



The April Diary

- 1st Rotary Meeting
 - 1st-3rd RIBI Conference
 - 6th Community & Vocational
Service Committee Meeting
 - 6th Classification &
Membership Committee
Meeting
 - 6th Sports & Entertainment
Committee Meeting
 - 8th Rotary Meeting
 - 9th Last Night of the Rotary
Proms
 - 11th Council on Legislation
 - 13th Foundation Committee
Meeting
 - 15th Rotary Meeting
 - 20th Youth Service Committee
Meeting
 - 20th International Committee
Meeting
 - 20th Inner Wheel Evening Event
 - 22nd Rotary Meeting
 - 27th Council Meeting
 - 29th 5th Friday-Evening Meeting
- For the full year's diary visit
www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk

AGM

The Rotary



Club of Banbury Annual General Meeting

President's Report

Our Annual General Meeting is one of our more important business meetings of the Rotary year when we review our various activities via the Committee Reports, approve a budget for next year, elect our Ordinary Members of Council and appoint others to specific duties. As President, I shall offer an overall view on the state of our Club so far this year. Later, in June when I present my Valedictory Speech, I shall discuss in more detail the highlights and other aspects of the whole year.

By comparison with other clubs in our District we are large and busy with a full programme of events, supporting the Community locally and internationally, and with an enjoyable spread of social activities too. Our success depends upon a number of members who champion each of our major events but it also relies upon their receiving good support from all members of the Club.

We owe a great debt to our "Project Leaders" and their teams for events such as Children Singing for Children, Young Musician, Young Chef, the Crocus Initiatives for End Polio Now, Practice Interviews, the Street Organ Collections, Food Parcels, Party for the Blind, and of course there are many other activities not necessarily project based but which rely upon a champion, such as RYLA, Youth Exchange, hosting our Rotary Scholar, being Webmaster, Programme Chairman, Welfare Officer, Club Protection Officer or Bulletin Editor.

Our Committees work hard to help other communities by organising appropriate care and support or by fund raising.

Our Foundation Committee sets itself a target of \$100 a year per member to be raised for Rotary's own charity, primarily from ourselves by various enjoyable activities such as Stephen's Summer Steaming as well as by members' donations, and has already sent the appropriate amount for this year.

To thank and name members individually is tempting but we all know who are our champions and project leaders and they know how much effort others make to support them, sometimes in the background creating displays and presentations, stewarding, and sometimes in just simply providing those necessary pairs of hands or feet. Thank you to all of you who do these things. The Club needs you!

A Club our size also requires a lot of effort from its Officers and Committee Chairmen to ensure that the machine runs smoothly. I cannot overstate the help that I have received from our Secretary, Treasurer, and other members of Council during discussions and planning. As a busy President, it is difficult to be always mindful of the detailed protocols and traditional practices of the Club and I have appreciated those occasions when others have reminded me of such things.

Our weekly meetings have had a good buzz to them again this year and I have enjoyed the banter and humour even when I have been the butt of the joke! We are only able to maintain this good atmosphere in such time constrained and busy meetings through the efforts of those planning and carrying out meeting duties. Again, on your behalf, I thank all those involved whether it be compiling the duty rota, booking in the attendee numbers, operating the cash desk, setting up the room itself, microphones, projector, computer, or finding and hosting interesting speakers. We are also blessed in having excellent and flexible caterers with Sanchia and Pink Peppercorns.

I mentioned briefly some projects and activities but shall not expand further since the Committee Reports should cover these. However, one event which was not organised through any of our main committees was our 80th anniversary celebration in September when we enjoyed a formal dinner in the Town Hall with Sir Tony Baldry as our main speaker entertaining us with both humour and seriousness in his praise for the achievements of this Club over the years, something of which we can be really proud. It also emphasised how hard we need to work to maintain the standards set by our predecessors.

This I believe we are doing, as reflected by the good comments we receive in the local press and social media. We have had good publicity again this year and we should never underestimate the goodwill that this creates for us.

As a Club we are still coming to grips with social media, with our website, facebook and twitter activities being driven and contributed to by only a few. Thanks to our Webmaster in maintaining the technology active, we are out there but we do need more proactive support from our Committee Chairmen, Project Leaders, and other champions to ensure that we are always up to date with our news. Please think about this whenever planning events and activities.

Sadly, we have lost three of our "elder statesmen" members this winter and had one resignation earlier. However, I have not had the pleasure of inducting a new member yet this year. Do consider who among your family, friends, neighbours or colleagues might make a good Rotarian and invite them along to one of our meetings or, possibly better still, get them involved in some of our activities. Our losses of course highlight how vulnerable some of our ailing elderly members are and we should be grateful for the care shown by our Welfare Officer and his team. I am always impressed by the time offered for this activity by many of our members in helping out with visits and transport.

On the social side we have been able to enjoy a number of good evenings and outings organised not only by our Sports and Entertainments Committee but by others too, combining fun with fund raising.

We have also continued with our Fifth Friday evening meetings with a bit of variety from magic last July to, later on this April, musical entertainment. These evenings have also provided the opportunity to bring along guests, including those with past Club associations, and from the broader Rotary family and other local service clubs.

However, many of our own members are not taking advantage of these enjoyable evenings for social fellowship and are missing out. This has been the case for some years now and in the past we have even had to cancel some evening meetings. Past President Phil set out to reinvigorate our Friday evening meetings last year and I have tried to continue so this year. I am sure that our "President Elect" Owen would appreciate any suggestions that you might have for next year's Fifth Fridays.

I started out by saying that I would review the state of the Club so far this year. We were asked by our Rotary International President to be a “Gift to the World” and I believe that our various activities, about which we shall hear more later, are enabling us to do just that. It is clear to me that we are healthily active and mostly having fun - a good combination. Let’s keep it going that way. I thank you again for all the support you give to me and to the Club.

Ian Calderbank

Membership, Classification & PR

The year so far has been one of contrasting fortunes.

Our monthly meetings have been interesting, jovial and very well attended.

Unfortunately, a couple of our committee members have been unable to attend for long periods of the year and we continue to hope that Tony Brace makes a good recovery.

After the rush of new members last year, we have had very thin pickings this year and any potential new members have pulled out, which is a real shame.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their support and help, it has been a real pleasure to have worked alongside them.

John Smith

Attendance

We started the Rotary year with 76 members, A. Bedding having joined us at the beginning of the Rotary year.

We also had 7 honorary members.

Sadly, Charles Swain and David Barlow both died in February so we now have only 5 honorary members.

G Csecs resigned in November 2015 due to pressure of work, thus reducing our numbers to 75

Sadly, Tom Taylor died in January 2016, reducing our numbers to 74.

This number has remained static up to March 2016

There are no firm candidates for membership at the moment

Attendance this year has been 64.9% so far. Last year it was 66.3%

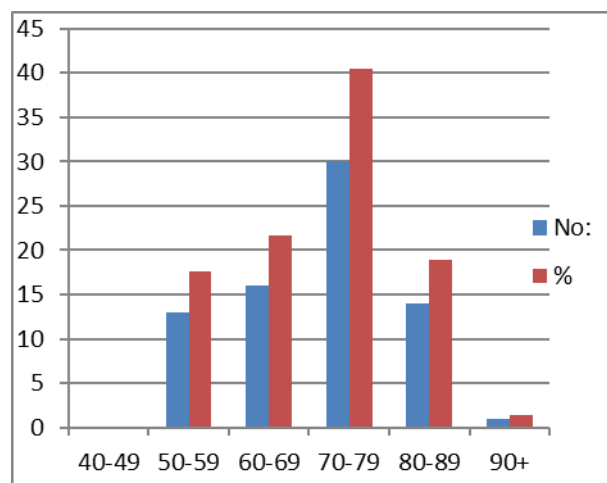
(There has been more sick leave than in previous years).

Total Rotary Activities 2444 (Unfortunately not all members record their hard work!)

Previous years: 2015 2679, 2014 2408, 2013 2601. As in 2014-5; Crocus planting, Young Musicians, School Interviews, Concerts and various other functions have all been actively supported by members.

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

Age Group	No:	%
90+	1	1.4
80-89	14	18.9
70-79	30	40.5
60-69	16	21.6
50-59	13	17.6
40-49	0	0



These figures show that our average age is still increasing.

Tony Wiltshire

Programme

President Ian Calderbank asked me to do my fourth year and I agreed because, as I had been Programme Chairman since 2012 when incoming President Ian Rodrick that year asked me if I could be the speaker finder, I was still enjoying doing the job. I will be repeating this next phrase that I have again thoroughly enjoyed doing it. Thank you both Ians.

Finding Speakers was really easy, albeit taking some time during the years. Paul Gardiner, the Rotary Club Secretary for the three years, has been forwarding lots of potential Speakers which I really appreciated. Fellow Rotarians have also been very helpful when also giving me names of Speakers they had heard or had been told they were good Talkers and even offering to give their own Talks. I have tried to balance between Charity Speakers, Non

Charity Speakers and then Longer Serving Members and New Members My Life/My Talk talks as that is a great way of getting to know members. 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 1987.

Having had a great number of new members joining Rotary Club this last year, giving their My Life/My Job Talks, there hasn't been as many Longer Serving Members Talks this year. Of course I also found Speakers or events for most of the Fifth Fridays, although I did refer to current Presidents when they wanted to organise it. Other places to find speakers was either from the Banbury Guardian or having heard them myself at other events.

Hopefully fellow Rotarians have enjoyed most of the Talks as I had asked if they could let me know if and why they thought that some speakers were not too good, especially if it was when I had not been able to attend the Lunch Meeting to witness it myself. Any advice or comments would also be helpful, especially for the new Programme Chairman starting in July 2016.

I would like to thank the fellow Rotarians who have hosted the Speakers and sent the reports for the Bulletin, especially Rupert Kipping who recommended five Speakers and hosted them all and Maurice Humphris hosted six Speakers as well as recommending some. Sending the reports to the Bulletin as promptly as possible is really helpful for Ron Barnett who has been the Editor to get the Bulletin ready to be printed by the end of each month. Thank you so much.

There are other members I would like to thank who are the Fellowship and F&H In Charge who were on duty each week who help setting up the equipment for slide shows and especially John Webb who has been really helpful connecting the memory sticks brought along by speakers to link with our equipment that Alan Wolstencroft and Andrew Fairbairn who kindly bring the projector. Also John Bennett for sorting setting up the microphones for the Speakers. Thank you all, including Sanchia at Pink Peppercorns with her staff for responding to when I advise them if the Speakers need "dietary requirements".

As President of Inner Wheel for a year from July 2016 I will be a little more occupied but will certainly give advice to the Programme Chairman who takes over from July as well.

Helen Morris

Bulletin

The Bulletin has continued to be published on a monthly basis, and I'm very grateful to all the contributors for their prompt and interesting contribution, as well as the vast number of photos sent by Helen.

Ron Barnett

Sports and Entertainment

Regular events like the District Darts competition and Club Darts were held again, with Peter Williams winning the latter against what could at best be called mediocre opposition. For the second time in recent years we were able to beat our friends in the Cherwell Club, much to their dismay, although this may have been illusory since the next round was to be against Reading on a vicious winter evening. My thanks to the hardy souls who braved the elements to accompany me southwards where we were soundly beaten and normality was restored.

For the second year we went to the karting track at Oxford. A reduced number of participants this year but it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who went and I would encourage Rotarians to think about joining us if we go again next year. It is a brilliant morning out on the track.

Something new this year was a car treasure hunt back in the summer. Another enjoyable day out finished off with a delicious lunch at a pub.

The golfers were on their usual good form, winning the Bigwood Trophy, and coming a very creditable 4th in the Rotary National Finals.

Still to come this year are:

- Rotary Concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Saturday 9th April.
- Club Outing to the brand new Coventry Motor Museum and then National Space Centre near Leicester on Tues 24th May.
- A visit to the Magic Circle headquarters in London for a show at the end of June.

I would urge members to give serious consideration to supporting new ventures such as the treasure hunt if we do it again, and the Table Top games that were planned recently but had to be postponed. These days and evenings are all great fun and provide the glue that holds us all together as a fun-loving Club.

And finally, my thanks to my committee members who have again given me unstinting support throughout the year.

Nigel Yeadon

Interact

Interact is a service and social club for young people aged 12 to 18. Clubs can be created within a school or any other youth organisation. Each club is sponsored by a Rotary club and we at Banbury chartered a club at Blessed George Napier School in April 2013 aimed at years 12 to 13 of the 6th form.

The Interactors elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and our recent members are just about to decide on two national and one international charity to raise funds for.

When we chartered in 2013 the club had 12 members and became very active, raising money for the Banbury homeless. They raised over £600 for Polly at St Mary's Church providing food vouchers for meals but over the last 6 months the club started to dwindle, almost all heading off to University, with no potential members following on.

Three weeks ago John Bennett and myself spoke at the year 12 assembly promoting Rotary and Interact and through the resulting interest we gained 22 members with 3 more joining last week.

The club meet on Thursday mornings at 8:30 - 9:00am just before school starts. It is amazing what can be achieved in a 30-minute meeting and the group themselves come up with some great ideas which is very encouraging. Once they get a bit more established 3 or 4 members will be invited to come along to our Friday lunchtime meeting.

The Interact club will meet once more before breaking for their Easter holidays and John and I will continue to meet with them on a fortnightly basis during term time.

Ian Anthistle

Community and Vocational

During this last year I am pleased to report that we have maintained our level of significant activities to a similar level as those in previous years namely:

- Organising a most successful party for the blind.
- Running a charity stall at the Banbury Show and stewarding.
- Running a charity stall at Canal Day .

- Christmas street organ collection at Tesco's and Sainsbury's—raising a grand total of £5,268 over just four days.
- Arranged for the Panto Bus to run a drama workshop day at Frank Wise School.

Additionally, this year we set ourselves the challenge of identifying local organisations and individuals which might benefit from contact with our Club. I am pleased to report that we succeeded in building up a closer relationship with Style Acre (SABre) in Banbury. This organisation offers support and training to adults with mild learning difficulties and help. It would be our intention to continue to strengthen this relationship going forward.

We have also started to review possible local businesses which we can visit and build a better understanding of where opportunities might exist for closer ties and activities that help our Banbury community. This is work in progress but we have already made contact with a number and hope that we can progress matters further in the very near future.

In previous years we have had provided funds towards the purchase of specialist equipment to help individual needy children, with serious physical/mental disabilities, to live more fulfilling lives. To date we have had no such requests. If you know or hear of any deserving cause, please tell us about it. We know that even a small amount of financial or caring support can really make a difference.

In terms of the distribution of funds raised we have stuck to the 75% for Katharine House and the balance to our general trust fund.

None of the above can be achieved without the energy and commitment of the members of the Community & Vocational Committee who constantly deliver the goods and so often go that extra mile to ensure we deliver. My sincere thanks for that and the good humour and fun they bring to our work.

Simon Bion

Foundation

The Committee has held 8 meetings so far this year with an average attendance of 6.4 members.

Club members have again this year been extremely generous with their personal donations to Foundation giving over £1,400 donations with their annual subscriptions, over £1,000 donations in lieu of Christmas cards, and our Frugal Lunch raised over

£200, the vast majority these also attracting the benefit of gift aid.

Again our grateful thanks must go to Stephen and Clare Jakeman for allowing us to invade their beautiful garden for Stephen's Summer Steaming, which as well as being great fun raised nearly £650.

We've had the pleasure this year of hosting Zali Fung, a visiting Rotary Scholar from Australia, and we enjoyed an extremely interesting evening with her and visiting Rotary Scholars Valerie King and Andrew Berkley. Many thanks are due to Martin and Annie Phillips for organising the evening which as well as giving us great pleasure raised £200.

All these efforts have enabled us to have already sent our target donation for this Rotary year of \$100 per member to Foundation.

Raising both the profile of, and funds for, the End Polio Now campaign have continued, and under the steady hand of Fred Riches, with the assistance of 320 school children, we've planted over 16,000 crocus bulbs and supplied 10 local Primary Schools with Grow Your Own Crocus Packs. The very generous support of Sanctuary Housing in particular has to be acknowledged, and both Banbury Town Council and Cherwell District Council have helped make this event the success it no doubt is.

Special thanks must go to the Wroxton House Hotel for their extremely generous donation of a meal for four people, the raffle for which raised over £350 for the End Polio Now campaign.

Looking forward, plans are now well in place for a fund raising concert at Broughton Church with the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir on Saturday July 2nd, which promises to be an excellent evening's entertainment that I'm sure you will want to support.

My very grateful thanks must go to all the members of the Foundation Committee for all the very positive contributions that they have made, and above all for putting up with me!

Ron Barnett

International Committee

Sources of Income - Activities and income

September:	Snookathon - Fastest Cue Slinger in Banbury £141.00
November:	Bollywood Film Night £126.00
January	Second Best Marigold Hotel £125.00

March	St Patrick's Day Film Night £90.00
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March	Donation from Speaking Event £50.00 (not yet credited)
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Total	£532.00
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Applications of Income - Projects supported

Refurbishment of toilets in Christian Hope School Sierra Leone via Rtn Woolstencroft.

Provision of a well to a school in The Gambia via Rtn Fairbairn through Rotary Club of Tonbridge.

Decision taken to support sanitation in schools in Sub-Saharan Africa generally.

Proposed Future Activities

Pilau-Mans Lunch - featuring staple dishes from poorer countries of the world - Rodney Henn's Barn/Field in Sulgrave. Provisional Date: 7th August 2016 - 13:00 - 17:00, Cost £10.00 per head. Other foodstuffs to be available for 'Faddy Eaters'

Entertainments to be arranged: Archery Coconut Shy, Mini Highland Games.

From the Back of Beyond to the Middle of Nowhere - the overseas working life of Andrew McHugh From Oman to Tajikistan to St Helena Island. Date to be confirmed, Banbury Cricket Club, £10 per head to include 'small eats'.

In the Footsteps of Shackleton (Working Title) - Personal Experiences of Antarctica - Alan Carroll (hosted by Rtn Fairbairn), Date to be confirmed, Banbury Cricket Club, £10 per head to include 'small eats'

Andrew McHugh

Youth Services

As in previous year we have continued to support our major events and existing projects.

Children Singing for Children took place November 9th to 12th 2015 raising over £6,500 for Children's Charities and as ever well organised by Jonathan Meredith, Fred Riches and Alan Wolstencroft. Next year's event is scheduled for 7th to 10th November 2016

Young Musician. Heats took place January 15th and 16th at Sibford School, directed by Gareth Jeremy with assistance from Nig Randall and Ron Barnett. The Finals were held February 27th from which 4 category winners were invited to go forward to the District final March 5th.

Practice Interviews conducted at BGN School 22nd and 25th February organised by Nig Randall and assisted by Mark Reccia and Volunteer panellists. This year there was a new school coordinator who coped well except for a lack of milk for the Interviewers refreshments on the first day. Last year Warriner did not take part due to an administrative failure on their part. They are taking part again in July for which volunteer interviewers will be required.

BYHP Work Experience Interviews have been organised by Shirley Kershaw at the Banbury Young Homelessness Project. The small numbers taking part appreciated and value the experience. It's encouraging that some have gone on to secure employment.

Young Chef organised by Bernard Goodchild in conjunction with Cherwell Rotary, and this year we received entrants from Chenderit School who produced the 11-year-old winner at the finals that took place February 27th. She went on to compete at the District finals but was beaten by stronger competitors.

RYLA Nig Randall has arranged a booking on 20th to 23rd May for two male pupils from the Frank Wise School to attend the Calvert Trust, Exmoor. On RYLA, despite efforts having been made to attract applications none have been forthcoming.

Youth Exchange, a very successful Exchange visit was completed during July 2015 between Lucy Cross, a student from Bodicote who travelled to Japan for 3 weeks returning home accompanied Maki, from Osaka, who stayed here for a similar period. We have not received any suitable applications for sponsorship this year.

The events and activities have been publicised through the Banbury Guardian and the Club web site.

We value and will continue with engagement in Cross-Committee working groups to achieve best practise.

We also acknowledge the contribution given by the volunteers from within the Club and non-Rotarians who give their time generously.

Geoff Pollard

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:

Paul Gardiner
Martin Phillips
Andrew McHugh
Geoff Pollard

1090 District Conference 2016



It was a brave decision to move from the traditional three-day to a one-day Conference, different to hold it in Windsor within our own District and certainly different to attempt to hold it under one roof. It was certainly successful in terms of increasing numbers attending. However, the hotel-cum-conference building was not really large enough so that some people had to stay elsewhere and were therefore excluded from the benefits of everything being under one roof.

The nature of the venue and the Conference "packages" available also prevented us from having our own traditional Club dinner on the Friday evening. We did manage though to commandeer a part of the rather small bar for our drinks before the District Supper. The food and service for the District Supper before the entertainment on Friday evening was very good and the song and dance routines from the Redroofs Theatre School set us in a good mood for the start of the Conference.

On Saturday the Conference was opened at 9.30 am with a few words from our District Governor Fred King, followed by a warm welcome to Windsor by the Mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead, Cllr Eileen Quick.

Our first speaker was Steve Clarke from the Rotary Club of Abingdon Vesper talking about the charity "Festival Spirit". The aim of the Charity is to enable disabled young people to attend Music Festivals across the country. They accommodate them in warm tents to keep them safe from life-

limiting illnesses and provide “Buddies” to help them and their carers to get around the show grounds and into the various activities and workshops. It gives people whose life is otherwise limited the chance “to break away from the person they were and in the end sometimes changing life long term”.

Clare Periton, Chief Executive of Helen and Douglas House Hospice described the history and some aspects of the good work done by the charity. Helen House was founded in 1982 being the first Children’s Hospice to open in Britain. Later, because children are now surviving longer a new Douglas House was built for “young adults”. Kim O’Grady then described the difficult problems with her son Toby and how, when he was taken to Helen House, this was a turning point for his family. “They make the unbearable slightly more bearable”.

Brittany Arthur then talked about “My Journey with Rotary”. She has been involved in a number of Rotary schemes around the world and she described the benefits these have been to her education and development, even her present chosen career. The Rotary Motto, “Service before Self” still drives her work. She also talked about how we should approach the subject of finding new Rotarians.

After a Coffee break with rather nice cakes and sweetmeats, we continued into the Second Plenary Session. Thames Valley Police Chief Constable Francis Habgood, in the force for 29 years and in Thames Valley for 12 years, talked about the changes that have taken place in recent years, e.g., now that China needs less metal, thefts of such have gone down and those criminals are doing other things. General crime levels have fallen, car crime is substantially lower but Cyber-crime is developing and becoming a big problem for us all. We were asked to report those suspicious e-mails rather than simply delete them. She also made much of what Rotary and the Police could do in collaboration with one another to make our Communities safer.

Paul Fisher from Misbourne Matins Rotary Club then gave us a talk about “Children in Need”. He took over the fundraising at Heathrow Airport and has since been asked by RIBI to co-ordinate the relationship between Rotary and the Children in Need charity. Rotary first became involved in 1985 and in the past 27 years have raised at least £350,000. RIBI raised £80,000 in 2015/16 via 57 Clubs with District 1090 being the most active and the Heathrow Collection raising £39,000 with 265 volunteers. He illustrated some projects that have

been funded through Children in Need including a “Dog for Good” that has given life back to a child who otherwise might never have spoken or achieved anything. The next collection at Heathrow will be on 18th November 2016 if anyone wishes to help.

Next was a talk and short film about the “Thames Valley Adventure Playground” presented by Reama Shearman, a parent who benefitted from the facilities and who is now a Trustee. She explained how the large and ambitious scheme near Taplow Lake was developed to provide purpose designed facilities for both children and adults with profound disabilities. They provide care workers and support for every kind of need, to help the disabled and their parents or carers. There are wheelchair-accessibility roundabouts and swings, elevated walkways allowing someone with multiple difficulties to enjoy the excitement of “climbing” trees, multi-sensory rooms to stimulate and relax, with special-trained staff to provide help and support, being just a few of the things on offer. Their clients come from all the surrounding counties and last year over 4,000 people made over 14,000 visits.

We then heard about “The Coxless Crew”, a team of 6 women (a crew of four at any stage, stopping off at two islands en-route where one member would be changed) who were the first to row across the Pacific Ocean unsupported. Emma Mitchell (Team Leader) & Laura Penhaul gave us a wonderful, illustrated talk about the adventure on a boat called Doris. They were inexperienced but undoubtedly, strong, fit and determined. They said two of the crew had never rowed before and had to start by learning that skill first.

They all shared in the workload, two taking the oars for a two-hour stint while the others rested or got on with other duties. It was a continuous process, day and night. They experienced hardship and storms and it took a lot longer than had been planned.

There were memorable and spectacular moments, not to be missed. They travelled from San Francisco to Cairns in Australia, nearly 8500 miles and were at sea for nine months. “By completing the challenge the Team hopes to have inspired others to reach their own potential and to meet the challenges that life throws at them, however big or small.” An inspiring presentation and a highlight of the Conference.

Frank Readman our District Foundation Chairman, now described the projects that the District is involved with. He highlighted the developing

success of the “End Polio Now” campaign with last year only 74 cases in two countries Pakistan and Afghanistan and this year so far only 5 cases in Pakistan.

Michael Bradfield, a former District Group Study Exchange member, gave us an insight into what was happening in Sierra Leone. As a Critical Care Paramedic in 2009 he went to South Africa with a District GSE team and worked with the Emergency Medical Services in South Africa and Lesotho. In 2014 he went out to Sierra Leone as a Volunteer and worked for a few months in the Hospital in Freetown which receives help from Kings Hospital in London in Training, Planning and Medical care. Michael told us how bad the facilities really are in Sierra Leone. He said there had been no oxygen, no pre-hospital care, no ambulances, no emergency services or speciality and less than 150 doctors working in the public sector. He also said that life expectancy was between 38 and 57 years.

After the lunch break, when we had enjoyed a very good buffet, Pat Briggs Chairman of Inner Wheel District No 9 described briefly that organisation. District 9 has 18 clubs and 434 members. with 16,200 in Great Britain and Ireland overall and around 100,000 overseas. Last year the District raised over £40,000 for Home Charities and over £14,000 for Overseas Charities.

She then introduced our next speaker, Roger Askew who talked about “The Beauty of Savill Gardens”. He described how it all began - and that, not really long ago. The Gardens have developed over the years and now cover 35 acres. Eric Savill was born in 1895. He retired in 1970 and died in 1980. In 1931 it was originally part of the Royal Woods and Forest, had a stream and was called The Bog Garden as it was very wet. Roger described it as a “Spring Woodland Garden”. He showed us many wonderful pictures of the great beds of beautiful coloured flowers and foliage. It is obvious that a great deal of encouragement is derived from the Royal Family, their near neighbours. Two of our party walked around it on the Sunday morning before returning home and admired some of the winter/spring colours.

Sue Pomeroy, President of the Bourne End and Cookham Rotary Club, then introduced “Rotakids to Interact to Rotaract”. First of all, in ran a whole bunch of the Rotakids who gave lovely individual messages talking about how much they have been raising for charities. One said “The Best Fun ever”. What more can we say? The Interactors talked about a Competition where they were asked to put

together a “Presentation” using any form of Art work or Technology, Media etc., for which there were a number of awards with £250 being the first prize.

When it came to Rotaract, it was the Banbury Club who came forward with a presentation on what they get up to. They showed enormous enthusiasm and maturity. There need to be many more Rotaract Clubs like Banbury in District and across the whole country. It takes little imagination to see that these young people are the future of Rotary. Banbury and Banbury Cherwell Rotary Clubs can be very proud of the Banbury Rotaract Club.

We then had a presentation by Charlotte Wheatley, a postgraduate student of 22 and originally from Cholsey in Oxfordshire, about what is called New Generation Service Exchange for 18 to 30 year olds and up to 6 months duration. Young people apply or are selected for a kind of scholarship - youth exchange system. A “Sender Club” finds the applicant and a “Host Club” sorts out support and or employment for the student in their country. Charlie, wishing to pursue the advancement of her knowledge in the field of Climate Change, applied for help. She told us that through the programme she was able to go to Australia for three months to work in a Government Department studying the potential effects of climate change on important fisheries resources. She is now back home and most grateful to Rotary for the experience and well on her way in the pursuit of her career in Climate Change studies.

After another Coffee Break, RI President’s Representative PDG Ronald Mabry from Front Royal, Virginia in the USA brought greetings from RI President Ravi Ravindran. He then spoke to us about the things we have achieved, the things we do, the need to reach out to young people and the future of Rotary.

Our DG Elect Joy Arnott with PDG John Greening then put on a snappy presentation about next year’s Conference 2017 starting with an old style/cartoon Black and White film. We will go back to a 3-day event and it will once again be held at the seaside this time in Bournemouth from 24th to 26th of March 2017.

We then listened to our Keynote Speaker, Johnny Ball, who discussed the importance of mathematics, particularly geometry, and various ways of making the subject more easily understood. At 5.00 pm it was DG Fred King’s turn to say a few final words before bringing the Conference to a close.

Later that evening, we came together again for the Gala Dinner followed by music for dancing by Madison Heights Band. All the 13 residential delegates from our Club were in the hotel but again the venue had insufficient separate “meeting” rooms or bar space for us to have our traditional Saturday pre-Dinner Drinks reception. The President had to improvise!

Should the Conference be one day or more?

Being a local venue and only one day did appear to have been successful in terms of increasing numbers attending. The various “packages” available with relatively low cost for just the Conference attendance no doubt helped too.

However, this year the Conference seemed rushed - squeezed into a tight time slot. We had no Lighting of the Candle of Friendship, nor extinction at the end for that matter, as well as no message to and from the Queen. We did not have our Rotary Scholars there to give a few short presentations. It has also been good in the past to start with a session (Inner Wheel?) on the Friday afternoon, meet friends and enjoy an evening function such as our Club Dinner together. Then, on the Saturday we can have a break in the afternoon, play golf, go shopping or visit some local attractions, e.g., the Savill Gardens.

It has also been good to join together in an act of worship on the Sunday morning, enjoy more good speakers and then have lunch together before going home. There was also no “Rotary Village” this year to display all those little extras, charity stalls, shop, etc., all part of what Rotary is about. However, this was probably because of space restrictions with this particular venue.

Having said all that, it was an enjoyable Conference with good opportunities for fellowship if not as much as in previous years. As stated above, we will go back to a 3-day event next year and it will once again be held at the seaside this time in Bournemouth from 24th to 26th of March 2017. See you all there!

Tim Bryce, Ian Calderbank, Helen Morris

Ian's Items



1 March

It was pleasing to see so many of our members attending the funeral for Charles Swain, who had reached the grand age of 92. He joined this Club in 1969 and was President in the year 1981/82. A loyal member of this Club, he was also proud of his wartime service and his business achievements.

2 March

We were grateful to Chris of the Hook Norton Brewery who gave us a most interesting guided tour that evening. We learned a lot about brewing, the history of this particular brewery, and of course sampled the wares.

4 March

It was a pleasure to be able to present a cheque for £4,000 to Daphne Robertson of Katharine House Hospice to support the fine work that they do there. The money had been raised, thanks to the wonderful generosity of Banbury people, through our street organ collections at Sainsburys and Tesco's shortly before Christmas.

Later in our meeting, we were made more clearly aware of the Syrian crisis and associated refugee problems on Friday 4 March when our speaker Tim Pilkington, Chief Executive of World Vision, described his experiences in the Jordan refugee camps and elsewhere in the region. World Vision is the world's largest international children's charity and works in more than 20 countries with an annual budget of over £70million. Their efforts in the refugee camps target support for children and in particular health and education.

7 March

Again, it was good to see a large number of our members at David Barlow's funeral. David was born in 1932, joined this Club in 1969 and was one of the few people to join Rotary while he was still a member of Banbury Round Table. President of this

Club in the year 1980/81, he took a leading part in many of our activities, particularly the Club Outings, both before and after that year, and was instrumental in setting up the Abbeyfield Banbury Society homes for the elderly.

11 March

It was a pleasure to welcome Pearl Watts from Dogs for Good and 5-month old puppy Bella to our lunchtime meeting. In her illustrated talk Pearl demonstrated the many ways in which dogs can help adults or children with disabilities or social problems and she described the specialist training involved.

11 to 13 March

District Conference: Friday afternoon saw some of us travel to Windsor for our District Conference hosted by District Governor Fred King and his wife Myra. We then enjoyed a relaxing evening meal and entertainment by the Redroofs Theatre School with their song and dance routines. Saturday was a full day of presentations with speakers from various organisations, charities and activity groups including our own extended Rotary family of Rotakids and Rotaract (Banbury), the Chief Constable of Thames Valley, the Coxless Crew and Johnny Ball as the Keynote Speaker at the end. In the evening, we finished with a Gala Dinner and dancing to the music of Madison Heights. A more detailed report is available elsewhere in this Bulletin.

15 March

A number from our Club joined civic dignitaries and others at the Town Hall to congratulate our honorary member Sir Tony Baldry on being appointed to the position of High Steward of Banbury by Banbury Town Council in an appropriate ceremony. The role which had been occupied almost continuously from the time of Mary I in the 16th Century has been revived after a gap of almost 50 years.

18 March

After an enjoyable Fellowship meeting with the usual humorous exchanges, I headed off to meet with the Burton on Trent Rotary Club and celebrate the 80th Anniversary of their Charter. A miserable Friday rush hour drive in the rain was well compensated by an entertaining evening, fine food and of course more good Rotary fellowship.

19 March

The International Committee organised another Supper and this time a "Double Bill" Film evening.

A mixture of Italian food, old fashioned slapstick humour from The Plank and the story of an Irish band, The Commitment provided another excuse for enjoying each other's company.

21 March

Our AGM this year was a little different in that following the usual formalities we enjoyed some humorous entertainment from Nigel Y, John B, and Peter Wilkins explaining the reasons behind the two well-known expressions "Kiss me Hardy" and "Not tonight Josephine". Thank you to them for their efforts and fine performance. Food then followed and the evening continued with more good fellowship. It was pleasing to see a good attendance of around 40 members. No worries about a quorum this year!

23 March

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

24 March

Some of us attended an excellent Crocus Concert at Sibford School. The concert followed their final assembly meeting in the afternoon before breaking up for the Easter holiday.

They had clearly worked hard to put together a varied programme of music highlighting the individual skills of some of the students and culminating in the Primary School performing "World in Union". We are grateful to Headmaster Michel Goodwin, Head of Music Fiona Hudson, and Community Development Officer Ali Bromhall for their support in organising this event.

Although we have been unable this year to organise our own major Crocus Concerts, it is rewarding to know that many of the schools, whom we have involved in our Crocus Planting and previous year's Crocus Concerts, have wished to continue with some activity or another for the benefit of our "End Polio Now" campaign. It reflects on the good work done by Fred Riches and all those others who have liaised with the schools not only with the planting but more recently with follow up presentations to school assemblies, etc. Well done - it has brought much credit to our Club.

Ian Calderbank

Speaker Reports

Hayley Smith – 25 Years with Hubble Space Telescope



On Friday 26th February we had the pleasure of Hayley Smith telling us about the Hubble Telescope.

The first telescope for use in reviewing the Universe was created by Galileo in 1609 and had a magnifying capability of three times. With this he discovered the moons of Venus, sunspots and the phases of Venus. 60 years later Newton developed an improved model with magnifying capability of thirty-five times in 1668.

The difficulty of viewing space with these is that solar wind blows gasses around stars and planets blurring the views from the earth. In addition, light pollution and wave lengths create atmospheric distortion, gamma rays and ultraviolet light block the upper atmosphere. In the circumstances Hubble decided to plan for a telescope in space to look out from a position above the distortion. He was assisted by the work of Herman Oberth and Lyman Spitzer famous and knowledgeable physicists who had developed papers relating to the launching of items into space, when discovering that the most appropriate way to manage the distortion was to place a telescope further out in space beyond these problems

The Hubble Space Telescope was launched in 1990 following collaboration between the European Space agency and NASA. This enabled the telescope to be loaded on to the Space Shuttle Discovery and actually launched from it at an altitude of 340 meters and now travelling at seventeen thousand miles per hour.

Achievements since that time

- 1.2 billion Observations
- 12,800 Scientific Papers
- Has travelled 13.4 billion miles
- Helped to reveal the age of the Universe

- Key role in the discovery of Dark Energy
- Key to understanding gamma ray bursts
- Advanced Camera Survey
- Citizens Service- Galaxy Zoo - combining images from Hubble with the Sloan digital sky survey to assist astronomers to understand the evolution of the galaxies
<http://zoo1.galaxyzoo.org/tutorial.aspx>.

The telescope has solar system bays, communication antenna, control pointing systems and these are all powered by solar power.

The first Servicing Mission took place in December 1993 for:

- Correcting the optics - 5 pieces of mirrors were placed in front of the instruments to improve results and acted in similar fashion to a pair of glasses.
- Installed a wider field and planet camera
- Installed Telescopic replacements

All of this work was undertaken by astronauts from the World Space Station and after this initial success further servicing visits were made in 1997, 1999, 2002, 2009. when a range of instruments and up grades were installed to extend the life and effectiveness of the telescope.

Further work undertaken by the Hubble Telescope

- Identifying ages of M83,s star clusters.
- Increased understanding of how stars are born, evolve and fall apart in spiral galaxies
<http://projectstardate.org/>

Future Developments

- James Webb Space Telescope
- Launch 2018
- MIRI instruments all developed and manufactured in the UK.
- Will orbit at 1.2 million miles
- more information - <http://hubblesite.org/>,
www.stsci.edu/hst,
<http://www.spacetelescope.org/>

Footnote

Hayley is an honours graduate in Astrophysics having developed a keen interest in the Universe and Space since her childhood days and currently works in the Banbury Space Centre. Her husband works in London also in the same sector.

Bernard Goodchild



On Friday 4th March we welcomed Tim Pilkington.

World Vision is a children's charity currently working in 100 countries and employing 45,000 people. Each year 50 million children are helped; were they to stand side-by-side they would stretch from Banbury to Sierra Leone. This Christian-based charity was founded by Bob Pearce from the USA; when he was visiting China he saw a child in extreme poverty and gave away the last five US dollars that he had on that day. He subsequently founded World Vision and said, "let my heart is broken by what breaks the heart of God." Its aim is to give children "life in all its fullness."

It uses three main methods

1. Development
2. Humanitarian Relief
3. Advocacy.

Recently, when working in Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak one of the main problems was the local cultural practice of washing of bodies after death which caused the virus to spread to all those involved; it was a practice which they found very difficult to stop. Overall 85% of people have a religion, and in Sierra Leone 74% of people trust their religious leader. Consequently, the best approach to their cultural death practices was found to be via the religious leaders.

The long-term development programmes extend over about 15 years following which the local population are expected to stand on their own feet allowing World Vision to move to new areas.

One year ago Tim visited Jordan and described the plight of 1 million refugees who had fled from President Assad of Syria. Jordan is the second worst country in the world for shortage of water. There were two main camps each with 150,000 refugees which is causing pressures on the local population for water and schooling. The latter is currently solved by schools having one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. One camp which was well

organised was in a desert surrounded by barbed wire and extremely boring for the inhabitants who wanted to leave after three months. The other was unorganised becoming a slum on the edge of the city and was not safe so that the refugees wanted to leave and go into the local communities thereby causing local social pressures.

Tim described some of the people he had met and their stories including a 12-year-old boy who told him that his aim in life was to grow up and personally kill President Assad! As a whole generation of children are missing education World Vision is currently trying to get them into school.

He ended by saying that it must be remembered that all refugees want to return to their own homes in Syria. The only solution is political.

Rupert Kipping

Pearl Watts and Bella – Dogs for Good



On Friday 11th March Pearl Watts, ably assisted by Bella, gave us a fascinating insight into her work with Dogs for Good.

She explained that dogs lived with her for socialising from the age of 8 weeks to 14/15 months. Her job being to get them to meet and befriend other dogs, cats and be friendly to people. They have to be taught to sit down and stand up so they can be groomed. They are given a free run every day and be taught to come back when called. They are taken to supermarkets, precincts, vets, on buses and trains. All the training is aimed at getting them to make the lives of a disabled person easier.

When they are 14/16 months old they go back to the kennels where they go through the next training phase. They are taught skills which include picking up dropped items, fetching the 'phone, loading and unloading the washing machine, dressing and undressing a person, as well as how to comfort and distract an autistic child.

Dogs for Good gets no government support and has to raise £3m a year to keep going. Each dog costs

£12,000 from birth to becoming a fully trained assistance dog, and £20,000 for its entire life.

Harry Matthews

Around the Committees

Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Assistant Treasurer had been appointed at the AGM.

Club Draw considered still necessary to support Contact Club for our next hosting in 2019, based on estimates of probable prepayments required and possible liabilities.

Matters Arising from other Committee Meeting Minutes

Subject to a letter of confirmation, dates for Street Organ collections at Sainsburys had been agreed for 18th and 24th December. Also at Sainsburys a date for collecting food parcel contributions had been agreed of 9th December.

Hon Secretary

RIBI - Annual capitation increased by £3, increase in net membership 256.

RI and RIBI members' data base now integrated.

2017 District Conference Logo competition - entries from Rotakids, Interact or Rotaract.

Agenda for AGM on 21th March drawn up.

Hon Treasurer

Trust Accounts - Free Funds £2826 at 29th February with £5000 in Reserve.

Set up costs and other funding requests

The following requests were agreed:

£1,660 + £353.25 Gift aid from Tour de Trigs fund raising to be sent to Shelter.

£1,000 to be pledged as a contribution, if required, towards providing a replacement special Tramper mobility scooter for a needy MS sufferer.

Net proceeds from Foundation Committee's Male Voice Choir concert to be donated to "End Polio Now".

Club Representations

President had represented Club at District Conference, Sir Tony Baldry's installation as High Steward of Banbury, and Burton on Trent Rotary Club's 80th Anniversary.

District Conference 11th – 13th March

13 members attended the whole conference and one for the Saturday sessions only.

A detailed report is available in the Club Bulletin.

AGM 21st March

All posts required to be filled at the AGM had been so.

Attendance at around 40 had been higher than in recent years.

Formal procedures had been followed by humorous entertainment and food.

District Council meeting 31 March

President to attend.

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

Six have already booked flights and ten others are planning to drive there.

Registration has been completed and payment made to Villefranche en Beaujolais.

Bulletin

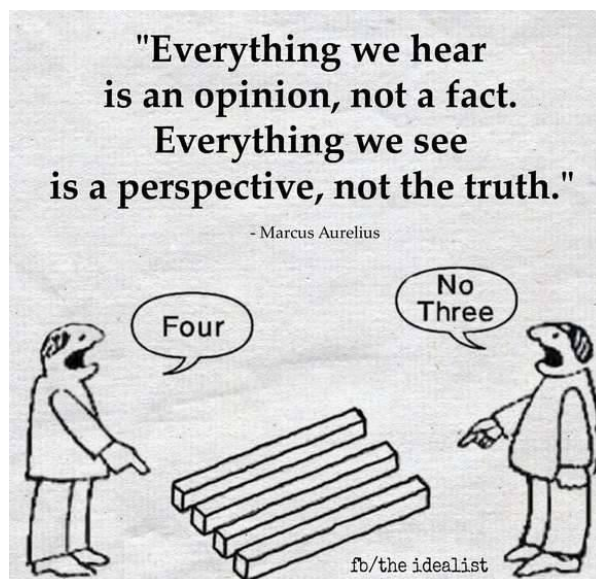
Editor required for next year.

Membership, Fellowship, etc

Members to be encouraged to consider inviting family, friends, neighbours or colleagues along to meetings or our other activities.

Members also to be encouraged to change their seating places more often at our Friday lunchtime meetings.

And Now for Something Different



The Month in Pictures



Weekly Meeting Duties for April 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
1 April	P. Richardson F. Riches I. Rodrick J. Smith P. Thomas E. Watson	R. Thompson J. Webb	A. Warren	A. Wiltshire
8 April	P. Wilkins A. Wolstencroft E. Woodruff N. Yeadon G. Anker I. Anthistle	P. Williams R. Worrall	J. Bennett	S. Crump
15 April	S. Bion J. Brodey T. Bryce M. Budd C. Clarke B. Cornley	H. Braisby R. Barnett	A. Bedding	M. Humphris
22 April	N. Deakin M. Douglas A. Fairbairn B. Goodchild N. Halfpenny J. Hansford	S. Dhesi B. Doe	J. Donaldson	A. Ilott
29 April	Evening Meeting	T. Iles H. Matthews		S. Jakeman

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 & May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
1 April	Andrew Harter	Update on Teaching the Unteachable	Rupert Kipping
8 April	Julie Wood	Trophies for D of E Teams	Andrew Fairbairn
15 April	Rtn Nigel Deakin	My Life/My Job Talk	Fred Riches
22 April	Rosy Burke	The Fine Lady	Pat Thomas
29 April	Fifth Friday Evening Wroxton House Hotel	Light, Humorous Musical Entertainment	TBA
6 May	Jeff Annells,	Introduction to the Work of Medical Detection Dogs	Maurice Humphris
13 May	James McDonald	CLIC Sargent - Cancer Support for the Young	TBA
20 May	Will Adams	The Samaritans	TBA
27 May	Rtn Ashley Bedding	My Life/My Job Talk	Paul Gardiner