



The May Diary

- 2nd Community & Vocational Committee
- Classification & Membership Committee
- 4th Rotary Meeting
- 5th District Assembly
- 9th Foundation Committee
- 10th - 13th Contact Club Visit
- 11th Rotary Lunch
- 15th Sports & Entertainment Committee
- 16th International Committee
- Youth Services Committee
- 18th Rotary Meeting
- 23rd Council Meeting
- 25th Rotary Meeting

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



President's Pen for April

April seems to have been a fairly quiet month on the Rotary front but that is probably due to the fact that I was away for 2 Friday meetings as I was in Sierra Leone to check on progress at my 4 schools and the Westminster Group Foundation school project and on the second Friday I had a speaking engagement at The Rotary Club of Northampton West. I would like to thank 1st Vice President, Paul Gardiner for covering for me for the 2 meetings.

Sadly this month we lost Brian Croft a Past President who had been a member for 24 years. Unfortunately my Sierra Leone visit meant that I was unable to attend the Thanksgiving Service but I visited Hazel a few days before my departure to offer my sincere condolences.

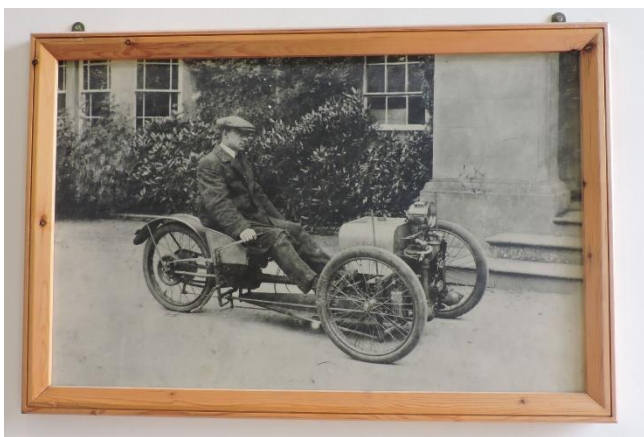
Once again we have had a good variety of speakers. My thanks to Nigel Halfpenny for all his hard work arranging the programme but as usual I will let you read the reports elsewhere in the Bulletin.

On Saturday 21st Foundation organised a Barn Dance at Jubilee Hall in Bloxham, which was quite well supported by Club members. The evening was really enjoyable with a Fish & Chip supper, a bar and of course "dancing". I have to say that having worked all day and still recovering from an overnight 14 hour flight from Freetown on the Thursday/Friday I was not really in the mood for dancing. The evening was very entertaining and a great spectator sport as regards some of the antics of some of our members and the evening also raised funds for our own Rotary Charity. Many thanks to the organising Committee and all those who donated raffle prizes for the event.

Last Wednesday we had a great trip to the Morgan car factory, organised by John Bennett and I know that all those that attended, that I have spoken to, really enjoyed the trip - many thanks John for all your organisation. I'm not sure when my new car is arriving!!



President Alan Wolstencroft



New car for the president - how about this one to remind you of your first? Ed

Speaker Reports

Nick Poole – Banbury Improvement District & Chamber of Commerce Update

Our speaker on Friday 6th April was local business owner Nick Poole.

Nick is well established in Banbury as the owner of the Fort Locks Storage Centre - look out for the flying blimp over Banbury.



Not content to speak on one topic, Nick decided to give us an insight into the working of Banbury's Chamber of Commerce and the new Business Improvement District or as it is more often referred to simply as "the BID".

Nick is well placed to speak on both topics as he is on the board of both parties.

Nick informed us that BID is a levy on businesses located within a predefined area and that the money it raised would go, as the name implies, to improve the district.

A panel of local business people would decide exactly what the money would be spent on - a good idea and we are all looking forward to see how it works out.

Nick also gave us an overview of the Chamber of Commerce, explaining who it represented and how it operated.

Nick has some exciting ideas of how to drive the Chamber forward and how it can help businesses in the area to thrive and hopefully make Banbury an even more prosperous town to work and live in.

Nick enjoyed his visit and we equally enjoyed listening to him. At the end, in my vote of thanks, I did drop a hint that perhaps Nick should come and join us.

Rtn. Tony Ilott

Well done Tony, we are in need of some new members. Hopefully other club members will follow your example. Ed

Beth Lewis – Coffee and Conservation



Beth is at Oxford University doing a Masters and her dissertation is about the effects of the removal of forests on animals, specifically the slow Loris.

The slow Loris is a tree dwelling mammal which spends less than 1% of its time on the ground so when farmers remove trees to plant coffee this has a detrimental effect on the animals, impacting not only on their feeding and living habitat but also reducing the gene pools for breeding purposes.

Beth showed maps of Java and Borneo which confirmed the extreme deforestation, which can also result in land slip and loss of good quality growing soil.

Beth has visited the regions and some farmers have agreed to try to grow coffee under the trees which has resulted in a better quality of coffee because the tree canopy means slower coffee bean growth. Also the leaf mulch from the trees helps with soil nutrition.

It will be a long process to replant the trees whilst continuing with the conservation project and zoos have become involved, particularly with the new coffee beans which are called Kukang Coffee. Hopefully the sales of the beans will expand into other organisations.

In the long term the objective is to reforest the affected areas of South East Asia so that the slow Loris can be saved, the local farmers given the opportunity to earn a decent living and the forests regrown to help save the planet.

Beth has to finish her dissertation by September - not only for her Masters but also because she is getting married that month. She is obviously very passionate about her subject having given the

presentation without notes and we wish her well for the future.

Rtn. Malcolm Dibb

Banbury Space Studio - A Trip to Cern



Our speakers on 20th April were Danni and Callum who were two students from the Space Academy, Banbury. Their talk was on their trip to the Hadron Collider in Cern, Switzerland in February which had been financed by the efforts of club members through fundraising events.

Why we financed these two students has been covered previously and I do not intend to visit this subject again. Sufficient to say that this is fully documented in committee notes as the situation progressed.

Danni and Callum had made a PowerPoint presentation to cover the trip, and this was suitably presented to the club. As well as visiting the Hadron Collider they had been to the headquarters of the United Nations and also to the museum of the International Red Cross. Their presentation also covered their social events which were interaction with many other groups from other countries who all stayed in one large hotel at the time they were there and got to talk in the evenings and at mealtimes. There was also a trip on a cable car which was explained as “a trip up the mountain to a café where the view was terrific and I could have stayed there all day”. On another occasion they went for a boat ride on a large lake where the “mountains were high, the sky was blue, and the lake was beautiful and clear!”

It was generally taken by those present that this educational trip included some leisure time that was thoroughly enjoyed, and these two students would not have received the education from the visit to the collider, or enjoyed the leisure activities, if they had not participated in the trip. They would also have been disadvantaged in their peer group if this had not happened.

It was also a very big “win” situation for the club.

Andrew and John enjoyed working with these two willing students at the tasks set to raise the funds. We both enjoyed the interaction between the students and ourselves, even though there was a considerable age gap. Rotarians enjoyed the company at club of these two very personable young people. The students got to talk to the professionals in the club which they would not have had the opportunity otherwise to do, and Callum got to enjoy two puddings at lunch with the coercion of one of our number. Incidentally, Callum had reached 15 years of age and had never flown in an aircraft before, an experience he described as both fun and “funny!”

Rtn. John Webb

Graham Anker – A very proud Dad



Bob Thompson’s wife who ran The Suzanne’s School of Dance was very important in Helen’s formative years, appearing at The Old Time Music Hall events at Banbury, Old folks’ homes and Festivals. She got the musical theatre bug performing at 4 years of age in The Sound of Music with Banbury Operatic Society as Gretel.

In 1981 at the age of 9 - following exhaustive auditions - she appeared in The Sound of Music at the Apollo Victoria Theatre. Petula Clark was the lead star. The Contract stipulated £10 a day during rehearsals and £12.50 per performance - the show was featured in the BBC Good Old Days at the City Varieties Leeds. There was a Royal Gala Performance and a recording at Abbey Road. Graham would be the taxi taking Helen to and from London during one week in three, the limit imposed at the time for child performers. At the end she obtained her Junior Equity Membership card.

1983 was a memorable event filled year, it started with the Sound of Music at the Royal Shakespeare theatre, Stratford upon Avon - by then aged 11.

Then the Young London Ballet Company - every Sunday with Graham’s eldest daughter Catherine - culminating in a specially written ballet, ‘Pedro the Parrott’, at the Royal Festival Hall. Joanna Lumley was the sponsor at Sadler’s Wells.

Graham and his wife were advised that Helen was a finalist in the Dance section of the Champion Children of the Year Awards Competition in aid of Barnardo’s. ATV filmed her with Bonnie Langford on the New London theatre stage dressed up as a Cat. The event itself was held in the Savoy Hotel with HRH The Princess Margaret in attendance. Helen won!

Susan Thompson recommended that Helen should apply to attend the Royal Ballet School, known as White Lodge in Richmond Park. Following auditions towards the end of the year she started and Darcy Bussell was her mentor - Helen became Head Girl in her final year and Graham was appointed Chairman of the PTA. From there Helen moved on to The Doreen Bird College of Performing Arts 1987-1989 to study other forms of entertainment.

Helen has appeared in numerous Pantomimes all over the country and in the West End in several Musicals, including Cats, Crazy for You, Radio Times, On the Town, Always, Fame, Parade, Hard Times, Beautiful and Damned, Contact and Oklahoma along with stars such as Hugh Jackman, Maureen Lipman, Ruthie Henshall, Christopher Biggins, Roy Hudd, Honor Blackman and many others.

In the Provinces, UK Tours have included Godspell, NHS the Musical, A Chorus Line, It’s a Wonderful Life, Thorn Birds and, more recently, singing the

Carpenters' songs in a central London Workshop theatre.

Films include Ted2 in the States and Cinderella filmed here in Pinewood.

TV work in the UK - Des O'Connor Show, Olivia Awards, Michael Aspel Show, an episode of Holby City and even Jim'll Fix It!

TV In USA - White Collar, Law and Order and The Good Wife.

There have been tours in England - Déjà Revue, Jazz to Jazz and Broadway Melodies - the latter also in France.

Helen moved to the USA in 2010 (the day after Graham's wedding) straight into a Broadway show - Promises. She has danced in many Tony Awards and the Oscar ceremonies.

Musicals around the USA where she has starred, My Fair Lady (Eliza Doolittle) and Camelot (Guinevere) both in Minneapolis and Curtains, Newsies along with Carousel.

She is soon to be playing Tanya in the UK/International Tour of Mamma Mia. This starts in Hull moving to Portsmouth then Aylesbury and Manchester before leaving for Toronto, Jakarta, Manila and Singapore.

Graham is indeed a very proud father, the title of his talk.

Rtn. Bob Thompson

Events

Foundation Committee

Saturday 21st April was the night when forty Rotarians and their partners had a thoroughly enjoyable evening dancing to the Riverhead Ceilidh Band at Jubilee Hall Bloxham.

Starting by topping up their energy levels with an excellent helping of fish and chips, everyone was soon on the floor dosey doe-ing and honouring their partners. Even those who did not take to the floor were thoroughly entertained by the hilarious scenes caused by those who appeared not to know right from left.



Through the generosity of members there were seventeen raffle prizes and the evening raised the magnificent sum of £411.59 for Foundation.



A huge thank-you to the hard working team who masterminded the evening and to those who came along and enjoyed the fun, as well of course to the Riverhead Ceilidh Band and their caller.

Rtn. Ron Barnett

International Committee

Two years ago the Club, together with the Rotary Club of Tonbridge, funded a borehole at Prospects Upper Basic School, Mariama Kunda Village, Gambia. This has been a great success. Until then students and teachers often had to put up with poor quality water and the health risks associated with it.

The school is expanding and has a two storey building under construction. As is common in The Gambia, buildings are constructed in phases as and when money is available. Hence they can take many years to complete.

At present the ground floor and some of the walls are in place up to first floor level but a structural concrete floor is needed in order to fulfil the role of a roof (until the second storey is constructed) so that three classrooms and an examination hall can be made weathertight and useable in the rainy season. It should be noted that construction had already started before the commencement of the borehole project, thereby emphasising the drawn out procedures which tend to defer the full benefit and enjoyment for students and teachers.



The school has sourced one donor to provide 50% of the funds needed to complete this phase of the project and the Club is seeking to fundraise a further £5,000 towards the approximate £10,600 needed. Of this around £2,430 is already available as a restricted fund within the Club Trust funds. The project will be overseen by the Rotary Club of Banjul.



Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn has set himself a personal challenge to ascend Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis, one of the classic mountaineering routes in the UK, to publicise and raise money for this project. He will be climbing solo as he has not been able to find anyone to accompany him. A description of this demanding route can be found at

www.ukclimbing.com/articles/features/tower_ridge315. He is then planning to give presentations on both The Gambia and his experience of the route.

Please contact Andrew on either 07711 142887 or via e-mail at andrew@whitecommercial.co.uk if you wish to have a guest speaker and/or are willing to make a donation to this deserving cause. Alternatively, if you know of any budding intrepid photographers looking to record an interesting experience?!!

Council Notes (28th March)

Good progress is being made on the project to purchase a 20ft metal container for storing Rotary Items. A cost of around £2,350 has been estimated inclusive of delivery and locks (the ground can be prepared by Rotarians for a base) and Inner Wheel are prepared to make a one-time contribution of £300 towards the cost. A Memorandum of Understanding is to be agreed with Banbury Cricket Club. Events are being organized to assist fund raising. These include an International Committee Quiz night on 4th June and an auction of promises (date to be advised). Already £670 has been raised by an additional levy on subscriptions.

Youth Services are arranging a working party to organize Young Musician for next year.

Due to guidance received from District to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations, the “Directory” for the coming Year will be renamed as the “Handbook” and there will be major changes. Photographs will be removed as will spouses/partners names. Hopefully we can reinstate the latter for the following year when written consent is obtained from each individual in due course. Our Rotary Insurance may not cover our Club for Data Protection should we not follow this guidance.

An attractive program for Contact 2019 is being finalized to include visits to Oxford Museums and Colleges on the Friday, a Farm walk near Banbury and a meal at Gaydon Motor Museum on the Saturday.

Club members toured the Morgan Car Factory on 25 April, a most enjoyable and interesting day. Many thanks to Rtn. John Bennett for arranging the trip.

Rtn. Peter Wilkins, Hon. Assistant Secretary

Weekly Meeting Duties for May 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
04 May	H Matthews J Meredith H Morris R Nurden M Nutt M Phillips	K Manning R McLean	N Randall	D Hitchcox
11 May	S Porter P Richardson F Riches I Rodrick P Shea J Smith	A McHugh G Pollard	D Richardson	D Sullivan
18 May	R Thompson A Warren J Webb R Worrall N Yeadon D Wright	P Thomas E Woodruff	R Barnett	A Wiltshire
25 May	G Anker I Anthistle J Brodey T Bryce M Budd P Cavill	A Bedding S Bion	H Braisby	M Humphris

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 May & June

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
4 May	Jonathan Walford	Achievements Money can't Buy	Martin Phillips
11 May	Cymon Snow	Banburyshire and the American Way	Bernard Goodchild
18 May	Sam Ritholtz	Rotary Scholar	Martin Phillips
25 May	Sir Tony Baldry	Being High Steward of Banbury	Maurice Humphris
1 June	Harry Matthews	Driving Today	Nigel Halfpenny
8 June	Ken Mclver	Dogs for Good	
15 June	Bob Nurden	Longer Serving Member	Helen Braisby
22 June	Pres. Alan Wolstencroft	Club Assembly	
29 June	Pres. Alan Wolstencroft	Retiring President's Valedictory	