



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury
Rotary International
Club No. 19229 District 1090
President John Hansford

September 2013



www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk



Stephens Summer Steaming

11 August 2013

in pictures



Speaker Reports

26 July 2013

Contact Club



As a taster of the 2014 Contact visit to Banbury and a reminder of the fellowship of Contact, various members recounted their visit to Olten, Switzerland from Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th May 2013. The following are extracts to illustrate the type of activities.

Trip to Solothurn

Rtn Phil Cavill

Which is regarded as the finest walled Baroque town in Switzerland, Italian grandeur combined with French charm and German practicality. This so-called “ambassador’s town” is at the southern end of the Jura valley by the River Aare. From the 16th to the 18th centuries, the Catholic town was the residence of the French King’s ambassador.

On arrival the first place we visited was St. Urs Cathedral, made of pale Solothurn marble, it is the most important Early Classical building in Switzerland. The Cathedral had been damaged by fire in an arson attack about 5 years previously and renovation work was completed in 2011. Solothurn Old Town is full of historic buildings, most of which have some sort of relationship to the number eleven which has been celebrated since the Middle Ages. Thus St. Ursus Cathedral had 11 altars and 11 clocks and its outer staircase is divided into 11 sections with 11 steps. The Old Town has eleven churches and chapels and the same number of fountains and towers, there was even a clock which only displays 11 hours.

After the cathedral we wandered through the town to the Town Hall building where we were hosted for a very pleasant Swiss lunch by the town mayor and the local Rotary District Governor who did short speeches. There was plenty of Swiss wine and local bottled beers for refreshment. The afternoon was free to wander and the traffic-free Old Town was very pleasant, with lots of small shops and bars and it was lovely to sit in one of the bars by the River Aare for a cold afternoon beer. We then met in another old church for an organ recital where, once again, our President succumbed to 40 winks.

On the return journey we stopped at a mountain top restaurant for a fabulous Swiss themed evening with local musicians, yodelers and Alpine Horns players.

All in all a great day which was much enjoyed, very impressive and our programme must be good to match this experience.



Visit to the Shoe Factory Schönenwerd

Rtn Helen Morris

The Bally Schuhmuseum is located in the house of the founder of Bally, where he also set up his offices and early workshops. It contains exceptionally valuable collections which tell the story of shoemaking in the most diverse communities throughout the ages. It was one of the most important footwear museums in the

world, with more than 10,000 shoes, boots, and slippers of all types as well as various materials relating to their manufacture.

The Collection began at the end of 1800s, when the Bally family decided to search the world for interesting shoes to use as inspiration for their own manufacturing. They accumulated crates of shoes from North America, Persia, Turkey, the Far East and the lower Nile. The specimens were exhibited for the first time only in 1915 in a show at the Museum of Applied Arts in Zurich. The family also began to collect objects and art work depicting shoes. The museum opened in 1942. The Collection was located in the former residence of Carl Franz Bally, near the factory. The displays document the historical and cultural evolution of the shoe.

It was a lovely time visiting Switzerland and meeting fellow Contact Rotarians and really great to spend time and get to know fellow Banbury Rotarians and partners.



Contact in Banbury 2014

Contact coordinator Rtn John Bennett

The last time we hosted the Contact weekend was 2009, so a quick count up on the fingers tells me it's our turn next year – 2014. To plan this, we formed a committee about 6 months ago consisting of John Hansford, Tony Brace, Martin Phillips, Phil Cavill and myself. During this time we have held several meetings, discussed, spoken to and visited various venues to which we propose to take our guests and have finished up with a programme which we hope will entertain our visiting Rotarians and which we hope you will also enjoy and support our efforts.

I mentioned before that at the Presidents meeting in Italy last year, it was agreed that we should try to limit the amount of time spent travelling from venue to venue, in response to which we set ourselves a target not to travel more than 25 miles from Banbury, which we think we have achieved. Ron Barnett produced a small leaflet giving details of the programme, which was distributed to Contact guests in Switzerland. The Programme is:

Thursday 29th May. Tony has negotiated and arranged for our guests to arrive at our usual venue Banbury House Hotel during the afternoon to be introduced to and welcomed by their hosts. In the evening, those Rotarians hosting will entertain their guests for the evening, either in their homes or at a restaurant. Usually, several Rotarians club together to make up parties.

Friday 30th May. We will board coaches at around 9.30 a.m. and travel to Compton Verney, where as well as the regular art exhibits, there will be a special exhibition of Henry Moore & Rodin sculpture both in the gallery and the parkland around. Coffee will be served on arrival, we will be free to tour the gallery and grounds and a buffet lunch will be served in the Adam Hall.

We will then return to the coaches and be transported to Stratford arriving around 2.30 p.m. for guided tours of the refurbished RSC theatre. There will be free time to visit other sites within the town. At around 6.0 - 6.30 p.m. we will leave Stratford for Banbury and go straight to the Town Hall for a meal and hopefully some entertainment.

Saturday 31st May. At around 9.30 a.m., hosts to transport their guests to Broughton Grange for a tour of the gardens. Assembling at 10 a.m. for coffee, there will be a short introduction by the head gardener and then, armed with a map, we are free to wander.

At 12 o'clock, we will leave Broughton Grange and travel to the Wroxton House Hotel for a two course lunch, after which the afternoon is free time. Hosts can either take their guests for a look round the grounds of Wroxton Abbey (just down the road from Wroxton House Hotel) visit Banbury town, or, if they wish to learn the intricacies of the game of cricket (and provided there is a match on) some could go to the Banbury Cricket Club, enjoy an afternoon cup of tea, where a certain Rotarian Phillips will give a running commentary.

The evening Gala Dinner & Dance will be at Heythrop Park near Enstone, (about the same distance as the Gaydon Motor Museum was for our last Contact) arriving around 7 p.m. for a welcome drink in the baronial entrance hall – if it's a warm evening this could be on the terrace, the main function to be held in the newly refurbished Enstone Suite.

Sunday 1st June. Coaches around 10 a.m. to return our guests to their airport of departure.

So that's our programme. As well as being asked to limit the amount of time spent travelling from venue to venue, not surprisingly, the other request was to keep costs down. Apart from coaches collecting and returning our guests to the airports on Thursday and Sunday, we are only going to use coaches on the Friday – not the Saturday.

However, the largest cost of the weekend is hotel accommodation and this is where members can really make a difference by offering to host our visiting Rotarians in our own homes. Let's face it, it doesn't cost much to put up a couple of Rotarians - three mornings for breakfasts and one lot of sheets on the bed should last three nights – and it would make a terrific difference to the overall budget.

Speaking to several of our more long serving members, this home hosting is something which seems to have fallen by the wayside in recent years, but I know those who have done it in the past have made friendships which have endured for years. So please give it some serious thought and volunteer to put up a couple of visitors, even if you don't necessarily to go on Contact visits in the future – socialising with fellow Rotarians from around the world is one of the things that "Rotary is all about".

2 August 2013

Rtn Charles Swain

My Life

Hosted by Rtn Roger Worrall



Charles was born on 30 September 1923, making him nearly 90 years of age. His mother was Hilda Coleman; her father was the village blacksmith in Adderbury. His father was from London and came to Banbury to install a steam system at the then Hunt Edmunds Brewery. Unfortunately two days before Charles was born, his father was taken very ill with Blackwater Fever that he had contracted in the war and he never worked again. He was greatly assisted by the then recently formed Royal British Legion.

Charles grew up and went to school in Adderbury, leaving when he was 14. He joined the Air Defence Cadet Corps and its successor, the Air Training Cadets Banbury 1460 Squadron, of which he was a founder member. He believes that he is one of only four members still alive. Charles started work as an electrical apprentice at C. T. Walters Electrical contractors.

When Charles was 18 he joined the RAF in the Electrical Section of ground crew. In March 1943, he was transferred to a newly formed Squadron 617 under the command of Wing Commander Guy Gibson. Some weeks later the "Dambuster" raid took place. Charles later volunteered to become a Flight Engineer in

Lancasters, which he flew on 32 missions, including a raid was on a German Battleship, Tirpitz. He was demobbed in 1947 when he returned to his old job as an electrician with C. T. Walters, becoming a partner in the business in 1950.

Soon after the war Charles joined the Royal British Legion. In 1957 Charles was elected Chairman of the Adderbury Branch and he is still Chairman 56 years late. He went on to be the North Oxfordshire Chairman & County Chairman. Charles has also been involved with Adderbury Park Football since he was a youngster, playing for them and supporting them for over 83 years. Up until recently he would always attend their matches.

In 1971 Charles bought out C. T. Walters and the company became C. J. Swain Ltd, which expanded by starting a plumbing and heating company. In 1975, he started Menvier Electronic Engineers Ltd manufacturing emergency lighting equipment and later Fire Alarms. This business expanded from 3 people in an attic (one of which was Roger Worrall) to over 400 employees in 1998, acquiring many companies over the years. In 1985 the holding company Menvier-Swain Plc with Charles as Chairman, listed on the Unlisted Securities Market. The group also acquired Westminster Security Systems Ltd based in Banbury, installing Intruder Alarms & CCTV systems. In 1989 they installed the first colour town centre colour CCTV system in the UK, in Banbury. This company was subject to management buyout in 1996. In 1992, Menvier-Swain Plc was fully listed on the London Stock Exchange. In 1994, Charles stepped down as Chairman, finally leaving the Group and selling his shares in 1996. By 1998, there were over 2,000 Employees in the Menvier-Swain Group Plc, their turnover was then £115 million with £15 million profit. Later the group was acquired by a USA conglomerate Cooper Inc, who subsequently sadly closed the Banbury factories and many others moving manufacturing to China.

C. J. Swain Ltd was a member of the ECA electrical contractors association, In the early 1970's, Charles had been elected Chairman of the Oxon & Bucks Region, going on to serve on National Committees in various roles. In 1990 he became National President for a year.

Charles has a son by his first marriage, Chris, who moved to Australia in the mid 1990's and a grandson, Julian. His second wife Pauline sadly passed away this year after 20 very happy years. Pauline's daughter Kim and husband Tony have two children Tasha & Joshua, which provided him with a very loving family for many years. Recently Tasha has given birth to a great grandson.

Charles joined Rotary in 1969. His proposer was the late Rtn. Walter J. Smith, father of the late Rtn. John Smith who passed away in 2007. Over the years Charles has chaired nearly all of the committees and was President in 1981-82. Being a member of Rotary and this club has been a very important and enjoyable and fulfilling part of his life.

Charles has been a Freemason for nearly 50 years. He is also a member of the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers and a Freeman of the City of London, a Freeman of the Parish Skellingthorpe, and a Freeman of the City of Lincoln.

Charles thanked everyone for listening so intently and for no one going to sleep that he noticed.

9 August 2013
Ian Keable
Hosted by Rtn Simon Bion



On Friday 9 August Club came in for a real treat with our lunchtime speaker-- Ian Keable. Ian is a truly interesting and engaging entertainer who is described as a comic magician, mind reader, after dinner speaker and author.

On leaving Oxford University with a first class degree in politics, philosophy and economics he then trained as an accountant. Whilst pursuing this career he continued to develop his passion for magic and after several years moonlighting and perfecting his craft, he took the plunge and left the lofty world of finance to become a full time entertainer. A member of the Magic Circle, Ian continues to have a successful career in the show biz/entertainment world.

As an author he has shown his depth of knowledge and research by writing a book for the use of bone fide professional magicians only.

However we were privileged to hear Ian deliver a new aspect from his repertoire entitled “The Bottle Conjuror and William Hogarth”. I have to confess that as the talk unfolded I was struck by the originality of the material and the ability to draw out connections between a hoax of 1749 and the work of satirical cartoonists, particularly William Hogarth, through to Dickens time.

The hoax was conceived by John Montague, a noted prankster, who advertised that the London Haymarket theatre would be putting on a magical show where a conjuror would insert the whole of his body into a quart bottle. On the night of the show a packed theatre saw no act at all. This in turn led to a riot with the Haymarket theatre being all but destroyed and ransacked by the gullible punters.

Ian then illustrated how this prank became a reference point for many of the social commentators over the next 75 years. The bottle appearing in numerous satirical illustrations which Ian was able to show in great detail. Close ups of the small print within each of these revealed the not so obvious, but key messages, often attacking the establishment and the nonsense of leaders and events of the time.

This seamless, illustrated talk was delivered with great expertise and professionalism. Massive amounts of facts and figures were reeled off with consummate skill and an engaging sense of humour. For those of us who were there, Ian kept us captivated but possibly a little stunned by the complexity of the subject that was steeped in research and cleverly pieced together.

16 August 2013

Carole Humphris

The Seesaw Charity

**(Supporting bereaved children and adults in
Oxfordshire)**

Host Rtn Bernard Goodchild



Carole is well known to most Rotarians as a former President of Inner Wheel and daughter-in-law of Maurice and Rita Humphris. She has long been a supporter/volunteer for this valued local charity that was established in the year 2000.

SeeSaw helps children and their families both before and after a major bereavement, helping them to move forward and face the future with hope.

A quote from the website: “It just gave me a bit of peace when the wheels of my life came off” Parent

The Spring 2013 newsletter reported that the charity had provided help and comfort to the 3000th grieving child since the charity began its Oxfordshire-wide service. Some 2,000 local health professionals in the county have been trained, alongside many school teachers and are now aware and introducing families to the charity on a regular basis – changing lives and managing grief.

As a result of the work in Oxfordshire a large number of similar local charities have grown up in other locations throughout the UK offering similar services and support based on Oxfordshire as a Centre of Excellence.

Eight part time volunteer staff are employed for face to face coaching/mentoring support and the only paid individuals are the Director and an Events Organiser and Grant Manager. A new Director was appointed in May and came from a similar role in a National charity bringing with her a very wide ranging experience from within the charity and fundraising community.

There are eleven volunteer Trustees of the charity who effectively manage the organisation. The volunteer part time staff undergo 60 hours of training before undertaking face to face meetings in order that they might develop listening skills and provide sufficient space for the children in meeting their needs. In this respect the children are encouraged to take part in events and Carole commented that the feedback from them over time is that these provide a lot of fun at a difficult time.

No Government funding is received despite the fact that the charity provides its services across all five Local Authorities in Oxfordshire. Unpaid volunteers work within a short distance of their home (e.g. all those operating out of Banbury travel no further than five miles). There is no time limit to the provision of the support that is maintained until all parties are confident that the family member is coping satisfactorily.

Carole mentioned that she wishes to become a volunteer supporter for providing direct support to the bereave families and hope to start her 60 hour training period in the near future

Further information is available at www.SeeSaw.org.uk

Health & Safety is different abroad!



Events

July 14 Broughton Castle Cycle Run

Rtn Helen Braisby

Nail Game for Wheel Appeal once again in attendance. Despite the heat a fun day - initiation time for our new chairman - not sure he's got the hang of it yet - sitting with a hat over his eyes doesn't count! Waiting with pleasure on his assurance that committee meetings will be held in The Maldives.

Once us girls had shown the chaps how to erect the gazebo..... all systems go. My thanks to everyone who helped and supported us. We raised £60 towards our target pledge.

Weight Loss **Rtn Rupert Kipping**

Thirteen Rotarians joined a voluntary weight reduction programme. They were weighed initially and then decided on a desired target weight, usually something achievable such as 6 lbs.

(Most preferred stones/lbs rather than kilograms.) During four months they were weighed each week and if they were not down to the target weight, £1 was contributed to Rotary funds. When it was achieved no contribution was requested but they were congratulated and we all rejoiced.

Four people achieved the target weight and several others were very close. Everyone took it very seriously and a total of £81-80 was given to Rotary with cheerful good humour. The individual health benefits were much greater than the benefit to Rotary.

At the start we took note of the Body Mass Image for our target weight but at the end we decided that it was easier to use the waist/height measurement as a guide. The waist circumference should be no more than 50% of the height. If at the age of 35 the waist measurement is 85% of the height 20 years of life are lost.

Extract from a letter from DG John Greening

2014 Conference

Your District Conference team are confident that the plans for your conference at the Riviera Centre Torquay from March 21-23 2014 will fulfil all of those objectives. As you will have gathered from the Conference website our conference theme "We Can" is designed to do exactly that. Please take some time to go to the site and see what we have on offer and share it with your fellow Rotarians.

As a reminder our top-class speaker line-up includes:

- Arsenal & Scotland goalkeeping legend Bob Wilson,
- Transplant games medal winner Richard Burbidge
- Paralympic gold medal rower Naomi Riches
- Ben Mee who's taken a broken down zoo & built it up during a time of personal tragedy – yes it was him, not Matt Damon that Bought a Zoo.
- The Countess of Carnarvon on what it's like living in Downton Abbey
- Hudson river plane crash survivor Larry Snodgrass
- Past RIBI President Ray Burman on surviving 35 years in the police

Our entertainment line-up starts on Friday night with the Camborne Town Band, followed by the Original Military Wives Choir from Chivenor in North Devon. Saturday afternoon we've laid on a trip to Ben Mee's Dartmoor Zoo, a short coach ride from Torquay and our Saturday night Blue & Yellow party (the dress code is in the title – whatever you like as long as it's blue, yellow or both!) will feature music from Partydown. Uniquely, our Saturday night party will be spread across two adjoining rooms so that those who'd rather not have the music full on can do so, while still having the option to visit those who do!

In the light of the losses suffered by the 2013 Conference we have had to take a very prudent approach to budgeting for this year. There are therefore increases in registration and Saturday evening event costs. Registration per head will be £55 for registrations before 15th October (a £5 supplement will apply after that) and our Saturday night Blue & Yellow Extravaganza will be £48 each. We know we're providing you with great value for these costs and look forward to your attendance.

Editors Piece - Redistricting and Banbury

The number of Districts increased as membership of Rotary grew. Now RI proposes to reduce them across the world as membership reduces. This includes reducing the existing RIBI 29 Districts to 24 or less. There was an attempt last year, which met opposition on the basis of a lack of consultation, believed to be largely from those District Officers who might have lost out. Some voluntary changes though are going through.

I attended a recent District meeting as part of the current consultation, at the end of which we will all vote. It is suggested that there would be various benefits, possibly the greatest would be cost savings. It could address weaker Districts and so help sustainability and provide new opportunities. However, larger Districts would put more pressure on officers and resources. Districts provide a channel upwards and valued support to clubs, although the position here is affected by the unique position of RIBI. The view of the few that were at the meeting was that redistricting wouldn't affect clubs much, even those that move Districts. What clubs get from one District, they can get from another, albeit larger, District.

The greatest loss in redistricting would perhaps be one of relationships. Few clubs seem to work closely together, and Banbury rarely, so there is unlikely to be much affect. In any case redistricting wouldn't stop clubs working together where in a different district. Certainly some personal and working relationships could be affected. Banbury hasn't been greatly active in District for some time so there are perhaps few relationships that might be broken. The reasons may be varied. Is it distance? But we're in a small District compared to many worldwide. Banbury is a large and active club, we work hard and have a busy diary. So are we too busy to get involved in District? Whatever the reason we seem to be fiercely independent of District.

If Banbury doesn't wish to actively interact with District then it would seem that redistricting doesn't matter to us. Should Banbury move, say into a Midlands area, would that matter? If you think it does matter then now is the time to say, not after the decision has been made. Further information is available on the RIBI website and feedback is welcomed.

Some likely lads



We know the tale.

But what was this about?



I hope it wasn't Tony's participation in Rupert's weight loss programme.

Tony with his menu choice.

Around the Committees

At their August meeting **Membership and PR** discussed ideas for the Bulletin and are investigating options to make the website more attractive by looking at those of other clubs.

Fellowship & House: The 5th Friday on 29 November will be a normal lunchtime meeting. There will be no meeting on Friday 27 December.

Sports and Entertainment have booked 38 people in for the Last Night of the Proms in Birmingham on 11 April 2014. Rtms Cavill, Nutt and Goodchild have reached the finals of the District golf competition and have a chance of winning funds for Foundation.

Community and Vocation are trying to confirm the Street Organ collection dates. Some additional music has now been acquired. The committee are hoping to help an individual with funding for a motorised wheelchair.

International are looking to assist a former BGN Interactor who is going to Bolivia with the Tear Fund. There will not be a Dragon Boat event next year and alternatives are being investigated.

Youth Service heard that there is strong interest from previous participants for this year's Children Singing For Children. Arrangements for the 2014 Young Chef and Young Musician competitions are in hand. Megan, the last Young Chef winner, won the recent Banbury Food Fair 'Cook Off'. We will have speakers from Frank Wise School about RYLA later this month and the Committee hope Club will fund two more students next year. Judith, who is on an exchange visit to Belgium,

will be speaking to Club in November. Another sponsored exchange, to the USA, is possible.

The **Brodey Bursary** Committee has interviewed two candidates and confirmed that they meet the criteria for a bursary.

Council heard that BGN Interact are considering a link with Hillcrest in South Africa. It was also reported that there has been a positive response from local senior schools for a Children Singing for Children event for senior schools.

One problem

**we don't usually have
in this country.**





Alan Wolstencroft, Banbury Rotarian & Goodwill & Growth for Africa UK Trustee working with & supported by Rotary Clubs in the UK and Africa

“making a real difference in Sierra Leone”

Registered Charity 1092028

Waterloo School, Freetown

Earlier this year I put forward an idea to support this School, that I had visited in January, by building classrooms to extend the school as they had run out of space and were using temporary classrooms made of matting & wooden struts.

On August 3rd I received these photos showing destruction caused during the rainy season - both temporary classrooms have been rendered useless. It shows that although they built these as there was a desperate need it was not an ideal solution but the need was and is REAL and URGENT.



In addition to this the zinc roof was lifted off some of the block built classrooms and to replace and repair it just needed to be done to prevent further water damage and cancellation of classes. I had to act immediately so I funded the replacement roofing & the work is now complete.

This just demonstrates how fragile life is for these communities and at times I just need to get the job done and try and restore what little they have got.

Temporary classrooms are not the solution. Two permanent block built 6 metre square classrooms would cost £6,000.

The secondary school has 300 pupils BUT there are NO toilets – they have managed to dig a cess pit with money from the community and surplus school fees BUT this is as far as they have got.



My aim is to provide funding for the completion of the “long drop” toilet block as soon as possible and I have asked for an up to date figure for the completion of this project which I believe to be an essential part of the development of the school. A toilet block would cost only £850.

Calvary School, Lungi

The new classroom will open in September. So far I have funded the cost of 30 desk and bench sets for the room @ 30,000 Leones (£5) each. Many thanks to those who have supported this appeal – a few more to go yet.

Message From David Hitchcox

I have been donated a Laser Printer and 3 Toners which in theory will allow me to print up to 30,000 copies if the machine holds out.

If committees, such as Young Musician or Interviews need letters printing (**BLACK**) only I am happy to do them. Paper and computer copy must be supplied.

The top 10 funniest jokes from the Edinburgh Fringe

1. **Rob Auton** - "I heard a rumour that Cadbury is bringing out an oriental chocolate bar. Could be a Chinese Wispa."
2. **Alex Horne** - "I used to work in a shoe-recycling shop. It was sole-destroying."
3. **Alfie Moore** - "I'm in a same-sex marriage... the sex is always the same."
4. **Tim Vine** - "My friend told me he was going to a fancy dress party as an Italian island. I said to him 'Don't be Sicily'."
5. **Gary Delaney** - "I can give you the cause of anaphylactic shock in a nutshell."
6. **Phil Wang** - "The Pope is a lot like Doctor Who. He never dies, just keeps being replaced by white men."
7. **Marcus Brigstocke** - "You know you are fat when you hug a child and it gets lost."
8. **Liam Williams** - "The universe implodes. No matter."
9. **Bobby Mair** - "I was adopted at birth and have never met my mum. That makes it very difficult to enjoy any lapdance."
10. **Chris Coltrane** - "The good thing about lending someone your time machine is that you basically get it back immediately."

Editor: David Sullivan

Email: sullyhouse@googlemail.com Telephone: 01295 750460 Mobile: 07739 12205

Copy date: the last Friday of the month.

Honorary Secretary: Paul Gardiner

Email: paul.gardiner@btinternet.com Telephone: 01295 270465 Mobile 07976 404212

Extract from a letter received from ShelterBox

Your ShelterBox aid is helping a family in Haiti. When hurricane Sandy struck Haiti last year, severe floods destroyed tens of thousands of homes. As part of a ShelterBox Response Team, I helped deliver essential ShelterBox aid to vulnerable Haitian families. I am writing to tell you that your ShelterBox aid, in the name of 'The Rotary Club of Banbury', has been given to a family in desperate need: Box reference number UK0067770 Destination Haiti

I travelled to Fond Verrettes, an area near the Dominican Republic border: where an entire town was covered in rubble due to flash floods following the hurricane. Fortunately many families were evacuated to local shelters but they had no homes to return to. One of the villagers told me, 'After three hours my house began to crack and at the end of the night a big part of our house collapsed. We were forced to live under a tarpaulin until we received a ShelterBox tent. '

Thanks to your support, we already had ShelterBox aid pre-positioned in Haiti ready to be distributed quickly in case of a disaster. Working in partnership with experienced local organisations, we were able to reach vulnerable families living in very remote areas. Thanks to supporters like you, families who had lost everything were provided with somewhere safe to live and the basic equipment to survive while they rebuild their lives.

Once again, thank you.

James Webb (ShelterBox Response Team volunteer)

More on Health & Safety

