

The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

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

President Ian Rodrick

APRIL 2013

District Conference, Bournemouth.

As all but six of our members are on email and can read the District Newsletter which contains a full report of the conference, I will limit my report to a few observations and matters of particular moment to our club. If any of the non-email members is interested, if they ask me I will be pleased to download copies of the District report them.

About half of the 25 Banbury representatives (partners included) travel to Bournemouth on Thursday in order that they could settle in without any rush and have time for the important business of comparing Bournemouth shops to the Banbury ones, and inevitably purchasing a few samples of their goods. Our President Ian held out for residence at the Highcliffe Marriott Hotel, and what an excellent choice that was, I cannot remember more attentive or friendly staff in any other hotel. Those of us who made the trip on Thursday were rewarded by the President's lady, Liz who entertained us in the presidential suite with bubbly and nibbles before descending to the restaurant where we were accommodated in a private room adjacent to the main dining room, it is believed in respect of the sensibilities of other diners.

We were somewhat puzzled as to why a small glitch with her internet connection necessitated no less than five men visiting her room to remedy the problem! Be that as it may, Helen, whose camera was not as much in evidence as usual due to her broken ankle (I believe she only took about 100 photos), had another claim to fame. She

very generously donated a week in her luxury villa in Spain for a silent auction in aid of Foundation, the successful bidder having bid £610, well done Helen.

On Friday morning our welcome packs awaited us at the hotel reception, and these we found contained more extraneous flyers than most Sunday newspapers. Those who had the time to study the contents found that they were mostly supporting documents for the exhibitors in the Conference Exhibition. This was useful as there was too many exhibitors to take on board all that they were promoting.

The conference proper commenced on Friday afternoon with a parade of flags carried on to the platform by the presidents of the district clubs. This opening had been carefully rehearsed but in the event it appeared spontaneous, if that is the correct description. The chairman of the conference committee then officially opened the conference reading our letter of loyal greetings to the Queen, and the response from her private secretary. This was followed by the playing, and singing of the National Anthem which was a welcome return to an old conference tradition.

Following the afternoon session we all repaired to 'The Crab', a fish restaurant which Ian and Liz had discovered when on a reconnaissance visit to Bournemouth. We had a table reserved for us all and enjoyed an excellent and sociable meal. We then took ourselves off to what proved to be a very enjoyable concert in the Tregonwell Hall featuring Laurie Holloway and Friends and the Reading Male Voice Choir.

The weather had been cold on Thursday and Friday with a chill wind coming off the sea, but Saturday was a milder and more sunny day. The first conference session in the morning, featuring Rotaract and Ambassadorial Scholars went particularly well, as did afternoon session when Alan Jagger introduced two Peace Scholars. Regrettably the Inner Wheel session had moved from it's usual position immediately prior to the official opening of Conference to a spot squeezed in between the second morning session and the afternoon one. One result of this was that some folk who wanted to support Inner Wheel missed out on at least some of the afternoon session, or missed the Inner Wheel speaker. Those who made the latter choice were the losers as we were treated to a most interesting, informative and humorous talk by a guide at Salisbury Cathedral. Maybe not in line with the conference theme but a most enjoyable hour and more laughs than we had all the rest of the weekend.

In the evening President Ian and Liz once again generously entertained us in the presidential suite, after which the young blades and their ladies attended the Masquerade Ball in the Purbeck Hall where the reputation of our club was further enhanced by John Smith winning the heads and tails competition!



The more mature, and it has to be said, reserved, once again had the privilege of a private dining room in order that they were not troubled by other hotel guests and they too enjoyed a very pleasant meal and of course good company.

Sunday morning started with another innovation, a multi-faith service which went pretty well and was

better attended than one might have expected considering the late hour that most folk went to bed the previous night. Also the packing to be done and rooms to be vacated before we dare go to the conference centre. This service was followed by the closing session when RI President's Representative Alan Jagger departed for a time from his usual entertaining delivery to mark a great honour for our district and particularly for our club. Our own rather special and unique member Alan Wolstencroft was deservedly honoured with a 'Service above Self Award', one of only 150 worldwide this year chosen from a short list of 400 nominees, and this from a movement which boasts 1.2 million members! The conference rose to applaud Alan and recognize the worthiness of this recognition of his humanitarian work.



D. G. Judith Diment, Alan Wolstencroft and Alan Jagger.

As ever the company was great, not only did we meet up with friends old and new from other clubs in the district, but more importantly we grew to know our fellow club members and their partners a little better and to enjoy their company. Although all the speakers were worthy representatives of their professions and excelled in their fields, somehow I was not inspired, for me the conference programme lacked sparkle and was rather short on humour. As ever though Rita and I enjoyed it and we feel that these events when we can get together with our fellow members and their partners contribute greatly to the strength and cohesiveness of our club. If you've not sampled a district conference yet, why not give it a try at Torquay 2014?

Maurice Humphris.

Rodrick's ramblings

March was the second coldest on record according to the young lady on the weather forecast: it was also one of the busiest and most enjoyable

The beginning of the month saw a group of 20 of us at the Bournemouth Conference. We all had a most agreeable time but the highlight of the weekend was the presentation of a "Service Above Self" award to Alan Wolstencroft which was accompanied by the delegates giving him a standing ovation. It almost raised the roof and brought great credit to Alan and our Club. Well done Alan! Can I also express my thanks to Ron Barnett and John Bennett for the work they did in preparing a DVD about Alan which was well received.

Back from the seaside and we were involved in the practice interviews at BGN School which were organised very efficiently by the Youth Opps committee. I have just been invited to the distribution of prizes at the school which I shall, of course, attend.

The next engagement was the President's Lunch at Tudor Hall School. Things seemed to go well, from where I was sitting, the food was excellent, the company good and the entertainment enjoyed by all. My thanks go to Ian Calderbank for taking care of the "admin" in his usual efficient way.

Having had our AGM last week, I am aware that the year is flying by – only 3 months to go.

ROTARY FOUNDATION.

On the occasion of Paul Harris day, Rotarian Ian Calderbank gave an excellent talk on the life of Paul Harris and the beginnings of Rotary, he also updated us as to the effects of the changes to Future Vision. This is the second part of his talk which outlines the effects of Future Vision .

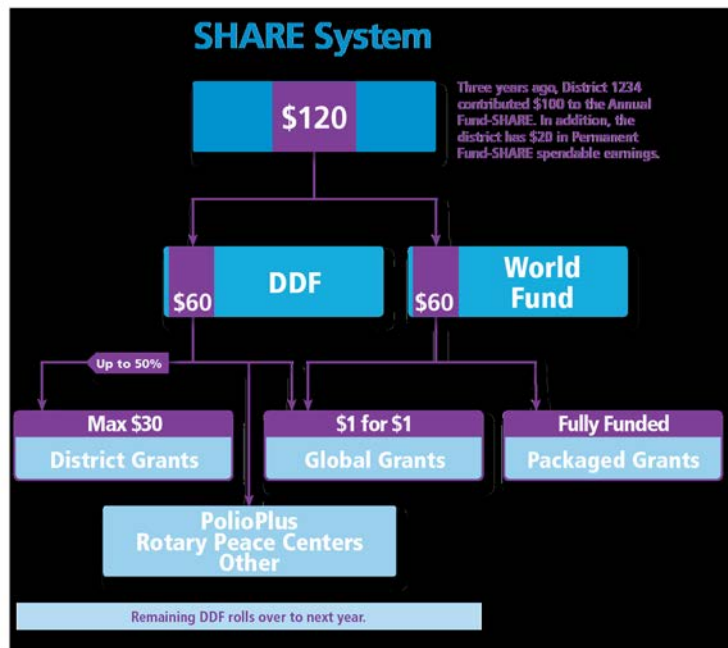
Since Paul's death, Rotary has not stood still but continued to evolve and to introduce new initiatives such as the motto "Service above Self"(1950), Interact(1962), GSE(1965), Rotaract(1968), RYLA(1971), and Polioplus(1985). Also, starting in this next Rotary year, 2013 – 14, a new **Future Vision for Foundation** is expected to provide a more flexible and effective way of using the money generated by members and held in trust in the various Foundation Funds.

"Foundation" is Rotary's Charity Trust Fund and members donate to it via Clubs. The Clubs send these donations together with any other money raised for Foundation from fundraising activities to it via District. There is presently a target of \$100 per member p.a. District then donates to the "Annual Programmes Fund" of Foundation.

50% of these donations become available to District on a 3 Year Cycle for use via the "District Designated Fund" (DDF), i.e., 50% of 2012-13 donations become available to District in 2015-16. The other 50% is lodged in Foundation's "World" Fund and also becomes available to Districts if used via GLOBAL grants.

Up to 50% of the District Designated Fund (i.e., 25% of donations) can be used for DISTRICT grants with the remainder available for use in conjunction with GLOBAL grants or for donations to approved causes, which include Polioplus, the World Fund itself, Rotary Peace Centres, even other Districts, and the Permanent Fund. This last Fund is an Endowment Fund, set up some years ago to provide greater financial stability for Foundation. When a District donates to this Fund, clearly the donation cannot become available later, like the other donations mentioned above, because it has become part of the capital of the endowment. However, income earned from this "investment" does become available each year.

The schematic below, issued by Rotary, gives an example showing how a district which has donated \$100 three years ago and also has \$20 of endowment income available this year can make use of funding from Foundation and where the remainder is used by Foundation.



So what is changing in 2013? Well, Matching Grants and District Simplified Grants become Global Grants and District Grants respectively. There is also a greater emphasis on humanitarian support in cases such as the equivalent of Ambassadorial Scholars or Group Study Exchanges. But, overall the main benefit should be in greater flexibility. The main routes to Foundation funding support are via District Grants or Global Grants. There is a third type of grant called Package Grants but these are predesigned by Rotary and strategic partners such as Mercy Ships and are fully funded by Foundation with no financial or project leadership involvement from Clubs or Districts.

District Grants fund smaller, short-term activities that address needs in either our local community or communities worldwide. Each district gets to choose which activities it will fund with grants from the District Designated Fund and administers them. Note that it is District that decides and clubs must apply to District for such grants. The decisions are taken by a committee comprised typically of the chairmen of District Foundation and District Grants with the District Governor, DG elect and DG nominee, but the makeup of this committee is again District's choice. Clubs may submit for projects or activities relating to the mission of Foundation including:

Service projects

Local or international projects, volunteer service travel, or disaster recovery

Scholarships

Greater flexibility now - District develops own criteria for types it will fund.

No restrictions on level (secondary, university, or graduate), length, or area of study.

Scholarships can be awarded in any amount but no grant is available from the World Fund

Can support students attending a local university or a school in another country.

Vocational training

Support local needs or fund teams to travel abroad

To teach or to receive training.

No partnership or international requirements for vocational training opportunities

No restrictions on training team size, length of training, or participant age.

Can support activities similar to Group Study Exchange but with humanitarian aim.

Terms and conditions for specific eligibility can be found on the District or RI websites. Any of the District Designated Fund (DDF) unused can be carried over to the next year but cannot be used for District Grants.

Global Grants are for large international activities with sustainable, measurable outcomes in one or more of six areas of focus and must be greater than \$30,000 in value. District decides whether to support and progress any Club application. Global Grants will only be awarded in six areas of focus, namely:

- Peace and conflict prevention or resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and sanitation
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Economic and community development

There is a minimum award of US\$15,000 for a minimum project budget of \$30,000, with 100 % match of DDF allocations or a 50 % match of cash from e.g., Clubs. There must be two primary sponsors (which can be Clubs or Districts) a host partner where the activity will occur and an international partner from outside the country typically. Both must be qualified, i.e., have in place appropriate financial controls, audit trails, etc., and both must sign a Memorandum of Understanding. Additional partners do not have to be qualified.

For humanitarian projects it is necessary to carry out a community needs assessment at the beginning of planning, develop a project that addresses those needs and identify sustainable, measurable outcomes in the benefitting community. Scholarships may be awarded to support graduate-level scholars for one to four years (tuition, board, plus other expenses). As with the old Ambassadorial Scholars, donor and recipient districts must be involved but where the new system differs is that the field of study and professional goals must further one of the areas of focus. Vocational training awards may cover either local training to build skills within a community or support teams of professionals travelling abroad either to learn in their profession or to teach local professionals in a particular field. They may be multi-vocational teams but must share a common purpose supporting an area of focus. Unlike the old Group Study Exchange, teams must respond to a humanitarian need.

Each year District has to decide its strategy regarding how much to spend on District Grants (maximum 50% of the DDF), or on drawing in Global Grants, or on making donations. If we wish to play our part in this we should be closer to District to facilitate such discussions.

Speaker Report.

Rosemary Dilsaver talk on Friday 15th March to Rotary Club

On Friday 15th March 2013 Rosemary Dilsaver, the manager of the Witness Service for Oxford Crown and Magistrates Courts gave a most enlightening talk to the club. There are four "Strands" to the Victim Support Service, these being Witness Service, Homicide Service, Victim Service and the provision of a support line.

Victim Support is a National Charity which was formed in 1973 with locations across England and Wales, it is entirely independent of the government and the police. The service is completely free and most importantly is confidential. The service is available to all persons who are victims of crime against persons or property and supports witnesses of crime for both the prosecution and defence.

Victim Support is the oldest and largest organisation dedicated to meeting the needs of both witnesses and victims of crime in the world and since victim support started over 25 million people have been helped.

Victim support started helping witnesses in court in 1989 and now operates in every court in England and Wales

In addition to being free and confidential the Witness Service is diverse, non-judgmental, is tailored to individual needs and is culturally sensitive and its

workers are very well trained. The benefits of the Witness Service gives people someone to talk to confidentially before a trial, gives information about what to expect in court, see how a court operates and what court procedures are. It also gives people a quiet place to wait before giving evidence. You can even have someone to go with you into the courtroom to help you feel more at ease and if you like you can discuss the case when it is over and give you help with practical matters e.g. claiming your expenses. Victim Support also works closely with all partner agencies i.e. police, domestic abuse agencies witness care unit, offer pre trial visits and offer side door entry to the court to avoid defendants who may seek to cause intimidation and in the period from March 2008 to April 2009 the trained volunteers organised 45, 800 pre trial and 124,034 on the day court visits to help witnesses prepare for giving evidence.

Victim Support services are largely delivered by excellently trained volunteers. There are approximately 6,500 volunteers and their work is worth about £ 20 million a year.

An excellent and compassionate service is also provided for young witnesses in particular with specially trained volunteers and further information is available on all the Victim Support service is available via their website.

Bob Nurden

A THANK YOU.

From Serena Holbech Young Musician of the Year 2012.

Dear Gareth,

I just wanted to thank you and the Rotary Club of Banbury very much indeed for the very generous £50.

I did not realise that the envelope contained money until I got home and opened it and it was a lovely surprise! I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Banbury Young Musician, it has given me a lot of confidence and we are all so lucky to have such a fantastic competition in our area.

Many Thanks, Serena Holbech.

Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. was held on Monday 25 March. President Ian Rodrick chaired the meeting and gave his report. A good attendance also heard the various reports from our Club committees. It has proved to be an excellent year of activities and fund raising organised by the various committees.

The 6 Ordinary members of council elected were Simon Bion, Malcolm Dibb, Reg McLean, John Smith, Alan Wolstencroft and Nigel Yeadon. Co-opted members were Assistant Secretary Mark Recchia, Assistant Treasurer Alison Warren and Bulletin Editor David Sullivan. Honorary Examiners are Tony Brace and Nigel Halfpenny.

Committee Reports.

Community and Vocational.

The "Help for Hero's" concert with Banbury Symphony Orchestra will be held on 13th. July at St Mary's church.

Foundation.

Stephens Summer Steaming to be held again this year on 21st. July 2013.

Sports & Entertainment.-

There will be a new date for the Club Quiz.

The Spring Golf competition is to be held on 22nd April at the Feldon Valley Course.

The Bigwood Trophy will take place on 27th August.

The Club Outing to be on Tuesday 9 April 2013 visiting Birmingham, "Back to Backs Museum and Cadbury World.

International:-

This year's Contact Meeting is with Olten Switzerland on May 9-12th with the option of staying on for a further three days at the Hotel Kusunacht on Lake Zurich, a hotel at which we had stayed at previously. John Hansford has arranged this and the flight. Contact John for details.

The Banbury Show "It's a Knockout" Competition will be run again this year, it is hoped to have 24 teams taking part. Andrew Fairbairn would like suggestions for teams he can contact to take part.

Youth Opportunities.

Young Chef has been successfully organised again at Oxford College, Banbury. The winner Megan Coy has gone forward to the District final and has now taken part in the regional final in Maidstone.

A Youth Exchange student has been selected, she is Judith Allen and she will be going to Belgium.

Two students from Frank Wise School will be selected to go on the Calvert Trust Course. (R.Y.L.A.)

The interviews at B.G.N. have been completed, with Warriner to follow in April. Volunteers needed for this interview session.

The Committee title is due to change to "Youth Opportunities" in line with R.I. headings.

Rotaract, Interact.

The Interact Charter is now here and it is proposed that they hold an event at the Masonic Hall and that the Charter will be presented at that occasion.

HON SECRETARY –David Sullivan

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