "Blood Bike" groups also allows products to travel across regional boundaries. Recently the last remaining unit of a particularly rare blood type was transported safely from Dumfries to OBN.

OBN has 117 volunteers currently serving to provide their service within our region. Three riders are on duty for every shift plus a controller. In 2014 SERV OBN fulfilled 1351 calls for their services with a 98.6% achievement of calls and mission timescales.

SERV receives no Government funding and is entirely dependent on donations in order to operate.

The future holds many challenges and eventually the fleet of motorbikes will have to be upgraded to meet the specifications required by law to operate at higher speeds whilst maintaining the safety and integrity of the supplies.

Alistair was an inspirational and most informative speaker who has had a varied business life including being MD of an aerospace company, a superintendent with the police 'specials' and owner of a domestic services business. Blood Biking is his passion and thank goodness for that, as he has been instrumental in developing this region's service and has a major role influencing the national infrastructure and operating standards.

A visit to SERV's website at www.serv.org.uk is really a great place to learn more about their work.

Simon Bion

Peter Richardson – My Life Talk



On Friday 6th November Peter gave us a fascinating insight into his life.

Peter was born in Oakham, Rutland which is a small town. As a young man he was actively involved in

football for which he has recently paid the penalty of needing a knee replacement.

He gave an entertaining account of his courtship and life in Oakham. He started work in the drawing office of an engineering firm but eventually decided that an engineering's 'soul' did not appeal.

He started National Service in 1958 with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers eventually serving with the Queen's Own Hussars working with tanks.

On return to civilian life, he resigned his job in the drawing office and was employed with a mobile crane firm involving the application of Ackerman steering.

He subsequently married and joined Union Carbide Company involving the manufacture of plastic.

He was transferred to South Africa to manage a subsidiary company but on arrival found that it was nearly insolvent.

He pulled it round and it was sold to a large group where it grew to become a large company employing 1,000 workers. This was bought out and he was requested to reduce the workforce to 200 people. He was not prepared to do this and resigned.

He subsequently developed his own business selling companies and returned to the UK with his wife 10 years ago. One son remains in Africa and a daughter lives in Bloxham. He now lives in Deddington where he continues to sell companies part time.

As he had previously been a member of a Rotary club in South Africa he was very happy to join the Banbury Rotary Club where he is an active member.

Rupert Kipping

Around the Committees

Matters Arising from previous Council Meeting Minutes

The inventory for the Gazebo has now been drawn up and is with the Hon. Secretary.

Copy of the letter with guidelines for use of and access to the storage facility at South Bar House has been circulated to Council members.

Matters Arising from other Committee Meeting Minutes

C&V Committee confirmed that a food collection will take place at Sainsburys on Friday 4th December.

A visit to the Hook Norton Brewery is planned for 2nd March 2016 but will be limited to 12 participants.

An evening event with 2 or 3 Rotary Scholars speaking is being planned and the Banbury Cherwell Club, Inner Wheel and Rotaract will be invited to join us.

A Welsh Male Voice Choir concert is under consideration by Foundation as a fundraising event.

Feedback from the Children Singing for Children Concerts suggests that a slightly earlier start time (7.00 pm ?) might be welcomed by schools and parents.

The money raised from this event is around £6,500 and this will be distributed £3,000 to Frank Wise School, £1,500 to Hope and Homes for Children, £1,500 to the Sierra Leone Schools Project, and the balance to go to our General Trust Fund.

Hon Secretary

AGM will be on 21st March 2016.

Hon Treasurer

Trust Accounts - Free Funds are currently £2,947.07 with £5,000 in Reserve.

Accounts for 2014/15 now approved by Council and sent to all Club members with a vote to be taken for approval on 11th December at a brief extension to the Special General Meeting.

Set up costs and other funding requests

Request by C&V Committee of £100 of food vouchers to help feeding of the homeless approved.

Council agreed to increase the £417.50 raised by Andrew Fairbairn by his Wolf Run to £500 and for this to be voted on by Club for approval on 4th December for payment to the Air Ambulance.

Council accepted the recommendation from C&V Committee that the net proceeds from the Christmas Street Organ collections be distributed 75% to Katharine House Hospice and 25% to our own General Trust Fund with Club to vote for approval on 4th December.

Approval was given for up to £3,500 to be spent from the Christmas Parcels Fund and Club approval for this will be sought on 4th December.

Club Representations

President had represented Club at a District White Zone Presidents' meeting, made two visits to the Banbury Hub of Style Acre including presenting a cheque for £250 to purchase musical equipment.

He had also been involved in various crocus bulb planting exercises, attended the Remembrance Day Parade in Banbury and laid a Club wreath at the War Memorial in Peoples' Park.

President attended District Council, and separate notes from this meeting are in this issue of the Bulletin.

Contact Club - France, 5th to 8th May 2016

An "Interest Meeting" was held on 23rd November when Phil, Martin and Helen Morris described the programme plans and gave cost estimates based on either flying or driving there. A board will be sent around at a Club meeting asking members to indicate their interest and preferred method of travel. Bookings can then be made accordingly.

Christmas Parcels

All going to plan with various financial contributions and offers of food supply received.

Also, a list of beneficiaries is being drawn up based on nominations from various sources. Being our second year of operation we shall seek feedback from those involved.

Round Table Christmas Float

This will take place on 19th December and Paul Shea will be in charge.

Laptop Training

Nobody had requested training but it has been used with our projector successfully.

Membership

Discussion took place on the merits of more casual forms of support for our Club such as provided by Associate, Corporate or "Friends of Rotary" membership.

It was agreed that our Membership Chairman would look further into the possibilities and if appropriate we could send copies of our Bulletin to such potential supporters to encourage their involvement.

And now for something different

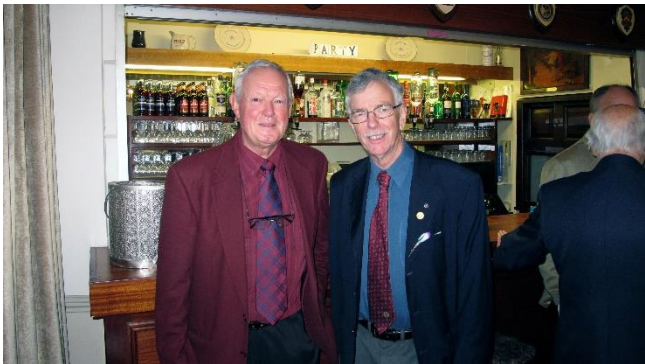


This member of our Club is not one renowned for hiding their light under a bushel. They usually greet you with a cheery smile, a hug and a kiss.

Their musical tastes are varied but I didn't realise they were into Heavy Metal and head-banging!

Who can this apparently shy retiring person be?

The Month in Pictures



Weekly Meeting Duties for December

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
04-Dec	S. Porter N. Randall M. Recchia P. Thomas R. Thompson A. Warren	I. Rodrick J. Smith	J. Cooke	P. Shea
11-Dec	P. Wilkins Peggy Williams P. Williams A. Wolstencroft R. Worrall N. Yeadon	J. Webb E. Woodruff	B. Croft	A. Wiltshire
18-Dec	Christmas Lunch Waitress Service	G. Anker J. Bennett	R. Barnett	S. Crump
25-Dec	Christmas Day			

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 December and January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
4 Dec	Rtn Colin Clarke	My Life/My Talk	Roger Worrell
11 Dec	TBA	TBA	TBA
18 Dec		Christmas Lunch	
25 Dec		CHRISTMAS DAY	
1 Jan		NEW YEAR'S DAY	
8 Jan		Fellowship Meeting	
15 Jan	Rtn Peter Wilkins	My Life/My Talk	Mike Budd
22 Jan	Clare Allen	Cochlear Implants for Deafness	Rupert Kipping
29 Jan Evening	Vic Ince	Talk about Upton Manor	Helen Morris