



## The November Diary

- 1<sup>st</sup> Community & Vocational Committee
  - Classification & Membership Committee
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Rotary's Got Talent
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Rotary Meeting
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Inner Wheel Auction of Promises
  - 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Children Singing for Children Concerts
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Foundation Committee
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Parade
  - 15<sup>th</sup> International Committee Sports & Entertainment Committee
  - 17<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Youth Services Committee International Committee
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting
  - 24<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Banbury Cherwell Wine Tasting Evening
- For the full year's diary visit [www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)



## President's Pen for October

Another month has flown by and we are now approaching a really busy couple of months in the Club calendar - I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have been working hard behind the scenes to plan and prepare for these events which are both great community and fundraising events.

Sadly this month John Phillips, a member of the Club for 36 years, passed away and our thoughts are with Jean and the family. John was President in 1991-2 and a really active member of the Club throughout his membership and he will be sadly missed.

Once again we have had a varied programme of speakers and I will leave you to read the reports in the Bulletin. I know one should not have favourites but the presentation about Meningitis awareness by Julia Styles, accompanied by Philip Fine, outlining her personal story was probably the most emotive talk I have heard in my time as a Rotarian.



We started the month at Banbury Canal Day with several of our members running a Tombola stall and ensuring that Rotary had a presence at this popular community event - thanks to the four members who spent all day there, two of whom also supplied most of the prizes.

On 12th Surinder arranged a “bag pack” for the 2 Young Carers from Banbury School that we are supporting to go on a trip to Cern and the event raised a total of £354 towards their funds. Many thanks to Surinder and to John Webb and Andrew Fairbairn who looked after the students on the day.



On 19th October I attended the “Meet the Scholars” event at the Four Pillars Hotel in Oxford. 20 out of the 22 scholars being hosted within District 1090 were present and gave short presentations regarding their background and studies and I was really impressed by all of them and look forward to hearing some of them speak during the year.

Our scholar this year is Samuel Ritholtz, who is being sponsored by District 7620 in the USA and hosted by Martin & Annie Philips and I must thank, on behalf of the Club, Martin & Annie for once again hosting our Scholar and all that it involves. I invited Vanessa Picker, last year’s scholar who was awarded the Clarendon Bursary enabling her to study for a DPhil at Jesus College, and I enjoyed the company of two very intelligent and articulate young people who we as a Club and Rotary should be very proud to support.

On 21st October I, along with 6 other members of the Club, attended the 20th Charter of Banbury Cherwell, our daughter Club, at the Banbury House Hotel - a really enjoyable evening was had by all.

President Alan Wolstencroft

*Very positive comments were made by the staff and customers about the conduct of the two young carers at the M&S bag pack. They were a credit to their school. With the help of the Club they will be running a raffle at an Xmas Fair in order to raise more funds.*

Ed.

## Speaker Reports

### Russell Fowler – Toastmasters



Russell Fowler was the speaker on 6<sup>th</sup> October, he attended the meeting dressed in his Toast Master regalia red long tail jacket etc. and officiated for the President throughout the meeting.

Russell explained that a few years ago he went through a divorce and then lived with his mother, she unfortunately became ill and he had to give up his job to care for her. Previously he had worked in office based positions, the latter being Ontime Global Automotive Transport Services Division, Europe’s largest prestige car delivery service provider.

A friend and his now fiancée suggested that he become a funeral celebrant and toast master which after undergoing extensive training he now is.

Russell then explained the history of Toast Masters. For over 300 years the role of Toastmaster has been a unique position in English society where its recognisable history began with Richard ‘Beau’ Nash in the town of Bath around 1705.

Nash became assistant to the City’s then Master of the Ceremonies, King Webster, soon after arriving

in Bath and after Webster's death he himself was appointed Master of the Ceremonies. He held the position for over 65 years and through the reign of 3 English monarchs. Wearing a coloured frock coat, knee breeches, black stockings and black silver-buckled shoes, Nash wielded a black cane which he would bang on the floor to gain attention. His style of dress was the accepted dress code until towards the end of the 19th century.

In 1894 William Knightsmith became increasingly annoyed at being addressed as a waiter by members of the assembled companies that he was attending to. His wife suggested that he changed the colour of his coat to make him stand out. In that same year he first wore his new scarlet jacket, much to the amusement of other Toastmasters, who saw it ridiculed him and thought it a joke.

This was seen by the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, he led applause and approved of the 'hunting pink' coat. Within a year virtually all Toastmasters in London were wearing this colour.

Russell mentioned that he now acts as a funeral celebrant two or three times a week and is involved as Toast Mater at various other events such as Corporate Dinners and Dinner Dances, Themed Banquets, Gala Balls, Masonic Ladies Festivals and Receptions, Birthday Parties, Anniversaries, Cocktail Parties, Civic Lunches and Banquets, Award Ceremonies and Conferences, Official Openings and Product Launches.

He is also the official Toast Mater for Blenheim Palace, his next major event is a Chinese couples wedding there.

Rtn. Roger Worrall

### *Sue Cook – Citizens Advice Volunteers*

On 13<sup>th</sup> October Sue Cook, the head of Citizens Advice North Oxon and South Northants (CA NOSN), gave the club an informative and succinct talk about the role of citizens advice in the local area.

In Cherwell and South Northants between April and June 2017.

4 locations where we provide free confidential advice; 1,840 people helped face to face, by phone, by email or webchat; 3,563 issues dealt with; 31 Clients prevented from homelessness.

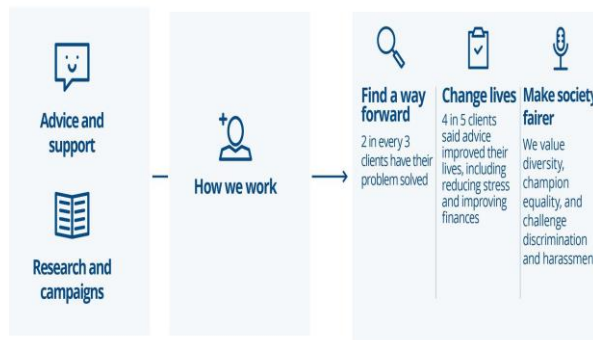
44% of clients have a disability or long term health issue.

Advice helps to prevent detriment occurring or escalating further, including where problems can affect other aspects of people's lives.

Client financial gains (*through income gains, debts written-off and repayments rescheduled*) achieved in period £1,189,675.



### How we help people find a way forward



### The Main Problems We Help With

Benefits and tax credits; Debt; Housing; Employment; Relationships & Family

How to access the Advice Service.

Face to face: venues in Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and Brackley.



Opening hours available on [www.caox.org.uk](http://www.caox.org.uk).

On the phone: General advice 03444 111 444;  
Consumer advice 03454 04 05 06.

Online [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk), advice via email and webchat.

Working in partnership with local authorities - Cherwell, South Northants & Oxford; Sanctuary Housing; NHS Primary Care Trust; Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action; Mind; restore; Refugee Resource; Communityfirst oxfordshire; aspire; BYHP; jobcentreplus and the Department for Works & Pensions; Shelter; Age UK; revenue benefits; lottery; SNVB; Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue.

Why Use Citizens Advice?

Our service is free, impartial and confidential.

Our service is for everyone.

Appointments not necessary.

Advisors are highly trained and skilled.

We are accredited by the Advice Quality Standard and the Financial Conduct Authority.

We match people looking for volunteering opportunities with voluntary organisations looking for volunteers.

[www.oxonvolunteers.org](http://www.oxonvolunteers.org).

We recruit volunteer drivers and broker journeys for people who cannot access public or private transport to medical and other appointments [info@volunteerconnect.org.uk](mailto:info@volunteerconnect.org.uk) Tel 0300 3030126

Volunteering Opportunities

Advisers and supervisors; Financial capability advisors; Administrators; Receptionist; Marketers; Fundraisers; Drivers; Journey brokers; Volunteering brokers; Researchers;

Campaigners; IT and media; Trustees.

[recruitment@citizensadvicenosn.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@citizensadvicenosn.org.uk)

Research and Campaigns

- Identify developing trends nationally and locally
- Use clients' experience and stories to campaign for positive change

- We speak up about the policies and services that cause people problems

- We lobby the government to change policy to prevent further issues

How you might help us further

- Sharing this message

- Fundraising

- Marketing and profile raising

- Referring people to our services

It was noted that Citizens Advice had dropped Bureau from the name as part of an attempt to underline to users and clients that the charity was not part of the establishment. Many agencies in fact regularly advise people that they should refer any questions to Citizens Advice and thus there are those who believe that Citizens Advice is part of government or the Local Authority. It remains an independent charity who do receive some grants but rely mainly on charitable donations.

Rtn. David Richardson

### *Julia Styles and Philip Fine – Meningitis Awareness*



Julia and Philip gave a joint presentation.

Julia described the experience of losing her 19 year old daughter, Emily, to meningitis within a period of 6 hours spanning New Year's Eve 2013 and New Year's Day 2014. There being none of the usual symptoms. Julia's talk was understandably

emotional and in describing Emily left the audience in no doubt of the devastating impact on her family, both then and now.

Julia's positive response to this tragedy has been to work with the Meningitis Now charity to champion the introduction of vaccines and improve the distribution of information. The situation has subsequently improved in that:

1. The MenACWY vaccine is offered free to all 17- and 18-year-olds and university freshers under 25 because students are particularly at risk;
2. The MenB vaccine is offered free to all babies born after 1 May 2015; and
3. Otherwise it can be paid for privately £110 per dose (for 2 doses).

However, she referred to the 'lost generation' i.e. those born before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 and under the age of 17 and continues to argue for the removal of this anomaly and to promote awareness of the availability of the vaccines.

Although Julia emphasised Emily's lost opportunities, she has undoubtedly made a future for Emily by enabling her memory to save many lives. A wonderful lasting epitaph.

Julia was a student of Philip's at Buckingham University and he described his achievement of completing the Three Peaks (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon) within 24 hours. A stern test at the best of times but even more so for someone who is a relative novice with little experience of the mountains. He recalled the low points (commonly known as 'hitting the wall') when he thought of Julia and Emily and this important cause which helped him to struggle through these testing times. Philip used this challenge as a challenge to fundraise for Meningitis Now in Emily's memory.

Julia is next due to educate parliamentarians at Westminster to further this cause. For us, well more information can be found at:

<http://emily.styles.muchloved.com>  
<https://www.meningitisnow.org>

Club members can also spread the word about the MenACWY vaccination, with more information at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-40482500>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>

Any support that members care to give will be greatly appreciated.



Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn

*Chris Weight and Iain Ferns – Welcoming Syrian Refugees in Cherwell*

Chris Weight from CDC Housing Support and Iain Ferns from Oxon, Berks and Bucks Connections gave a most interesting and enlightening about refugee families from Syria coming to live in Cherwell District.

Using a PowerPoint presentation Chris outlined the chronological process following the parliamentary decision to house up to 20,000 Syrian family member refugees from camps in countries neighbouring Syria. Cherwell District Council's decision to offer housing and support to six families has led to the establishment of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme which is being managed by Iain's Oxfordshire team at Connections Support.

Iain then explained some of the issues affecting the people making the decision to leave their homeland. He explained that they would have spent several months, perhaps years, in extremely challenging circumstances in refugee camps while making applications to move to the United Kingdom. The team at Connections has recruited local volunteer groups to support with preparing and furnishing houses in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. They have also recruited volunteers to

support newly-settled families with language lessons, welcoming, general befriending and support, finding schools, surgeries and getting to know their neighbourhood.

One family came to Banbury in July and is happily settled in their new home. The second family is due to arrive in December. Rotary has made a link with St Mary's Church and St Hugh's and we aim together to offer help in furnishing the property for the family arriving in December. President Alan announced that the Club had agreed a sum of £250 to support the project with another £250 to be voted on next week.

Rtn. Fred Riches

## Events

### *The 4Bs Golf Tournament*



The winning team in the 4 B's golf competition at Silverstone Golf Course on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. This is a competition between Banbury, Buckingham, Brackley & Bicester Rotary Clubs. Only 3 B's this time as Bicester couldn't raise a team. A nice day weather wise, the course was in great condition, and we won with 89 pints (*Ed - is this a typo or a record of events at the 19<sup>th</sup> hole?!*) with the best three out of four scores to count, Buckingham were second and Brackley third.

Rtn. Philip Cavill

### *The Thames Path*

*Tim Bryce is back and collecting the funds raised generated from his marathon nominal 128 mile*

*effort (actually somewhat longer once detours have been taken into account). The final amount will be announced in the December Bulletin and Tim will be giving a presentation to Club in February. Definitely not one to miss.*

*He is also asking the question 'What next'? Ideas for his next challenge on a postcard please. Of course, you may be asked to accompany him and join in the fun!*

Ed

## Council Notes

International Committee's "Rotary's got Talent" on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. All arrangements in place and is well supported.

Club to investigate Micro finance schemes with Lunchtime speaker in near future.

"Reading Buddies" scheme. Club members to be approached to assist.

Christmas Food Parcels project progressing well. Around 90 recipients have been identified and should be self-funding by sponsorship.

Syrian refugee family is arriving in Banbury in early December. Club in conjunction with St Mary's & St Hugh's Churches are to fund at least one bedroom's furnishings with any surplus available for a second bedroom. List of required items will be circulated to all Club members and notification of funds up to £500 to be donated was given at Lunch meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Free Funds stand at £3,464.

President attended "Meet the Scholars" evening on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct and reported on the high quality of the speakers and benefits to Rotary and the students. He also joined Cherwell Club for their very successful 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Charter celebrations at Wroxton House Hotel on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct together with a number of other Club members.

It was agreed that the Office of president of the Club could be held for more than one term (non-consecutive) by a willing member, or by a present member who had undertaken that role at another club.

Rtn. Peter Wilkins

## *Weekly Meeting Duties for November 2017*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&amp;H in charge</u>
03-Nov	J Meredith M Nutt M Phillips P Thomas S Porter R Thompson	H Morris R Nurden	S Maxwell	A Ilott
10-Nov	D Richardson P Richardson F Riches I Rodrick P Shea J Smith	G Pollard N Randall	A Warren	R Kipping
17-Nov	J Webb E Woodruff N Yeadon G Anker I Anthistle J Bennett	R Worrall A Bedding	R Barnett	D Hitchcox
24-Nov	S Bion M Budd I Calderbank B Cornley N Deakin S Dhesi	J Brodey T Bryce	P Cavill	D Sullivan

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 November & December*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
3 Nov	Sue Riches	Piece Together	Harry Matthews
10 Nov	Bernard Goodchild	Longer serving Member	Nigel Deakin
17 Nov	Rotary Special Meeting		
24 Nov	Fellowship Meeting		
1 Dec	Ken Brazier	Mercy Ships	John Bennett
8 Dec	Gareth Nicholls	Riding for Katharine House	Gareth Jeremy
15 Dec	Sir Tony Baldry	Xmas Lunch	Alan Wolstencroft
22 Dec	No Meeting		
29 Dec	No Meeting		