



## *The March Diary*

*1<sup>st</sup> Community & Vocational  
Committee*

*Classification &*

*Membership Committee*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Rotary Meeting*

*7<sup>th</sup> Crocus Concert*

*8<sup>th</sup> Foundation Committee*

*9<sup>th</sup> Crocus Concert*

*10<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting*

*13<sup>th</sup> Practice Interviews*

*15<sup>th</sup> Youth Services Committee*

*International Committee*

*16<sup>th</sup> Practice Interviews*

*17<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting*

*20<sup>th</sup> Club AGM*

*21<sup>st</sup> Sport & Entertainment  
Committee*

*22<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting*

*24<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting*

*District Conference (3 days)*

*31<sup>st</sup> Rotary 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Evening  
Meeting*

*For the full year's diary visit*

*[www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)*



## *President Owen's February round up*

After a relatively quiet January, it has been all guns blazing once again for our President. He has represented the Club at a variety of events outside our normal meetings, some of which are reported below, including Banbury Young Musician of the Year (due to which he was fortunate to miss a trip to Murrayfield to watch Scotland trounce his beloved Wales!), a bread and cheese buffet evening learning about the Antarctic from a recipient of the Polar Medal and a presentation at Katharine House Hospice.

Ed.

## *Speaker Reports*

*Chris Mason – Swift News*



At our Club meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 our speaker, Chris Mason, spoke to us about Swifts who visit the UK from Africa every summer.

The swift is a medium-sized aerial bird, which is a superb flier. It even sleeps on the wing! It is plain sooty brown, but in flight against the sky it appears black. It has long, scythe-like wings and a short, forked tail. It is a summer visitor, breeding across the UK, but most numerous in the south and east. It winters in Africa.

Chris explained to us how to identify Swifts and differentiate them from Swallows and Martins. Good hints are that a line of birds on a telephone wire won't be Swifts because they don't land and their legs have very little function given they live their whole life, apart from nesting, in flight. Equally they do not build a nest structure on the outside of building or eaves, but rather need to be able to gain access to buildings in order to nest.

Chris explained to us how Swift numbers are in serious decline. According to the British Trust for Ornithology there are over 40% fewer than there were 20 years ago.

There are several causes. Our use of insecticides means that there are far fewer insects these days and as Swifts are entirely insectivorous this obviously impacts badly on their food supply. Our climate and weather patterns are increasingly unpredictable and for a migrant bird this can cause serious losses and poor productivity. Finally loss of habitat. Swifts use small holes or crevices in the walls, or under the eaves or tiles of buildings to make a nest. They are very site faithful. Maintenance and improvements to buildings can easily result in nest sites being lost. Modern buildings are unsuitable for Swifts unless special provision is made.

So the aims of the Cherwell Swifts project are to -

- identify places where Swifts are nesting and by generating greater local awareness and interest (through talks, walks and attendance at local events) to try to look after and protect those nest places and
- promote the use of Swift nesting bricks in new buildings and developments, and of nest boxes in suitable places.

Swifts can be seen in the UK between April and August and obvious screaming parties of them will circle in the sky during this period. Chris is always eager to hear about Swifts' nest places or

screaming parties in Banbury or in other Cherwell towns and village to help in this project and can be contacted with such reports by email - [mason@cando.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:mason@cando.eclipse.co.uk).

President Owen Kyffin

*Victoria Prentis – Impressions as a new MP*



Victoria Prentis shared her experiences in parliament since the 2015 election with Banbury Rotary Club on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017. She advised club members that all normal politics had stopped since BREXIT and that now and for the foreseeable future that was going to remain the main parliamentary focus. She was at pains not to argue the rights or wrongs of Brexit accepting that the decision had been taken and that it was now up to the government to obtain the best deal for the country.

She spoke passionately about her fight to maintain acute services at The Horton. She reminded us that she had been fighting this battle for more years than is gallant to write in this report.

In answer to a question from the floor she spoke with great compassion about the plight of Syrian refugees including those unaccompanied children in France, Italy and Greece. She referred to her own fund raising work in this area through Singing for Syria.

After answering several searching and erudite questions from the floor, Rotarian Illot managed to lower the tone asking if there was any parliamentary gossip Victoria could share. She obliged, much to the delight of the audience but only after having gained assurance that this would stay 'off the record'. I will however, record that

she gave by far the most eloquent 'Ooohhh.....' that I, and many others, have ever heard.

In proposing a vote of thanks, Rotarian McHugh asked all members to consider the great privilege we in Britain enjoy in having such an accessible political class. He added that Victoria's visit and talk was a real example of accessible parliamentary democracy in action. On behalf of the club, he thanked her for her hard work in parliament and for her sterling work in trying to regain and retain acute services at The Horton.

Rtn. Andrew McHugh

#### Michelle Miller - Preventing Crime



Michelle is our Crime Prevention Officer covering north and west Oxfordshire, having previously been a serving police officer.

As Michelle's talks normally last an hour she kindly abbreviated it simply to make us aware of the areas where we can take precautions and be more aware of the sorts of situations that can happen.

Michelle brought leaflets with her which, she explained, covered areas from burglar alarms (and approved suppliers) to internet scams (secure sites with padlocks shown) via security for garden sheds, boats and wallets/purses (the little bells).

Smart Water was explained - it is supplied by two companies and according to whom it is supplied can be traced through its colour and DNA. Therefore if it is used via a sprinkler system or on, say, jewellery then either criminals or stolen items can be traced. Marker pens (which were also there for us to pick up) can be used on items such as laptops, TVs etc. Apparently if items found in suspicious circumstances cannot be traced back to

the lists of stolen property they have to be returned to the person who had them in their possession.

It is imperative that we photograph our treasured items, particularly if we haven't got receipts, not only for the police but also our insurers. Serial numbers where appropriate should be recorded. We could also mark gardening items in sheds by painting our postcodes on items to make it awkward for thieves to sell.

Also on display for members to take home were the "message in a bottle" containers. These contain a paper on which people can write their medication details and allergies together with their name and address. These bottles are put in the fridge (which usually resists fire) with a special sticker for the door and a glass pane at the front of the house which is recognised by the emergency services.

Questions were then answered.

Rotarian Malcolm Dobb as the speaker host reiterated how useful the containers are to the emergency services as he was involved with its rollout in Oxfordshire back in the nineties by Lions clubs (who initiated the idea) in Abingdon and Witney. He also urged members to take home the leaflets and Michelle stated that if any more are required we should contact her. Also she didn't want to carry the stuff back to the police station.

Rotarians showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

As an aside Michelle was a museum curator before becoming a police officer which stood her in good stead for attending our meeting!

And finally she didn't have too much to carry back to her office and Rotarian Maurice Humphreys gave her a lift back to the police station in his car registration 999.....!!

Rtn. Malcom Dobb

#### Nick Irvine - School leaver aged sixty four and a half

We were delighted to welcome Nick to our meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Nick entertained us greatly with his recollection of a career encompassing education, hockey commentating, marketing and retirement.





Nick's own schooldays were generally happy ones, no bullying, no abusive teachers beyond the normal expectations of a clip around the ear or a flying board duster. He was beaten once and when ultimately proved to be innocent he was told that it made up for all the times he had got away with it in the past.

Nick described himself as, "not a natural academic". Indeed he said he was, "bone idle". He did, however, manage to gain entry to Leamington College for Boys, a Grammar School upon which the Head of his Junior School sent him a card, "Congratulations on baffling the Leamington College Authorities" His parents laughed loud and long over that remark but Nick put it down to natural selection of the brightest and best.

Nick summed up what school really gave him; opportunity, values, character and attitudes. Opportunity came via great teachers, dedicated and with skills outside their topic areas, giving freely of their time to coach sports, rehearse music, stage plays, run scout troops and other extracurricular activities. He felt that teachers have not changed but teaching has changed beyond recognition. Parents are litigious, health and safety considerations threaten to de-risk everything in life apart from the risk of sheer boredom and being buried alive under a mountain of paperwork.

Nick retired as House Parent and Director of Marketing at Bloxham School 18 months ago, since when new opportunities have opened up. He writes a column for the weekly 'Hockey Paper' and has joined an old hockey friend from Holland in a new sports sponsorship and marketing company so retirement is on the back burner for a while.

Nigel Halfpenny

## *Around the Committees*

### *Foundation – Purple4Polio Crocus Concerts*

At Banbury Rotary Clubs' Purple4Polio Crocus Concerts On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 120-150 students each evening will entertain audiences with a fabulous selection of musical numbers and styles.

Choirs, ensembles and soloists from each school will present their choice of items for a 15-minute set and each concert will end with a rousing finale of combined choirs.



On Tuesday the items from Blessed George Napier, Bloxham, Chenderit and Tudor Hall include a sixties hits selection, choral pieces by Faure, Howard Goodall and Charles Wood, plus numbers from Little Shop of Horrors and Phantom of the Opera.



On Thursday chosen items by students from Banbury Academy, North Oxfordshire Academy, Sibford and The Warriner include a piece from Les Miserables, the Eurhythmics "Sweet Dreams" with Samba Band and choir, Adele's Skyfall, a piano

duet, solo performances and the Choir of St John's Primary School with a special performance of the eponymous number from Banbury's annual "Children Singing for Children" concerts.

The rousing finale items each night will be Gary Barlow's "Sing!", "You raise me up" and "World in Union".

#### *Full programmes:*

##### *Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March*

*BGN: Be my baby - Barry/Greenwich/Spector; I'm into something good- Goffin/King; All I have to do is dream - Bourdleaux Bryant*

*Why do fools fall in love?- Frankie Lymon; Let's hang on- Crewe/ Linzer/ Randell; Happy Ending- Mika*

*Bloxham: Cantique de Jean Racine - Faure; Oculi Omnium - Charles Wood; Hold Back the River - James Bay*

*Chenderit: Skid Row & Suddenly Seymour from Little Shop of Horrors; Seasons of Love*

*Tudor Hall: Phantom of the Opera - Lloyd Webber; Love Divine - Howard Goodall (Small group); Oceans - Seafret (duet); Na Na Na - Olusola, Parks; vocal solo sung by Mary Eckert*

*Massed Choirs Finale: Sing! - Gary Barlow/Andrew Lloyd Webber; You raise me up - Brendan Graham/Rolf Lovland; World in Union - Holst/Skarbek*

##### *Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March:*

*Banbury Academy: Take me to Church by Hozier; Human by Rag N Bone Man; Bring Him Home from Les Miserables; Phoebe Brogden - Solo*

*NOA: Trouble Mash-Up (Trouble - Iggy Azalea & Jennifer Hudson, Brooklyn - Theo Katzman, Clarity - Zedd & Foxes & Mercy - Shawn Mendes); Man In The Mirror (Michael Jackson) - Choir, featuring Deslynn Smith; Sweet Dreams (Eurythmics) - Samba Band & Choir*

*Warriner: Adele - Skyfall; John Legend - All of Me; piano duet - Ludovico Einaudi*

*Sibford: to be announced*

*St John's: Children singing for Children*

#### *Community & Vocational – Street Organ Collection Presentation*

The Rotary Club of Banbury on Friday 24 February hand over a cheque for £4,000 to Katharine House Hospice. The money came from the annual street organ collection held at Sainsbury and Tesco Banbury stores over four days leading up to Christmas.



Rotary president Owen Kyffin said how delighted he had been with the generosity of customers and the stores. The Club was proud of its long association with Katharine House and its wonderful work for our communities.

Seen presenting the cheque to Justine Williams and Wendy Crosse are President Owen plus Rotarians Simon Bion, John Webb and Andrew Fairbairn.

Rtn. Simon Bion

## *Events*

### *Banbury Young Musician of the Year*



Finals of the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Banbury Young Musician of the Year competition organised by the Rotary Club of Banbury took place at Tudor Hall on Saturday (25<sup>th</sup> February). The panel of expert judges congratulated all entrants on their high standard of musicianship and Rotary President Owen Kyffin praised everyone for the way they had clearly developed their talents through regular practice. He



thanked Rotarian Gareth Jeremy for his commitment to the competition throughout its 27 years. These thanks were echoed by Town Mayor Gordon Ross, who, along with the rest of the audience thoroughly enjoyed a 15-minute masterclass from last year's winner Venetia Moir, who entertained and educated the audience during the judging with a brief history of the recorder, playing all five different versions of the instrument in a 'whistle stop' tour of pieces composed through seven centuries.

Rtn. Fred Riches

### *Dogs for Good*

As a result of The Club's support via the Children Singing for Children concerts, on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February Rotarians Jonathan Meredith and Helen Morris visited Dogs for Good near Middleton Cheney. There were a lot of other people invited to have a talk about how the dogs are trained to be the helper for someone who need's their support.

Melanie, with the young dog Watson that she was training, explained how she threw/dropped items and he would pick them up for her. Also if she wanted to have him pull something strongly, like the bottom of a wheelchair to get her feet to the ground, Watson did well. Then of course if she wanted to take off her jacket or cardigan the dog would more gently pull it off from her. She would give him a small treat every time to let him know that he was rewarded for doing the job. However, when he had his main meal later on, it would be reduced so that he would not be over eating and put on too much weight.

We then went into a larger area where there were people with their dogs and sponsors (those who had done the puppy walking) and we had cups of tea or coffee with lovely pieces of cake as they chatted to us in small groups about how they had also been trained how to have their dog supporting them and also respecting that the dog would also have time to relax and just be a dog. The recipients of the dogs varied from an adult in a wheelchair, a physically handicapped child and a boy suffering autism and it was very satisfying knowing that the help which the club had given via CSFC was being put to autism.

Then three of them were awarded with certificates. Kindly one gentleman's dog was now too old and whilst he had taken on a younger dog, he and his wife had still kept the original one

which I thought was lovely. Thankfully there are people who support those who can't look after two when they obviously can only cope with one dog's support.

Apparently there is a Dogs for Good Fun Day on 17th June which is Free admission. For more details and how to entre your dog visit: [www.dogsforgood.org/fun-day-2017](http://www.dogsforgood.org/fun-day-2017)

Rtn. Helen Morris

### *Antarctic Evening*



### **Buffet Presentation at Banbury Cricket Club**

Alan Carroll, Historical Adviser to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust and recipient of the Polar Medal, gave an in depth and technical insight into the conditions in the Southern Continent together with an overview of research undertaken there including, inter alia, matters relating to the ionosphere, global warming and radio communications.

Many of the audience remained afterwards to socialise and view displays of a selection of projects supported by the Club.

A sum in the region of £570 was raised.

Ed.

## *Weekly Meeting Duties for March 2017*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&amp;H in charge</u>
03-Mar	N Yeadon G Anker I Anthistle R Barnett A Bedding M Budd	J Bennett S Bion	M Dibb	S Crump
10-Mar	B Cornley N Deakin J Donaldson M Douglas A Fairbairn P Gardiner	J Brodey I Calderbank	N Halfpenny	M Humphris
17-Mar	B Goodchild J Hansford C Hughes K Manning H Matthews S Kershaw	G Jeremy T. Iles	S Maxwell	A Ilott
24-Mar	J Meredith R Nurden M Nutt M Phillips G Pollard S Porter	A McHugh H Morris	N Randall	R Kipping
31-Mar	Evening Meeting Waitress Service	F Riches I Rodrick		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 March & April*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
3 Mar	Julia Cooper	Drop the anchor in to the world of cruise	Ian Rodrick
10 Mar	Joan Greening	Shakespeare Schools Festival District Conference Bournemouth	Ian Calderbank
17 Mar	Rtn. Jonathan Meredith	Longer Serving Member	Nigel Yeadon
24 Mar		Fellowship Meeting	
31 Mar	Peter Bussey	God Particle	Fred Riches
7 Apr	Russell Fowler	The History of Toastmasters	Ron Barnett
14 Apr	Good Friday	No meeting	
21 Apr	Susanna Jeffery	Life in the Territorial Army	Andrew McHugh
28 Apr	Edith Sim	Parkinson's UK	Tony Wiltshire