



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

President John Bennett

April 2012

The Rotary Club of Banbury extended a warm welcome to the Group Study Exchange team on Friday 9th March. They were; Marta da Costa Gomez; team leader, Silvia; Human Resources, Silvaina; Charity Worker, Antonella; Lawyer & Maria; Teacher.



President John Bennett enjoying his duties. Our

club has a long association with Argentina - when Aubrey Phillips, our past President and District Governor led a district GSE team in 1970.

Martin wasn't on that trip but made some long lasting friendships when fellow Rotarians Children from Argentina stayed with the Phillips's in the U.K. Some of these friendships were resurrected when he and Annie holidayed in Argentina in 2011.

Maybe some of our other members also have a closer relationship with Argentina than they think!?. We are nearly all wine

lovers and of course they make some outstanding red wines, particularly Malbec from the Mendoza Region.

Our daughter club Banbury Cherwell are one of four district 1090 clubs hosting the visit, our guests are in the U.K. for 4 weeks until the 31st March. They will also take in a tour of several European cities including London, Edinburgh, Berlin, Paris and Rome before returning to Buenos Aires in April. District 1090 had a GSE visit to Argentina in 2011 led by Rotarian Sara Bowater from Marlow Thames Club, so this is a reciprocal visit.

Rotary International have been strong supporters of exchange visits through Ambassadorial Scholarships, G.S.E. visits and Peace Scholarships. Our own club has been involved in Contact Club and Youth Exchange visits with France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy for many years. Over 40,000 men and women from 100 nations have been involved in exchange visits since they started in 1947.

If we believe in promoting the Advancement of International Understanding, then this visit has been a huge success as we all now have a greater understanding of Argentina, its people and more importantly our visitors today.

Our visitors enjoyed their week in Banbury, we wished them well for the remainder of their visit and gave our thanks to Phil Page and his team for including us in the GSE program.

Rotarians P.Cavill, M.Phillips, R.Kipping and Helen Morris acted as hosts.

BANBURY YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

A wonderful evening of great music was again enjoyed at the Young Musician of the Year Competition.

A good audience of parents and relations of the competitors together with Rotarians and guests filled the hall. As usual the event was compered by Rotarian Gareth Jeremy fo the 22nd year. The competition began with the junior section who again enthralled the audience with their skills at such a young age. There then followed the Intermediate and the Seniors. The three judges were given such a difficult task and it was a number of decisions which could not be hurried. Eventually the winners of the various sections were announced and their cups presented by the various dignitaries attending, the Town Mayor, District Councillor Colin Clarke, Rotary District Governor Niall Blair and President of Inner Wheel Carol Humphris among many others

including our own Rotary President John Bennett. The overall winner of Young Musician of the Year was Serena Holbech who at the age of 15 was competing in the intermediate section she sang "If I Love You" by Alessandro Parisotti. Serena together with three other winners went through to Reading to compete in the District finals. The good news that followed was that Serena won through at the Reading event and will now sing at the Rotary Great Britain and Ireland conference in Bournemouth on April 14th. It is a just reward for a young lady with a such great talent.

The Banbury competition once again allowed our young local talent to perform before a large audience, who show their appreciation for the skill and hard work that goes into attaining this level of expertise.

D.H.



John's Jotting's

President John Bennett

It's 8.30 a.m. on the last Saturday in March and I'm keying this report in haste, because Shirley wants to get away down to Dorset and see if the caravan has survived the winter. The sun's shining and apart from not knowing if I'll have enough fuel to get there and back, all seems right with the world. So, I'll set spell check and here goes.

3rd March: I enjoyed a wonderful evening of musical talent at The Young Musician of the Year finals. What a worthwhile event for our club to be presenting - and to cap it all, Serena, our winner, has got through two more stages and competes in the RIBI Young Musician final at Bournemouth on April 13th. Fingers crossed.

5th March: Sports & Entertainment tested our knowledge at the annual Quiz Night, which sadly was not so well supported this year. Nigel Yeadon must have spent hours cooking up the questions, most of which baffled me.

8th March: I attended the second session of Mock Interviews with the students at BGN and as ever, the Youth Opps. team did a wonderful job of organising and administering the project. It all appeared to run like clockwork and both students and guest interviewers seemed to enjoy the experience. Another good example of, "It's what Rotary is all about".

14th March: Held a special meeting at 97 with all those who had expressed an interest in helping with the vacancy of Treasurer. Much against his better judgement, Bernard Goodchild agreed to head up the Treasury team, with Allison Warren Assistant Treasurer and David Hitchcox and yours truly in support. Thank you Bernard, I've been sleeping much better ever since.

16th - 18th March: A party of 12 represented Banbury Rotary Club at The District Conference in Bournemouth, behaved reasonably well and had a thoroughly good time. The conference included some excellent speakers, one of the best being our very own Alan Wolstencroft. - talk about working the audience!

22nd March: My 9th Council Meeting, which seemed to run through very quickly - so much so that we had finished by 9.15 p.m. Did I miss something out?

26th March: A reasonable turnout for our Club AGM, received reports from the committee chairs and voted in the officers for next Rotary year.

28th March: Travelled to Henley on Thames with David Hitchcox, where we attended the District Council Meeting. The DG gave a presentation about the proposed changes to the management structure of RIBI which is due to come in over the next 18 months. It prompted some lively discussion.

30th March: Attended the 5th Friday Dinner at Banbury House Hotel - Shirley came to keep an eye on me. Good company and a fascinating talk from Richard Sermon, who gave us an insight into his life as a Sheriff of London and the role he played in support of the Mayor.

I'm now saving up for the Club Outing on 10th April. I understand Nigel still has a few places available on the coach, so give him a ring if you want to go. See you there?
John.

Annual Club Quiz

An excellent and enjoyable evening was held at the Cricket Club on March 5th. Although the numbers were low those attending were able to use their brains and were stretched by the excellent questions posed by our Quiz master Nigel Yeadon. The eventual winners in a closely run contest were Maurice Humphris, Geoff Pollard, Mark Recchia and Andrew Fairbairn who proved to be an unbeatable team.

They are pictured here receiving their just rewards.
D.H.



Rotary Club of Banbury Annual General Meeting.

The A.G.M. was held on Monday 26th March at the Freemasons Hall. President John Bennett welcomed members and then gave his report.

I must admit I've always felt that for a President to give his annual report three quarters of the way through his year seems a bit early and now that I'm in the chair, it seems even more so. But that's what it says in the constitution, so here goes.

One of the facts I've realised is that, apart from turning up at events and waving the flag of office, as President, I really haven't had to do a lot of what I'd call hard work - all the work has been done by the Chairs of committee and the committee members themselves- YOU. And while I run through a list of what

we have achieved this year, I would rather let the committee Chairmen have that honour – I don't want to steel their thunder. You will therefore be delighted to learn that I intend to keep my report quite short, otherwise I'll only be repeating myself in my Valedictory in three months time. However, I did think that I should look back through my diary to see if I'd been doing enough to support those who have been doing all the work.

It tells me I've attended all but 2 of our Friday meetings, that I've chaired 9 Council meetings, attended 4 District meetings, plus District Conference. Although I said at the start of my year I would leave Committees alone unless they wished me to attend, (because they come under the care of 1st. and 2nd. Vice) I have visited most of them once.

There has been some sadness during my year, because I have attended four funerals, those of Derek Repton, Richard George, Thelma Jeremy and Mary Maxwell, but I was proud to wear my chain of office and represent our Rotary club at the Battle of Britain Day and Remembrance day.

Other than the above, I counted my attendance at another 60 events. I won't tire you with a list, but they include quite a few special meetings for club business, held a New Members evenings, I've helped at numerous club events such as cranking the Street Organ and Mock Interviews, planted bulbs with Primary schools at spiceball park and in my capacity as President, visited Dogs for the Disabled, Tudor Hall School and the Leonard Cheshire home Warwick Road.

I'd particularly like to thank the members of Council for all their support. We seem to have covered a lot of ground in the past 9 months, achieved through some serious discussion and considerable good humour. Believe me, they have worked hard on your behalf and drunk a lot of my beverages.

I am going to mention just three people by name, to whom I'm particularly grateful. Our Secretary David Sullivan, who in spite of my best efforts, seems to have succeeded in keeping me in check, Treasurer Ron Barnett who has twice taken up the cudgel and rescued our finances and now Bernard Goodchild, who against his own better judgement and the wishes of his wife Julie, has agreed to head up the Treasury Team. I and this club owe those three Rotarians, a debt of gratitude.

We still have some great events to look forward to in the last three months of my year in office, so please join me and support those members who are working to make them a success. Remember, if we all do a little, nobody has to do a lot – "It's what Rotary is all about".

I said at the beginning of my Presidency that my mission statement for our club this year was "Fun and Fellowship". I hope that's working out for you – it certainly is for me. Thank you for your support and for the privilege of being your President.

John Bennett.

The various House Committee reports were then given by Vice President John Hansford, followed by the Service Committee reports.

Treasurer Ron Barnett proposed the budget for the coming year and to fix the annual subscription at £90 per member with a £10 surcharge for late payment and an entrance fee at £50. This was voted and agreed.

Rotarian Bernard Goodchild was elected as Treasurer for the next Rotary year.

The 6 ordinary members of Council were then elected unopposed, they are Rotarians Helen Braisby, Reg McLean, Martin Phillips, Bob Thompson, Alan Wolstencroft and Nigel Yeadon.

There were three Co-opted members agreed, they were Assistant Secretary Paul Gardner, Assistant Treasurer Allison Warren and Bulletin Editor David Hitchcox.

Appointed Examiners of the Club Accounts were Tony Brace and Nigel Halfpenny.

There then was an agreed amendment to the Trust deed, "That all monies raised by the Club and its members for charitable purposes shall continue to be paid into the Rotary Club of Banbury Trust Fund ("The Fund"); and that all payments to charitable objects directed by the Club shall be paid out of the Fund, and that items of expenditure up to and including the sum of £250 each may be incurred by Council without individual reference to the Club".

A.O.B. Rotarian Roy Watkins asked that it should be noted "His appreciation to Club members for their assistance while he was in the Churchill Hospital".

President John then thanked members for their attendance.



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Alan Wolstencroft, Banbury Rotarian & Goodwill & Growth for Africa UK Trustee

"making a real difference in Africa"

This edition is just like a London bus, you've waited ages for one and then 2 come together - BUT I couldn't contain my excitement and I hope you will agree when you see the photo!! I have changed the format slightly so that hopefully you get a better impression of the new dormitory with the larger style photo.

"Ithembalihle", Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa

When I first visited the orphanage in June 2010 all the children were sleeping on mattresses on the floor, often 2 children sharing a single mattress, and the boys were all sharing mattresses on the floor in a large, very cold church hall. None of the children had ever slept in a bed .

We gave an undertaking on our return from our second trip in November 2010 that we would fundraise in order to build a dormitory block and a team of seven returned in September/October 2011, for 2 weeks, to do the "hands on" building. The team, as well as funding their own trip, raised funds towards the project and we received tremendous financial support from several individuals and organisations who completed the funding of the building & all the furnishings - to EVERYONE who contributed a really BIG THANK YOU.

This photo says it all !! Since our initial commitment to the project until this photo was taken was 15 months BUT believe, and hope you agree, it was well worth the wait. I know that the children certainly feel it was - they were excited enough when the building was completed before any of the finishing touches were completed and now they just want to say thank you to everyone who made this possible.



Polio Eradication USD \$200 million Raised,

Rotary clubs in Great Britain and Ireland, and the rest of the world, have succeeded in raising USD\$200 million in new funding for polio eradication.

The fundraising milestone was reached in response to a USD\$355 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, set in 2007, which would be given if Rotary had raised USD\$200m by June this year. All funds have been earmarked to support polio immunisation activities in affected countries where this vaccine-preventable disease continues to paralyse children.

In addition to delivering the promised USD\$355m challenge, an additional USD\$50m from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is being committed to the global fight against polio. This brings the total funding to USD\$610m for polio eradication.

Rotary members not only reached into their own pockets to support the challenge, they engaged their communities in a variety of creative fundraising projects, such as Thanks for Life and other community based events.

RIBI President Burman said: "Raising this incredible amount is thanks to the support of our communities. Rotary is very much part of the community and seeks to support it but we also need the community to support us and I would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped to stop polio. Every time someone donates to Rotary's End Polio Now campaign, we take another step closer to saying goodbye to the disease and saving children from a lifetime of crippling pain."

Since 1988, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99 percent, from about 350,000 infections annually to fewer than 650 cases reported so far for 2011. The wild polio virus now remains endemic, meaning its transmission has never been stopped, in only four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. However, India on January 13th this year marked a full calendar year without a case, paving the way for its possible removal from the endemic list.

Other countries remain at risk for polio cases imported from the endemic countries. In Africa in 2011, Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo had significant outbreaks. Also in 2011, a small cluster of polio cases in China, which had been polio-free for a decade, was attributable to a virus from Pakistan.

India – Polio Free

Rotary is welcoming news that India is now no longer on the World Health Organisation list of endemic countries, having been polio free for a year.

It will only be officially declared polio free if it maintains a clean bill of health for a further two years and will be closely monitored. The major announcement was made at the polio summit in Delhi, following a major National Immunisation Day (NID) where millions of children were immunised by Rotarians and health agencies.

It also coincides with celebrations by Rotary across the world as part of Rotary Day, Rotary's birthday, which saw buildings illuminated with the End Polio Now message.

ALL PUNS INTENDED>

1. Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

2. A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, 'I'll serve you, but don't start anything.'

3. Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.

4. A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

5. A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says: 'A beer please, and one for the road.'

6. Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: 'Does this taste funny to you?'

7. 'Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.' 'That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome.' 'Is it common?' Well, 'It's Not Unusual.'

SECOND OXFORD ROTARY
PEACE CONFERENCE

PEACE: HOME AND AWAY

DOES IT MATTER TO YOU?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

This Second Rotary Peace Conference is open to all

SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD OXI IHP

SATURDAY 28th APRIL 2012

9.30 -4.30

For application form philpbobbyoxon@aol.com

£28.00 to include Coffee on arrival, Mid-morning Coffee and Light Lunch

Preceded by pre-Conference Dinner at the
Oxford Spires Hotel OXI 4PS
Friday 27th April 2012 @ £45.00 per person
7 for 7.30pm -Dress: Lounge Suit

Community and Vocational.

The annual Party for the Blind will take place on 16th. May, volunteers required for transport. Various members have agreed to assist Andrew Fairbairn in his Kyak south coast expedition. It is proposed to have a stall at the Dragon Boats event. We have again been asked to run a charity event at The Old Ford Rally at Gaydon on 22 July. Blood Pressure day is to be October 13th.

Foundation.

Stephens Steaming is booked for June 17th. 2012.

Sports & Entertainment.:-

The Club Outing is arranged for the 10th April to Lord's Cricket ground and the Imperial War Museum. Golf :- Bigwood Trophy is fixed for Thursday 30th. August. Spring and Autumn competitions to be arranged, also awaiting date for the 4B's competition.

International:- John Hansford is arranging details for the Contact visit to Italy on 17th-20th. May 2012 with a possible stay over at Lake Maggiore. Andrew Fairbairn will be conducting his "The Shelterbox Olympic Challenge" from Porthleven to Weymouth with overnight stops on the way. He has also shown Shelterbox and Aquabox at the District Conference in Bournemouth.

Youth Opportunities.

Young Musician and Young Chef competitions have been carried out and our winners have gone on to District finals (see reports). Practice interviews have been carried out successfully at Blessed George Napier School, Five pupils have been invited to compete for the £50 prize and the winner was Sean Wright. The interviews for B.Y.H.P. will take place on the 3rd April. It is still hoped to find suitable participants for the R.Y.L.A. expedition. The dates have been fixed for Children Singing for Children, 13-15th. November 2012.

Treasurer'sTalk.

Annual Subscriptions

At our recent AGM it was unanimously agreed that our Club subscriptions for the Rotary year commencing on 1st July will remain at £95.00, with a late payment surcharge of £10 being added for any member's subscriptions payments made after 31st July 2010, and the joining fee for 2012/13 remain at £50.00.

Where the money goes

During March payments have been made to the following:

African Community & Education - £350

Family Christmas Festival of Music

Banbury Symphony Orchestra - £324

Young Musician

Cash Prizes & Float - £1,200

Ban' Print & Design (Prog's) - £303

M Paine (Adjudicator) - £500

M Stinton (Adjudicator) - £350

M Leigh (Adjudicator) - £350

Inner Wheel - £300

Jane Turner - £40

G Jeremy (Exp's) - £497

D Hitchcox (Exp's) - £9

Young Chef

B Goodchild (Exp's) - £32

Foundation - £4,500

Practice Interviews

Ban' Print & Design (Cert's) - £29

"Free Funds" currently stand at just over £7,100

CONGRATULATIONS.

We would like to congratulate Rotarian Paul Gardner on his recent marriage to Jenny.

CHANGE OFVENUE.

BANBURY CHERWELL ROTARY CLUB are now meeting at the Whately Hotel Horse Fair, Banbury. Date and time the same as previous.

Conference Reports will be in the next Bulletin. If those who attended, have any comments please forward them to the Editor.

A FEW MORE PUNS

8. Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, 'I was artificially inseminated this morning.' 'I don't believe you,' says Dolly. 'It's true; no bull!' exclaims Daisy.

9. An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

10. Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.

11. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day, but I couldn't find any.

12. A man woke up in a hospital after a serious accident. He shouted, 'Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!' The doctor replied, 'I know you can't - I've cut off your arms!'

HON SECRETARY -David Sullivan CLUB WEBSITE ;- www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk

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