



## The December Diary

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Tour de Trigs*

5<sup>th</sup> C & V meeting

*Classification &*

*Membership Committee*

7<sup>th</sup> Rotary Lunch

*Xmas Food parcels collection  
at Sainsbury's*

9<sup>th</sup> Banbury Service Club's Carol  
Concert

12<sup>th</sup> Foundation Committee

14<sup>th</sup> Rotary Xmas Lunch

15<sup>th</sup> Street Organ Collection

16<sup>th</sup> Street Organ Collection

*Santa Float*

18<sup>th</sup> Sports & Entertainment  
Committee

19<sup>th</sup> International Committee

*Youth Services Committee*

22<sup>nd</sup> Street Organ Collection

23<sup>rd</sup> Street Organ Collection

24<sup>th</sup> Street Organ Collection

*For the full year's diary visit*

*[www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)*



## President's Pen for November

On 30th October Mark Recchia, David Richardson and myself attended the Meet The Scholars event at the Oxford Spires Hotel. We enjoyed a meal with 20 of the 23 Scholars for this year present including Nicole Grajewski who our Club is hosting. She was very good company and she will visit the Club next term. She is studying for her DPhil in International Relations at St. Antony's College Oxford.

On Friday our Speaker was Simon Batten and his subject was "Remembering The Great War". It was a very interesting presentation which provoked a lot of thought amongst our members who asked a lot of questions.

Monday 5th brought the first "Children Singing for Children" concert with a concert each evening up to and including Thursday. 25 local Primary Schools were involved throughout the week and each concert was a great success with a standing ovation from the audience each night at the end of the Grand Finale. Our thanks to Tudor Hall School and Carrdus School who sponsored the concerts and to others in the community who supported us. I have to thank some of our members by name who organised the events, they are John Groves, Fred Riches, Ron Barnett, Nigel Deakin, the MC Andrew Fairbairn and Jonathan Meredith.

At lunch on Friday 9th we had a second instalment of Tony Ilott's talk about his life and work, he ran out of time in his previous presentation only reaching his mid-twenties! This time he made it to around the age of 30!! As usual it was a very entertaining and amusing talk.

Sunday was Remembrance Sunday and we marched in the Parade

to St. Mary's Church for the service which marked the Centenary of the end of the First World War. Afterwards I had the honour of laying a wreath of remembrance on behalf of the Club at the Cenotaph in People's Park. It was a morning of quiet reflection.

We held a Christmas Parcels meeting on the 12th - all systems are go in that we have requests to make around 280/300 parcels, have sufficient funds to make them and have a factory unit to make them in. We hope to deliver the parcels between 9th and 11th December.

On the 16th we had no Speaker at our lunch meeting as it was followed by our SGM. All our posts are filled with Nigel Randall elected as Second Vice President for the next Rotary year. Also last year's Club Accounts were accepted by the Club and hopefully the Trust Fund Accounts for last year will be accepted soon, they were not presented this week as a few late queries are being worked upon.

Cherwell Rotary held the "Youth Speaks" event at Bloxham School on Wednesday 21st. It was a very interesting and enjoyable evening with Bloxham School winning the Intermediate Section, their subject was "Teenage Depression" and Chipping Norton School winning the Senior Competition, their subject was "Saving Ourselves from Increased Sexualisation". Both teams will go forward to the Zone final to be held in February at Witney Congregational Church.

On the Friday we had a Fellowship Lunch and although we had no official Speaker Ian Rodrick and David Sullivan spoke to the Club about the progress being made towards attracting new members and improving our PR and Communications. These areas are important for the longevity of the Club and we all have a responsibility as Club Members to try and make the Club more known and attractive to the community and to help find new members.

Malcolm Dibb attended our Contact Meeting on 26th to familiarise himself with the budget for the event and the general outline for the Contact Weekend was agreed - all is progressing well.

Council was held on the Wednesday evening followed by a quick meeting about Food Parcels with the Council members involved in the project.

President Paul Gardiner

## Speaker Reports

### *Simon Batten – Remembering the Great War*



Simon Batten, History teacher at Bloxham School, spoke to Club on 2 Nov 18 about Remembering the Great War. He examined some of the misconceptions which surround this formative event in our national history. Among the myths he addressed were slaughter, sacrifice and futility. He quoted that 89% of those who served actually survived the war, but he accepted that this figure varied widely for different groups. Another misconception was that British Generals were callous "donkeys" as they were old, old-fashioned, out of touch, unimaginative and resistant to new ideas. Simon described how young and non-public school officers led their men during most attacks, and the high casualty rates suffered by them. He also described how new tactics and war fighting machinery evolved throughout the war, and that these ultimately led to victory.

He believed that the war was a terrible human tragedy, but it was not pointless for those who fought in it, nor was it uniquely bloody in world or British history. For too long, attention has been overly focused on a narrative of death and futility and on battles like the Somme and Passchendaele. For Britain it ended in a series of the greatest victories in this nation's history - won in partnership with its Empire and with its allies, above all France. These great victories, leading to the Armistice on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, should not be the subject of nationalism and exultation, but they shouldn't be forgotten either.

Simon is a respected and published author on such topics as the British Army's preparations before

1914, and the History of Bloxham School. He is currently researching the lives of those Bloxham scholars who took part in WW1.



Rtn. Nigel Randall

### *Ian and Rachael Scott-Hunter - The Life of a Royal Footman*

It is always good to have a first-class speaker for evening meetings and we hit the jackpot with Ian and Rachael Scott-Hunter.

Ian related how the family moved from North Wales to London forty-seven years ago in order to access regular treatment at Great Ormond Street for their daughter, Alexandra, who was severely brain damaged as a result of a haemorrhage when three days old.

Looking for employment, Ian responded to an advertisement for Royal Staff and was offered a job as a trainee footman at Buckingham Palace. Clearly, he took to the role and is still working for Princess Alexandra to this day.

He described his role as a footman with accounts and anecdotes about royal events from state occasions to visits to the Royal Yacht and the Royal Ascot races. He showed us the wide range of uniform and regalia he had to wear. We enjoyed an illustrated journey through the many royal castles and palaces, but being an Aberdonian he admitted that Balmoral was his favourite.

It was an intriguing story which was informative and amusing with the odd (and discrete) peep into life in the Royal family.

Ian was followed by Rachael who described the problems in caring for their profoundly disabled daughter as a result of the council's closure of her support centre in Kidlington. Adults with severe

learning difficulties are very poorly provided for by the NHS and Local Authorities. Because of this Rachael founded a charity, Alexandra - House of Joy - her aim being to raise £2.5 million and fund a purpose-built centre in Bicester. This is clearly much needed and worthy of support. We wish her well.

Rtn. Ian Rodrick

### *Children Singing for Children*

Dear all,

I just wanted to say thank you so much for all of your support in relation to the end of the concert on Thursday. It made such a big difference and was really very much appreciated.

The concert itself was yet another huge success; the families were delighted to see their children singing as part of such a fabulous community event and the children themselves were bubbling after their achievements. We do realise how much hard work goes into producing these concerts but, beyond the obvious benefits of raising money for such important causes, they are so incredibly important for community celebration and cohesion, and also wonderfully enjoyable for all those who take part and spectate, so your efforts are greatly valued!

We will look forward to next year, as always, but, in the meantime, I hope you enjoy a short period of respite.

Kind regards

Heidi Dennison

Joint Headteacher  
Frank Wise School

*Ed. The above is just one example of the positive feedback from participating schools.*

### *ShelterBox*

A presentation to 1<sup>st</sup> Hanborough Cub Scouts on 14<sup>th</sup> November, including a display of the tent (which was erected) and other equipment, generated many questions from the interested audience and it is anticipated that the Cub Scout Group will be undertaking fundraising for this charity.

## *Weekly Meeting Duties for December 2018*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&amp;H in charge</u>
07 Dec	R Thompson A Warren J Webb R Worrall A Wolstencroft N Yeadon	P Shea P Thomas	E Woodruff	D Sullivan
14 Dec	I Anthistle A Bedding S Bion J Brodey T Bryce M Budd	G Anker J Bennett	B Cornley	A Wiltshire
21 Dec	No meeting			
28 Dec	No meeting			

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 December & January*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
7 Dec	Keith Davies	Volunteer Connect	Maurice Humphris
14 Dec	Sir Tony Baldry	Three Wise Men	Roger Worrall
21 Dec	No meeting		
28 Dec	No meeting		
4 Jan	Fellowship meeting		
11 Jan			
18 Jan	Rupert Kipping	Recruiting Gurkhas	
25 Jan	Ray Avery	Bloxham Mill	John Donaldson

## *Christmas wishes*

The following members have made a donation to Rotary Foundation in lieu of spending money on Christmas cards. This has become a tradition in our club and raises a useful sum of money to the benefit of those less fortunate than us.

We wish you a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy 2019

I Anthistle	R Barnett	A Bedding	J Bennett
H Braisby	T Bryce	I Calderbank	P Cavill
S Crump	N Deakin	M Dibb	S Dhesi
M Douglas	A Fairbairn	P Gardiner	J Hansford
N Halfpenny	D Hitchcox	M Humphris	T Isles
S Jakeman	G Jeremy	O Kyffin	R Kipping
J Meredith	H Morris	M Phillips	G Pollard
N Randall	M Recchia	F Riches	I Rodrick
D Richardson	J Smith	D Sullivan	P Thomas
A Warren	J Webb	P Wilkins	A Wiltshire
A Wolstencroft	E Woodruff	R Worrall	