



The July Diary

- 3rd Banbury Cherwell
Presidential Handover
- 4th Community & Vocational
Committee
Classification &
Membership Committee
- 6th Rotary Meeting Presidential
Handover
- 11th Foundation Committee
- 12th Inner Wheel Presidential
Handover
- 13th Rotary Lunch
- 17th Sports & Entertainment
Committee
- 18th International Committee
Youth Services Committee
- 19th Indoor Curling
- 20th Rotary Meeting
- 25th Council Meeting
- 27th Rotary Meeting

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



President's Valedictory

Fellow Rotarians (guests) - my Valedictory speech looks back at our year and firstly I would like to thank you as a Club for the honour of allowing me to serve as the Club's President, a Club that I am so proud to be a member of, and for all the fellowship and support you have given me over the last year.

One of the strengths of "our" Club is the fellowship and banter that is present at our weekly meetings, something that we are renowned for within District, and this exemplifies the words of the Rotary induction which states "the basis of all Rotary is fellowship". Our weekly meetings are the foundation of our Club and provide a firm basis for all that happens during our Rotary year and reflects just how successful we as a Club are in the local community and further afield.

We are a very busy Club and a lot of hard work takes place behind the scenes to ensure that things run smoothly and events run efficiently.

I must thank ALL the members of Council for their support this year, ALL the Committee Chairman and Working Party leaders for their hard work ensuring the smooth running of the Club and specific events and there are a few specific people I would like to mention:

Paul Gardiner & Surinder who have both deputised for me, when I have been away from Club due to work commitments, Sierra Leone trip and District Conference & Contact Club weekends.

Mark Recchia and Peter Wilkins, the secretarial team, for ALL their hard work behind the scenes with minute taking, distribution of correspondence, printing additional copies of paperwork for me to keep me on the straight and narrow at

meetings and generally ensuring that we as a Club function correctly – well almost!

Malcolm Dibb for his role as Treasurer, recording and handling money, paying in and out at the bank and everything else that goes with the job - an onerous task, and to David Hitchcox for supporting Malcolm during the year. I must also acknowledge the support of Ian Parker at Whitley Stimpson for all his work in checking our accounts on a monthly and annual basis.

Nigel Halfpenny for organising a fantastic and varied programme of speakers at our weekly meetings throughout the year and for keeping us apprised of the specific requirements of each speaker in the run up to their talk and even standing in as a speaker himself last September at our 5th Friday evening meeting.

Andrew Fairbairn for compiling our monthly bulletin keeping us informed of everything that has happened and future events.

Nigel Randall who spent a GREAT deal of time preparing various policies & procedures to ensure we met the new General Data Protection Regulations which came into effect in May.

Ron Barnett for all his work as Club webmaster and for once again this year compiling and producing our Club Directory/Handbook as well as being a constant IT support provider for me as President.

Stephen Jakeman for his role as Fellowship and House, ably assisted by Stan Crump, our 2 resident jugglers with numbers and those members who help set up the AV equipment as and when it is required.

Fred Riches for his work with the local press to promote our Rotary events.

David Sullivan for taking on the new role of Public Relations working group and I look forward to seeing the progress that they make with the aim of improving our Club profile in the community and beyond.

Maurice Humphris & our in house poet Tony Wiltshire for their role as Welfare officers.

Owen Kyffin for allowing us to use the Boardroom @ Whitley Stimpson for our Council meetings.

Helen “Flasher“ Morris for keeping a photographic record of the year which I hope you have enjoyed viewing today

Rotary International President Peter Riseley’s theme this year was “Rotary Making a Difference”. For me this was very appropriate as “Making A Real Difference” was the Rotary Mission Challenge motto in 2005 when Rotary in Britain & Ireland partnered with Mercy Ships and I first visited Sierra Leone and I’ve used this as my “tag line” for my projects ever since.

As a Club we continually achieve the objectives of this motto with our comprehensive programme of events whether it be Community Service, Youth Services, International or our own Charity, The Rotary Foundation. As a Club we should be very proud of ALL the Differences we have made both within our Community & further afield during this Rotary year.

Our Rotary year got off on a really high note (pardon the pun) with The Night at the Musicals at a packed Tudor Hall School when my step son Simon along with Alison, Claire & musical director Rob put on a fantastic West End performance and in the process we raised an amazing £3,775 for Sierra Leone, End Polio Now & our Trust Fund charities.

Our Committees and Working Groups do a great deal of work in delivering our programme of events and I would like to thank all the Chairman who lead these teams and their team members for all their hard work during the year.

I know we are all members of the Club and know what goes on in our Club but let’s look back at the year to appreciate what a difference we have made:

Stephen’s Summer Steaming - as always a great afternoon very kindly hosted by Stephen & Clare which raised £550 for Foundation. Thanks to the Foundation Committee for all their organization in making this a great success.

Canal Day - an opportunity to promote the Club and make a little money with a Tombola.

Young Carers - we part funded 2 students to go to Cern - many thanks to John Webb & Andrew Fairbairn for all their hard work in supporting this project.

Children Singing for Children - 26 primary schools, over 650 children, £7,500 raised - a combination of Community Service, Youth Opportunities & Fund raising - Banbury Rotary Club at its very best. Many thanks to Jonathan Meredith, Fred Riches, Nigel Deakin, Andrew Fairbairn & all the Rotary stewards.

A small team of Rotarians led by Harry Matthews gathered to plant 15,000 crocus corms provided by Cherwell District Council on the Broughton Road Roundabout.

A new event in this year's calendar was Rotary's Got Talent held at The College. The event was well supported and was a great evening of fun, fellowship and raised £718.

I would like to thank the International Committee for organising the evening, all the members who were brave enough to perform and our MC for the evening, John Smith.

The Tour de Trigs event with Rotarians manning a checkpoint and arranging catering for the walkers - special thanks to Andrew Fairbairn, Nigel Randall & all the marshals.

Christmas Parcels collection and distribution, despite VERY heavy snow on the Sunday, a total of 285 parcels worth £4,380 were delivered masterminded by Paul Gardiner & his team of box packers & delivery men.

Xmas Float collection with 18 members generating £536 for this year's Xmas Parcels.

Christmas Street organ collections over 4 days which raised a total of £4,850 - many thanks to the Organ Grinders, John Webb & Andrew Fairbairn & all the Rotarians for all their efforts.

Our Young Chef competition was once again organized by Bernard Goodchild and although we only had 5 entries the standard was high and the evening was well supported by a healthy number of Rotarians - not as healthy after they had devoured the various puddings provided by The College!!

Young Musician Heats & finals once again were a great showcase for local musical talent and our sincere thanks go to Gareth Jeremy and Nigel Randall for leading the event and all the members who supported them in any way.

Purple for Polio Concerts - two great evenings of musical entertainment featuring a total range of

musical genres. Many thanks to Fred Riches for all his organisational skills, John Bennett our MC and all Club members who helped steward the concerts which raised £2,000+ for the appeal.

Practice Interviews at BGN & The Warriner - a very worthwhile event giving valuable experience to the students and sincere thanks to all the interviewers and to Nigel Randall and Ashley Bedding for co-ordinating the events.

Barn Dance - forty Rotarians and their partners had a thoroughly enjoyable evening at Jubilee Hall, Bloxham. Most people were soon on the floor dosey doe-ing and 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. Thanks to the organising Committee & those who donated raffle prizes.

The Party for the Blind & Partially Sighted, organized by Helen Braisby, was once again a very well received event by the attendees - thanks to Helen, Nigel Deakin (entertainment) and all the Rotary drivers.

Banbury Show - another opportunity to promote the Club and make some money with a Tombola and provide stewards for the event.

Last weekend, for the 7th year, we sponsored 2 senior students from Frank Wise School to attend an activity weekend at the Calvert Trust, Exmoor. There, Louis and Tim were able to experience exciting, challenging and enjoyable outdoor activities and they will be giving an account of their experiences (with lots of pictures and video this time) during a visit being organised by the School in the next couple of weeks - details to follow.

Ian Anthistle & John Bennett have continued their efforts with the BGN Interact Club but may well be moving on to pastures new in the coming Rotary year.

Whilst talking about the Rotary family I must express my sincere gratitude to Martin & Annie Phillips who again this year have hosted our Rotary Scholar, Samuel, who when he spoke to the Club recently demonstrated what a great programme this is. They have also continued to support last years scholar Vanessa and as well as her speaking to the Club again at our Frugal lunch she was present last September when I had the pleasure of

presenting Martin with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his work for Foundation and Banbury Cricket Club.

We have also had a good number of social events organized by the Sports & Entertainment Committee led by Nigel Yeadon. This year we visited The Houses of Parliament, had a theatre trip and visited the Morgan car factory and on the sporting front enjoyed an evening of 10 pin bowling and the Club darts tournament.

In March, 15 members represented the Club at District Conference at Cheltenham.

Thanks to Ian Rodrick for arranging our hotel accommodation at the Clarence Court and I was really pleased we were in the Hotel and not the nursing home of the same name!!

In May 11 members, and 5 wives, went to Olten, Switzerland for our Contact Club meeting.

The host Club organized a varied and thoroughly enjoyable programme of events which our Contact newbies all enjoyed. Many thanks to Martin Phillips for his organization.

Sadly this year we lost Past Presidents John Phillips and Brian Croft both of whom had given great service to the Club and both will be sadly missed.

We have also had resignations from Andrew McHugh, Simon Porter and our newest member Daren Wright and Peter Williams is transferring to the Rotary Club of Pwlllehi - at least they may be able to understand him!!

I firmly believe that we need to look seriously at our Club with the aim of ensuring the future of the Club and I know the incoming team will be doing all they can in this area.

I said at the start that we are very busy as a Club, and although it is not all about fundraising, I am pleased to inform you that this year we have raised in the region of £60,000. That may seem a great deal of money but approximately 50% of that has been raised specifically for the Sierra Leone Schools Project. I think it is fair to say that during the year we have lived up to the RI President's theme of "Rotary, Making A Difference"

I must remind you that as a Club we have rules and procedures which are designed to ensure that as far as possible the Club operates efficiently and I feel it is of vital importance that we work within the

confines of these rules and procedures to try and minimize bumps in the Banbury Rotary Club road. At the end of the day we need to remember that we are all volunteers and we should be working together for the overall good of the Club

Once again I thank you all for your support and fellowship over the past year and I look forward to continuing as a member, albeit on the back benches, of the Club which it has been an honour to have been President of.

Thank you

President Alan Wolstencroft

Speaker Reports

Harry Matthews – Driving Today



Harry, whose working career had included being a Driving Instructor and running a successful Driving School, started his talk by asking all present to complete a quiz consisting of fifteen questions covering the latest Edition of the Highway Code.

The number of questions which had been answered correctly was 'disappointing'. It was clear that the majority of those present had not read the Highway Code since they passed their test as far back, for some, as the 1950s or 1960s. Members who achieved the lowest scores were rewarded with a copy of the Highway Code.

To pass the driving test now, a Theory Test and a Hazard Perception Test have to be passed first. Both of these tests are available online and Harry emphasised that the most important of these tests was the latter, when the observation, anticipation and reaction to hazards on the road were tested.

Finally, we were told that most accidents occur at road junctions where it is important to look left, look right and then look left again before pulling out. Setting off and pulling out in to traffic was another situation when there were many accidents.

Harry was warmly applauded for his informative talk which, provided members follow the advice given, will enable us all to drive more safely.

Rtn. Nigel Halfpenny

Ken MacIver/Vicky White – Dogs for Good



On 8th June we welcomed Ken MacIver, Vicky White and Onyx to our Club lunch to tell us more about Dogs for Good.

Ken is a puppy socialiser which means he cares for the young puppies for 16 to 18 months getting them used to being with people and instilling some of the basic behaviours in them.

Vicky has for many years acted as a brood stock holder. The role of the Breed Stock Holder is to care for the brood bitch in their home with the support and guidance of the Charity. They will also need to

care for the brood bitch through pregnancy and with its new litter of puppies. The puppies will spend their first seven weeks at the Breed Stock Holder's home. Vicky has now relinquished this role but now acts as a temporary boarder for dogs as and when needed.

Although a National charity this is in a sense very local to us with the Charity's headquarters being at Blacklocks Hill on the outskirts of Banbury.

The Charity started by providing assistance dogs to support adults with a range of disabilities, giving them practical support which enables greater independence. The form of assistance is matched to the particular individual's needs, very often providing an extra pair of "paws" to help with household tasks the disabled individual finds difficult or impossible.

However, Ken and Vicky explained to us that the way in which Dogs for Good offers support has extended beyond this with dogs being trained to provide assistance in a number of different contexts.

The first example of this are school community dogs who are trained to work alongside a handler, and in conjunction with teachers and therapists, in Special Educational Needs schools. The dogs act as a calming influence for the pupils and help make them feel more secure and relaxed in the school environment.

Ken also showed us a video explaining a new service being provided by Dogs for Good which is to provide assistance dogs to children with autism.

A Dogs for Good autism assistance dog gives the parent and child real independence, and provides a safer environment for the child so they feel more secure.

Having unlimited access to public places with the dog enables the whole family to do simple things such as shopping, which may have been impossible before.

The dog wears a special harness which connects it to both parent and child, and acts on instructions from the parent while the child is encouraged to walk alongside the dog.

This offers greater independence to the child and parent, whilst ensuring the child is safe and unable

to 'bolt' if they become stressed or anxious. 'Bolting' behaviour is also combated by training the assistance dog to automatically sit should the child attempt to run off.

A fully-trained autism assistance dog can help change behaviour by:

- Introducing routines
- Reducing bolting behaviour
- Interrupting repetitive behaviour
- Helping a child with autism cope with unfamiliar surroundings.

Our thanks to Ken and Vicky for both what they contribute to this very worthwhile charity and also for coming along to Club to share their experiences with us.

Rtn. Owen Kyffin

Robert Nurden – Longer Serving Member

As always one of our own Rotarian's talks was informative, interesting and amusing. Wouldn't be the same without interjections from Rotarian Martin Phillips - for which he donated £10.

Robert (Bob) Nurden was born in Farnborough Warwickshire where he lived until he was 13, attending the village school. With no formal qualifications he started work on the railway, becoming an engine driver at the Motive Power Depot in Banbury, gradually progressing through various "firing" jobs before moving to Leamington to improve and gain more experience. Returning to Banbury, then Oxford he was conscripted into The Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry serving 2 years in the West Indies and Germany. On completion he returned to continue working on the railway in Oxford, on fast passenger trains, becoming a fast fireman. One of these was the Western Region route, mainly the 5.35pm Oxford-Paddington which took one hour. Oxford station had a mileage board stating that the 64.4 miles took 60 minutes, so, of course, Bob took up the challenge to reduce this time.

Variable working hours being prohibitive for a young man's social life, Bob went to Leamington Spa as a signalman to end his railway career, the box being electrified and too costly travelling to Solihull. By this time Automotive Products had moved to Banbury, so he went to work in the brake

shop where he met Rt. Webb in the "glass house!!!" It was interesting work but increased wages at Cowley was a magnet, plus with the threat of redundancy looming he decided to join the police force, stationed in Banbury. During his probation he learnt how to drive and was quickly posted to the traffic division, then on to the Home Office training school at Chelmsford where he gained a 1st class driver pass. He continued on traffic duties, going to his 1st love as a Motor Cyclist again gaining a 1st class award.

Bob then attended a 6 week instructors course, the hardest thing he has ever undertaken, but gained an instructors level pass and was able to continue as a car driver and motor cyclist instructor. This gave him total satisfaction training other police officers, which he did until his retirement in 1993. After 2 weeks of "doing nothing" a former colleague informed Bob that there was work at Rover Cars training their engineers at Gaydon. This gave him great satisfaction. From there he moved to Mira test driving Jaguar cars, working with engineers developing their test vehicles, only fully retiring when the track facility would not insure any staff. He feels so lucky to have had jobs a lot of people would give their right arm for.

Rtn. Helen Braisby

Assembly Report



We have an unusual situation for our Assembly this year in that David Richardson is our current White Zone Assistant Governor and will also be our Club Second Vice President next year. To prevent him speaking twice I thought it would be better if I spoke for a couple of minutes about the main things that

were discussed at Shadow Council about next Rotary year.

The main things discussed were:

To develop the PR & Communications function in the Club - we need to approach things differently to show the Public who we are and what we do and how we do it - David Sullivan has written a comprehensive summary of what we need to do and will finalise his report with his committee and present it to Council fairly soon.

We need to identify new members - not long ago (2015/16) our total membership, Honorary and Active members, was 83 and now three years later the total is 70. In that time we have had three new members one of whom has left us. Obviously we cannot continue like this and expect to have an active vibrant Club in 10/15 years' time. My feeling is that we are at crunch time - we must try and address this. The PR & Communications team in showing our face to the Public will hopefully help in this area but we need some new ideas/initiatives involving membership. Ian Rodrick is Membership Chair next year and will try and reverse the process of loss of membership over the last few years but all Clubs are suffering from loss of membership and this is not solely a Membership Committee problem - we should all be keeping an eye out for new members and if we get new members we need to make sure we keep them as well as looking after the ones we already have.

It's important that we keep in good contact and mix with other local Clubs - Cherwell, Rotaract and Inner Wheel - and help each other out when possible. This is especially important if membership falls. To this end we held an in house Curling night here in May which was quite successful so I have written to Cherwell, Rotaract and Inner Wheel challenging them to a knock out Competition here on 19th July. There will be food and the bar will be open and hopefully we will have a great social evening with the other Clubs, a board has gone round today. We will be helping Cherwell at their Cyclathon event on 8th July and we will be running a joint event with Inner Wheel at Tudor Hall School on October 20th - Ruth Rogers an ex-puppeteer for War Horse - will give a presentation at the Main Hall at Tudor Hall School followed by a meal in the school restaurant.

Not through want of trying by Ian and John our BGN Interact Club has not been as successful as we would have hoped so we are going to try and become involved with the Young Carers in the area to hopefully provide them with some entertainment but also try and set up an Interact Club with them - they meet on a Friday once per month for breakfast together at Banbury School.

The things mentioned are the main things we talked about but there are others such as the storage container, fifth Fridays. Presidents lunch, Contact etc. etc.

Finally there is our usual long list of events - an impressive programme - which we very successfully commit ourselves to each year.

1st Vice President Rtn. Paul Gardiner

Events

Sierra Leone Open Evening

On June 20th our President Alan undertook a presentation re his work in Sierra Leone at The Masonic Hall. He had spoken to the Club in mid-March but has since visited Freetown again for a week. A number of local supporters asked Alan to hold an open evening as they had not heard him talk before. The evening was attended by 28 people, including 8 Banbury Rotarians.

Alan talked about his initial visit to Freetown in 2005 and said he thought it would be a "one off life experience", but as most of us know he has continued his association with the country and has now visited 11 times. He gave an overview about subsequent visits where he has developed links with 4 school communities and been instrumental in their development. He has received a lot of support from Westminster Group PLC and is a Trustee of their Charitable Foundation - they are currently supporting a school in Lungi close to the International airport where they operate.

He then reported on his latest trip which coincided with the arrival of a 20 foot sea container, funded by Westminster Group PLC, who had donated half the space to Alan for shipping various humanitarian aid items and he coordinated the distribution of these during his trip.

20 school tables & 150 plastic stacking chairs were donated to Westminster's school, wheelchairs, commodes, walking frames, crutches and basic medical supplies were donated to a local clinic. A consignment of books, donated by an Oxford publisher, were the first to start to fill the shelves of the new school library at The Liverpool School which Alan has just completed the funding of. A large amount of Oxford United assorted kit was distributed and Alan estimates that about 500 people benefitted from this significant donation.

He spoke about Momoh, an 18 year old Polio sufferer and described the basic living conditions that he and his "family" live in. Momoh was sleeping on a grass mattress on the mud floor, there were no internal doors or ceilings and the building did not have proper windows. After everything Alan has seen on previous trips what he witnessed inside the mud block house moved him to tears BUT also prompted him to take immediate action. After talking with Pastor Mark (a friend for 13 years) and the family Alan went and bought a bed and mattress that afternoon and told us that since his return, through a sponsor, he has funded the installation of ceilings, windows and doors "making a difference" before the rainy season.

Sierra Leone Schools projects has been supported by Banbury Rotary since 2006 and over the last 12 years The Club has donated approximately £20,000 to the project from several Children Singing for Children events, The Night at the Musicals (last July) and general support from Club and individual Rotarians, for which Alan expressed his gratitude. The evening was Alan's 345th talk which have raised over £89,000, of a total of £215,000 that Alan has generated for his 4 school projects in the country since 2006.

President Alan Wolstencroft

In Support of The Gambia

As previously announced, to highlight the need for funds to complete classrooms in The Gambia, I undertook the challenge to solo Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis. This serious climb involved subtle route finding combined with significant height exposure and balance moves which generated a substantial use of nervous energy, especially in the absence of a rope, but a great deal of satisfaction when arriving at the summit plateau, having spent three hours on the ridge with no other climbers in sight.



On the summit enjoying the unusual benefit of a clear sky and views right out to the sea. The top of Tower Ridge is the steep cliff as you look to the right of me, the surrounding walkers having wandered up the 'Tourist track', a pleasant but strenuous slog.

I will be giving a presentation to Club members on 5th October both about the challenge and the charity project in The Gambia. If any readers know of any other organisations who might like a similar presentation, then please let me know - distance no object. I would not wish the not insubstantial risks I experienced to be in vain!

Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn

Council Notes (27th June)

The last Council meeting of this Rotary year was held at the Siam House restaurant. After a most enjoyable meal, there was little business. Council was informed that Rtns. Andrew McHugh, Darren Wright and Simon Porter have all resigned and that Rtn. Peter Williams has transferred to the Rotary Club of Pwllheli. The President thanked all these departing members for their service to our Club.

Unrestricted Funds stand at £2,563.51. General Fund at £2,439.57

Set up costs of £440 for Stephen's Summer Steaming and £100 food vouchers for Polly Preedy were approved. Support was given to the Crocus Corm planting for next year and the Adult Choir Crocus Concert project

The President expressed his appreciation for all the hard work and dedication of Council Members.

Rtn. Peter Wilkins, Hon. Assistant Secretary

Weekly Meeting Duties for July 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
06 July		J Bennett H Braisby	A Wiltshire	S Crump
13 July	I Anthistle I Calderbank S Bion P Cavill N Deakin S Dhesi	J Brodey M Budd	B Cornley	M Humphris
20 July	M Douglas B Goodchild J Donaldson J Hansford C Hughes T Iles	A Fairbairn J Groves	N Halfpenny	A Ilott
27 July	O Kyffin K Manning J Meredith M Nutt H Morris	H Matthews R Nurden	S Porter	R Kipping

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 July & August

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
6 July	Paul Gardiner	President's Handover	
13 July	John Webb	Dave Harvey, Free Forester	
20 July	Martin Edwards	Community First Responders	
27 July	Tony Ilott	Longer Serving Member	
3 Aug	Dawn Golder	FND Hope	Surinder Dhesi
10 Aug	Charles Pollard	Restorative Justice in the NHS	
17 Aug	Hector Turner	Pedalling the Pond	Stewart Maxwell
24 Aug	No speaker	Fellowship Meeting	
31 Aug	Nathan, John & Dave	Second Time Around	