



The December Diary

- 4th C & V meeting
Classification &
Membership Committee
- 5th Santa Float
- 6th Rotary Lunch
- 7th/8th Tour de Trigs
- 8th Rotary Carol Service
- 11th Foundation Committee
- 13th Rotary Lunch
- 17th Sport & Entertainment
Committee
- 18th International Committee
- 20th Rotary Xmas Lunch
Street Organ at Tesco
- 21st Street Organ at Sainsbury's
- 22nd Street Organ at Morrisons
- 23rd Street Organ at Morrisons
- 24th Street Organ at Sainsbury's

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



Dhesi's Diary for November



On Friday 1st November Jeremy Wilton was inducted as our newest member. Jeremy is the editor of the Four Shires magazine and is keen to use his skills and enthusiasm to help Rotary.

On Sunday 10th November Rtms. David Richardson with his wife Jan, John Webb and his wife Joy, Peter Wilkins and his wife Sandra, Maurice Humphries and his wife Rita and President Surinder Dhesi represented the Rotary Club of Banbury. It was a glorious bright and cold day compared to the heavy torrential rain the previous day. There was a good turnout of hundreds who



lined the High Street and St. Mary's Church. It was a proud moment honouring our fallen heroic men and women from all over the world who served the Nation. It was a day to remember the past and pray for peace for mankind for the future.



This was the 18th annual series of 'Children Singing for Children' concerts. This year 23 Primary Schools participated over four evenings from Monday 11th November to 14th November inclusive. It was a wonderful celebration of music and song, the enthusiasm of the children lit the stage. I would like to thank our sponsors, Tudor Hall School, the Carrdus School, Banbury Charities and Rtn. Malcolm Douglas who was School liaison and ticket sales, the musicians, conductors and everyone at St. Mary's Church. A big Thank You to Rtn. John Grooves who helped organise the Event with Rtns. Jonathan Meredith, Alan Wolstencroft, Andrew Fairbairn, Nigel Deakin and all the Rotarians who helped as Stewards and at the Cash Desk. A big Thank You to Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn who was the Master of Ceremonies. This year the benefiting charities were Children Heard and Seen, The Borien Education Foundation and Schools Projects in Gambia and Sierra Leone.



Karen Eveleigh from District 1090 and Alison Hooker from Helen and Douglas House Hospice came to the meeting on Friday 22nd November and were presented with cheques. The money was raised by 'Six of the Best' singing groups in Banburyshire performing a concert at St Mary's Church Banbury on 28th September. Helen and Douglas House support children and their families who have cancer. Rotary End Polio Now has been working to eradicate polio for more than 30 years and have made incredible progress in the fight to eradicate the world of it.

On Friday 29th Banbury Rotary Club hosted a fifth Friday dinner at Banbury House Hotel. Guest speaker was Christine McElhill, Community Banker for Berkshire and Oxfordshire, who gave an interesting talk about being aware of telephone, postal, online and doorstep scams and what to do.

Telephone Scams

If you ever get a call from someone who says they're from your bank or the police and asks you to transfer funds to another bank, to a safe account or withdraw cash, they're scammers.

Postal Scams

Criminals use all kinds of fake letters. They may claim to be about lotteries or prize draws, investments or inheritance windfalls health cures or clairvoyance. Whatever it is, don't send them money.

Online Scams

Fake emails can be disguised to look as though they're from your bank, but however convincing

they may look, never give away your personal details and don't click links with the emails. Go direct to the bank's website instead.



Doorstep Scams

Never let someone you do not know into your home or sell you a service on your doorstep. If you need work doing around your property, ask a friend or family member for advice about traders you can trust.

Report scams to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 and your bank. You can also ask for help from Citizens Advice Helpline on 03454 040506.

President Surinder Dhesi

Speaker Reports

Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn – Ascent of Daubenhorn Via Ferrata

As our Speaker on 25th October, Andrew described how he and our new member Jeremy Wilton scaled the Daubenhorn from Leukerbad in Switzerland on 16 July using a Via Ferrata incorporating ladders and wire cables. This is a famous and recognised challenging climb. On the "MySwitzerland" website

(<https://www.myswitzerland.com/en-gb/experiences/leukerbad-via-ferratta>) it describes the climb thus:

"The longest and most demanding via ferrata in Switzerland! Long, vertical ladders, with steep and strength-sapping climbs. The backdrop is grandiose, and the views across and down are fantastic. The initial section is already very demanding, with an extremely exposed series of ladders to the Obere Gemsfreiheit. Then the "big via ferrata" is considerably more difficult, being very steep throughout, and in parts also extremely airy. Excellent physical condition and plenty of stamina in the arms, together with robust nerves, are essential for this tour! It is only to be attempted when you are sure of good weather; and if you experience difficulties on the "small via ferrata", you really must take the alternative early route down via Mieläss! There is a significant risk of rock-fall in the gorge above the Gemsfreiheit, and following rain or storms the route is therefore dangerous whatever your level of ability."



It tops out at 2941m and is usually reckoned to take at least eight hours of strenuous technical effort. Andrew and Jeremy had watched carefully the weather forecast for the region and at the first

opportunity in July drove over there with camping and climbing gear. On the night of their arrival though the weather was anything but kind with strong winds demolishing Jeremy's tent. However, the next day but one the weather was suitable to attempt the climb and they duly set out. The climb includes some very steep ladders and wire cable ascents and traverses, using karabiners to clip on to the cable. The safe technique involves using two karabiners and, at each piton holding the cable to the rock face, uncoupling one to pass it over the piton then move up and repeat with the other karabiner, unhooking the second only after the first has been hooked firmly past the piton.



Why did Andrew and Jeremy do this apart from the obvious pleasure involved? Well, they hope to raise some donations for two worthwhile causes. One is our local hospice, Katharine House. The other is a development project for a school in Gambia which our Club is supporting.

Three years ago, following a visit by Andrew and his wife Marilyn to The Gambia, our Club along with the Rotary Club of Tonbridge, became engaged in a project to fund a borehole at Prospects Upper Basic School, Mariama Kunda Village. This borehole has meant better quality water reducing health risks to pupils and staff.

Now the school is expanding and has a two-storey building under construction for which Andrew is raising funds. The project is being overseen by the Rotary Club of Bijilo, a relatively new Club chartered in January 2018 with enthusiastic members. Their President Banky Njie referred to this project and our involvement in it at their Induction Night for 23 new members in July.

The ground floor and some of the walls are in place. The next step will be the construction of a structural concrete floor of the second storey to act as an interim roof over the three classrooms and examination hall to make it useable in the rainy season. The school had initially sourced a donor offering 50 per cent of the funds for this phase but that donor has since withdrawn. Banbury Rotary has already donated over £5,000 but is now seeking to fundraise a further £5,600 towards the approximate £10,600 needed.

The climb by Andrew and Jeremy involved a lot of preparation, including improving their fitness and strength, if this was ever in doubt? Andrew did not appeal for donations during his talk but it was suggested during the vote of thanks that they would certainly be welcomed!

The talk was referred to by Andrew as Chapter 11 in his long list of physical challenges which we have enjoyed sharing. Chapter 12 will be another ascent, this time (watch this space!).

Rtn. Ian Calderbank

Ed - anyone interested in a presentation please contact Andrew.

Lise Jamieson – Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (Cherwell District)



In September 2015 the UK Government agreed to resettle 20,000 refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria who have registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in:

- Turkey;
- Iraq;

- Lebanon;
- Jordan; and
- Egypt.

As part of the Government's efforts to achieve this, Cherwell District Council agreed to accommodate 12 families within the district.

There are currently 9 families resettled in Cherwell District with the 10th family arriving early November 2019.

How are Cherwell District Council supporting VPRS families?

Procuring Connection Support to work directly with each family from point of arrival;

Identifying accommodation for families within the private rented sector;

Identifying and developing services to enhance support provision;

Main link with the Home Office and South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM); and

Monitoring the contract and coordinating joint working with statutory partners.

What has gone well?

We have resettled 53 individuals into Cherwell District. We envisage resettling 65 individuals by March 2020 when the current scheme is due to end;

Families have been settled in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington areas;

To date the scheme has been very successful with outcomes as follows:

- 3 out of 19 adults are in employment;
- 4 adults are in voluntary work;
- 2 adults are attending college studying for learning support assistant qualification;
- All adults are accessing ESOL, English conversation classes or 1-1 English classes at home;
- All children have settled in school or nursery placements and participated in summer school camps;
- All family members have participated in community events;
- All families have linked with other settled VPRS families in Oxfordshire;
- 1 child won the Young Writers' award; this work was published;

- 1 child achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Award;
- 3 adults are engaging with a Pre-employment training course for non-English speakers at Banbury College; and
- 7 adults will be attending English classes for 10 weeks in Bicester.

Some of the challenges

Employment opportunities for VPRS adults can be limited as a result of low English levels;

The majority of working age adults are illiterate in their own language making English learning difficult;

The health needs of working age adults have an impact on their ability to access employment and English Speakers of Other Languages; and

The benefit cap has placed particular pressure on families to access employment soon after arrival.

In progress

English conversation classes in Bicester for 10 weeks as of 15 Nov facilitated by Abingdon & Witney College;

Pre-Employment Training course - 19 weeks for non-English speakers started 06/09 - 3 adults attending from Banbury and Bicester delivered by Activate Learning;

Working with Faithworks, Banbury who are looking to accept a VPR adult to volunteer - this is in the initial stages currently; and

A ½ day Workshop to take place on 18 Dec for all VPRS families to be held at CDC offices.

The future of VPRS in Cherwell

On 17 June the UK Government announced plans for a new resettlement scheme beginning April 2020.

The new scheme will be open to refugees needing resettlement to the UK regardless of their origin.

The UK plans to resettle 5,000 refugees in the first year of the scheme.

Local authority participation is voluntary.

CDC is currently considering its participation in the new scheme.

Lise expressed her gratitude to club members who have been involved in helping to furnish and fit out homes for these families together with ongoing contact.

Want to help?

If you are interested in making property available for this purpose please make contact on 01295 753766 or 01295 227004 or via e-mail syrianrefugee.resettlement@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

If you are interested in volunteering for the scheme please contact Connection Support on 01865 711267 or enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk (e-mail).

Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn

Neil Urquhart – My Kayaking Journey



Our speaker opened his talk by thanking the club for running 'The Young Musician of the Year Competition', from which all three of his children had gained enormous inspiration and benefit.

Neil described himself as having been a very puny, unathletic child with nobly knees and spectacles.

On moving to Oxfordshire in 2010 and with one child in his early teens and two younger children, his wife suggested that the family should join The Banbury and District Canoe Club at Cropredy.

Joining the club was hugely successful for the whole family and after a while, Neil gave it a try and took up kayaking. Kayaking is very much part of all canoe clubs. When kayaking, the rower uses an oar with two blades rather than an oar with just one blade as used in a canoe. Eventually, this resulted in Neil undertaking, typically, 15-mile round trips from Cropredy in his 2-man kayak, on Sundays.

Eventually, he and his friend decided to enter the

'Annual Marathon 125 Mile Challenge', from Devizes to Westminster, to be completed within 24 hours in a two-man kayak.

Lifting their kayak over the 77 locks on the route, however, caused his fellow kayaker to endure an increasingly painful back from Reading onwards. Through Bray, Windsor and Teddington the back became worse. At Richmond, his friend's back was so bad that he was unable to lean forward to steady the kayak and with obstacles and the tidal current on the Thames, they overturned three times.

Eventually, seeing Westminster Bridge and the adoring fans, including family members, waving and cheering, they hit a buoy and overturned again. This time the rescue boat had to step in with the only option to transport them and their kayak a quarter of a mile back to a landing stage. This meant that Neil and his friend had to run the final section, arriving eventually over Westminster Bridge rather than under it.

Neil's talk was hugely entertaining and well received, so much so that Rtn. Martin Phillips announced to Neil afterwards that, having been inspired by his talk, he would kayak from Cropredy to the Foundry, next summer, in order to raise funds; roll on next summer!

Rtn Nigel Halfpenny

Rotary Events

Poetic Licence



Rotarians and Inner Wheel members, amongst others, providing an evening of entertainment on 27th November at Banbury Cricket Club.

Project Updates

Purple for Polio Crocus Planting



Members in action at the recent planting sessions at St Mary's Church and The Orchard, Banbury of many, many crocus corms under the Purple for Polio banner.

Rtn. Nigel Randall

Ed - the thousands of purple crocus plants in Banbury have received many favourable comments in relation to Purple for Polio.

Sierra Leone Update - Rtn. Alan Wolstencroft

Kunduma School toilets

The progress at the project is really good. As you can see they have completed the digging of the latrine pit and are now building the tank. The pit is over 12 feet deep and was dug manually using pick axes and shovels with all 24 cubic metres of spoil being removed by a bucket and rope system. I have just sent further funds so we should be able to complete the building by mid-November. Plumbing work will begin when more funds are available, hopefully, in the near future. We hope to complete the project ready for the January term.



Liverpool Junior School textbooks

Thanks to the generous support I received from Harvest Festival collection at Willesley School we were able to buy 80 extra textbooks. With other funds we purchased a further 70 textbooks which meant an additional 15 books for each of the 10 subject areas. Solomon, the Headteacher, says

"We want to sincerely thank and appreciate you and your sponsors, especially Willesley School, for providing abundant support for Liverpool Junior School. We have now got the complete sets of text books in the library and this has ensured future hope for the children's academic success".



Weekly Meeting Duties for December 2019 & January 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
06 Dec	J Hansford C Hughes O Kyffin F Riches H Morris R Nurden	K Manning R McLean	G Jeremy	S Jakeman
13 Dec	P Richardson J Meredith I Rodrick J Smith R Thompson A Warren	G Pollard M Recchia	M Nutt	R Kipping
20 Dec		E Woodruff I Rodrick	R Worrall	A Wilshire
27 Dec	No meeting			
03 Jan	No meeting			
10 Jan	Fellowship meeting	R Barnett A Bedding	S Crump	I Calderbank
17 Jan	T Bryce P Cavill G Coates B Cornley N Deakin J Donaldson	S Bion J Bond	J Bennett	D Hitchcox
24 Jan	M Douglas A Fairbairn S Faulkner B Goodchild N Halfpenny J Hansford	P Gardiner J Groves	G Jeremy	M Humphris
31 Jan	5 th Friday	M Phillips G Pollard	R McLean	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 December & January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
06 Dec	Phil Cavill	My Life part 2	Malcolm Douglas
13 Dec	Bee Myson	Age Friendly Banbury Themed Working Groups	Andrew Fairbairn
20 Dec	Dr John Long	Cluster Care Group	President Surinder Dhesi
27 Dec	No meeting		
03 Jan	No meeting		
10 Jan	Fellowship meeting		
17 Jan	Sam Game	Standing in the Gap	Charles Hughes
24 Jan	Frugal lunch		
31 Jan	Chris Brockbank & Jan Saward	Bomber Command	

Christmas Wishes

'The following Rotarians wish all fellow members a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year'.

They have generously made donations to our own Rotary Foundation Charity and the total sum received (excluding Gift Aid) is £675.

G Anker	I Anthistle	R Barnett	A Bedding
J Bennett	J Bond	A Brace	T Bryce
I Calderbank	P Cavill	B Cornley	S Crump
S Dhesi	M Dibb	M Douglas	A Fairbairn
P Gardiner	B Goodchild	N Halfpenny	J Hansford
D Hitchcox	M Humphris	G Jeremy	R Kipping
K Manning	J Meredith	H Morris	R Nurden
M Nutt	M Phillips	N Randall	D Richardson
P Richardson	F Riches	I Rodrick	J Smith
P Thomas	J Webb	P Wilkins	A Wiltshire
N Yeadon			