



## The March Diary

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rotary Lunch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Young Musician Finals
- 6<sup>th</sup> C & V meeting  
Classification &  
Membership Committee
- 8<sup>th</sup> Rotary Lunch
- 8<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> District 1090 Conference
- 12<sup>th</sup> Purple for Polio Concert
- 13<sup>th</sup> Foundation Committee
- 14<sup>th</sup> Theatre Trip  
Purple for Polio Concert
- 15<sup>th</sup> Rotary Lunch
- 17<sup>th</sup> President's Lunch
- 18<sup>th</sup> BGN Practise Interviews  
Club AGM
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sports & Entertainment  
Committee
- 20<sup>th</sup> International Committee  
Youth Services Committee
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Rotary Lunch
- 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting
- 29<sup>th</sup> Rotary Lunch

For the full year's diary visit  
[www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)



## President's Pen for February

In late January Ashley Bedding and I met to discuss arrangements for the Presidents Lunch on Sunday March 17th at Tudor Hall School - 12.00 for 12.30pm at the school's restaurant who will be serving a theatre style buffet lunch similar to the "Warhorse" meal. There will be entertainment towards the end of the meal including a star performer in our own Owen Kyffin - definitely not to be missed!!

The Early Bird Supper on the 31st was followed by our normal Friday Lunch Meeting when our Speaker was Graham Anker's daughter Helen who had recently returned to the UK from Hong Kong which was the final venue for the "Mama Mia" tour she was performing in. She gave a very interesting and amusing talk about "Life on Tour" as an actor delivered with great enthusiasm.

On Saturday 2nd February Inner Wheel held a dinner at the Masonic Hall with Richard Westcott as their Speaker. Using make up and costumes he transformed himself into a Pantomime Dame whilst entertaining us all with a constant stream of good natured banter. It was an excellent evening's entertainment.

On the next Friday Lunch (8th) Alastair Welford gave an interesting and thought provoking talk about the Nicodemus Charity which works with young people who are marginalised and living in extreme poverty in the UK and Guatemala. They provide tailor made solutions for youth - to rescue then restore and rebuild their lives.

Monday involved two meetings - the first at Tudor Hall School with Ashley Bedding to finalise arrangements for the Presidents Lunch on March 17th and the second was a Contact meeting. Contact is fast approaching and we will be sending out the booking paperwork to the other Clubs hopefully this week.

On Tuesday evening four of us went to a meeting about the 2019 Sportive to be run by the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell - A Speaker from Cyclists Fighting Cancer gave a very interesting and inspiring talk about his charity which provides bicycles for children and young people affected by cancer and helps them through activity and exercise and gives them a new focus, confidence and have some fun.

*Ed - the description of the benefit of the exercise to both patients and their families was underpinned by the first-hand knowledge of the speaker who had himself been stricken by cancer and survived.*

On Friday 15th our Speaker was Mervyn Edwards who became one of the UK's most experienced and respected police commanders. He gave an interesting and amusing talk about his career and introduced his book "Walking the beat to Nirvana" which describes his personal journey through the changes in British policing from the 1970s to the new Millenium.

*Ed - Mervyn's book was available to purchase with a promise that if it was returned to him on the basis that the reader did not enjoy it, Mervyn would replace it with a book that he did not enjoy!*

The same evening and Saturday brought meals at the Knife and Fork pop-up restaurant in Deddington arranged by Inner Wheel. Jen and I attended on the Saturday evening to experience a fantastic meal in a great atmosphere. On our table we had special entertainment from Mark Recchia who showed his terrific skill at Charades!! Many thanks to Carole Humphris for organising the event and to Tanya (The Chef) and her crew for creating a splendid evening for us all.

Club Darts competition was held on the following Monday - many thanks to Nigel Yeadon for organising the event. The winner was Helen Morris who was presented with a trophy and a bottle of wine.

On Friday 22nd we held a Frugal Lunch in honour of Paul Harris and enjoyed good fellowship and a presentation by Martin Phillips about our Contact 2019 weekend at the end of May to be held in Banbury. Martin gave a history of the Contact Meetings which have included our Club since 1957 and a full breakdown of the programme for the weekend.



We have sent the booking paperwork to the other Clubs involved and await their response - it will be a great weekend with lots planned and good fellowship meeting up with old friends from the other Clubs from Europe.

President Paul Gardiner

## *Speaker Reports*

### *Helen Anker – Life on Tour*

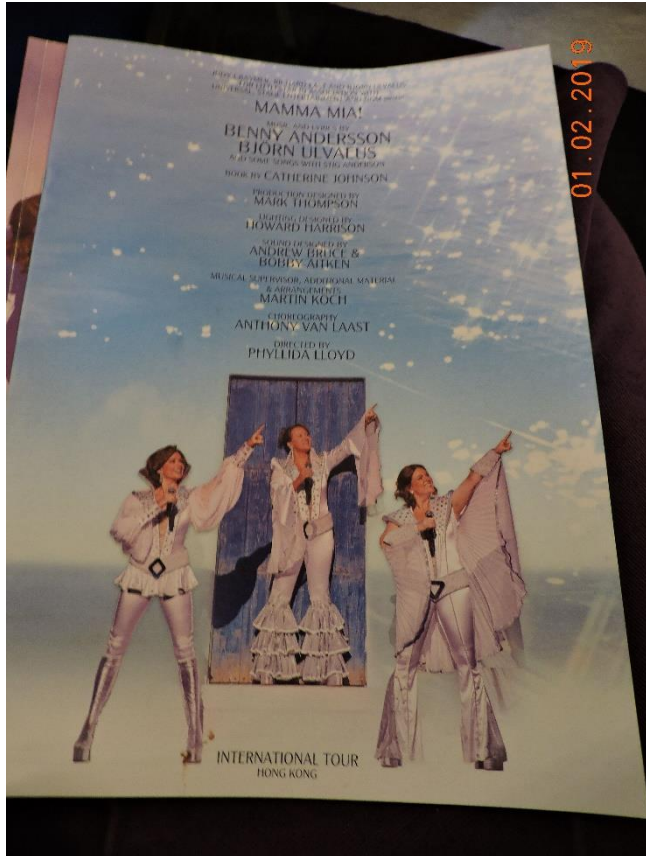
Rtn. Graham Anker's daughter Helen has just finished a 9 month engagement performing in the International and UK tour of the musical Mamma Mia.

Helen was saying that this has been the best experience in her life so far, being paid whilst seeing many wonderful parts of the world and at the same time doing something she thoroughly enjoys - acting, singing and dancing.

She was auditioned back in December of 2017 and having been offered the roll of Tanya rehearsals started in April of 2018. The UK section of the tour took in Hull, Southsea, Aylesbury where a coach load of our members attended, and Manchester.

After that on to Toronto, Jakarta, Manila, Singapore, Taipei, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.

55 people were involved in the show, the cast of 29 plus 7 in the band, a stage crew of 12 plus 3 wardrobe, 2 hair, a resident director and a company manager. For transporting the set 5 or more came from the UK. Then there were local theatre lighting, sound and front of house staff.



During the talk Graham showed many of the photographs taken whilst Helen was relaxing between shows.

The gaps, whilst scenery, costumes etc were moved from one location to another were filled with sightseeing and relaxing.



During this time Helen was able to visit Bali, Kuala Lumpur, an area known as Tagaytay, Palawan in the Philippines, Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, and Cambodia where she saw among other places Phnom Penn and Angkor Wat. Sri Lanka followed with Helen taking in the history, fantastic scenery and time relaxing on many a beautiful beach, snorkelling, zip wire experiences plus an enormous swing ride.

Rtn. Graham Anker

*Alastair Welford – Are Friday night town hooligans bad or young people who have had bad things happen to them?*

Alastair is the CEO of a charity called the Nicodemus Trust (Nicodemus meaning 'people's victory'). The charity undertakes significant aid work in Guatemala but is also active in the Banbury area and it is upon the latter which his presentation concentrated on.

Alastair advised that many youngsters out locally on a Friday night have been subject to a background of abandonment, abuse and/or exploitation and that when allied to drinking in clubs and the availability of cheap drugs it was hardly surprising if this did not result in trouble.

However, given that as teenagers we had probably all gone 'off the rails' at some point without such devastating backgrounds, that perhaps it would be more reasonable and constructive if these youngsters instead of being vilified should be perceived and treated as young people with potential.



The youngsters are mentored, given confidence and helped to move into profitable employment. An integral part of this process is to encourage them to use their past as an asset rather than as unwanted baggage. As an example, some have expressed their

problems through drama performed at schools which, with their first-hand knowledge of the subject, enables them to provide a convincing, believable and constructive message for their peers.

The talk gave an insight into areas where many people have no experience and thereby provided much food for serious thought.

Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn

### *Mervyn Edwards – Walking the beat to Nirvana*



Mervyn was a fascinating speaker and gave us an insight into how he moved from being a bus driver in Banbury to a firearms office charged with protecting Margaret Thatcher!

Mervyn was born and bred in Banbury and joined the Thames Valley Police after being a bus driver for Midland Red.

In his talk he gave us a summary of his book “Walking the beat to Nirvana” starting with his first posting with TVP which took him away from Banbury and spending 15 years in three different ranks as a specialist firearms officer.

His book details his experiences which include protecting Margaret Thatcher when she returned to Chequers after the Brighton hotel bombing in 1984.

Mervyn gave us a fascinating account of his career ending up with him being responsible for developing the UK’s tactics for dealing with Chemical, Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) terrorist threats, ending his career as a Chief Superintendent.

He was also earlier in his career responsible for the policing of the Newbury Bypass protests.

Mervyn treated us to a fascinating talk and is himself a Rotarian being a member of the Rotary Club of Amersham.

Rtn. Owen Kyffin

### *Developing the World’s Future Leaders*

This article first appeared on the [University of Oxford’s “Oxford Thinking” campaign website](#). The interviews followed the acceptance of the Rotary Foundation into the [Chancellor’s Court of Benefactors](#), recognising the Rotary Foundation’s support of students at the University.



Many different factors can motivate a return to study. For Vanessa Picker, a policy professional living in Sydney, Australia, it was the opportunity to upskill that first attracted her to graduate education. ‘I’d worked quite broadly in the field of social policy for a number of government departments,’ she recalls. ‘I was doing lots of briefings, speeches and policy work, but in crafting solutions to the problems I was looking at, I realised that it’s really important to be able to measure the impact of what we were doing.’

Vanessa made the 10,000 mile journey to Oxford in October 2016, after being offered a place on the MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation. It’s an opportunity she would have struggled to accept had it not been for a Rotary Scholarship. ‘I think it would have been very difficult to make it happen without it. And if I had found a way, there would have been a lot of financial stress and pressure,’ she says.

The Rotary Scholarship Programme was established

at Oxford in 1949, with the aim of fostering international interaction and understanding. Supported by the Rotary Foundation, the programme provides funding to graduate students working in six priority areas, including peace and conflict resolution; disease prevention and treatment; and economic and community development.

‘It was great to meet the other Rotary Scholars, precisely because of these priority areas,’ reflects Mark Loong, who received a scholarship whilst studying for a Master of Public Policy last year. ‘Everyone has a real passion for social and human development. Even though you’re meeting people from all around the world working in very diverse study areas, many of us have common professional goals and insights to share.’

Like Vanessa, Mark had also spent a number of years in employment before pursuing graduate education. After being admitted as a lawyer in 2012, he worked for the Attorney General’s Department in Australia, and later went on to establish his own social enterprise. With an interest spanning climate change, social policy and human rights, Oxford offered him the opportunity to reflect on past work, and draw his varied experiences together.

Without the financial support provided by the scholarship, Mark would have been forced to turn down his offer to study at Oxford. But although the funding he and Vanessa received played a crucial role in shaping their university experiences, it is just one part of a much larger story. ‘You often think of scholarships as being quite formal,’ says Vanessa, who is now a DPhil candidate in Social Intervention. ‘You get the money and perhaps there is some kind of network, but this is a very, very personalised network.’

During their time at Oxford, Rotary Scholars are assigned to an experienced Rotarian host and invited to attend regular events and talks at their local club. They also have the opportunity to engage in some of the organisation’s community service initiatives - something Mark was particularly keen to participate in. ‘I was able to get a local school to come to the Blavatnik School of Government for a day of simulated policy making, which was loads of fun,’ he says.

As Vanessa explains, it was having access to this wider Rotary community, and the many layers of

support that came along with it, which enabled her to thrive. ‘I had enough financial security through the scholarship that I could focus on doing well academically, and at the same time, make the most of what is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be in Oxford.’

*Ed - this article was sourced by Martin Phillips and the Club owes a great debt of gratitude to Martin and Annie for their tremendous support of the Rotary Scholarship Programme on behalf of the Club over a period of many years. It is an excellent example of the benefits arising from the Rotary Foundation.*

## *Council Update*

Budget for 2019/20 presented By Hon Treasurer was approved by Council and will be submitted to the AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Proposal to cancel joining fees to new members will also be presented at the AGM.

A letter from James Gregory (Brodey Scholar) was received by Council recording his thanks and appreciation for his grants.

The production of Club brochures and A5 flyers is well in hand and funding is to be requested from District.

Good progress with the Container, Council approved ordering this item now funding is fully arranged. An agreement has been reached to position the container at Banbury Cricket Club and shortly the Club will ask for keen members to assist painting the whole structure a discreet shade of green. Club paraphernalia can be stored at this central location along with items from Inner Wheel who have contributed towards the costs.

The programme for Contact 2019 is now complete and the number of attendees will be finalised in mid-April. Club members are encouraged to support this event to ensure its continuing success.

At present 10 members are attending District Conference in Portsmouth from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March.

International committee is supporting an additional Syrian Refugee family in conjunction with St Mary’s Church and St. Hugh’s Church by providing furniture and furnishings.

Rtn. P M Wilkins Hon Assistant Secretary

## *Weekly Meeting Duties for March 2019*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&amp;H in charge</u>
01 Mar	B Goodchild J Groves N Halfpenny C Hughes H Morris	T Iles G Jeremy	J Meredith	I Calderbank
08 Mar	M Nutt P Phillips G Pollard N Randall D Richardson	R Nurden P Richardson	F Riches	S Crump
15 Mar	I Rodrick J Smith R Thompson A Warren A Wolstencroft	P Thomas E Woodruff	J Webb	D Hitchcox
22 Mar	R Worrall N Yeadon G Anker I Anthistle A Bedding	J Bennett H Braisby	S Bion	M Humphris
29 Mar	J Brodey P Cavill N Deakin S Dhesi M Douglas	T Bryce M Budd	B Cornley	A Ilott

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>
1 Mar	Nina Baker	Katharine House Hospice	Roger Worrall
8 Mar	Fellowship Meeting	District Conference at Portsmouth	
15 Mar	Helen Morris	Inner Wheel events in Abu Dhabi	Malcolm Douglas
22 Mar	Lesley Mann	Eddie Paynter, The Bodyline Series	Andrew Fairbairn
29 Mar	Clare Jakeman	Moving House	Ian Rodrick
5 Apr			
12 Apr	Fraser Liversage	Medical Detection Dogs	
19 Apr	No Lunch meeting		
26 Apr	Alan Wolstencroft	Sierra Leone Update	