



## *The Banbury Bulletin*

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



SERVICE Above Self

**President Ron Barnett**

**August 2010**

**Meet the Rotary International President,**

**Ray Klingensmith**



### **The RI President's message**

#### **Winds of Change**

What an amazing world! Advances in technology are happening so quickly that they cause constant changes in our businesses and professions. Yet about one-third of the world's population is still living at a subsistence level with little change in their lives. It is a stark contrast and a cause for concern.

Rotary has both a distinguished heritage and a bright future. My primary task as president is to enhance the vitality and viability of Rotary clubs and to enable them to succeed in the midst of societal changes. This is an important task because it is the clubs that address and alleviate the root problems of society and thereby make the world a better place.

Wind of change was a new and significant phrase when I was a Rotary Scholar in South Africa in the early 1960s. It is serendipitous that the phrase that was first publicised in my host city of Cape Town is now applicable to Rotary as we contemplate the changes in society that dictate some corresponding changes in our organisation. The phrase is now better known as winds of change.

We are currently enjoying a culture of innovation at Rotary International. We have the ability to look at all of our programs and practices to see if they can be improved, even as we steadfastly maintain our core values. I hope many Rotarians will take advantage of this opportunity to identify and implement improvements in their clubs and districts as well.

Rotary lives and breathes in our 33,000 clubs, and it is the clubs that improve lives by **Building Communities – Bridging Continents.**

If we succeed in helping clubs to become **Bigger, Better, and Bolder** in the next year, then it will be clear that the best days of Rotary are still ahead. We are fortunate to be Rotarians!

Together, we can make the world a better place!

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS PAD



I've been in office now for 3 weeks and I'm still not sure if I'm the right man for the job! At least nobody's come and quietly whispered in my ear that it's time to resign, so perhaps things aren't going that badly. For only three weeks I seem to have packed in quite a lot of Rotary activities:-

Handover meeting – a somewhat nervous event (for me!), but an extremely exciting and enjoyable meeting. We really do have a wonderfully warm, friendly and supportive atmosphere at our meetings.

Next was Town Mayor's Sunday – only the second day in office and proudly representing the Club in the Town Mayor's Parade from the Town Hall, and at the Hobby Horse Festival in People's Park. It was really great to see the Club's stall in the park just letting folk know that the Club exists and providing musical entertainment. Well done Community & Vocational Committee and Pat and John in particular.

The following Thursday morning I assisted with Interviews at Warriner School – some wonderful young people and brilliant work done by Club members and supporters.

In the evening I represented the Club at the Inner Wheel Club of Banbury Handover Meeting – an excellent evening and I was made to feel very welcome. Many thanks and best wishes to President Linda and all the ladies.

Friday Rotary Meeting – my first ordinary meeting in the Chair, the speaker Dale Collins was excellent and very entertaining. Many thanks to Tony for hosting Dale.

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July I helped out again with Interviews at Warriner School – even more wonderful young people and brilliant work by Club members and supporters.

Over 200 young people interviewed in three half day sessions. Well done Youth Opportunities Committee and Nigel, Reg and Paul in particular.

It's Friday again, Rotary Meeting – starting to find out how things work now.

A fascinating talk by Dr. Jonathan Williams about his work with The Halo Trust and removing land mines. Many thanks to Andrew for hosting Jonathan.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, I represented the Club at Blessed George Napier School Tall Ships presentation meeting- really heart warming to see what a beneficial experience it had been for the students, and how appreciative they all were of the support given by the Club and other sponsors which enabled them to take part in the project. Hopefully, one of the students will come to a Club meeting in the autumn to tell all the Members about their experience.

A New Members Evening was held on Wednesday evening with John Bennett, Ian Rodrick, Malcolm Douglas and I meeting with members who have joined the Club in the past 2 years.

An extremely enjoyable evening answering questions about what the various committees do and strange mysterious things like what is Foundation?

Well done the sponsors of the new members for supporting and mentoring them so well during their early days as members, well done to every Club member being so friendly and making them feel so welcome when they joined, and well done to all the new members for getting so involved in Club activities.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> was our first Council Meeting of the new Rotary year – excellent reports and suggestions from Committees and an exceptional amount of business dealt with. Well done all members of Council (I'll try and chair the meetings a little better in future).

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July Rotary Meeting – I am starting to realise that perhaps I don't know as much as I thought. A thoroughly enjoyable My Life/Job Talk by Helen Morris. Well done Helen, and many thanks Malcolm for hosting Helen.

A fifth Friday evening meeting next week, and at present no other Rotary appointments

in the diary. An opportunity to spend some time with Tricia, without who's support I wouldn't be able to do this, and then take her to our meeting with partners in the company of a wonderful group of Rotarians and their partners.

If the rest of the year is like this, it's going to be great fun.

President Ron

July 2010



**THE CLUB CHARTER PRESENTATION.** 75 years ago.  
Does anyone recognise any of the people in the photo?

### **CONGRATULATIONS.**

Three of our Honorary Members celebrate significant events during September.

**Lord Saye and Sele** celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup>. Birthday on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. September.

**Rotarian Derek Repton** is also 90 years on the 12<sup>th</sup>. September.

**Geoff and Beth Wood** celebrate 60 years of marriage on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. September.

The Club and members extend their warmest greetings to you all.

## **SPEAKER REPORTS.**

On Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> July our speaker was Dr Jonathan Williams, a GP from Horsefair Surgery for over 20 years, he talked about his time spent overseas supporting the process of removing landmines with the HALO trust.

He explained that people who work overseas can be divided into three groups: Mercenary, Missionary or Misfit. He told us that he was unpaid, didn't preach and allowed us to draw our own conclusions.

He described how he started his voluntary work overseas working for Save the Children in a refugee camp delivering health care to a European population who had been traumatised by their experiences.

His first trip with HALO was to Nagorno-Karabakh. After Nagorno-Karabakh he went to Afghanistan which, he informed us, is probably the most heavily mined country in the world. More than one million mines have been laid in Afghanistan since 1979. HALO started there in 1988 and the concept of humanitarian mine clearance was born.

The HALO Trust's entire raison d'être is to 'Get landmines out of the ground. Now!'

Dr Williams reminded us of how The Princess of Wales had raised the profile of landmines and helped to achieve the Ottawa Convention to ban the production of landmines. Her sons have continued the good work.

He informed us that mines affect the poorest people in the poorest societies in the world.

He told us of his visit to Angola, a country he has visited twice in the last 18 months where there are thousands of acres of mines still waiting to be cleared. A country that is the size of Spain, Germany and France put together.

He explained that whilst some minefields contain thousands of mines, others may be much less dense. He asked us to consider

that even if mine density is one or two per acre would any of us want to walk there.

He explained a problem of the link between mine accidents and funding for de-mining. A decrease in accidents makes donors less inclined to fund the clearance of mines. Kosovo is an example of a country where funding dried up de-mining ceased and then the programme had to restart.

He told us his role in the Halo program is to train paramedics, assess hospitals, assess people who have been injured and generally support programs. It was interesting to hear that by far the most common form of injury is not from landmines which are of course inherently dangerous but from road traffic accidents. An extraordinary statistic is that an employee is more likely to be killed on a British building site than in a HALO minefield.

In bringing his highly informative and interesting talk to a conclusion Dr Williams asked us to consider the sobering thought that many thousands of people live within yards of a landmine everyday of their life and have no prospect of returning after a couple of weeks to a sleepy north Oxfordshire market town. He asked us to remember that there are millions of people around the world who are dirt poor and whose poverty is unlikely to be resolved while they live with the constant threat of land mine injury.

His final thought was that the coalition government has ring fenced International Development budgets as an election manifesto pledge. Clearing landmines is the sort of tasks that this budget is funding and it is difficult to begrudge these people 0.7% of our GDP. How else will we ever be able to achieve peace the world over?

Andrew McHugh.

**Mass Hypnotherapy? .....**  
**I can't remember !**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July, Chris Hughes, a practicing Hypnotherapist, was the speaker at our 5<sup>th</sup> Friday meeting, which was held at the Banbury House Hotel. He certainly gave us a talk which was different to the norm and it soon became obvious that he'd got past the "practice" stage in his profession.

He started by explaining that he wished to dispel some of the myths and falsehoods that attach themselves to hypnotism. He stated that *he* did not hypnotise his patient, but rather put them into a relaxed state of mind, whereby they could concentrate on the things they wished to achieve or change in their lives. By projecting positive rather than negative thoughts, the patient would be able to overcome resistance to change. He believes that in our subconscious, negative thoughts tend to get priority.

For example, someone who wishes to give up smoking after 20 years will know the reasons why they should make this change, (health, longer life, finance, social). However, when it comes to beginning the process, the negative thoughts cut in and within a few days, the commitment wanes and they slide back to their habit. The process of the patient learning to *bypass* the barrier of negative thought and accept the positive thought that they *will* succeed in their quest, is self induced by the patient. The hypnotist's job is to put them in that relaxed state of mind where they can accept positive thought. Simple! You could have heard a pin drop. Had he sent us all to sleep? Chris then asked for 5 volunteers and there was a general exodus to the back of the room. After a rather long delay, when everyone was trying to persuade others to step forward, the required persons stood at the front not knowing what to expect. We were each given a nut on a piece of string (the sort of nut that holds a car together with

the help of a bolt – the string could be used for anything) and asked to dangle it at eye level, holding our hand absolutely still. He then asked us to *imagine* the nut swinging and then going round in circles – and do you know, it did!! There was some debate as to who was the biggest swinger, but modesty forbids me to name the winner.

Another volunteer was asked for and Helen Morris was again commandeered. (He rejected me because he said he'd met me before – I'm still not sure what he meant by that) Chris asked Helen to sit with him and clasp her hands together. He then, over a period of a few minutes, suggested to her that her hands were clasping together ever tighter, after which Helens head fell forward and she appeared to be in a state of total relaxation. Following a count of three, she came to and to everybody's relief, appeared to be non-the-worse for wear. She wore a big smile - I did wonder what she had been thinking about though.

Finally, having persuaded Clare Jakeman that she *had* volunteered to help him, (she insists that she can't remember) Clare was asked to think of a number between 30 and 99, without telling him or us what it was. He then asked her to change it, twice and write her number down. After some pretty deep concentration from both of them, interspersed with several interruptions from Clare, Chris told us that the number was 40, which proved to be correct. I later heard him say that the first number Clare thought of was 30, which again, evidently, Clare confirmed. I'm having a word with him on Monday about next weeks lottery.

So, a speaker with a refreshingly different subject, who gave us a very entertaining evening and who is likely to be seeing a few of Friday nights audience in his surgery in the not too distant future. I did ask Chris if I was on commission..... but I can't remember what he said.

John Bennett.



## Dragon Boats 2010

It would appear that the final receipts and expenditure are nearing completion and I can confirm that it is anticipated that the following amounts were raised on the day.

Save the Children	£ 40.00
Banbury Operatic Society	£ 222.60
Katharine House Hospice	£ 52.05
Dogs for the Disabled	£ 639.39
Rotary Club of Banbury	£ 2,510.75

**Total £ 3,464.79**

This is a considerable improvement upon the inaugural show in 2008 and I would like to express my very grateful thanks for everyone who supported the event for which I have received very positive feedback from many people on behalf of the Club as a local community event.

## Leonard Cheshire Disability Schools 4 All in Africa Project

A further £1,000 is due to be sent shortly which means that, to date, the Rotary Club of Banbury has provided funding of £13,800.42. I am continuing to give presentations on the trek from the Isles of Scilly to Shetland and receive leads from time to time, two more within the last week. If you know of any Rotary Club or other organization who would like a presentation, then please let me know. Distance no object - a bit like the challenge.

Rotarian Andrew Fairbairn

Congratulations to Andrew and his team. Ed

## OLD FORD RALLY.



On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>. July five Rotarians gathered at the Old Ford Rally in company with a list of over 300 Ford's at the Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon. We had been invited by the Old Ford Club to oversee the rides in which the public could take in the Old Ford

cars. An opportunity too good to miss especially with certain members who have difficulty getting their heads from under a bonnet. During the day a selection of cars of varying vintage were available for the public to take rides at a charge of £5.00. Rotary did the necessary paperwork and some with a certain expertise drummed up the business. The benefit to Rotary was the fact that we were able to keep the proceeds for our Charities the collection amounting to just over £300.00. The Shelter Box tent was also erected and together with our activities it was great P.R. exercise for Rotary. We were surprised that one particular vehicle was in great demand and a queue formed to take a ride in an Old Ford Hearse, it appeared that people wanted to test the vehicle out in case they needed it at a later date !!!!

David Hitchcox

### **Community and Vocational.**

The committee attended the Banbury Show with a Tombola and raised £155.00 .

Rotarian John Webb was at the Hobby Horse festival with his Street Organ this proved to be more of a P.R. exercise rather than fundraising.

A Barbecue is to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup>. September at Andrew Fairbairn's home, also we will have a presence at the Canal Day in October. Street collections over the Christmas period are being arranged hopefully at Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco's

Chairman Helen Braisby.

### **Foundation.**

The target for Foundation giving for the coming year is £4,000.00 which is near to the R.I. target of \$100 a member. Brian Doe will be overseeing the Christmas card donations. The Christmas Festival of Music will take place at St Mary' church on December 11th. The Group Study Exchange is to Argentina our team go out in April/May 2011. It is hoped to find a local candidate for this trip.

### **Youth Opportunities.**

Mock interviews at B.G.N. and Warriner schools have been successfully completed. It is proposed we may also interview at Banbury Young Homelessness project.

Children Singing for Children proceeds to be divided between Helen and Douglas House, Frank Wise School and BEKIND sending help to children in Eastern Europe.

### **Council Clippings.**

A number of donations were considered including £100 to Polly Preedy. £1,000.00 to Leonard Cheshire "Hands up Africa" from Andrew Fairbairn's hard work. £2,500.00 towards a computer based communication system for a paraplegic young person who is only able to communicate with his eyes. There was discussion as to how to use the Bob Dix legacy, if Rotarians have any suggestions please let council know for consideration. There were various set up costs agreed for events to be carried out during the year, also one more candidate is being considered for a Brodey Bursary. It was also agreed to purchase 5,000 Crocus bulbs planting sites to be examined, see below.

### **Thanks for Life 2010/11 – Focus on the Crocus**

RIBI is working with The Eden Project and the International Flower Bulb Centre (IBC) in Holland to plant purple crocus bulbs from the beginning of October so they will be in flower for Rotary Day – 23rd February 2011. These purple flowers represent the colour of ink dabbed on a child's little finger to indicate that they have been immunised against polio.

The aim of Focus on the Crocus is for Rotary clubs across RIBI to contact their local schools, residential homes, local councils and other community organisations to ask them to identify suitable sites and, hopefully, take part in planting the area with swathes of purple crocus bulbs in the autumn – this will become a reminder of the essential need to continue the fight to eradicate polio from our world.

Please help us mark this vital work with a blaze of purple colour next Springtime!

**HON SECRETARY** – Dr. Ian Rodrick

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[david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk) **COPY DATE** is the penultimate Friday of the month.