



**President Richard Watts**

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### **Lucy Curtis is the Banbury Young Musician of the Year for 2009**



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March saw a capacity audience of over 200 people gather at Sibford School for a spectacular evening of musical entertainment at the Rotary Club of Banbury Young Musician of the Year finals for 2009.

The performances given by over 50 young people, aged from 8 to 18 who took part in the finals, ranged from good to absolutely fabulous. Each and every one of them should be extremely proud of their performances.

The standard was such that the three adjudicators, Mark Paine, Martin Leigh and Ian Cuthill found it hard to select the winners for the 27 category trophies, and extremely difficult to select the overall winner.

Their final decision was that the Rotary Club of Banbury Young Musician of the Year 2009 is Lucy Curtis who sang "O Deo Mio Dolce Ador". She received the Alcan trophy from Rotarian John Phillips.

Millie Greedy won the Junior Musician of the Year and was presented with the Humphris Family Trophy by Rotarian Maurice Humphris. Millie played Sonata by M. Clement in the junior piano section.

The 27 trophies made a spectacular display before being presented by various dignitaries to the winning contestants. These trophies have been presented for many years, some of which date back to the 1950's when they were part of the Banbury Arts and Crafts festival which was held for many years in Banbury Town Hall.

The main sponsor for the past 18 years of the competition has been Banbury Charities and the Rotary Club of Banbury is extremely indebted to them for their support without which the event would not be possible.

The event is also supported by the Bluecoat Foundation, Banbury Town Council, Cherwell District Council, Sibford School, The Inner Wheel Club of Banbury, One Man Band and many Rotarians and friends too many to mention individually.

The final was attended by the Chairman of Cherwell District Council Cllr. Andrew Fulljames, Banbury Town Mayor Ann Bonner, Rotary Club of Banbury President Rtn. Richard Watts, Inner Wheel President Pat Calderbank and representative of the Rotary District Governor Rtn. Laurie Cunningham.

Rotarian Gareth Jeremy once again organised the event together with a committee of Rotarians. Gareth was the prime mover for this competition 18 years ago when he heard of the Banbury Arts and Crafts trophies lying idle and should once again be used to encourage the young people of the Banbury District to show the talents..

## Member profiles



### **John Donaldson**

I was born on Lanark Scotland in 1957. I then moved to Darlington with my parents in 1969. After leaving school I took an apprenticeship as a Greenkeeper at the Golf Club where my father was the Head Greenkeeper. I then moved around the country gaining experience as a green keeper and gaining promotion as I went. In 1983 I moved to Banbury to build the new 9 holes at Cherwell Edge Golf Course which was owned by Cherwell District Council at that time. I worked there for about 6 years and with the council change to compulsory competitive tendering and the likelihood that the Council would sell off the course, I decided to jump ship. I took a position as a Contracts Manager for a company building golf and sports facilities, only to find out later that year, having returned from honeymoon, to be told there was no work for me (get the train home). I found it very difficult to be suddenly out of work. I had made friends and family in Banbury and I was settled. Should I go back to greenkeeping and move away or try to find something local? This was a real crossroads in my life.

We made the decision to stay in Banbury. The M40 was being built and I found a temp job as a measurement technician for the consulting

engineers (Halcrow). Lowly paid and long hours it may have been, but it was one of the most rewarding and enjoyable jobs I have ever had, I was one of the last to leave Banbury site. During my time there I had become quite a computer nerd and as such was offered a permanent post at their head office in Swindon specialising in critical path analysis for the project planning team. This was again a great job, I really enjoyed it, but had to travel most days and stay over in a caravan (small one) on the odd night. The strain of travelling and staying over got too much, the salary was very poor and it was not viable to move. Therefore I went back to my trade as a greenkeeper and travelled to Aylesbury every day. Two years later I took the step to work for myself and control my own destiny. I started the Grassman lawn mowing business 12 years ago and it has been hard work. I now employ two full time staff in the season plus a couple of others who do bits and bobs. For me it's all about quality of life, time to spend with my family.

Then there is my other work, and how I got roped into it is still a mystery. I became a Town and District councillor in 2004 and I found myself put on almost every committee there was (new boy Ha Ha). I got to meet lots of different people and organisations and did what I could do to help. The Town Council then made me Mayor – what had I done to deserve that?

This was a whole new ball game, balancing work, being Mayor and a District Councillor. I held such high value to QUALITY OF LIFE and spending time with my family. I now spend so much time away from home, even the dog looks at me as if to say “who are you”? My family have been tremendous through this time and truthfully we have all gained so much. For me this quality of life thing has become much richer as I am now part of the community. Meeting so many people from so many walks of life gives me a sense of being part of something important.

Life is now somewhat more settled and I can focus more of my time with the family again.

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### Last orders please.

Joint Presidents Ball at General Foods Social Club Spiceball Park.  
Friday 17th. April 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Dress Black Tie. Frank Sinatra Tribute and Disco.  
Five Course Buffet £27.50. per person. Note:- The Town Mayor and Rotary District Governor are invited.  
the penultimate Friday of the month.

### **CHRISTIAN HOPE SCHOOL, KISSY, FREETOWN**

In January 2007, I agreed to fund the building of a 6 classroom extension at the school - when I first gave this undertaking I had no idea how long it would take - (a bit like Wembley stadium!!) and the final estimate to complete the 6 classrooms was **£37,500** which was far more than originally estimated (a lot like the 2012 Olympic project!!) BUT I am pleased to announce that today I have sent £1,750 by Moneygram to the school taking the total sent to **£37,500** which provides them with the funding for all the budgeted work and by Easter weekend the building will hopefully be fully plastered, rendered & painted - **"making a real difference" - thank you.**

### **EXCHANGE RATE - LATEST NEWS**

This time last year the exchange rate was 5,600 Leones to the £. In April 2008 it peaked at 5,695, and in January 2009 it was at an all time low of 4,060!!! TODAY the rate had risen to Le 4,346 - better news.

This is the side elevation of the building and as you can see there is quite a drop from the classroom level to the ground!! Additional funding will pay for essential, yes you've guessed, Health & Safety work!

We are also hoping to convert the basement area into an open plan multi purpose assembly/meeting area.

I have a further £2,675 in the bank/pledged which is designated for the Health & Safety work and to start the purchase of timber to start making the furniture.



### **EQUIPMENT SPONSORSHIP**

I have set up a sponsorship scheme to equip the rooms with blackboards, desks and benches for the children and tables and chairs for the teachers -

### **Thank you to the following for recent donations:**

Stour Valley WI & it's members, Shipston on Stour  
BW Technologies Ltd, Banbury  
The Aris family, Middleton Cheney  
Peter & Barbara Weston, Duns Tew  
Judy Canning, Banbury  
Mira Malovic-Yeeles @ Oxford Rotary Club  
Mr J Lewis, Broughton, Banbury  
Pat & Pete Thomas, Anglesey  
Stephen & Claire Jakeman, Banbury  
Marissa Massey, Trina Nash & families, Banbury  
Julie & John Taylor, Broughton

Banbury Print & Design for their continued support

**In May 2005 I knew little about Sierra Leone -Mercy Ships & Rotary Mission Challenge got me involved & now nearly 4 years on I have visited 5 times and it just proves that if you want something [Rotary & Rotarians can - "Make Dreams Real"!](#)**

**Thank you to EVERYONE, the hundreds of individuals, dozens of organisations & companies, the Charitable Trusts and very special thanks to Banbury Rotary Club, and Sue & Kate for their endless support & understanding in helping me to "make a real difference".**

### **Brodie Bursary.**

Michael Budd has received a letter from one of our bursary students.

I am writing to thank you, the Rotary Club and everyone related to the Bursary for the second cheque I received not long ago. It is greatly appreciated and certainly helps me here in Bath with my studies. I spent the majority of the last amount of money on books that I needed for the course which, annoyingly, just seem to get more and more expensive.

Studies are going well, a lot of work but I suppose you don't get something for nothing. I'm currently awaiting exam results from exams I took in January, but I have already received feedback on a couple of portfolios I did last semester and they were quite encouraging, so all is going well at the moment. Other than the studies, I've got involved with a number of other activities, notably the Uni squash club and also the sky-diving club – something I have always wanted to do and now finally got the opportunity to take it without much second thought, and really enjoying it.

I hope everything is going well in Banbury, please be kind enough to pass these thoughts onto the rest of the club.

TIM TRAYNOR.

### **Speaker reports.**

Our speaker on the 6<sup>th</sup>. March was Dr Hugh Gillies, a G.P. in the town, is a member of the Horton Hospital 'think tank' who are seeking to establish a blue print of a viable hospital in Banbury.

One critical factor in the planning is the amount of work in the various disciplines of medical care in the Banburyshire catchment area. Ideally a department should offer sufficient work for a consultant and at least one junior doctor gaining experience. The supply and demand policy may mean that some departments may have to move to the more populace areas of our health authority but other disciplines may come here.

One aim is to develop a 'Centre of Excellence' at the Horton where an elite team of doctors would become leaders in terms of reference and research in one particular branch of medicine for the whole medical district. This concentration of talent would attract leading doctors and would enhance the reputation and importance of a viable Horton Hospital in Banbury.

Dr Gillies showed clearly that the initial victory last year was just the beginning and that the future negotiations would require a strong political as well as medical approach.

It is hoped that Dr Gillies' enthusiastic approach to his subject is a strong factor in the on-going negotiations and will lead to a hospital in Banbury with an exciting future and with the benefit of easy access for North Oxfordshire.

Brian Croft

**The Speaker** for the 13<sup>th</sup>. March was Sean Crotty, the manager in charge of the Thames Valley Police driving school here at Banbury who was hosted by Rtn Bob Nurden.

The talk was on the subject of police driver training. Mr Crotty, a former police officer, who has been with the driving school since its arrival in Banbury in the mid 80s gave a most interesting talk which included the history of how police driving schools came into being and gave many interesting facts and figures over the ages up until the present day.

He outlined the training requirements in respect of today's police driver and the various courses

which are tailored to their individual operations needs.

At the end of his talk members asked relevant questions on various aspects and it was felt that with more time being available then both the subject and its following questions would easily have been extended.

Rotarian Nurden thanked Mr. Crotty for his talk and the assembled members showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

Bob Nurden

**Our Speaker** on the 27th March was our own Rotarian Bob Thompson his talk was about the Bankside Development - Banbury

Bob started his professional life as a livestock auctioneer with Midland Marts but as the selling of animals by auction declined he moved into the buying and selling of land and property development.

The arrival of the M40 motorway in the Banbury area in 1991 provided a large volume of work for land surveyors who were able to represent land owners, whose land was being taken for road building, in agreeing compensation claims. Bob was involved over a wide area in this work which led to similar activities associated with the promotion of land for new development.

By way of example Bob charted the planning history of the Bankside site to the south of Banbury where about 1,000 houses are to be built. He explained how promotion of this site had commenced in 1998 when the land involved was no more than 20 acres. However the Council planners had added large swathes of additional land running down Bankside into the valley bottom alongside the canal resulting in a total area of 187 acres, 60% of which was to be in the form of parkland.

The Council had resolved to grant outline planning consent for development of the site in 2006 but this decision was subject to the applicants and the land owners first entering into a legal planning agreement to fund all necessary infrastructure both on and off the site which the Authorities considered necessary to support the development.

The estimated cost of this infrastructure added up to some £54 million which includes serviced sites for some 330 social housing units. The outcome is that the residual value of the land in the present economic climate is no longer an attractive proposition.

Bob explained that whatever the value of the land is judged to be that value is shared equally by all land owners irrespective of the actual use to which each parcel is put. This means that an acre of parkland would have the same value as an acre of new housing, a valuation system referred to as Equalisation. At present the Sect. 106 agreement has not been signed by all parties and there was the risk that the Council would have to look to some alternative strategy in order to meet demands placed upon them by Central Government.

Bob demonstrated as he has done on other occasions that he has a comprehensive knowledge of this subject and the determination to get results for his clients.

Brian Cornley

### **NEW MEMBER.**

President Richard Watts inducted a new member on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>. March he is John Charles Webb.

Details for Information.

John Webb. Partner:- Joy,

Address:- 36 Rochester Way, Twyford, Banbury, OX17 3JX.

Telephone:- 01295 810317.

E. Mail:- The organman@btopenworld.com

Date of birth:- 17/10/1943.

Employment:- Retired Health and Safety Officer

He was proposed by Gareth Jeremy.



### We have received an invitation from Banbury Cherwell.

We are delighted to advise that Dr Scilla Elworthy has agreed to speak at our club on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Dr Scilla was one of the main speakers at the Rotary Peace Conference at Oxford last autumn. We unfortunately had to cancel the original date in February due to the snow.

Dr Scilla Elworthy founded the Oxford Research Group in 1982 to develop effective dialogue between nuclear weapons policy-makers world wide and their critics. In 2003 she founded Peace Direct which funds and promotes peace-builders in conflict areas all over the world.

Since 2005 she has been an advisor to The Elders initiative and in 2007 was appointed a member of the World Future Council and also the International Task Force on Preventative Diplomacy. Scilla has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize and was awarded the Niwano Peace Prize in 2003.

We would be delighted if you and your members could attend this event. Details are:

Date: Tuesday 9th June 2009 Time: 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

Talk: From the Bottom Up - The Effective Resolution of Conflicts with Peaceful Measures

Venue: The Pavilion, The Glebe Recreation Ground (formerly known as Banbury Cricket Club), White Post Road, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4BN. Cost: £8.00 including buffet style meal

If you or your members would like to attend please let me know the number of attendees:

My contact details:

Old Manor Barn, Hornton Hollow, Bloxham, Oxon OX15 4QP. Tel: 01295 720174 (Home): Mobile: 077470 31480: E mail: sandy.williams@tiscali.co.uk  
Kind regards Sandy Williams

### **Annual General Meeting**

The annual General meeting was held on Monday 30th. March at the Masonic Hall Marlborough Road . The meeting was chaired by President Richard Watts.

A brief resume of the reports is given below.

President Richard gave his report on the past year he was pleased that so much activity had been achieved but was a little disappointed that a few planned events had not been supported.

Vice President Roger Worrall then outlined a few changes for the coming year. He stressed that it was important to ensure that the committees had the correct numbers to complete their projects.

After the findings of the sub-committee considering our club structure there are to be a few changes to our club committee's. These mainly affect the minor committees and it is hoped will improve the smooth running and success of our club.

Roger has also planned shadow meetings of committees ready for our Club Assembly. Also that the major committees should appoint a Vice Chairman to ensure continuity. There then followed the reports of the Club Service committees.

## **Fellowship and House**

Roger reported that the Fellowship & House Committee was originally going to be chaired this Rotary year by Roy Watkins, unfortunately due to Roy's & Maureen's health problems Roy was unable to take the lead of this committee, thankfully Roy and Maureen's health has now improved.

Richard George kindly stepped into the gap and has been responsible for running the Fellowship & House Committee this year.

Richard has carried out his responsibilities extremely well with the support of the majority of club members, unfortunately he has had problems with a few members at times trying to apologise well after the given cut off time and also with members who have apologised but turned up anyway.

## **Membership and Classification - Chaired by Malcolm Douglas.**

Roger reported that Membership & Classification has been chaired by Malcolm Douglas this year.

We started the year in July with the loss of three of our lady members:-

**Ross Grant** - Moved to the Rotary Club of Shipston

**Margaret Tilstone** - Moved to the Rotary Club of Holbeach

**Janet Chapman** - Moved with her job to Birmingham

In November one of the stalwarts of this Club **Jim Johnson** sadly passed away after 36 years membership.

On a more positive note we have so far inducted the following new members:-

**Kieron Mallon**

**Ted Wheatley**

**Lee Dwyer**

**John Webb**

We now have 75 members which includes 4 honorary members.

A 10 day letter has just been circulated for Dr. Andrew McHugh and there are a number of other potential members in the pipeline.

Roger reminded us that we should always be on the look out for suitable people who would make good members particularly ladies.

## **Sports and Entertainment - Chaired by John Bennett.**

A busy year of activities has been enjoyed by all. These included A weekend in the Lake District organised by Brian Croft. An evening at Towcester Races, A visit to Didcot Power Station organised By Tom Taylor.

The Golfing fraternity enjoyed the Bigwood Trophy in August, the Club meeting at Brailes, and we came second in the 4B's competition, the Spring event is yet to take place. There was again the visit to the varsity match at Twickenham.

The darts event with the Cherwell Club is to take place on the 6<sup>th</sup>.April having been snowed off earlier in the year. Bernard Goodchild took a good number of us to the Dogs at Oxford Stadium.

The inter club quiz was successfully organised by Nigel Randall ensuring that our team of Bob Dix, Michael Budd, Chris Reynolds and Tony Wiltshire won the trophy. Still to come is the Club Outing to Brooklands Motor Museum.

Rotarian Philip Bobby is taking two parties around the Oxford Colleges in June and July. It is also hoped to have an autumn break to Seville. It is proposed that the organisation for District Conference should be taken over by this committee to ensure that we attend in good numbers following the mistakes this year.

## **Programme – Chaired by Rupert Kipping**

Rupert Kipping and his team have provided an interesting mix of speakers on many different subjects. He has also organised speakers into the next Rotary year to ensure continuity.

## **Publicity and Bulletin – Chaired by David Hitchcox**

David Hitchcox reported that although we had some publicity for our major events during the year it had been difficult to ensure that our local newspapers printed the copy they were sent. It is hoped that with a dedicated publicity officer in the coming year this will improve. The bulletin had been produced on a monthly basis through most of the year and that the support of the club in providing copy had vastly improved.

## **Attendance Officer – Tony Wiltshire**

### **Actual Attendance**

So far we have had 36 meetings this year, one being cancelled due to the weather

Since July 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 the average attendance at our weekly meetings has been 72%. If we excluded evening meetings the attendance would be 74%.

### **Members Activity to March 31<sup>st</sup>**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Change</b>
Meeting attendances	2,017	2,016	=
Attendance %	77%	72%	- (6.4%)
Rotarians per meeting (average)	N/A	52	
Other activities	456	754	+65%
Total	2,473	2,770	+12%

A new record was set this month with over 150 activities involving such activities as Young Musician, Young Chef and Club Committees etc counting. (previous record 129)

Rotarian Alan Fairbairn is in the lead with 76 units: President Richard Watts has 73, several other Rotarians are well up in the high 50's and 60's.

## **International – Chaired by Alan Wolstencroft**

Report from Alan Wolstencroft read by John Hansford. The committee has had quite a quiet year although the club has donated £500 to "Toybox" who have passed this on to a children's home in Bolivia and Hand of God project in Peru.

A total of £1,820 has been donated to the Bwengu Project which we have also supported in previous years. The Old Time Music Hall will again be our main fundraiser and will take place on 29<sup>th</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup>. May.

Contact weekend is of course an important event in our calendar, John Hansford and his sub committee have been working hard for a year organising this event.

The club has donated £5,000 to the Christian Hope School in Sierra Leone.

## **Youth Opportunities** – Chaired by Phil Cavill

Rotarian Bernard Goodchild gave the report for Chairman Philip Cavill.

We were unable to find a suitable candidate for R.Y.L.A. last year it is hoped to be more successful this year.

Children Singing for Children had 20 schools taking part with 443 children and 1,371 people attending over the three evenings. A total of £4,128 was raised which include a generous donation of £700 from Bloxham School. This money was divided between the Bwengu Project, Lets Play Project and Skidz.

The Banbury Young Musician was again a great success with support from Banbury Charities, Banbury Town Council, Cherwell District Council and The Blue Coat foundation. NOTE a fuller report is at the beginning of this bulletin.

The Banbury heat of the Young Chef Competition with the Cherwell Club and a local student went through to the District Final. The Mock interviews at B.G.N. School had 140 students interviewed. John Meeres and Reg McLean organised this together with the forthcoming interviews at The Warriner School when 220 pupils will be interviewed. There are 90 interviewers assisting in this project.

## **Community Service** – Chaired by Andrew Fairbairn

Chairman Andrew Fairbairn reported that he Christmas Barrel Organ and the one evening on the Father Christmas Float had raised around £5,500.

They had given help to the British Legion Poppy appeal and to the Schools 4 all In Africa for the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

Items yet to complete this Rotary Year are the Presidents Ball, Stroke Awareness day, The Party for the Blind and the Scilly's to Shetlands Challenge.

Donations have been made to the Beacon Centre, The Brodey Centre, Catherine House Hospice, Carol Lucas for Computer equipment and Victoria Caine at carers Centre. Dragon Boats is scheduled for 30th. May 2010.

## **Foundation** – Chaired by Graham Anker

Brian Cornley read the report for Chairman Graham Anker. The Club has sent a total of £4,000 to District Foundation. This was raised by, donations instead of Christmas cards £620, The Family Festival of Music £1,727.85, The Frugal Lunch £265 and the Olympic Lottery £195 and Rotarians personal donations of £711.50.

## **Brodey Bursary** – Chaired by Mike Budd

Michael Budd reported on the achievements of the current engineering bursary recipients. And that this year we had as yet only attracted one applicant but that it was hoped to improve on this with possible students from Chenderit School. The finances remained healthy and with the current uptake we had possible resources for the next ten years.

## **Treasurer** – Ron Barnett

Treasurer Ron Barnett presented the budget for the coming year this was accepted by the club. It was agreed that there would not be an increase in subscription this year. (£87).

After a few questions the President thanked all those present and closed the meeting in record time.

## **Scillies To Shetlands Challenge.**

Promotion is now underway for the Scillies to Shetland "marathon. The Challenge will now begin on 1<sup>st</sup>. June 2009. Andrew will require a lot of help from Rotarians when he is going the distance, with driving and carrying his equipment to the various stopping places. Please give your names to Maurice Humphris if you are able to help.

## **75<sup>th</sup> Charter Celebrations.**

A Charter Dinner is being proposed to celebrate this event.

It is also proposed that the Club History's will be updated and reproduced with the last 15 years included.

A committee under Roger Worrall's chairmanship has met to organise this. Presidents for the past 15 years will be approached to assist with the preparation of their year's events.

## **Treasurer's Talk**

### **Where the money goes**

During March donations have been made to the following:

Christian Hope School -	£1,750
BYHP -	£87
Young Musician Costs -	£3,567
Mock Interview BGN Costs -	£32
Young Chef Costs -	£38
Project 65 -	£50
The Beacon Centre -	£100

The level of 'free' funds stands at just over £5,400

**Change of Date - CLUB ASSEMBLY Please Note Club Assembly is now to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> June**  
Not 19<sup>th</sup> as previously notified.

**HON SECRETARY** – Rtn. Dr. Ian Rodrick  
Silverdale, Weeping Cross, Bodicote, Oxon. OX15 4ED.  
E. Mail: [ianandliz06@btinternet.com](mailto:ianandliz06@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01295 253817  
Mobile: 07899 997025

**CLUB WEBSITE** ;- [www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)

**BULLETIN EDITOR** – David Hitchcox,

1 Dorchester Grove,. Banbury, Oxon Tel 01295 –253733 However copy by preference to e-mail which is [david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk)

**COPY DATE** is the penultimate Friday of the month.