



The June Diary

- 1st Rotary Lunch
- 6th Community & Vocational
Committee
Classification &
Membership Committee
- 8th Rotary Meeting
- 11th Shadow Council
- 13th Foundation Committee
- 15th Rotary Lunch
- 18th Practice Interviews
- 19th Practice Interviews
Sports & Entertainment
Committee
- 20th Practice Interviews
International Committee
Youth Services Committee
- 22nd Rotary Meeting
- 27th Council Meeting
- 29th Rotary Meeting
- 30th Theatre Trip – Mamma Mia

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



President's Pen for May

I can't believe that this is my penultimate article for the Bulletin as President of the Club!

They say that time flies when you are having fun and this certainly applies to my year of office.

The month doesn't seem to have been that busy but we have nevertheless had a good month.

Once again we have had a good range of speakers, including our Rotary Scholar Sam from the USA, and once again I must thank Nigel Halfpenny for all his work in putting together a varied programme, and not forgetting the hosts who hopefully will provide an article re their guest.

Mid-way through the month 11 Rotarians, and 5 wives, attended our Contact Club meeting in Olten, Switzerland. 5 of those who attended Contact for the first time overseas all came back as "Contact converts".

The programme was a great mix of culture and fun, the hospitality was first class and the 2 evening events were very enjoyable. A big thank you to Martin for all his hard work in organising the weekend.

We had a great evening of Rotary fellowship when 1st Vice President Paul organised an evening of indoor curling - a first for most of the attendees - thanks for organising Paul.

Also a big thank you to Helen Braisby & the Com & Voc Committee for organising the Party for the Blind & Partially Sighted and to the Wroxton Best Western Hotel for their hospitality. Look out for the report about the event elsewhere in the Bulletin.

On the 18th May I was presented with RIBI's Champion of Change Award for my work in Sierra Leone. I would like to once again express my sincere thanks to the Club and a number of individual members who have supported my work and enabled me "to make a real difference".



What has been achieved in the last 11 years has only been possible due to the tremendous support that I have received from literally hundreds of individuals and organisations.

President Alan Wolstencroft

Speaker Reports

Cymon Snow – Banburyshire and the American Connection

Cymon Snow smiling broadly referred in his talk on "Banburyshire and the American connection" to his role inter alia as Chairman of the British American Committee at RAF Croughton as well as Manager of Sulgrave Manor the ancestral home of the family of George Washington. The committee is about helping the US personnel based at Croughton integrate with the local community. England he thought is like America's older brother because so much of US and UK culture is tied together. There are some unique links between Banburyshire and the USA. Cymon learned from the audience that Croughton is pronounced Croton locally and promised to remember this.

Cymon stated that Sulgrave Manor now looks after and records details of the Washington family the ancestors of George Washington the first President of the USA. Most of those present recognised the picture of a painting of George Washington that hangs in Sulgrave but most failed to recognise

Benjamin Franklin. The Washingtons were sheep farmers whilst ancestors of Franklin were involved in the making of tallow used for candles and were based in Banbury so were very likely to have had commercial if not friendly contacts with Sulgrave and the Washingtons. There is no evidence that either of them were ever aware of the connection.

A few members of the audience also knew that Wroxton Abbey was now owned by a US college but not that it was also part of the original estate of Lord North. The picture shown of Lord North was not recognised but a few of those present were aware that he was leading the British during the American War of Independence in 1777. He was not thought to have been aware of the connections to Banburyshire of Washington and Franklin. Lord North of course was blamed for the loss of the American colonies but it is not possible to imagine any reaction he would have or have had to the Banburyshire links between himself, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and the fact that his home is now owned by the Country formed by the rebels that defeated the forces that he commanded in the then colonies.

Cymon also touched on the link between RAF Croughton and the airfield at Barton where in the forties Sir Frank Whittle had tested the jet engine details of which were then provided to the Americans who developed it quickly to become the major propulsion unit for both military and civil aircraft that we know today. The Whittle connection lead to the inclusion of RAF Barton in the recent 100th anniversary celebrations and tour by the RAF and the distinctive baton presented as part of the celebration - that Cymon had been allowed to hold and had the photograph to prove it - was warmly accepted by the US base commander and is a great example of the real relationship between the US and the UK.

Cymon who had attended Bloxham School and also sent some of his children there had worked in the US and found his treatment over there to be exceptionally warm and friendly and he is happy now that he has a chance to return this welcome to the many personnel (and possibly even more expected although increase delayed by current administration in Washington) from the US based at RAF Croughton combined with RAF Barton who are probably very involved in the defence of Western Civilisation and certainly in the collection and

analysis of data and information from Western Europe and further afield.

Rtn. David Richardson

Sam Ritholz – Rotary Scholar 2017/18



Studying at Oxford University, Sam has been sponsored by District 7620 USA and hosted by the Rotary Club of Banbury. He is studying 'Peace and Conflict prevention and Resolution'.

Sam gave a very amusing and open talk about his life, study before Oxford and on his year in Oxford. Sam has been awarded a fully funded place by Oxford University to study for three years for a DPhil.

Yet again our Rotary scholars prove to be incredibly bright and articulate young people, that Rotary should be very proud of.

Rtn. Martin Phillips

Sir Tony Baldry – Being High Steward of Banbury

Sir Tony Baldry gave us an overview of our history from the time of the Norman Conquest to the establishment of the office of High Steward before telling us of the reasons for the creation of the office, the duties and some of the previous holders of the office in Banbury.

The Normans brought a French system of land ownership which largely existed until 1925. Ownership was vested in local Lords of the Manor to whom allegiance was owed by the workers on their

land. It seems that these Lords of the Manor, who often owned vast estates, were very much in control of their fiefdoms and they contributed large sums for the building of many of the splendid churches that we have in our part of the country. As towns grew, there was not always a Lord of the Manor to exert control over the life of the community, and during the reign of King Henry II, charters were granted to some boroughs which gave them the right to have a mayor and council with a High Steward, which was a Royal appointment to keep a watchful eye open on behalf of the crown. Banbury did not receive a charter until 1550 in the reign of Queen Mary and this was not regarded as suitable and a second one was granted by James I. The reason Banbury did not receive a charter earlier was due to the power of the local Manorial Lords at Calthorpe and Grimsbury Manors.

The High Steward has to be a Baron or if this were not possible, at least a Knight. Once appointed the office was held until death. The first was Lord Knorrys who combined this office with other High Stewardships, Lord Lieutenancies and a string of other offices. He was succeeded by various Lords Saye & Sele and Lords North and relatives of the North family such as the Marquis of Bute. The father of the present Lord Saye & Sele held the office until his death in 1968, he was not succeeded by the present Lord who may well have declined as he has devoted much of his life to the restoration of Broughton Castle. The office then lay dormant until the appointment of Sir Tony Baldry in 2016. As Sir Tony wears the uniform of a Privy Councillor, another of his roles, the role of High Steward is now largely ceremonial, the duties we were told are few and the emoluments even less. Sir Tony though is determined to use the office positively and he is leading a move to make Banbury an age-friendly town and to that end he is working with various bodies concerned with the elderly.

There is to be an open public meeting at Banbury Town Hall on Wednesday, 20th June, 2.00 - 5.00 pm. Free to drop in as one can and he would welcome Rotarians to come along.

Rtn. Maurice Humphris

Tickets can be booked via
<https://tinyurl.com/y92qfvvgx>

Ed.

Events

Rotary Contact, Olten, Switzerland 2018

A party of 16 enjoyed a varied program, from riding electric bikes to listening to organ music, or in Martin's case a beer in the sunshine with Harry, who was feeling home sick according to Rtn. Phillips!



A budding triathlete to compete with Jonathan Walford's exceptional exploits. Jonathan spoke earlier this month but his speaker report has been delayed a month.

Ed.

We were introduced to Swiss wrestling, a sport many at Banbury would be built for, while the Alpen horns played in the back ground, with a back drop of snow-capped mountains all very beautiful and so romantic that Rtn. Kyffin called Rtn. Bennett darling more than once, I think Swiss beer is stronger than Hooky!



Olten excelled themselves with a wonderful program, which Banbury's contact new boys really enjoyed, and we will need to be on our metal to get anywhere near the Swiss hospitality. But I know our wonderful club will rise to the occasion, opening up their homes and offering true Banbury hospitality when our contact visitors come to England in May/June 2019.

Rtn. Martin Phillips

Curling at the Masonic Hall

On May 17th a small number of members met at the Masonic Hall to try out a new entertainment to us of Curling. The Masonic floor is ideally flat so that we could use the Curling "stones" that have three large stainless steel balls in their bases which means there is no ice needed and no energetic brushing in front of the stones as in the real sport.

Some of our members who were restricted in their movement were able to play, even though they could not kneel down, by using special pushing rods. In fact some of the members who started out with the pushing rods discarded them as the excitement grew and they found they could kneel down regardless.

We held a knockout competition - two people per team - and the winners were Sancha and Jess - all Rotary teams were duly comprehensively beaten!

The evening, including "Nibbles" and use of the bar, was enjoyed by all so we are going to challenge Inner Wheel, Rotary Club of Cherwell and Rotaract to a match on July 19th at the Masonic Hall. Our practice should be an advantage but as we showed little skill and our attempts at landing on the target

were quite random the Challenge should be equal for all teams.

I hope we have a good attendance as it would be good for the future for our Clubs to meet and mix socially.

Rtn. Paul Gardiner

Party for the Blind & Partially Sighted

The annual tea party took place at the Wroxton Park Hotel. As ever the event was organised by Rtn. Helen Braisby - and it was a great success. The afternoon tea provided by the Hotel was excellent with lots of variety and all delicious! (Rtn. John Smith had kindly made sure that the tea was to be special before he moved on from the Hotel). The entertainment was provided by Rtn. Nigel Deakin and Ian Phillipson with music and songs. The community singing was much enjoyed and created a very happy atmosphere.

Rtn. Shirley Kershaw

Polio Eradication Update

The following information has recently been circulated to people/organisations involved in the Purple 4 Polio (P4P) campaign since 2013:

To all recipients:

Please find enclosed with this note a bespoke certificate expressing the sincere thanks of members of the Rotary Club of Banbury to everyone who has contributed in any way to the five-year "Crocus Concerts" Project which ran from autumn 2013 to spring 2018.

By sifting through our emails and our memories we hope we have managed to recognise the support of each and every school, company, church, faith group and community group which has played a part - as well as a few individuals who have made particular contributions in many and various ways.

The partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative set a bold target in 2013 to try and eradicate the disease by 2018. The battle is not yet won but every contribution across the world has combined to make a huge difference. There were just 22 new cases of the wild polio virus worldwide in 2017 - in just two countries. In 2018 so far there have been eight.

Here in Banbury we shall continue to play our part in the global effort, but we felt the combined efforts of the past five years should receive special recognition and thanks. We hope you can display your certificate with pride - to celebrate your involvement and use as a conversation piece to raise awareness.

Many thanks - The Rotary Club of Banbury

Consultations on next year's P4P plans are under way and the proposals generated are being considered and will be reported upon in future.

Rtn. Fred Riches

Council Notes (23rd May)

Rtn Martin Phillips reported on the recent Contact visit to Olten In Switzerland. Some 16 members and spouses enjoyed an excellent trip visiting an electric bike factory including test rides, easy but wobbly in most cases. Lovely lunches in medieval towns, a tour of a monastery and wonderful evening meals ensured a memorable time was had by all. The hospitality of our host Club was exceptional.

Contact 2019 plans are in the final stages of preparation, the Friday's program will be centred on Oxford for Museums, Colleges and meals. Saturday activities include Farm visits and Gala Dinner at Gaydon Motor Museum.

Dates for your diary - 20th October joint meeting with Inner Wheel -A talk on the production of the show "Warhorse"

By popular request, on 19th July interclub Curling has been organized and Stephen's "Summer Steaming" is returning in August. More details for these events to follow.

Council proposed a vote of thanks to Rtn. Nigel Randall for his immense efforts in researching and producing the Action Plan for implementing the General Data Protection Regulations in all our Club's procedures. This was unanimously agreed. This issue is complicated by the numerous different solutions being suggested by various organizations. Any questions on this subject can be directed to Nigel. More information is to be circulated to Club promptly. The Handbook will revert to last years' format, photos et al.

Rtn. Peter Wilkins, Hon. Assistant Secretary

Weekly Meeting Duties for June 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
01 June	B Cornley N Deakin M Douglas P Gardiner B Goodchild J Groves	S Dhesi J Donaldson	A Fairbairn	S Crump
08 June	N Halfpenny J Hansford C Hughes G Jeremy H Matthews A McHugh	T Iles O Kyffin	K Manning	A Ilott
15 June	J Meredith R Nurden M Nutt M Phillips S Porter N Randall	R McLean H Morris	G Pollard	R Kipping
22 June	D Richardson I Rodrick P Shea J Smith P Thomas	P Richardson F Riches	J Webb	D Hitchcox
29 June	E Woodruff S Bion N Yeadon G Anker I Anthistle A Bedding	R Worrall R Barnett	J Bennett	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 June & July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
1 June	Harry Matthews	Driving Today	Nigel Halfpenny
8 June	Ken Maclver/Vicky White	Dogs for Good	Owen Kyffin
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	
6 July	Paul Gardiner	President's Handover	
13 July	John Webb	Dave Harvey, Free Forester	
20 July	Martin Edwards	Community First Responders	Pat Thomas
27 July	To be advised		