



## The January Diary

- 6<sup>th</sup> Community & Vocational Service Committee Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup> Classification, Membership & PR Committee Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup> Sports and Entertainment Committee Meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup> Foundation Committee Meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup> Young Musician of the Year Heats
- 16<sup>th</sup> Young Musician of the Year Heats
- 16<sup>th</sup> International Film Night
- 20<sup>th</sup> Youth Service Committee Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup> International Committee Meeting
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Rotary Meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting
- 29<sup>th</sup> Rotary Evening Meeting

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

## Happy New Year



As we start the New Year with hope for a happy and peaceful year, let us for a moment reflect on what we did in 2015.

There is no doubt that we had lots of fun and some really great fellowship, but what did we do for others?

We continued to organise the local:

- Young Musician of the Year Competition
- Young Chef Competition
- School Practice Interviews
- Children Singing for Children Concerts
- Young Musician 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert
- Supporting Tour de Trigs
- Christmas Street Organ Collections
- Party for the Blind and Partially Sighted
- Christmas Parcels for the needy
- Crocus Concerts
- RYLA

So what donations did we make?

Educaid	£100
Biker Response	£100
Leukaemia Research	£135
Party for Blind	£185
Food for the homeless	£200
The Beacon Centre	£200
Street Pastors	£250

Leonard Cheshire Schools 4 All	£250
Healthy Eating	£250
Style Acre	£250
BGN Tall Ships	£500
Air Ambulance	£500
Roll out the Barrel	£600
R.Y.L.A.	£663
Aquafilter	£1,273
Hope & Homes for Children	£1,500
Shelterbox	£2,950
Brodey Bursaries	£3,000
Foundation	£4,700
Frank Wise School	£5,000
Polio	£5,000
Katharine House Hospice	£7,750
Sierra Leone Schools	£23,900

That's a magnificent total of £59,256.

We have lots to be proud of in what we achieved during 2015, and there is no doubt that continuing to work together we will do as well if not better in 2016.

### *A message from the President*

Happy New Year to Everyone!

"Ring out the Old, Ring in the New" - do read Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem below. It encapsulates our wishes but also emphasises how much remains to be done before we have a peaceful and successful world and why the work that Rotary does is so essential.

2015 has been a busy but very rewarding and fun year for our Club. Rotary targets were achieved which resulted in the Club receiving RIBI and District citations.

We have put a big emphasis on involvement with young people again. The Young Musician and Young Chef competitions provide a great opportunity to perform in public at a high level and enhance the development of relevant skills.

Our Practice Interviews where we give Year 10 pupils the opportunity to write a job application letter, produce a CV and attend a 20-minute interview were appreciated and once again we extended this Practice Interview opportunity to BYHP (the Banbury Young Homelessness Project), with success already achieved in the real job market.

Our Interact club for 12 to 18 year olds has continued and we have awarded two more of our Brodey Bursaries to support engineering students at University. We sent two young people from the

Frank Wise School to the Calvert Trust for a supervised RYLA type experience and we supported an international Youth Exchange with one young lady going to Japan.

We also welcomed and are hosting a student from Australia at Oxford University under our Rotary Scholars scheme.

The new President of Rotary international, Ravi Ravindran, in July chose the theme "Be a Gift to the World". These are our gifts to young people.

Musically we have been busy too not only with the Young Musician competition but also with the Spring Crocus Concerts, when secondary schools performed to raise funds to help the Rotary "End Polio Now" campaign, more than £6,000 to "End Polio Now" over the past two years.

Then we had the November Children Singing for Children Concerts when 27 primary schools performed over four nights raising funds to help other children. As a result of these we have been able to give £3,000 to the Frank Wise School, £1,500 to the international charity Hope and Homes for Children, and another £1,500 to our ongoing schools project in Sierra Leone.

Our support extends beyond young people of course, for example our Party for the Blind and partially sighted in May was popular again, and we have supported Katharine House Hospice in various ways not least of which was the Gala Concert in June to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Young Musician competition. This raised £2,500 for the hospice to add to the £5,000 that we had already sent from our street organ collections during the previous Christmas shopping period.

Also, the Ebola crisis and Nepal Earthquake proved once again how good the Banbury community is at responding to appeals organised by our own Disaster Emergency Committee.

Food parcels were compiled and distributed shortly before Christmas.

We supported our local community in many other ways and events too, helping at the Cherwell Club's Cycling Sportive and having a presence at the main town events such as the Banbury Show, Canal Day, the Mayor's Hobby Horse Festival, and in the military parades and services for Armed Forces, Battle of Britain, and Remembrance Days.

The Sports and Entertainment committee provided us with a variety of pleasurable activities including go karting, darts matches, various visits, a Treasure Hunt, and even an adventure in London. The golf

team were winners of the Keith Bigwood Trophy and did very well in the Rotary National finals.

We enjoyed our District Conference in Telford and the Contact Club meeting in Aalen-Heidenheim.

We also had a number of social evenings including a Tapas and Wine Tasting, a St. George's Day Presidential dinner, a "Magical" evening and of course a more formal occasion when we celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Charter with our main speaker being the Rt. Hon. Sir Tony Baldry PC, whom we had been pleased to welcome into the Club as an Honorary Member earlier in the year.

Name mentioning is not always thought to be appropriate but it seems right here to congratulate our member Maurice Humphris for being awarded the BEM during the year, a recognition well deserved.

Fund raising came in various guises and brought pleasure and fun to those involved. Two of our members walked the O2 Dome raising over £1,100 for End Polio Now, Walk for Water, and Goodwill and Growth for Africa, another completed the Wolf Run for the Air Ambulance and then went on as a member of our team in the Tour de Trigs hiking/orienteering challenge to manage the whole 50 miles plus with the other members commendably reaching nearly 40 and 24 miles before being pulled out - a fantastic effort in difficult weather conditions which has raised over £2,000 so far for the charity Shelter.

We invited the public to compete in "The Fastest Cue Slinger". Teams of school volunteers helped us plant crocus bulbs to highlight and raise funds for our "End Polio Now" campaign. We were lucky with the weather for our "Stephen's Summer Steaming" raising funds for our own Rotary charity "Foundation" and, for international funds, two "Curry Supper with Film" evenings enhanced our fellowship and fun.

Of course our major effort with the Street Organs leading up to Christmas requires the support of the supermarkets and shoppers but as usual they did not let us down.

Altogether, 2015 for our Club has been a lot of work, fellowship and fun. There is much more to be done in 2016 and beyond though if we are ever to achieve the hopes expressed in Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem:

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light;  
The year is dying in the night;

Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,  
For those that here we see no more,  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Ian Calderbank

### *Curry and Marigold*



29<sup>th</sup> November was another fun evening of fellowship with an early Curry supper followed by a private film showing of "The Second Best Marigold Hotel".



Funds raised will support the toilet improvements and other activities in the Sierra Leone schools project. Thank you Andrew for organising it all on behalf of our International Committee.

Ian Calderbank

## *Christmas parcel collections*



It was a busy day for some on 4<sup>th</sup> December when we collected donations of food from kind customers at Sainsbury's in Banbury in the morning and afternoon.

The donations of food at Sainsbury's were later combined with supplies purchased to make up nearly 250 parcels for distribution to those in need in the Banbury area.

Ian Calderbank

## *Tour de Trigs*



We did it - tackled the Tour de Trigs challenge in fairly awful conditions over Saturday and Sunday on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> December - gales and severe gusts courtesy of Storm Desmond and very muddy underfoot in many places.

Andrew managed the whole 50 miles of it which was fantastic, Ian managed just under 40 miles before being told to stop because of apparently displaying hypoxia (low oxygen) and David had to drop out with feet injuries around 24 miles.

Our fund raising was for Shelter, and we have raised more than £2,000 to date.

The challenge involved hiking and orienteering, and since its inception in the mid-1960s, less than 30% of past participants have achieved the whole distance of 50 miles.

This year there were also a "Taster" Section of 15 miles and a "Tester" Section of 30 miles for which certificates are also awarded, but again total successful completions were low at 27%. The test is not just one of endurance but also to navigate from grid reference numbers only (using maps and compass, no GPS).

Many thanks to the Tour de Trigs organisers, volunteer marshals, etc., and to our own members who manned a checkpoint through the night.

Ian Calderbank

## *Inner Wheel Christmas Lunch*



Happy Christmas Inner Wheel!

It was a real relaxing pleasure to present our Club Christmas card and bring our Club greetings to President Liz and members of the Inner Wheel Club of Banbury at their Christmas Lunch on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December after battling the elements overnight walking for 40 miles on the Tour de Trigs challenge followed by two hours rest in a sleeping bag on the floor.

Life is full of sweet contrasts!

Ian Calderbank

## *Santa's Grotto*



Congratulations to Inner Wheel for the excellent Santa's Grotto at Wykham Park Farm shop. Santa has been giving many children great pleasure and our President some advice on what not to ask for this Christmas.

Ian Calderbank

### *Christmas Parcel deliveries*



Following on from the great success last year we have again brought everything together with a group of Rotary volunteers "boxing up" approximately 250 food parcels which were distributed to the elderly and needy in Banbury over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December.

AGR

### *Joint Service Clubs' Carol Service*



As in previous years, members of Banbury and Banbury Cherwell Rotary Clubs, Inner Wheel, Lions, Probus, 41 Club, and Tangent were made very welcome in the Marlborough Methodist Church on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December for the Service Clubs' Carol Service.

We enjoyed some enthusiastic singing of the well-known carols, and Reverend Victoria Bravette gave an inspiring, meaningful and thought provoking address.

After the service everyone enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee along with delicious mince pies, accompanied by a lot of convivial chatter!

All there had obviously enjoyed the evening and, as has often been said before, this annual service somehow seems to put people attending in the right frame of mind to enjoy the Christmas festivities fully.

AGR

### *Christmas Float Collecting*



On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December a team of club members wearing their thermal underwear set out collecting with the Round Table Christmas float.

Braving the cold winter evening for no other reason than "Service Above Self", starting and finishing at a local hostelry and being supplied with mulled wine and mince pies en-route, along with good fellowship had no bearing on their attendance!

Many thanks to all who contributed.

AGR

### *Street Organ Collections*



Once again this year shoppers at local supermarket were entertained with festive music and encouraged to drop the odd coin or two in our collecting tins.

Many thanks to Tesco and Sainsbury's for letting us do collections at their premises.

And, of course, a huge thank-you to everyone who contributed to our collection.



## *Ian's Items*



4<sup>th</sup> December - Food Parcels and a fun talk. It was a busy day for some collecting donations of food and money from kind customers at Sainsbury's, and an amusing talk at our lunchtime meeting by member Colin Clarke in which he described some experiences from his early life and service in the Police.

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> December - The dreaded day had dawned but we did it - tackled the Tour de Trigs challenge in fairly awful conditions over the Saturday and Sunday.

6<sup>th</sup> December - It was a real relaxing pleasure to present our Club Christmas card and bring our Club greetings from you all to President Liz and members of the Inner Wheel Club of Banbury at their Christmas.

11<sup>th</sup> December - It was another busy lunchtime meeting when we held a brief extension of our earlier SGM to approve last year's Club and Trust Accounts and appoint our new Treasurer for next July, Colin Clarke.

We also presented cheques to our local Frank Wise School and the international charity Hope and Homes for Children, being proceeds from those wonderful November Children Singing for Children Concerts in which our local primary schools children had performed so well to help other children.

We then enjoyed a fascinating talk by Bruce Duncan describing some of his experiences from his military career when on secondment in various parts of the world.

11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December - The donations of food collected earlier at Sainsbury's were combined with supplies purchased to make up nearly 250 parcels for distribution to those in need in the Banbury area.

12<sup>th</sup> December - Congratulations to Inner Wheel for the excellent Santa's Grotto at Wykham Park Farm shop.

18<sup>th</sup> December - It was a full house for our Christmas Lunch when it was a pleasure to welcome partners and guests particularly our Honorary Members Lord Saye and Sele, with Lady Saye and Sele, and Sir Tony Baldry. Our speaker was the Rev. Simon Dommett from the Astwick Vale Benefice who gave us an interesting and appropriate talk. Pink Peppercorns did us proud again with the typical seasonal fare.

21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December - We were there again with our Street Organs and collecting tins.

Both Sainsbury's and Tesco's generously allowed us to make charity collections at their stores on these four days running up to Christmas. As last year, Katharine House Hospice will receive 75 percent of the monies raised with the remainder being distributed to other local charitable causes by our Club.

It is great to have the support of the Banbury shoppers helping us in our service to the local Community.

Ian Calderbank

## *Speaker Reports*

### *Bronwen Thompson – Navigating the NHS*



Our speaker on 20<sup>th</sup> November, Bronmern Thompson a Healthcare Quality Consultant, gave us an excellent talk on the NHS.

1. Maintain good health. The most important aspect of this is avoiding being overweight and not smoking. The normal weight is most easily measured by ensuring that the height is not more than twice the waist measurement, and unconquerable nicotine addiction is more safely managed with electronic cigarettes rather than tobacco.

2. A brief outline of the NHS organisation was given with the relationship between Help Commissioning Groups, Hospitals and General Practices. Several local General Practices in Banbury were described in

connection with performance indicator which are on the Health Quality Care Commission website.

3. Advice was given about action for new symptoms. This always starts with the General Practitioner.

4. Advice was given about action for problems of poor care and how to complain.

Rupert Kipping proposed a vote of thanks for an excellent talk.

Rupert Kipping

*Colin Clarke – My life talk*



The speaker at the lunchtime meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> December was our own Colin Clarke.

Colin was one of the very first babies to be born in the Elms Clinic in Banbury under the brand new National Health System in July 1948. He is married to Jenifer and they have a 45-year-old son who is involved in National Security and identical twin daughters who are on the teaching staff at Bishop Loveday School at Bodicote. They in turn have given him 5 grandchildren.

Colin's father was a driver on the GWR which stands for (Great Western Railway) or (Gods Wonderful Railway) and his mother was a Cockney born adjacent to Bow Bells in the East End of London.

Thanks to Adolf and his cronies she was evacuated from London to Banbury early in the London Blitz of the Second World War. She met Colin's father at a dance at Banbury Town Hall and subsequently married in 1945 and along came Colin in 1948 and his brother three years later in 1951.

Colin's first school was the Britannia Road Infants School and then onto Dashwood Road School where, under the headmaster, David Proctor, he progressed very well indeed. So much so that in his last year at Dashwood Road Colin and 4 other pupils had excelled in the Christmas school examinations so much so that they were selected for Banbury Grammar School without the need for the 11 + examination required at the time.

Colin spent the next 5 years at the Grammar School culminating in passing 5 GCE O level exams.

He decided to make a career in Chemistry working first of all at Alcan works laboratories. However, as a result of an accident to his hands he was forced to leave and joined the Westminster Bank.

Colin enjoyed the work but found little challenge in it and so, as a result of a chance conversation with an old school colleague he walked into the front office of the old Police Station in Warwick Road, now the Courthouse, and filled in entry forms to join the Police Service.

Training School - What a shock to the system that was. New recruits were obliged to complete a 13-week initial residential training course and so off Colin went to No 5 Police Area Training School at Eynsham Hall near Witney. He recalls being dropped off at the entrance gates on the Witney Road on a very dull dark and cold morning under torrential rain.

Walking down the driveway carrying his suitcase Colin remember just like yesterday seeing the building for the first time and wondering what on earth he was doing there and should he turn around and go back home. It reminded him of the Munsters house.

Suffice to say he carried on. There then followed 3 weeks of, the only way he could describe it was, sheer hell. Very regimental they were up at the crack of dawn each morning, the first task being to make your bed. First the sheets immaculately folded, then the blankets folded meticulously at each corner and finally the pillow placed absolutely centrally at the head of the bed.

Having dressed this was then followed by a bed inspection and if the folds were not exact the instructor had no hesitation in ripping everything off the bed for you to start all over again.

Immediately after breakfast, whilst still trying to wake up, there followed drill practice and inspection. Uniform had to be immaculate with not a trace of a hair or dust or blemish of any kind and boots, in particular, had to have immaculate shiny toe caps.

Every night a little spit and a lot of polish went into shining your boots often with the added misery of having to remove all the previous polish and starting again after the instructor had deliberately trodden on your boot because they were not quite shiny enough.

The days were filled with physical exercise, classroom tuition about the law and practical exercises such as how to deal with a drunk, an irate motorist who had been stopped for some traffic law infringement or an aggressive housewife. For the first month he thought they all hated every single minute of the course and had little or no time for the instructors, all of whom were Police Officers of various ranks. But as time passed a mutual respect for each other grew and by the end of the second month the pressure eased. Colin is very proud to say that his course was the first for over 2 years that ended with the same number of students that had started.

**Foot & Mouth** - Colin's first posting was to Witney. Now in training school they had taught him all he needed to know about the law, whether it be the legal definition of a burglary, how to deal with a traffic accident, the Police caution, how to address the Judge in Court and so on. This was Colin's second week as a fully-fledged Police Officer and his next duty was to man the police station for 4 hours each morning. The old police station was off Church Green and he was tasked with dealing with any public enquiries over the counter. At the time there had been a serious outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease and any livestock movement required a movement order license from the police. Left to man the office on his own he was flooded with farmers endeavouring to obtain the license. Having no idea of what he was doing papers flew backwards and forwards across the counter as he issued license after license to farmers who obviously knew far more about what was going on than he did.

Colin remembers the Inspector saying that he had coped well with the workload - if only he had known that Colin had little idea of what was going on.

After only a short time at Witney Colin was posted to Banbury, unusual in those days for a new officer to be posted to his home town but Banbury was desperate for staff. This was the beginning of any number of escapades and incidents in which Colin was involved.

**New Year's Eve** - New Year Eve around 1972. Colin asked if anyone knew Wally Slack, a well-known policeman at the time, hard as nails. Now passed on, God bless him. Every 31<sup>st</sup> December around midnight there was always a gathering of around 400 - 500 people celebrating. Most had had plenty to drink, very merry, noisy and some argumentative. And there was always one idiot who tried to climb to the top of Banbury Cross. Colin was standing next to Wally trying to stop the climbers

but one had got through the cordon on the other side. Unbeknown to Wally and Colin he had climbed three parts of the way to the top of the monument, slipped and fell straight on top of Wally. Now anyone else would have probably been seriously injured but Wally just shook himself, grabbed the youth and arrested him. One of the Police vehicles parked nearby was a Ford Anglia estate car which had seen better days and was always a problem to start.

They bundled the youth, kicking and screaming, into the back of the car and Colin climbed into the driver's seat. You can guess now that the car would not start. Colin shouted at a couple of colleagues to give a push but the groups of youths nearby realising the problem promptly ran to the front of the car and pushed in the other direction. Picture then a Police car with three uniformed policemen pushing from the rear and 4 or 5 youths pushing it back again from the front. They eventually got the vehicle going and made it to the cell block of the Police station. This was in days before such things as Custody Sergeants and so arrested youths were coming in thick and fast and by around 3am the four cells were filled to capacity with 20+. Officers were rushed back outside as soon as their prisoner had been locked up because by then it had become very chaotic at the Cross. At around 5am things had quietened down and they soon realised that between them they had little idea of who had arrested who for what. He thought at the end of the day they were all charged with the same public order offence of breach of the peace.

**Bandages** - Colin and a colleague were sitting in the small canteen at around 2am one morning on their refreshment break. They heard a commotion in the front office and went to investigate. There stood a well-known local man, somewhat agitated and having had a few drinks but not totally drunk, who told them that he could not get in through his front door at home as his wife would not let him in. This guy was 6' tall and not much smaller than Arnold Schwarzenegger. In those days any problem that presented itself to the Police was solved by the Police, unlike today where the buck is passed to another agency.

Having gone very quiet they decided to take him home in a Police car and endeavour to get him into his house. Knocking on the door with a "Police open up" his wife answered the door. It was apparent from a cut above her eye that there had been some sort of domestic dispute. She let them in and they stood around the kitchen table. Colin radioed for an



ambulance to treat her and told her to go upstairs to be with her children. So there they were, two Policemen and the man standing around the table having a perfectly amiable conversation. Suddenly he went berserk and tried to push past them to get to the staircase. They piled on top of him but soon realised he would take some holding. Colin sat on him trying to pin his arms down whilst his colleague tried to hold his legs but only succeeded in getting kicked in the head several times. It was impossible to get handcuffs on him and they were desperately trying to think of some way of stopping him from getting up the stairs when the ambulance arrived.

The two ambulance men piled in on top and Colin shouted get some bandages. One of them ran outside and came back with half a dozen or so triangular bandages which they proceeded to tie around the man's arms and legs. By the time they had finished he looked a little like Tutankhamen. He was eventually dragged into the police station and placed in a cell to cool down.

## WINDSOR

Windsor in Berkshire, the first free pop festival was about to take place in Windsor Great Park. From the start the whole festival was illegal for a variety of reasons and required substantial policing.

Thousands of festival goers poured into Windsor and set up camp in the park. There was no running water, no toilets, nowhere to obtain food and drink, just a stage made of scaffolding poles and planks and the park itself. As there was no precedent for this type of festival it was almost impossible to Police.

Colin along with several hundred other Thames Valley officers were about to undergo an experience they would not forget. The festival was due to run for a week and they were accommodated at USAF Greenham Common for the week. Totally outnumbered they were told to play everything low key, avoid confrontations and arrests, and endeavour to keep the surrounding streets as crime free as possible. Colin and two colleagues were tasked to patrol the main road adjacent to the park for 12 hours a day during which time we were sworn at, spat at and subjected to a torrent of abuse. Several patrols were tasked with trying to Police parts of the campsite itself but when one Officer was "Kidnapped" and had to be rescued by a large force of officers, all patrols were withdrawn from the site and the festival goers were able to do virtually what they wanted.

To be fair a good percentage of them were only there to listen to the bands but there was more than

a small minority bent on causing as much trouble as they could. They put up with this from the Saturday through to the following Thursday by which time a plan had been put together to deal with the situation. Few people realise that on that Thursday morning the Thames Valley area had barely one policeman to patrol each town or village as virtually every able bodied Police Officer was called to Windsor. A sight Colin will never forget - picture around 4.30 in the morning the sun is just rising, it is warm and dry, and the birds have just started singing. All is very quiet. Suddenly a coach appears along the main road adjacent to the site, followed by another and yet another all filled with uniformed Police Officers. Police vans and cars appeared and a long procession slowly made its way down the road towards the site entrance. A youth could clearly be seen standing against a tree on the edge of the site answering a call of nature. His head turned and seeing the procession his mouth dropped open and his left leg became very wet. The coaches stopped and over a thousand policemen and women poured out onto the roadside.

They had already been briefed and to this day he had never heard a briefing like it. The park was to be cleared by midday of every single person, tent, and campfire and so on and it did not matter how you did it. Ask them once to leave and if they refuse you are authorised to wreck their camps and drag them off the park.

After nearly a week of abuse they did not need telling twice and so starting at one end on the park a line of policemen moved across as one trampling everything in their path. Needless to say scuffles were breaking out everywhere and arrests were being made. This was very different from the way they had been trained and many of them were uncertain how to deal with the troublemakers until, over to their right they could clearly see the Chief Superintendent of Banbury Police area together with his Chief Inspector dragging a youth by his long hair over a 3' fence and bundling him into the back of a Police van. That was the only example they needed, they had stopped in front of a tent holding around 6 youths. They were told to move immediately but one of them picked up a full beer can and threw it at Colin missing his helmet by inches. Two of them flew at him and punches starting flying. What they did not realise was that the news cameras were also in the area and the BBC evening news showed very clearly Colin's epaulette bearing his police number 1734 just as he was about to raise his hand to this youth. Colin thought this would be an abrupt end to my police career and

fully expected to hear more about the incident which was so clearly shown on the television but to this day have heard no more.

It is now 9am and they have cleared over half the site and are getting closer to the ramshackle stage. A line of policemen stretches across the park. In the distance they could hear the ting, ting, ting of a group of Hare Krishna followers with their hand bells and cymbals. Chief Supt Ted Evans, commander of Reading division, stands in front of the line on top of a beer crate and shouts "There is a bye law in Windsor Great Park which states you will not play a musical instrument to the annoyance of park users. I am a park user and I am \*\*\*\*\*annoyed. Remove the bell ringers from the Park." Within seconds bell, cymbals, arms and legs are flying in all directions as they were unceremoniously removed from the grounds. The stage was next and again amidst a flurry of arms and legs it was pulled apart and laid flat. They had succeeded in clearing the Park and although exhausted they all felt a great deal of satisfaction from the day's events.

Today - Colin could go on for hours with these tales but time was against him. After his early rumbustious days in the service he worked in Police Intelligence for the next 15 years, ran the Police Control room in Banbury and finished his days managing the Crime Desk.

After leaving the Police Service he was approached by a fellow Councillor who suggested that he stand for election to Banbury Town Council and the following year as a member of Cherwell District Council. He was duly elected in both cases and has now been a Councillor for some 10 years.

In 2010 he was Banbury's Town Mayor and enjoyed a very hard but rewarding 12 months. A particular coup that year was his Town Mayors Annual Charity Dinner when, having got to know The High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Marie Jean Barnett, he learned that she had been a jazz singer.

They had got on particularly well that year partly due to the fact that her father was a captain of a frigate during the second World War and he and his crew had rescued survivors of HMS Harvester which had been torpedoed. HMS Harvester was the ship adopted by the Banbury Sea Cadets. Much to his surprise the High Sheriff agreed to be to headline act at his charity dinner and this alone brought a look or surprise to the guests attending. Two years later he was made Chairman of Cherwell District Council and again enjoyed a very tiring but rewarding year.

This was the year of Her Majesty The Queen's Jubilee Colin and his wife, Jenny, were invited first to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and subsequently a one off Diamond Jubilee Garden Party at Henley. A catastrophe nearly occurred at the Henley Party when, along with a number of other guests Colin and Jenny were invited to the Queen's marquee. The Queen was talking in general to a number of them whilst walking through the marquee followed by Prince Philip. Eager to get close, his wife, Jenny somehow managed to squeeze herself between the Queen and Prince Philip, getting in his way and almost tripping him up. A second coup for Colin was that his annual Chairman's Charity Dinner was to take place in the Great Hall at Broughton Castle. Colin had managed to persuade Lord and Lady Saye & Sele to allow him use of the hall and resulted in an extremely entertaining fund raising evening. This was the first time for very many years that the Great Hall had been used for such an occasion and the evening was a great success all round.

Today Colin is a Trustee of Banbury Sea Cadets, Banbury Air Training Corps, Banbury Charities, Banbury Citizens Advice Bureau, Executive Member of The Mill Arts Centre, Chairman of Cherwell District Council Planning Committee, Chairman of Banbury Town Council General Services Committee, Chairman of Stanbridge House Friends Group and Chairman of Chasewell Community Centre Management Committee and responsible for the day to day running of the community centre.

In his spare time Colin is a keen genealogist and have been researching for some 20 years. His father's family were all North Oxfordshire and his mother's family, The Wests, he has traced continuously through the village of Adderbury for over 400 years. He has 14x great grandparents that were married in the old Gothic St Marys Church in Banbury in 1546. His mother's family are descended from French Huguenots and he has a 15x great grandfather who was born in Nord, Northern France in 1517. His family tree now comprises over 45,000 names, all related in one way or another, including to our Treasurer, David.

Roger Worrall



On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December a goodly number of members, partners and guests spent a most enjoyable Christmas lunch together.

The speaker was Simon Dommett, Rector of the Astwick Benefice and he said:

"I would like to start by introducing myself. I am commonly known as Simon as that was my birth name and used by friends and family. My wife doesn't like me being called Father by other people, she says I am just the father of our two children and I am sticking to that. But when I am in school I am known as Reverend Simon, as the teachers don't like children calling grown-ups by their Christian names. I am the Rector of the Astwick Vale Benefice, which means that I am the priest for the villages of Aynho, Croughton, Evenley, Farthinghoe, Hinton in the Hedges and Steane. I am also the Rural Dean of Brackley, which means that I have oversight for the Bishop of Peterborough under the Archdeacon of Northampton for the 30 churches around Brackley.

So I am a parish priest, but what sort? I used to know a rural dean who was always telling jokes, funny the first time or two but then it was cringe worthy. Like my colleague who had a difficult funeral to take. The deceased had been a bit of a lad, if you know what I mean, swearing, drinking...not really Rotary material... well maybe..

Anyway the vicar was meeting with the family to make the arrangements as you do. As the vicar was about to leave, the deceased's brother collared the priest and said, look Father, I know the church needs money for a new roof and I would like to make a donation of £10,000 but only if you say in the eulogy that my brother was a saint. The vicar thought about the offer, the church certainly needed the money for the roof, but the deceased was no saint. So he said thank you for the offer but you know your brother was a bit of a lad, drinking, swearing, etc., he wasn't a saint. So I am sorry but I

couldn't with a clear conscience say your brother was a saint.

OK said the brother but I would really like you to say that he was a saint, look I leave the offer on the table if you change your mind then the £10,000 is yours. And with that the vicar left. Well the day of the funeral came and the vicar was giving the eulogy, telling the brother's tale, all the things he had got up to, you know what he was like, he was bit of a lad, he used to drink a lot and swear a lot, but ..... you know, he was a saint, compared to his brother.

On the other hand you often get vicars who are very serious; you will have heard how the cinemas wouldn't allow the Church of England to have the words of the Lord's prayer heard in the cinemas claiming that this constituted religious advertising. Now you might like to ask, what was it advertising? What was it trying to persuade people to do, vote for the church or something. Yet at the same time the cinemas are screening a short animated film called Sanjay's Super Team which depicts Hindu gods acting as superheroes during prayer to protect a young boy. Or, don't the cinemas know that in the last census how many thousands of people put their faith down as Jedi, yet the cinemas are not banning the new Star Wars film for religious advertising of the Jedi faith. Or did I miss something?

But as it is Christmas just around the corner I would just like to think a bit about gifts. Strangely enough I was asked recently by an adult why or when did the tradition of giving gifts start for Christians? He could see in the secular world why people might want to give and receive gifts, but why in a Christian world? I will leave you to think about that one.

But today I would like to share a thought about Christmas and gifts that we cannot remember but which we all experience. There are two critical events in our lives that we all share and there is no escaping them but strangely, as far as we are aware, we have no memory of them. Do you know what events I am talking about? The events are our birth and our death, we are there, we experience them, but as far as we know, we don't remember them. They are also for most of us events that we don't have an input into, nor do we control them. They are like taxes, they just happen to us.

For Jesus, his earthly life started in a cave and it also ended in a cave. When Joseph of Arimathea gave up his personal cave tomb for Jesus' burial, he gave up a very precious possession. In giving he was



no different from the unnamed innkeeper who gave Mary and Joseph a cave for the birth of her child. The first cave was a gift to a powerless child and a family in need. The second cave was a gift to a deceased penniless man. Neither of these gifts could be repaid by the recipient. Both were given freely, lovingly and without expectation of repayment or reward. They weren't asked for but they were both needed. Jesus needed them both because he was fully human, and being human means there is a need. For all of us there are at least two points in our lives, our birth and our death, when we need someone to give to us. We too can never repay or give back these gifts, we may not even remember them. But at these moments in Jesus' life, Jesus needed generous gifts and so do we.

And just as the wise men had prepared and brought gifts to Jesus at his birth, so Mary and the other women brought gifts at his death. In the early morning they approached the cave and Jesus' crucified body, with their prepared spices and perfumes. They wanted to anoint the body before it would decay, but their gifts were not needed for his body was not anointed by human hands but by the gift of the spirit when God the father embraced his son. The gifts of the wise men appear very similar to the women's, frankincense and myrrh. But they came from very different groups of people, one was at the lower end of society, the marginalised. The other from learned male leaders and rulers.

What connects the two groups is that, although they expressed and gave their gifts differently and at different points in Jesus' life, they both gave the gifts they had freely when they were needed as part of faithful service. The way they expressed their generosity may be different, by men and by women by learned and humble, but they all served generously as they gave, freely and without counting the cost.

And so maybe we might just want to reflect for a moment on those who today at the vulnerable times of their lives depend on the goodwill of others. Those depend on what is lent or given by others. I am mindful of the money raised by Ian and the team on the Tour de Trigs challenge for Shelter. And when we mention shelter I am again mindful of those seeking shelter as they flee from a foreign occupying force. What welcome will they receive? No room, go away or come rest, stay with us for a while. It has been wonderful to see this response to

those in Carlisle and the surrounding areas who have lost their homes through the flooding. They will remember the kindness shown to them.

So let us be encouraged by the example shown in the Christmas story, that whether male or female, young or old, learned or humble, we can all give a simple gift to fulfil the needs of others. and let us also give thanks for those who give such gifts, not just at Christmas, but the whole year round. And as we think of others let us think of ourselves and remember those who have helped us and will help us too in our hour of need. Thank you and God bless you one and all. Happy Christmas."

Ian Calderbank

### *Weather forecast*

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter of 2011/12 was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs from the natural world around the Great Lakes.

In truth, neither of them had idea about how to predict the coming winter. However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang the National Weather Service in Gaylord Michigan.

'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked.

'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him.

As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find.

A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans of the Great Lakes are collecting wood like crazy.'



The Following Rotarians have made a donation to Foundation in lieu of sending Christmas cards to fellow members and Wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year



Graham & Leueen Anker	Paul & Jenny Gardiner	Malcolm & Gabbie Nutt
Ian & Alison Anthistle	Bernard & Julie Goodchild	John & Jean Phillips
Ron & Tricia Barnett	Nigel & Janet Halfpenny	Martin & Annie Phillips
Ashley & Rosemary Bedding	John & Gill Hansford	Geoffrey & Sheila Pollard
John & Shirley Bennett	David & Ann Hitchcox	Nigel & Gillian Randall
Simon & Pamela Bion	Maurice & Rita Humphris	Mark & Karen Recchia
Tony & Mavis Brace	Trevor & Jan Iles	Peter & Maureen Richardson
Helen Braisby	Tony & Jo Ilott	Fred & Sue Riches
Tim Bryce	Stephen & Clare Jakeman	Ian & Liz Rodrick
Ian & Pat Calderbank	Gareth Jeremy	Paul & Karen Shea
Phil & Dianna Cavill	Shirley Kershaw	John & Gill Smith
Colin & Jenifer Clarke	Rupert & Rosalind Kipping	David & Shirley Sullivan
Brian & Jean Cornley	Owen & Jacqueline Kyffin	Pat Thomas
Brian & Hazel Croft	Keith & Sylvia Manning	Eric & Wendy Watson
Stan Crump	Stewart Maxwell	Peter & Sandra Wilkins
Bryan & Elaine Doe	Andrew & Nicola McHugh	Peggy Williams
John & Paula Donaldson	Reginald & Janice McLean	Tony & Val Wiltshire
Malcolm & Valerie Douglas	Jonathan & Jane Meredith	Alan & Sue Wolstencroft
Nigel & Louise Deakin	Helen Morris	Roger Worrall & Beverley
Andrew & Marilyn Fairbairn	Bob & Joan Nurden	Nigel & Diane Yeadon

### *And now for something different*

#### *Do you believe?*

Just before Xmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus all got into the lift at the Ritz Hotel in London. As the lift travelled from the 5th floor down to the ground level, one-by-one they noticed a £50 note lying on the lift floor.

Which one picked up the £50 note, and handed it in at reception?

Santa of course, the other two don't actually exist!

#### *True romance!*

One beautiful December evening Huan Cho and his girlfriend Jung Lee were sitting by the side of the ocean. There was a romantic full moon, and Huan Cho said, "Hey baby, let's play Weeweechu."

"Oh no, not now. Let's just look at the moon", said Jung Lee.

"Oh, c'mon baby, let's you and I play Weeweechu. I love you and it's the perfect time," Huan Cho Begged.

"But I had rather just hold your hand and watch the moon."

"Please Jung Lee, just once... play Weeweechu with me."

Jung Lee looked at Huan Chi and said, "OK, we'll play Weeweechu."

Huan Cho grabbed his guitar and they both sang...

"Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year."

*And even worse!*

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

Claustrophobia!

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party?

Freeze a jolly good fellow!

Why does Santa have three gardens?

So he can 'ho ho ho'!

What do vampires sing on New Year's Eve?

Auld Fang Syne!

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?

Because he had a low "elf" esteem!

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?

He got 25 days!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

A Holly Davidson!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas Quacker!

What is the best Christmas present in the world?

A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

And what goes oh! oh! oh?

Father Christmas walking backwards!

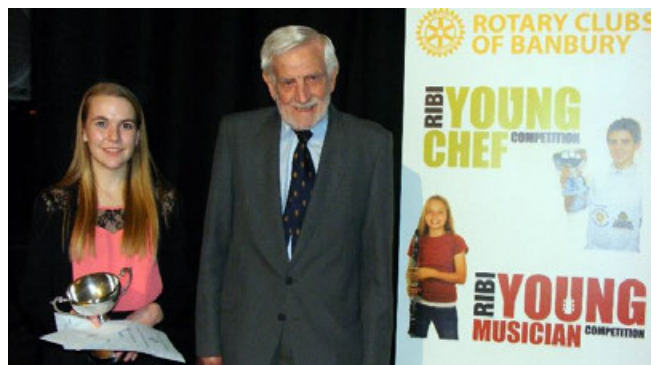
What nationality is Santa Claus?

North Polish!

What's red & white and red & white and red & white?

Santa rolling down a hill!

## *The Year in Pictures*

















## *Weekly Meeting Duties for January 2016*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&amp;H in charge</u>
01 Jan	Bank Holiday No meeting			
08 Jan	I. Anthistle J. Brodey T. Bryce M. Budd C. Clarke B. Cornley	S. Bion A. Bedding	T. Taylor	M. Humphris
15 Jan	N. Deakin S. Dhesi B. Doe M. Douglas B. Goodchild N. Halfpenny	J. Donaldson A. Fairbairn	G. Jeremy	A. Ilott
22 Jan	S. Kershaw O. Kyffin K. Manning H. Matthews A. McHugh R. McLean	J. Hansford T. Iles	J. Phillips	R. Kipping
29 Jan	Evening Meeting	M. Phillips M. Recchia		A. Wiltshire

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 January*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
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