



# The Banbury Bulletin



SERVICE Above Self

President Richard Watts

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**The new President of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has vowed to lead it into a new era and drive major changes forward to secure it as the largest humanitarian not-for-profit organisation in the UK and Ireland.**

Ian Thomson, who was inaugurated as President on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June at the Four Pillars Hotel in Cirencester, aims to show that Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland is still as relevant today to business people and community leaders as it was when the first UK club opened in 1911.

The former engineer, originally from Fife in Scotland and now living in Cheltenham Spa, will lead 56,000 Rotarians in 1,845 clubs across Great Britain and Ireland who commit themselves to carrying out humanitarian work in communities at home and abroad.

Changes to the organisation include a new approach to the running of the clubs to ensure they are more flexible and accessible for all those wishing to join, with a particular emphasis on attracting younger members, women and ethnic minorities. A major change has also been made to the organisation's administration with the appointment of the first ever CEO/Secretary, Annemarie Harte, and a new marketing division to help boost publicity and promotion.

Mr. Thomson, a member of Rotary Club of Cheltenham, said: "We are in the process of building the Rotary of the future and the key word for us over the year ahead is change. A lot of people are unfamiliar with the wealth of humanitarian work Rotary does at local, national and international levels. We plan to show how active members are and the amount of fun and enjoyment to be had by joining us."

The new president continued: "I am greatly honored to be leading Rotary in Great Britain and

Ireland in the next year. The need for Rotary is even greater today than when it was founded in 1905, and the help of Rotarians worldwide really does make a difference."

"I am delighted to announce a new partnership with Leonard Cheshire Disability and a commitment to establishing 20 schools in Uganda able to accept children of all disabilities with our joint Schools for All in Africa campaign.



"There will be a continuing major focus on The Rotary Foundation, Rotary's corporate charity, which is dedicated to furthering international understanding, goodwill, and peace and gives more than £50 million every year to educational and humanitarian programmes."

## ShelterBox

ShelterBox, the grass-roots humanitarian aid organisation supported by Rotary members worldwide, has received extraordinary pictures showing how their quick response has helped hundreds of innocent people in cyclone ravaged



Burma [Myanmar].

Response team member Mark Pearson took the amazing pictures in the Labutta Division in Irrawaddy where he discovered a three mile camp home to 5,250 survivors of the Cyclone Nargis.

Mark reported: "There are around 700 ShelterBox tents there, all arranged perfectly. The survivors have camp security, a hospital, clean water, food and schools - all run by the government.

The ShelterBox kits are in a good position above sea level with a cool breeze all day and, most importantly, they give shelter from the heavy monsoon downpours which happen most days and night. The survivors have set up shops in our tents and all sorts of little industries inside the three mile camp."

He continued: "The population in Labutta was around 40,000 at its peak. The families remaining are from the worst hit areas and the people I have spoken with their villages were completely wiped out so getting up to Labutta was their only option."

Through the sheer persistence and hard-work of ShelterBox, the delivery and distribution of vital aid continues. Following Mark Pearson's compelling report, the ShelterBox warehouse volunteers have begun to pack 200 tents, 2,000 mosquito nets, 2,000 tool kits, 600 wood burning stoves, 600 cooking pots, 4,000 ground sheets and 50 classrooms in a box. This additional aid will reach Myanmar early July.

## Leonard Cheshire Disability

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) has selected Leonard Cheshire Disability as its partner charity from 1 July 2008 until 1 July 2009.

Over the course of the year RIBI members will seek to raise £500,000 from fundraising and matching grants from their own charity, The Rotary Foundation, for an inclusive education School 4 All in Africa programme in the Mukono and Pallisa districts of Uganda.



The Inclusive Education (IE) programme will target 1,000 disabled children to provide them with access to primary education.

Twenty schools will be adapted to make them physically accessible and 80 teachers will be trained in inclusive education and how to support all children from the community in the class.

Ian Thomson, President of RIBI, said: "Education is the right of all children and this work is vital as the United Nations estimates that over 90% of disabled children in Africa do not go to school. RIBI chose to work in partnership with Leonard Cheshire Disability on the School 4 All in Africa programme as there is a clear need.

"Without access to education the children could face a bleak future as they will lack the basic skills and knowledge that are essential to gain future employment and a better quality of life. This could cause them to become trapped in a cycle of poverty. We will work with Leonard Cheshire Disability to help break that cycle of poverty.

"The School 4 All in Africa programme will help to achieve social integration as we want to influence a change in attitudes towards disabled children so that they are accepted by their community. Leonard Cheshire Disability has an impressive track record of devising and implementing IE programmes and we relish the opportunity of working in partnership with them."

Nora Smith, Head of Community Fundraising at Leonard Cheshire Disability, said: "We would like to thank Ian Thomson and the RIBI members for choosing to support Leonard Cheshire Disability and the School 4 All in Africa programme.

"Their financial support and commitment to this programme will have a lasting and positive

impact on the lives of the disabled children, their families and the community.

"As we have a relationship with the Uganda Government a further aim is to leave a lasting legacy by working to influence the national curriculum to recognise the needs of disabled children."

Leonard Cheshire Disability has 60 years experience of working in developing countries and operates in 54 countries. In the UK the charity supports over 21,000 disabled people and has a presence at [location] with [service] ie [where St. Teresa's in Long Rock, Penzance provides residential and day services for disabled people.]

### **President of Rotary International 2008-2009 Dong-Kurn Lee**

The Rotary Club of Seoul-Hangang

President-nominee, Rotary International 2006-07

Trustee, The Rotary Foundation 2003-2007

Director, Rotary International 2001-2003  
Chairman, Presidential Celebration Committee -  
Community Concerns 2004-05  
District Governor 1995-96  
Dong-Kurn Lee is president of Busan Textile Company, Ltd., and Bubang Techron Co., Ltd.

A graduate of Yonsei University with a degree in political science and diplomacy, Lee is the president of his college alumni association. He is honorary consul of Italy in Korea.

Rotarian Lee joined the Rotary Club of Seoul-Hangang in 1971 and has served RI as director, district governor and International Assembly training leader. He also has served as regional Rotary Foundation coordinator and area coordinator of membership development.

He is chairman of the Polio Eradication Private Sector Initiative in Korea.

Lee won the Calgary Challenge for increasing membership in 1996. He is a recipient of The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

Lee lives in Seoul, Korea with his wife Young Ja.

### **John Donaldson My Job Talk**

John came to the meeting fully prepared to give us a PowerPoint presentation to accompany his Job Talk, and spent virtual all the time the rest of us were enjoying our meal wrestling with the technology to be able to get the presentation to work. Needless to say John not only came prepared to give us a good presentation he was not going to be beaten by the technology.

John opened his talk by trying to convince us that he was "Young, Slim, Fit and Full of Energy", but apparently that was 35 years ago and now he is just "Full of Energy" or was it champagne!

On leaving school John did a Greenkeeper Apprenticeship with his father, following which he moved around the country gaining experience, ending up in Banbury working for Cherwell District Council building the second nine holes at their public golf course in Chacombe.

Ten years ago John set up his own grass cutting business and now has 2 full time staff and the occasional seasonal worker. The company offers a range of services in the growing season: mowing; fertilising; scarifying; and aeration of lawns; and in the winter: pressure washing of driveways paths and patios.

John then took us through what he called his mid life crisis which resulted in him becoming a Town and District Councillor and him becoming very much involved in the local community and on many Committees including: Banbury Homes (now Charter Housing); Borough Bowls Club; Banbury in Bloom; Mill Management; Spiceball Sports Centre management; Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG); Twinning association; and Cherwell Voluntary Service.

All of this led to John becoming Town Mayor three years ago, and we were treated an array of pictures showing John in numerous costumes, some fancy and some ceremonial, all taken at some of the more than 400 functions he attended during his year of office. In John's own words at the end of his talk – "*Thousand's of pictures and a lifetimes worth of friends and memories*". Ron Barnett.



Banbury Town Mayor?

## DISTRICT 1090 OXFORD PEACE CONFERENCE



The Oxford Peace Conference is the first of its kind in the South of England, it is aimed at Rotarians and others outside Rotary who are unaware of what Rotary Foundation does for world peace through the Peace Scholarship Programme.

The conference takes place on 13<sup>th</sup>. September 2008 in the Nelson Mandela Lecture room at the Said Business School commencing at 9.00 am.

On the previous evening there is a Dinner in the Dining Hall at Oriel College, Oxford at 7.00 pm. At the dinner the speaker will be Tony Baldry M.P.

The Conference speakers are Professor Sir Adam Roberts KCMG, FBA Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University, Paul Rogers Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University, Dr Scilla Elworthy who founded the Oxford Research Group in 1998 and has been nominated for Nobel Peace Prizes and was awarded the Niwano Peace Prize in 2003, Alan Hollands is Chairman of R.I.B.I. Foundation, and Peace Fellows Alumni Francesca del Mese was the first woman to win a Rotary World Peace Scholarship in 2003 and Ryan Gawn is International External Relations Coordinator with Save the Children U.K.

A number of rooms have been booked for those wishing to stay overnight.

Full details for this prestigious event are available on the District 1090 web site or from Rotarian Philip Bobby, Sunset Lodge, Cuddesdon, OX44 9EU, 01865 874372.

### CONGRATULATIONS.



**ROTARIAN John Phillips and Jean on their Golden wedding Anniversary on the 16<sup>th</sup>. August.**

### Dragon Boats.

The **Dragon Boats** event raised the excellent sum of **£2125.00**. Plus Gift Aid. A great success for Andrew Fairbairn and his committee. It is proposed to hold the event again in 2010.

## A Vocational visit to Didcot Power Station.

Didcot "A" Power Station was the destination for a group of Rotarians and a guest under the direction of Tom Taylor. On arrival we were greeted by two very attractive guides, both of whom matched our age group. They were very informative and once they had realised the wit of Ian Rodrick quickly came down to our level of humour.

We first had a talk on the station with coffee and biscuits. Followed by a DVD presentation on the facts and figures relating to the Power Station.

It was then time for the tour, we split into two groups our guide, Pamela, took us in a mini bus for a gentle tour of the site. We began to realise the scale and size of the operation. We arrived at the coaling area where trains were offloading a constant flow of coal, currently from Russia via Bristol Docks. In 2003 they consumed 3.7 million tons of coal. This coal was then transported by conveyers to be crushed to a powder before being blown into the furnaces. Some of this was combined with a small amount of other materials such as wood dust to lower the carbon footprint. We then walked around part of the installation marvelling at the height of the chimney and cooling towers. The control room appeared to look like the deck of "The Starship Enterprise" with computer consoles graphic readouts and flashing lights. There are four sets of generators at Didcot A, at the moment only two are running as the others are having maintenance carried out on them. The constant flow of information from the generators was being monitored by engineers making fine adjustments to their running. It was then time to put in our ear protection which together with our yellow helmets, jackets and goggles made us look as though we worked there.

On entering the main generating area it was difficult to realise the size of the building until we saw men working far below. The two generators working emitted much noise, what it would be like when all four were running was unimaginable. The whole process was laid out before us, the furnaces creating the high pressure steam which then spun the sets of turbines which then turned the generators that made the electricity. The spent steam from the turbine is turned back into water by passing over tubes containing water taken from the River

Thames this river water then has to be cooled in the massive cooling towers before being returned to the river. The excess steam from this process is what we see exiting from the cooling towers over the Didcot countryside.

The other site which we did not visit is Didcot B, this is a gas powered station and is of a more modern design but we were told not as interesting as the older coal fired station.

We completed our day out with a visit to a hostelry for lunch. Our thanks go to Tom Taylor for once again organising a great vocational visit. D.H.

## FOUNDATION COMMITTEE.

It's all happening in Foundation. The list below outlines the proposals for this Rotary year.

**Christmas Festival of Music** at St Mary's Church with the Banbury Symphony Orchestra and the Banbury Choral Society.

**Frugal Lunch** proceeds to Foundation.

**Christmas card donations** Brian Cornley will organise this.

**Group Study Exchange** The committee will be looking for candidates to go to British Columbia, Canada in April 2009.

**Olympic Sweepstake** Ron Sharpe assisted by Bob Dix will be organising a sweepstake and a prize of £100 for the person selecting the winning countries with the most Gold Medals.

**Barn Dance** Noting the Presidents wish for more social events it is planned to hold a Barn Dance at Sulgrave Manor.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

At the first meeting of the new year the following ideas were proposed.

The successful Old Tyme Music Hall will be run again next year probably 29-30 May 2009 at Bloxham School.

A Race Night to be held in September at the Masonic Hall.

An Auction of promises.

The wonderful Zulu Warriors, it is hoped to welcome them again in July 2009.

A "Cabaret Evening" on Sunday 19 October at Bloxham School. This will be an evening of great acts performed by professional actors from London Theatres.

Lookout for details of this event.

## SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT.

The following items were discussed at the recent committee meeting.

**Golf.** Autumn meeting at Brailes September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bigwood Trophy at Tadmarton August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Darts.** Club darts match probably with the Cherwell Rotary Club.

**Inter Club Quiz.** To be arranged.

**Autumn Break.** A survey of interest in a visit to Liverpool to be undertaken.

**Overseas Break.** A visit to Seville in the Autumn 2009 has been suggested.

**Horse Racing.** After the success of the previous visits it is proposed that this event be repeated.

**Club Outing.** Visits to Wembley Stadium and the Houses of Parliament are possible suggestions other ideas welcome.

Other social ideas under consideration are :- Cheese and Wine Evening, Greyhound Racing, Ten Pin Bowling, Ceilidh, and A Walk Around Oxford Colleges. Any Other ideas will be welcome.

**OXFORD ISIS** are holding a **Jazz Evening** on November 29<sup>th</sup>. at the Lord Nuffield Club Cowley starting at 7.00 for 7.30.p.m.

The featured Band is the famous **Kenny Ball** and his Jazzmen. Tickets are £25.00 including a Banquet Buffet. Our previous White Zone Assistant Governor Philip Bobby has sent these details. For Further details contact Roger Smith 01993 844095.

## **SPEAKER REPORT,**

Rotarian David Sullivan, on the 11<sup>th</sup>. July, hosted our speaker who's subject was very popular amongst a number of our members. Our speaker Mark Bates is branch chairman for the Campaign for Real Ale.

He spoke of the roll of the local organisation in promoting Real Ale locally and supporting the local Public Houses with publicity and promotion. The difficult times the industry is suffering is not reflected in the number of real ales available. The major brewers have seen the potential among real ale drinkers and the many Micro Breweries have increased the selection. When visiting traditional Inns it is noticeable that the number of available brews has increased.

The Banbury Beer Festival held recently at the T.A. Centre proved so popular that it was drunk dry of beer. It attracted 1628 thirsty visitors who consumed a fantastic 5400 pints of ale. The

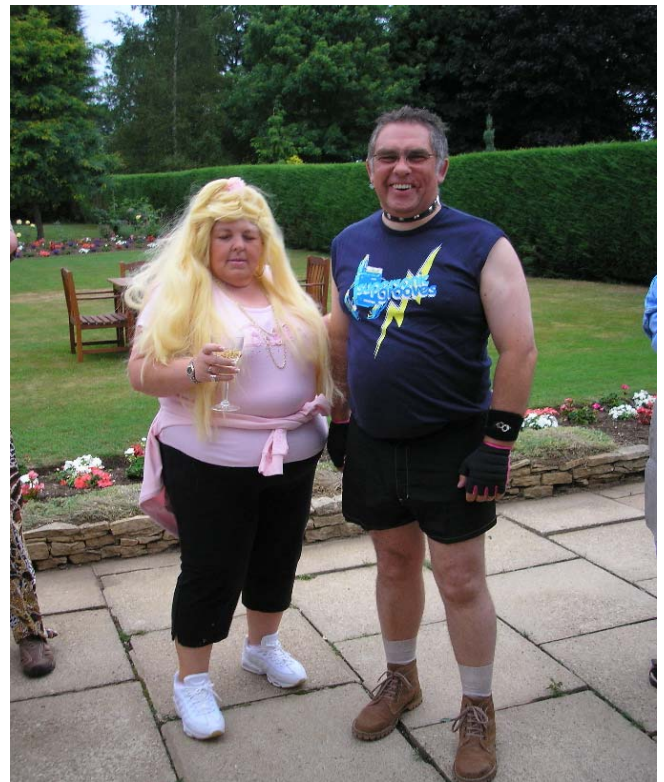
organisation continues to recruit new members and promote Real Ale.

The vote of thanks was given by their Treasurer Rotarian David Sullivan.

**Our talk on the 25<sup>th</sup>.** July was a presentation given by Gavin McGee for the St. James Partnership in conjunction with Swann Financial of Banbury. It outlined the need for competent financial planning. A Power Point presentation showed many graphs and figures to illustrate the many changes in the financial world over the last few years. The speaker was hosted by Rotarian Amin Voghoui

## COUNCIL CLIPPINGS.

The recent Town 400<sup>th</sup>. Charter event raised a profit of £1331.46. It was agreed by Club that the surplus should be divided 40% to The Frank Wise School, 40% to Young Carers and 20% to B.Y.H.P. The Dragon Boat profit of £2,125 to go to B.Y.H.P. as agreed with Lord Saye and Sele.



President Richard is seen here, together with Sally, taking his new duties as President very seriously.