



The September Diary

- 1st Rotary Meeting
- 4th District Council
- 6th Community & Vocational
Committee
- Classification &
Membership Committee
- 8th Rotary Meeting
- 13th Foundation Committee
- 15th Rotary Meeting
- 19th Sports & Entertainment
Committee
- 20th Youth Services Committee
International Committee
- 22nd Rotary Meeting
- 27th Council Meeting
- 29th Rotary Evening Meeting

For the full year's diary visit
www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk



President's Pen for August

August has been a fairly quiet month on the Rotary front but we have continued with our weekly meetings and some good Friday speakers - many thanks to Nigel Halfpenny for all his work co-ordinating this aspect of the Club programme.

On August 4th our second Vice President Surinder Dhesi spoke to the Club about her visit to India and told us about the orphanage she had visited in the Punjab which the Club had given some financial support to - it is always good to hear that money we have raised has gone to projects that we know are worthy of support and we get direct feedback as to the value of our donation.

On August 11th Anna Tait gave us a very interesting talk about the youth cricket set up at Banbury Cricket Club and impressed us all with her passion about supporting young people in the sport that is such a big part of her life. It was good to hear about the "Youth Opportunity" that Banbury Cricket Club offers to a large number of girls and boys of all abilities.

On August 18th Eunice Harradine told us all about Operation Christmas Child - probably better known to most of us as The Shoebox Scheme. She explained the process of collecting and distributing the aid and told of many heart-warming stories as a result of the scheme. I am hoping that we as a Club may be able to offer some form of support for the scheme later in the year.

August 25th was a Fellowship meeting - a bit like Marmite - you either love them or hate them! I felt that it was an issue that warranted some discussion from the members and it provoked a very healthy debate, involving a great deal of Banbury Rotary Club banter, and I feel that the outcome to continue with them was a good democratic decision. Even some members who were

staunch opponents of the format agreed that it had been a very good meeting. The culmination was an anecdotal story from Bob Thompson regarding his ride on mower which had us all in stitches and ended the meeting on a high.

On Sunday 20th August Stephen & Clare Jakeman once again hosted Stephens Summer Steaming in their gardens. We were blessed with good weather, food and fellowship and also raised over £500 for Rotary Foundation. Sincere thanks to Stephen & Clare and the members of the Foundation Committee for all their hard work in organising the event. Numbers were down and several people were questioning whether the event had run its course - for what it's worth my opinion is that if 45 people had a great afternoon of Fellowship and we raised a good amount of money then it was worth all the effort.

On 23rd August Tim Bryce set off from Lechlade to walk the length of the Thames path to Teddington, a distance of 128 miles, quite a feat for a young man of 80!! Tim is being followed by Dave, a friend for a number of years, skippering Tim's narrowboat giving him flexibility on how far he walks on a daily basis. So far along the route he has been joined by Fred & Sue Riches (twice), Andrew & Nicola McHugh and myself. At the end of August Tim had reached Sonning. I am pleased to report that today myself, Paul & Jenny Gardiner and Malcolm Dibb met Tim at Henley and walked with him to Cookham where we stopped for lunch and waved him off for a short section which saw him arrive at Maidenhead by tea time on Sunday 3rd September. He has completed 95 miles of his Trek and is looking to reach Teddington by the end of next week. What a great challenge and we all wish Tim well for the remaining few days.



On August 29th I attended the Banbury Cherwell Rotary Clubs Banbury Sportive presentation evening at Broughton Castle and accepted a cheque for £250 for our efforts in helping run the refreshment stall at their cycling event. Many thanks to all the members who gave up their time to help with this event.

President Alan Wolstencroft

Speaker Reports

William Haynes and Sebastian Johnson – Brodey Bursary Scholars



Both speakers are taking a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering at Birmingham University.

William Haynes has completed three years of his degree and claimed to be on course for a First in his finals. He explained how valuable the Rotary Bursary has been, giving him more time for his studies when the other students were obliged to get jobs to make ends meet.

Sebastian Johnson was also very complimentary about the value to him of the Rotary Bursary, saying that it enabled him to buy a laptop and give him extra time when he would have had to get a job to make ends meet.

He told us that he spent a lot of his spare time involved with the 'Formula Student', an international competition for university engineering students to design and build the best racing car.

Some 120 teams took part from afar afield as India, all working to the same regulations and culminating with a meeting at Silverstone; the best five cars going forward to be judged by executives from the F1 industry. This further assessment was not just about speed but took into consideration cost of construction, safety, appearance, aerodynamics etc.

Sebastian's contribution was the design and manufacture of the carbon fibre elements, including the wheels and the down force wings, which were complimented by Lotus and could point the way to his future prospects.

Ed - He might like to make contact with two of my clients - Mercedes GP Petronas and Red Bull Racing!

Birmingham University came first in the endurance event and second overall for dynamic design.

Sebastian now intends to take a year out before going back to complete the final year of his degree.

Rtn. John Brodey

Ed - this was a great example of the benefit of the Brodey Bursary with both students demonstrating their commitment to, and abilities within, the engineering sector.

Surinder Dhesi – My Trip to India



Surinder talked about the Unique Home Charity which operates an orphanage in Jalandhar. Although having heard about the scheme and supportive of the principles involved, typically she undertook research to check upon its application in practise before declaring her support.

She, therefore, arrived unannounced at the orphanage and was shown around by one of the orphans as the founder, Mrs Parkash Kaur, was out at the time. Indeed, Surinder has now visited twice.

Mrs Parkas Kaur had been abandoned in a gutter as a baby girl but was saved by volunteers. Subsequently she has made it her sole duty in life to rescue baby girls who have been abandoned by their families (having been perceived as an unbearable financial liability whereas boys are considered to be a future benefit) through providing a sanctuary for them where they benefit from love, care, education and preparation to be able to live independently as an adult.

Surinder thanked club members for the financial support given to the Unique Home Charity via the funds raised at an event in 2016.

Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn

Eunice Harradine – Christmas Shoe Box



Eunice Harradine gave a most interesting illustrated presentation of what is probably best known to us as the Shoe Box Scheme, with which she has been involved for 15 years, most of this time as the leading light and driving force locally. The scheme was founded by three people who were horrified by the conditions in Romanian Orphanages and wanted to do something to brighten the lives of the children who live in them. The scheme became more formalized and expanded greatly when Samaritan's Purse became involved. Samaritan's Purse is a Christian organization whose aim is to show love to needy children across the world and to share the Christian message. They do not discriminate in any way, if a child is needy they are not concerned about their religious background, as many as

possible are given gift filled shoe boxes whatever their faith or those with none.

Shoe boxes are filled with useful, interesting and fun items as Christmas presents for children of various ages, these are transported from the United Kingdom to countries where there is a particular need, often for reasons of economy, being transported by foreign lorries which would otherwise return empty to their own countries. There are 7 countries in Eastern Europe, 3 in mid-Asia, and 5 in Africa who I believe receive gifts from the UK and Western Europe. From North America shoe boxes go mainly to Central and South America. Similar to Rotary, Operation Christmas Child ensures that their gifts go where they are intended to go, they have partnerships with Christian groups in the various countries who look to the reception and distribution of the shoe boxes. Eunice herself has made a trip to Belarus and helped with the distribution of shoe boxes which she found to be an emotional experience. In 2016 2,750 boxes went from the Banbury area, 882,647 from the whole of the UK, and in total 11,213,010 were sent worldwide.

Such a simple way to bring happiness to deprived children, but calling for a great deal of dedication and work from Eunice and her helpers.

Rtn. Maurice Humphris

Ed - more information can be found on www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk.

Events

Stephen's Summer Steaming



The sun shone on Stephen's Summer Steaming on Sunday 24th August. A BBQ, train rides, tennis, or croquet all helped to make the afternoon a special

time for our members, families, and friends. Even President Alan was entrusted with being the train driver, which he did with much aplomb.

As well as a fantastic social afternoon, the event raised over £500 for Rotary Foundation.

Our special thanks must go to Clare and Stephen Jakeman for allowing us the very immense pleasure of invading their beautiful garden.

Having fun and helping others is truly a Rotary activity.

Rtn. Ron Barnett

Tim Bryce's Thames Walk



Scenic views like this are wonderful, but how many of us would be prepared to walk 128.5 miles to enjoy them? Especially at the age of 80.



Full marks to Tim Bryce who is on track to complete the walk from Lechlade (the source of the River Thames) to Teddington (where it becomes tidal) by early September notwithstanding unexpected and

poorly directed detours, excessive heat at times with intermittent rainfall.

Whilst Tim has already been joined by a number of club members en-route, plans are afoot for a gathering to welcome him at the finish. You can keep up to date with his progress on the Club website where Tim is writing a daily blog (traditionally known as a diary!!).

Tim is raising funds in aid of Alans Africa relating to projects in Sierra Leone. More information on this will be in the next edition of the Bulletin to coincide with Tim's successful completion of his challenge.



Future Events – 16th Year of our Annual Series of Primary School Concerts

The new school year begins for most children this week. For us at Banbury Rotary this means we must get cracking on this autumn's "Children Singing for Children" Concerts. We already have 27 acceptances from local primary schools. (There is space for just one more school.) Our invitations were sent out back in June to all schools in the Banbury area.

This will be the 16th annual series of concerts. They will take place as usual at St Mary's Church, Banbury and will run from Monday 6th to Thursday 9th November. Choirs from seven schools will be singing at each concert. The massed choir finale each evening will again see up to 175 children singing our theme song "Children Singing for Children", "Sing!" and "World in Union!"

Children's causes for this year will include the Sierra Leone Schools projects initiated by Alan Wolstencroft (our Club President for the coming year), Purple4Polio - Rotary International's project to safeguard children against polio and eradicate

the disease - and a local children's charity as yet to be decided.

Over the past fifteen years around £70,000 has been shared amongst the chosen charities as a result of Children Singing for Children Concerts at St Mary's in Banbury. The Rotary Club of Banbury is proud to be associated with the local primary schools (almost 40 in total) that have been our partners in this venture since 2001.

Rtn. Fred Riches

Notes from Council (23rd August)

International Committee's "Meal and Rotary's got Talent" will now be raising funds for the Guru Assra Trust - an organisation providing support and education for female orphans in India.

Club with other Organizations will help the next Syrian Refugee Family to arrive in Banbury. Any White goods and good quality furniture donated can be stored until required. Please contact the President if you can help.

Next District Council Meeting is on 4th Sept, 6.45pm at Henley on Thames - President to attend.

New format for Club Diary (printable) is now available on our website.

Free Funds stand at £1,831.16. £5,000 in reserve in General Trust Funds. Internet banking has been set up.

Funding Requests of £300 for Practice Interviews, £800 for Calvert Trust project and £2,000 for Young Musician were received.

Stephen's Summer Steaming was a great success, enjoyed by over 45 people and raised £550 for Foundation. Many thanks to Stephen and Clare for organizing this event.

District Conference to be held at Cheltenham Race Course on 23rd to 25th March 2018. Rtn Ian Rodrick to organize for our Club.

Canal Day is back on! Club to support on Sunday 1st Oct.

Working Party has been set up to assist Rtn. Paul Gardiner in preparation for the Contact visit to Banbury in 2019.

Rtn. Peter Wilkins

Weekly Meeting Duties for September 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
01-Sept	A Bedding J Brodey M Budd I Calderbank P Cavill N Deakin	J Bennett S Bion	B Cornley	M Humphris
08-Sept	S Dhesi J Donaldson M Douglas A Fairbairn P Gardiner B Goodchild	J Hansford H Braisby	H Matthews	S Crump
15-Sept	O Kyffin K Manning A McHugh H Morris M Nutt M Phillips	J Meredith G Jeremy	R Nurden	A Ilott
22-Sept	G Pollard N Randall S Porter D Richardson P Richardson F Riches	P Shea J Smith	R Thompson	R Kipping
29-Sept	Evening Meeting	I Rodrick P Thomas		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 August & September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
1 Sept	Paul Burnett	Safeguarding	John Webb
8 Sept	David Pope	District Governor	Alan Wolstencroft
15 Sept	John Bennett	Longer Serving Member	Martin Phillips
22 Sept	Wendy & Laura Martin	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People	Alan Wolstencroft
29 Sept	Nick Irvine	An Educated guess	Nigel Halfpenny
6 Oct	Russell Fowler	Toastmasters	Ron Barnett
13 Oct	Sharon Graham	Citizens Advice Volunteers	David Richardson
20 Oct	Julia Styles/Philip Fine	Meningitis Awareness	Andrew Fairbairn
27 Oct	Chris Weight/Lise Jamieson	Welcoming Syrian Refugees in Cherwell	Fred Riches