



The August Diary

*1st Community & Vocational
Committee*

*Classification &
Membership Committee*

3rd Rotary Meeting

8th Foundation Committee

10th Rotary Lunch

15th International Committee

Youth Services Committee

17th Rotary Meeting

*21st Sports & Entertainment
Committee*

22nd Council Meeting

24th Rotary Meeting

25th Rotary Meeting (evening)

For the full year's diary visit

www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk



President's Pen for July

I officially took over as President on the first of July and my first duty was to attend the Handover meeting for the Rotary Club of Cherwell on July 3rd where Laurie Cunningham was their incoming President for the second time. I wished Laurie every success for his year as President on behalf of our Club - another four of our members also attended: Surinder, Helen Morris, Andrew Fairbairn and Ian Anthistle.

July 6th was a busy day in that apart from our Handover Meeting at lunchtime, Nigel Randall, Jenny and myself carried out the final six interviews at Warriner School in the morning to determine the winner of our £50 book token. As usual the interviewees were all of a very high standard and we were unanimous in our choice of winner.

I enjoyed the Handover Meeting and thank all of you who attended. I have received many cards and good wishes from Club members for which I am very grateful. I feel greatly honoured to be chosen as President this year - thank you all.

On July 8th several of our members helped Banbury Cherwell at their Sportive event at Broughton Castle - thanks to all our members who assisted on an extremely hot day.

On Wednesday the 11th I represented the Club at the Memorial Service for Joyce Higgins an Inner Wheel member - her husband Fred Higgins was a Bank Manager and highly respected Member of our Club in the 1970/80s until he moved away from the area to Northleach.

I attended The Inner Wheel Handover meeting on Thursday where retiring President Sheila Pollard handed over to Carole Humphris who became President of the Club for the second time.

Well done Sheila for last year and the best of luck to Carole for her coming year.



Next day was my first Friday meeting as President and we had John Webb as Speaker hosted by Helen Braisby, he gave us an interesting and enjoyable talk. His subject was "Dave Harvey a Free Forester".

On 17th some of us went to Frank Wise School for a briefing from Tim and Louis who were our Calvert Trust beneficiaries this year. As usual it was a brilliant experience to listen to them both talking about their weekend and also to listen to Anthony Munday, their teacher, filling in with background information. Many thanks to Nigel Randall for organising our involvement in the weekend and debrief.

Thursday 19th brought our Curling Challenge with Inner Wheel, Banbury Cherwell and Rotaract at the Freemasons Hall. We had 32 competitors which meant 16 teams - sadly we had no representatives from Rotaract and only one from Banbury Cherwell. However it was a very successful and enjoyable evening with the bar open and lots of banter and food. The winning team was Mark and Karen Recchia with David and Shirley Sullivan runners up.

Wednesday 25th was the first Council meeting of the

Rotary year. It seemed to pass reasonably well especially as nibbles were involved. A summary will be printed in the Bulletin under Council Notes.

On Friday 27th lunch we will be visited by Frank Quinn who is District Governor Elect and has promised no long speeches - we also have Tony Ilott speaking as a Long Term Member.

President Paul Gardiner

Speaker Reports

President Paul Gardiner – Handover Speech

It's customary for the incoming President to say a few words so here goes:

Distinguished Guests and fellow Rotarians the first thing I must do is to say thank you to Alan on behalf of the Club for all the work he has done during his year as President - it is a busy job and to do it whilst still working for a living is a difficult balance so well done and thank you!

For those of you who do not know or are unable to

Remember, I joined Rotary in 2009 - I had become involved as an interviewer at BGN and Warriner Schools a couple of years earlier. I knew Maurice from working with him at the Citizens Advice Bureau as a volunteer and he asked me along to a couple of Friday lunches and that led to me being inducted in late 2009 by Roger Worrall so all that has happened to date and all to come is primarily Maurice's fault but Roger deserves some of the blame.



I have enjoyed my time with you all since joining being hijacked at an early stage to the Secretariat to become David Sullivan's assistant - Hon Sec, Second Vice and First Vice followed and so to today.

My main aims this Rotary year involve PR and Communications, Membership and improving our contact with other local Clubs as well as, of course, keeping the Club running up to its normal high standard with a very extensive Programme of Events. There are copies for you at your table places so I will not go through the long list of events now.

A few months ago Alan and I attended a Membership Committee meeting and it was decided and agreed by Council that the PR and Communications functions should be split from the Membership Committee to be a free standing committee under the leadership of David Sullivan. The aim being to deal with the problem of the public in general knowing of us and holding us in high esteem but not really knowing what we do and how we benefit the community. This of course reflects upon membership - who wants to join a Club that you know little about? David is carrying out a revue of the situation and it is work in progress.

Membership is of course a problem not only with our Club and not only in RIBI - chats at our Contact meeting in Switzerland confirmed that other Clubs in Europe suffer the same as us.

I notice the membership problem perhaps more than most being an ex Hon Sec - when I joined 9 years ago the average age was 65 now it is around 74 also we have had few new members over the last couple of years. If this continues our impressive Programme of Events will have to shrink because the people who are now working on the events will not be able to cover all the required bases - tempus fugit. I am really enjoying my time in Rotary and in effect the Membership problem will see me out but I would like to see a thriving Rotary Club of Banbury in 10, 15, 20 years' time and that could be in doubt if we do not think again now. Ian Rodrick has agreed to become Membership Chair for this year and with our resident Assistant Governor David Richardson also on the Membership committee acting as a link between PR and Communications and Membership I am hopeful that new initiatives will result. The RIBI President for this year has "Be the Inspiration" as their catch phrase - I think it is an ideal slogan for new initiatives in trying to acquire new members.

If we are shrinking in numbers it makes it more important to have good contacts with our local clubs such as Inner Wheel, Cherwell Rotary and Rotaract so we can work and socialise together. We have

started this in that we will be helping Cherwell Rotary at the Broughton Cyclothon this Sunday, on July 19th we are holding a Curling Challenge between us, Inner Wheel, Cherwell Rotary and Rotaract here at the Masonic Hall and on October 20th we are working with Inner Wheel on a presentation at Tudor Hall School by Ruth Rogers, an ex-Warhorse puppeteer, followed by a meal in the school restaurant.

Rotary to me means having fun whilst giving back to our local and global community and I am hopeful we will all "Be the Inspiration" for a successful next twelve months.

To finish I have to say that I feel very honoured to be installed today as President of the Rotary Club of Banbury - the list of Past Presidents on the wall behind me is full of well-known and significant Banbury people - the fact that the name of an Essex boy has joined them is quite humbling.

Thank you!

President Paul Gardiner

John Webb - Dave Harvey, Free Forester



The term Free Forester has a long history, as has the term Free Miner, both of these originating from the times when the Forest of Dean had an industrial heritage. This included the extraction of coal, the making of charcoal, and the general management of the forest for the supply of timber, notably Oak for the shipbuilding industry. This activity led to the forest being stripped of its Oak trees and when this had happened and replanting of native species took place those who lived in “The hundred of St Briavels” which was the area that the forest roughly covered, about 204 square miles, were deemed to have the right to manage the forest for the good of all users. Some of these trades are still carried on today including Free Mining at a private colliery which is open to visitors, but coal mining of any quantity of coal by the National Coal Board finished around 1965.

John went on to talk about one such guardian of the forest, Dave Harvey. He first met Dave at the Forest of Dean Heritage Centre where fellow members of his Street Organ Society had organized a gathering. As well as the museum there were two areas at the bottom of the car park. In one the making of Charcoal was demonstrated, and in the other was a man making rustic furniture from wood taken from the forest. He engaged this man in conversation and he turned out not only to be a very interesting character but also a great defender of the rights and privileges afforded to him and others in the management of the forest.

During their conversation Dave told of the running battles he had, especially with farmers whose land abutted the forest and how they encroached on HIS forest to set pens for raising Pheasant which he found most disturbing, so being a bit of a rogue he balanced the books by helping himself to a grown Pheasant or two for the table in his cottage. Likewise Dave had issues with the farmers who rented out their land along the banks of the Severn or the Wye to fishing societies. These societies augmented the stocks of Salmon in the river with some of their own which they brought in. Dave saw a distinction in that when these fish were in the rivers where they travelled through farmland they belonged to the society, but when the river flowed through his forest the fish were his if he could catch them.

Dave told many stories of how he had “rebalanced the books” in his favour to the benefit of his friends he met with regularly in the pubs around Coleford

and Cinderford, and how his acts of kindness to those who were ill or had fallen on hard times not only protected his way of living but endeared him to the population.

Dave had been immortalized in Coleford High Street by being the person chosen to pose for a Sculptor who created a statue of a miner with a pick over his shoulder in bronze to set on a plinth to remember the miners who had lived, worked, and sometimes died in the coal mines in the forest during their long period of coal extraction.

This man had almost died in a roof collapse at the coalface and it was only the actions of a man called Phil Bennett that saved his life. Dave had suffered mentally for almost a year with terrible flashbacks to this incident and had taken to writing poetry and songs about his life in order to try and conquer his nightmares when psychiatry had failed him. The stories and songs he composed he then went on to perform around the villages and towns in the forest to raise money for various charities that he supported, notably those that helped people with mental illness such as he had suffered.

A thoroughly entertaining and sometimes poignant talk by one of our members which demonstrated the diverse people John meets when out with the Street Organ. John was thanked by the assembled Rotarians in the usual manner.

Rtn. Helen Braisby

Martin Edwards – Community First Responders



Community First Responders are volunteers who give up their spare time to attend emergencies, often being the first on the scene. They are trained to provide an initial assessment, establish the

history of the patient and provide first aid if appropriate until an ambulance arrives. Being local, they can be at the scene in those early vital minutes when time is of the essence (for instance if a defibrillator is needed in the case of a heart attack) and can subsequently be an important helpful extra pair of hands even after the ambulance has arrived.

Martin explained that he advises the authority whenever he is available and is then effectively on call.

In response to a question, Martin said that he does not receive feedback once the patient is taken to the hospital but sometimes he subsequently recognizes them afterwards when out in the town or sadly sees an obituary.

In her vote of thanks, Pat remarked upon this as another excellent example of the importance of volunteers within the community and thanked Martin for both his excellent informative presentation and the valuable service that he provides.

Rtn. Pat Thomas

Events

Broughton Castle Cycle Sportive



Once again we were asked to support our daughter club Banbury Cherwell with the refreshments stall at their 6th cycle sportive. Myself, Andrew Fairbairn, John Webb, Helen Morris, David Richardson, Owen Kyffin, Phil Cavill and Peter Williams rolled up our sleeves on an extremely hot day to ensure tea, coffee, beer and cold drinks were available throughout the event. Numbers were down on previous years probably due to the heat, but we still managed to sell 2 polypins of Hooky by

3pm! We are now looking forward to hearing how much money we raised towards the grand total. Over the past 5 years Cherwell have raised £50,000 at their sportive.

A big thank you must also go to Andrew for stepping in at the last minute and helping with marshalling along the route for 3 hours having also marshalled the Katharine House Hospice Midnight Walk only a few hours earlier.

Rtn. Ian Anthistle

Practice Interview Programme



The final part of the Practice Interview Programme (PIP) conducted by Club this year was concluded on Fri 6th July when 6 students from the Warriner School were interviewed for a second time as part of the competition to find the student who most impressed. All 6 students were worthy of their second interview, and each performed well.

In the end the 3 interviewers (Paul and Jenny Gardiner, and Nigel Randall) agreed that Miabella Grant (second from left) came across as the most impressive student and deserved the £50 book token prize.



My thanks go to all Rotarians and Friends of Club who volunteer to conduct the PIP interviews at BGN and the Warriner each year, and without whom this scheme would not be possible.

Older Club members may recall that the late Rotarian John Meeres imported PIP from his previous Club 'up North' over 12 years ago.

Both schools continue to consider PIP as invaluable in terms of developing the confidence of young people to progress in the big wide world, and a vital part of their students' career development.

Rtn. Nigel Randall
Youth Services

Visit to Frank Wise School



On the morning of Tuesday 17th July, Club members and partners visited the Griffiths Centre (GC) building at Frank Wise School. This kind invitation had been extended in acknowledgement of Club having sponsored two GC students each year since 2012 to attend the Calvert Trust, Exmoor.

After serving refreshments, students Tim and Louis gave a short presentation on their recent experience at their activity weekend with the Calvert Trust. There, participants with physical, sensory and learning disabilities can experience exciting, challenging and enjoyable outdoor activity adventures such as archery, canoeing, zip wire and abseiling, cycle riding and assisting other less capable participants in organised and social group activities.



The immediate challenge that Tim and Louis faced was that, although the course was fully accommodated and catered, they had to be

individually independent outside their carefully supervised activities.

This was the first time that Louis had been away from his regular home and school comforts, and the support of familiar staff and family, or having to organise himself to such an extent without prompting.

Tim was attending for a second time as it was decided that he needed further experience of independent living following a disruptive period of change to his family circumstances. Tim is about to leave Frank Wise and start a course of instruction at Banbury & Bicester College.

It has always been very satisfying for Members to hear direct personal feedback from this project, normally during a routine Friday talk. Club is extremely proud to have worked with students and teachers from the Griffiths Centre at the Frank Wise School, and the Calvert Trust, Exmoor, and our continued support is much valued.



The Youth Services committee has recently recommended to Council that this sponsorship should continue in 2019 (*support is expected to continue for this valuable project - Ed*).

Rtn. Nigel Randall

Curling Challenge at the Masonic Hall

In May we had a successful trial of Curling at the Masonic Hall so we decided to challenge our local clubs to a competition for sport but also as an attempt to get the clubs together so we could socialise. We had a Pink Peppercorn's team of Sancha and Sue and a good number of Inner Wheel ladies.

We had 32 competitors split into sixteen teams of two which was ideal for a knockout competition. We played the first round before breaking for a buffet supper followed by the quarter finals, semi-finals and final.

We had a very successful and enjoyable evening with the bar open and quite a lot of banter. The winning team was the Town Clerk and his wife Karen who won a closely fought battle in the final with David Sullivan and his wife Shirley.



Many thanks to John Bennett, Ashley Bedding, John Webb and Sancha for their work in making the evening a success.

Inner Wheel has threatened a rematch probably due to both teams in the final belonging to our club!!

(Commiserations to our President who drew the short straw, was partnered with me and duly exited in the first round! - Ed)

President Paul Gardiner

Council Notes (25th July)

There has been considerable progress made by the Membership and PR Committees in modernizing our processes. It is important that all members encourage suitable candidates to join lunchtime meetings as a "taster" as a potential precursor to joining Rotary.

Also the PR committee would be most grateful if any event to be promoted could be reported to them in full detail by Event Organizers or relevant Chairmen with as much notice as possible. This will ensure the profile of Rotary will be enhanced and the benefits of membership become more apparent to all.

Approval for set up costs £2,500 were approved for next Children Singing for Children and it was agreed that the surplus should be split as 70% to the Sunshine Centre, 20% for other International Youth Projects & 10% for General Trust Funds.

The President has had a busy first month in office, attending Banbury Cherwell Club's Handover on 3rd July, Interviews at Warriner School and the funeral of Joyce Higgins (widow of Fred, past member of our Club), the Inner Wheel Handover on 12th July, a presentation on 17th July at the Frank Wise School from students who attended Calvert Trust recently and played in Curling contest in Masonic Hall.

Problems in sending monies to the project in Gambia have been overcome. Many thanks to Malcolm Dibb who diligently plugged away at the bank when faced with a number of hurdles.

Research is being carried out to form an Interact group based on Young Carers.

Our Compliance documents have been completed and forwarded to District.

Council would like to remind all Members they are welcome to attend any Council meeting they wish, but are requested to please confirm their proposed attendance with the Hon Secretary in order to avoid overbooking!

Rtn. Peter Wilkins, Hon. Assistant Secretary

Weekly Meeting Duties for August 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
03 Aug	M Phillips G Pollard P Richardson F Riches P Shea	N Randall D Richardson	I Rodrick	D Hitchcox
10 Aug	J Smith J Webb A Wolstencroft E Woodruff R Worrall N Yeadon I Anthistle	R Thompson A Warren	G Anker	D Sullivan
17 Aug	A Bedding J Bennett S Bion J Brodey M Budd B Cornley	H Braisby P Cavill	R Barnett	I Calderbank
24 Aug	N Deakin S Dhesi J Donaldson M Douglas A Fairbairn B Goodchild	N Halfpenny C Hughes	G Jeremy	A Wiltshire
31 Aug	Evening Meeting	O Kyffin/R Kipping		S Jakeman

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 August & September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
3 Aug	Andrew Fairbairn	What Plan B?	Nigel Randall
10 Aug	Sir Charles Pollard	Restorative Justice	Andrew McHugh
17 Aug	Hector Turner	Pedalling the Pond	Stewart Maxwell
24 Aug	No speaker	Fellowship Meeting	
31 Aug	Nathan, John & Dave	Second Time Around	Nigel Halfpenny
7 Sept	Chris Brockbank	Bomber Command	Ian Rodrick
14 Sept	Gemma Rowe-Jones	Brodey Bursary Scholar	John Brodey
21 Sept	Rupert Kipping	Longer Serving Member	
28 Sept	Nigel Deakin	'The House of Grace' - Palestine	Fred Riches