



SERVICE Above Self

The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

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

President John Bennett

AUGUST 2011



Incoming President John Bennett's Speech

My Lord Saye & Sele, District Governor, distinguished guests and fellow Rotarians. You know, I can hardly believe it's me standing here as President of this club. It's at times like this you wish you could remember what past Presidents have said at their coronation to make sure you get off on the right foot.

I think I must have been in my early to mid 30's before I became aware of service clubs and of the impact they have in the local community and of course internationally. Over the years I've had the pleasure of being invited to take part in events organised by Round Table as MC for some of their productions, to perform and be Chairman at the Lions Club Old Time Music Halls and to get involved on a few occasions with this Rotary club, and I was always so impressed with the commitment, enthusiasm and sheer hard work put in by these people who, as I later discovered, had all got pretty busy lives outside of their club activities. How does the saying go? - "If you want to get a job done, ask a busy person".

Dear old Jim Johnson invited me to join this club many years ago, but since my work commitment at the time meant that I never knew where I would be on a Friday lunchtime, I declined his offer.

However, about 10 years ago, things became a little easier, and when Tom Anthistle and Graham Anker renewed the invitation to become a Rotarian, I readily accepted - and since joining, I now see from the inside how much more commitment and hard work goes in to running a club like this than I imagined all those years ago.

And now, 10 years later, you have honoured me by inviting me to become President of the Rotary Club of Banbury and I wonder - are you sure about this? I know that much of the time I don't appear to take things too seriously, but I assure I do consider this appointment a privilege and in my own way, I will take my duties seriously. Shirley will tell you, I love this club, and the people in it. From the time I joined I was made to feel so welcome and since then I've had 10 years of fun and fellowship, which I wouldn't have missed for the world. I did look back at the list of past Presidents the other day and it reads like the "Whose Who" of the towns great and good. My only worry is that in 25 years time they'll see the name Bennett and say "Who"?

At the risk of repeating what I said at the Assembly meeting 2 weeks ago, I do consider myself lucky to have such a strong team on Council and indeed for the many members who have readily agreed to take responsibility for numerous commitments during the next 12 months. To all of you, a sincere thank you. Also at Assembly, I mentioned that, 2 years ago when I was first put on the ladder leading up to President, I got to wondering if there were any particular goals I would like the club to achieve during my year in office. Our club is very committed to youth activities. Look at Children Singing for Children, Mock Interviews, Young Musician, and it struck me that to try and re-establish an Interact club or Rotaract Club in Banbury

would be a good project. There seems to be quite a resurgence of these clubs in our district and I'd like to see one in North Oxfordshire. I'm grateful to Ian Anthistle for readily agreeing to take on the task of trying to get this started and in discussion, we agreed it would be an ideal project to do jointly with our daughter club Banbury Cherwell. When I mentioned this to President Elect Phil Page, it appeared that he had also had similar thoughts, agreed to the joint project, and he has asked Martin Humphris to work on his clubs behalf with Ian. I think we have all decided the best place to start is with an Interact Club and as Phil is with us today, I just wanted to say thank you for agreeing to join us in this project and we look forward to our clubs working together.

We are a very busy club. You only have to look at the programme of events leaflet, which Ron has put together, to realise just how busy. We are of course a large club, but I feel at times we are almost stretched to the limit.

I know in all organisations, be it companies, charities, sports clubs, there is a nucleolus of people who always seem to be at the sharp end - we have them in this club - and it's for this reason that I ask all club members to renew your commitment to support the events we put on in the coming year, not only in attendance, but getting involved in the organisation. When I was in charge of set building for Banbury Cross Players for a couple of years, I drove everyone mad with my slogan "If everybody does a little, nobody has to do a lot" - and I'm asking you to take that up as one of our slogans this year.

Talking of slogans, or mission statements, I hope our DG Nial won't hold it against me when I say that I do sometimes wonder at the value of an RI mission statement which changes annually, usually originating in the USA. David Sullivan and I took the opportunity of going to hear the new RI President Kalyan Banerjee speak in Birmingham a few months ago and his mission statement for the year is "Reach within to Embrace Humanity". He is I believe the first Indian RI President that we have had and I must say I warmed to him as he spoke. He came over as a very sincere and committed man, with a rather gentle and under played presentation, which I found quite refreshing.

However, I needed the meaning behind his mission statement translated and in his leaflet he explains:

I ask you to look within yourselves, to understand that all of humanity has the same dreams, similar hopes, the same aspirations and similar problems. Whoever we are and wherever we live, each of us yearns for the same peace and contentment and for the same fulfilment in our daily lives. What we work to bring to others we must first find within ourselves, because what we wish for ourselves is what others wish for themselves.

That's pretty profound isn't it? But it still doesn't fully explain the meaning behind his mission statement

However, he then goes on to say:

First we find our own peace and then work to establish peace in our homes and our families. We cannot work to build peace in the world without first building it in our homes.

So, Shirley, when we get home this afternoon, we've got to have a serious **discussion.....**

Another thing I sometimes wonder about, which might sound a bit controversial, is do we in Rotary place too much emphasis on whether an event is successful or not, purely by the amount of money we raise? Don't get me wrong, It's vitally important that we continue to raise funds for the many needy causes which we and Rotary in general support. We should be proud of that. Over £42,000 last year, which is a staggering amount and lets not forget that several large chunks of that were raised by one or two individual members as they followed their own commitment for their chosen missions.

What I'm really wanting to get across is that we mustn't loose site of the added value we, as an organisation, and the other service clubs, add to the fabric of our community. Think of all the events we organise. Events where the public are entertained, where they meet and mingle with others and parents can see their children perform - instead of sitting in front of the TV. If we didn't make these things happen, they probably wouldn't happen at all and the town would be a poorer place for it. We should be proud of that added value.

We should also be proud of the fact that we undertake tasks to assist people in the community, which doesn't involve us asking the public for money. Stroke awareness day, party for the blind and again, mock interviews. None of these involves rattling a can, but are appreciated by many people. - and I believe through Phil Cavill's closer association with the local media we are getting good coverage for our efforts and more awareness from the public.

Well here we are at the start of another Rotary year. As I've said, we've got a full programme ahead of us. A lot of hard work, commitment and lets not forget, sometimes worry. Why do we do it? What is this Rotary thing all about?

Well, I'll tell you what it's all about for me.

When I'm standing at the side of the stage in St Mary's watching nearly 200 children from 7 different schools singing their little hearts out and seeing the audience give them a standing ovation, I think, "this wouldn't be happening if it wasn't for us", and that's what Rotary is all about.

When I'm standing in the cold outside Sainsbury's with my Father Christmas hat on cranking out carols on the Street organ and people smile and wish me a Happy Christmas as they put money in the can, I think, that's what Rotary is all about.

When we persuade people to have their blood pressure taken at Stoke Awareness day and we know that in several cases we've almost certainly saved a life, I think, that's what Rotary is all about.

When the club supported Andrew as he paddled, walked and cycled the length of Britain and beyond, Maurice and John even followed him into the islands. What teamwork and I think, yes, that's what Rotary is all about.

When we were collecting for the Haiti disaster and a couple came up to me at Sainsbury's and said "How much will you accept?" and I said what ever you are comfortable to give. And they went to the cash machine and handed over £100 - and then thanked us for doing the collection, I thought, that's what Rotary is all about.

When Ron read out the 2 letters from Roy and Maureen Watkins, thanking the club members for all their support and taking Maurine to and from the hospital in Oxford - and it reminded me of the little problem I had 4 or 5 years ago when the club did the same for me and how several members regularly called at Shirley's shop to keep in touch with her. I thought, yes that's what Rotary is all about.

When I collect Alan from Heathrow after yet another visit to Africa (and lets not forget every time he goes it costs him money - and he's going again soon) and I listen to his enthusiasm, commitment and determination to achieve his goals for those people he cares about, I think, that's what Rotary is all about

That wonderful event last year, when Lord Saye & Sele allowed us to hold the Dragon Boat races on the moat. I spent most of the day up in the top car park, but you would be amazed at how many people on seeing my Rotary tabard, made a point of coming over to say what a wonderful time they'd had and thanked Rotary for organising a great day, and I thought Yes, that is what Rotary is all about.

And just a few weeks ago, Shirley and I motored down to Villfranche with Martin and Annie (giggling all the way) and with other members of our club joined Rotarians from Germany, Switzerland, Italy and our hosts, France for this years Contact weekend. We met up with some old friends, we made some new friends and at the gala dinner on the last night, the people from all 5 countries jelled together as if they were part of the same club - which of course they are - it's called Rotary. And that's what Rotary is all about.

Yesterday I received an e-mail from the new RIBI President Ray Burman, which I'd like to read to you.

Dear resident John,

As our year together starts, Victoria and I send you and all the members of The Rotary Club of Banbury our best wishes for a wonderful year of Rotary.

Thank you for all your hard work, planning, enthusiasm, energy and commitment to Rotary, which I know will make 2011/12 a significant year in changing our lives. I hope to meet many of you as I travel around RI I if you want to follow my year as your resident of RI I, then you can catch me on Facebook "Ray Burman RI I resident 2011/12" which is launched today.

Victoria and I look forward to what we know will be a wonderful year of Rotary Fun & Fellowship.

Yours in Rotary, Ray Burman.

And that last paragraph is the bit I like.

Our RI President Kalyan Banerjee's mission statement for the coming year is "Reach within to Embrace Humanity" and I'll go along with that. However, you won't be surprised to hear that my mission statement for this club for the year 2011 -2012 is a little simpler. It's "Fun & Fellowship".

I want you to join me in a year of Fun & Fellowship, because when Rotarians have fun they make things happen – and that's my friends is what Rotary is all about.

Thank you. President John Bennett.

ROTARY CONTACT CELEBRATED IN VILLE FRANCHE , France.

A small number of Banbury Rotarians and partners joined with the other nations in our 5 Nation Rotary twinning. We were received by the Rotary Club of Ville Franche at the Hotel Plaisance on Thursday and met with our hosts for the weekend. Many friendships were renewed by those participating for a number of years.

The Thursday evening was spent with our hosts and various venues were used from restaurants to Rotarians homes. After this first introduction to the weekends events it was time for a rest to prepare for the forthcoming daily happenings.

Friday Morning 9.a.m. All aboard our three coaches for a visit to the " Villars les Dombes" Parc De Oiseaux (BIRD PARK). A whole day was spent at this large and picturesque bird sanctuary. It commenced with a talk on the park which unfortunately was very long and in French without any consideration for the foreign visitors, even our French hosts appeared to nod off. The park itself was spectacular with many acres set out in different areas to show the species from many parts of the world. We had a buffet lunch at the site with our large number fighting for chairs. The afternoon continued with further walks around the park., until 4 PM. when we went to a display in a lakeside arena. A spectacular flying display with the birds winging their way above our heads, was carried out by many species including Cockatoos flying in a red white and blue formation, similar to the "Red Arrows" display team. It was a case of mind your heads with the birds brushing the heads of many of us. Martin taking no chances.



The evening was to be spent at Hameau Duboef., a Wine Park which incorporated a fascinating wine Museum. The main foyer is constructed to look like early 1900's grand railway station entrance hall. The evening dinner also took place here in a beautifully decorated room with an automated Fairground organ providing the entertainment. There was then an opportunity to buy wine and memorabilia from the extensive shop. Then to bed and prepare for the next day.

Saturday Morning 9.a.m. All aboard the coaches to another Wine experience. The Rotary Club of Villefranche is very fortunate that one of its members owns an extensive Chateau and Vineyard. The Chateau de Lancie was our destination this morning. We had a tour of the vineyard and the production areas which had a mixture of traditional and the latest state of the art technology to produce fine wine. We then came to the best part of the visit, Wine Tasting. We were introduced to the wines by the owners Somalier, who was 14th. in the league of international wine experts.



He introduced us to the various wines produced on the estate and gave us full explanations as to their characteristics.

After this morning's tasting we were in quite a jolly mood for the rest of the day's activities. The lunch was an outdoor buffet overlooking a

beautiful valley with extensive views. We then returned to Villefranche for a short rest before the evenings gala event. Prior to this we all assembled at the Town Hall for a reception and presentations to the Club Presidents. Our President Ron Barnett was pleased to receive this on our behalf.

It was then time to proceed to the Gala Dinner in the Salle des Echevins in Villefranche, this was originally an very old Hospital with beautiful architectural features that is now used for functions. We all gathered before the dinner with an aperitif or two, together with all the guests from our other contact countries. The "Tower of Babel" had nothing to match the talk and reminiscing that ensued. And then into dinner meeting with our hosts and others at our tables again being able to make sense of the various languages being spoken. As is the French custom the dinner was an unhurried occasion with good companionship and conversation. A number of happenings occurred during this time with our French hosts appearing with "The Cheese Board" and carrying it shoulder high through the tables to much applause.

The guests were also presented with Beaujolais aprons embroidered especially for this Rotary occasion.



Another unexpected presentation was made to Mr Ed and Ann as news had leaked out that it was our wedding anniversary. There was then the opportunity for dancing this was held nearby in a separate area so that those wishing to talk were still able to. This was an excellent evening with everyone appearing to enjoy the good food and companionship. With the wine flowing, supplied from the vineyard we visited in the morning we were able to truly assess the quality of the produce. As all good things have to come to an end, we retired to our beds at some time or other I cannot quite remember what time this was. Sunday morning, most people met at the Hotel to gather the wine we had bought from the Chateau and to say goodbye to friends old and new. It was an excellent time and the friendship and fellowship bodes good for next years visit to Italy. The programme for this is already in hand , with visits to Lake Maggiore and Milan already arranged. I hope that after this years excellent contact visit that a few more Banbury Rotarians will arrange to go on what is usually a great three days of fun and Rotary fellowship.

David Hitchcox

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Thelma Jeremy wife of Rotarian Gareth. Thelma supported Rotary particularly the Young Musician competition over many years. Her memorial service took place at Marlborough Road Methodist Church with many Rotarians in attendance.

One month on - - - - -

To say that the last 4 weeks have flown is a bit of an understatement and if, as I was told, this was likely to be the quieter part of the year, goodness knows what the rest will be like. Having said that, I've really enjoyed myself, probably due to the terrific support from the club.

Just to keep you up to date with my July Rotary schedule and following the change over on 1st July (or "coronation" as Ian insisted on calling it):

2nd July Bob Thompson, Owen Kyffin and I went over to the Kingham & Daylesford club to erect the Shelterbox for their Champaign Classic day. A bit of a rush – we didn't leave Banbury till 5.15 p.m. and Sue had invited guests for a meal at 7 p.m. Bob really is a fast worker!!

3rd July. Putting up our stall to demonstrate the Aquaboxes at the Hobby Horse Festival in the park and parading through the town in the Mayor's procession, proudly wearing my Presidents chain of office. At the end of the day, back to Kingham to retrieve the Shelterbox with John Webb & Stephen Jakeman. John had been there all day!

5th July. Mock Interviews at Warriner School in Bloxham – a real pleasure to meet the students and congratulations to Nigel Randall, Reg McLean and Paul Gardiner for organising such a labour intensive and successful project. In the evening I attended the handover for the new President of the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell, Phil Page.

6th July. Attended the memorial service at St Mary's for Derek Repton. The church was almost full, a mark of the man. In the evening I went to Blessed George Napier School with Bernard Goodchild to see a presentation and meet some of the students who took part in their Tall Ships adventure, which our club had assisted with funds.

9th July. Met up with members of the Rotary Club of Bicester to hand over the Shelterbox for their show next day.

13th July. Attended and made most welcome at the Foundation Committee meeting and I was bought a drink.

14th July. Joined a whole galaxy of Rotarians to put up a couple of marquees for the Frank Wise School's 50th Birthday celebrations – and it was warm!!

In the evening I attended the Inner Wheel handover meeting, to see Carol Humphris accept her Presidential chain of office.

22nd July. Attended the memorial service for Thelma Jeremy at Marlborough Road Church. Again the church was full to overflowing out of respect for a courageous and determined lady.

24th July. Set up our stall at the Old Ford Rally at Gaydon Motor Museum with Ian Rodrick (he was on his best behaviour), Bob Nurden (he wasn't) and Owen Kyffin (he had to be, because Jackie came with him). We were selling rides in old Ford cars to the general public and raised £205.00 on the day, some of which was gift aided. We've already been invited back next year, so we must have done something right.

28th July. My first official Council meeting and I think the committee let me off reasonably lightly. A good meeting with some interesting discussions and lots of plans for the year ahead. Shirley went out for the evening – did someone say something?

29th July. 5th Friday evening meeting at the Masonic Hall. I'm pleased to say the largest turnout for some time, an excellent meal and a fascinating talk from Nicola McHugh about her mission to Tristan da Cunha.

30th July. With other members from several different Rotary clubs, I spent the morning setting up and stewarding the Brackley Beer Festival. Unfortunately, I had to leave before the bar opened. The labour force was independently organised by our own member Paul Shea, to raise funds for Cheshire Homes mini buses. He did a great job. In the afternoon, back to Banbury to take part in the street collection for Save the Children's appeal for the Horn of Africa. Our International Chairman Malcolm Douglas arranged the display and collection schedule and the day was a joint venture with the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell. Our combined efforts saw just over £1500.00 raised by 4 p.m. In view of the current financial climate, it again shows the generosity of Banbury people and yet again, they will have made a difference to those in need.

As well as three other regular Friday meetings, that's all I got round to this month. Shirley said she was hoping I'd be out of the way a bit more.

Anyway, thanks for the fun and fellowship, but remember – that's what Rotary is all about.

John Bennett – your current President.

Community and Vocational:- There has request from the Banbury Sea Cadet Force for someone to assist them as a Trustee, Volunteer Please.

Foundation Have set out their aims for the coming year there are to be a number of events including a Frugal Lunch, Stephens Steaming, and the Christmas Festival of Music With the proceeds from these and Club members donations it is hoped to give substantial amounts to Foundation and the Polio campaign

Sports & Entertainment. The programme for the coming year to include :- A visit to the Air Tattoo, The various Golf events Bigwood Trophy 8th. September, 4 B's 22nd September and the Club Autumn competition, Club darts 27th February, Inter Club Quiz 5th. March, District Conference 15-18th. March, Club Outing 10th. April. Other ideas to include Theatre Trip, Horse Racing,.

International:- it is hoped to supply furniture for the fitting out at The Christian Hope School in Sierra Leone. The majority of funds raised at Children Singing for Children are to be given to the End Polio Campaign.

Youth Opportunities. Many events programmed including :-BYHP Interviews, Children Singing for Children will be held on the 8th.,9th.,10th. of November at St. Mary's Church, Young Chef, Young Musician

2012, Practice Interviews BGN & Warriner schools, RYLA candidate has been found for this year, it is also hoped to find a disabled candidate for 2012.

Classification, Membership&P.R. Various items discussed regarding membership and the continual need to attract new members. Philip Cavill emphasized the need for Committees to send him details of their events in a form suitable for sending to the local press together with creative photographs. Committee Chairmen were also requested to update their Web sections on our Web Site to Ron Barnett. SPEAKER REPORT.

Speaker July 22nd 2011 Grant Hayward Business Partnership Coordinator for OCVA.

OCVA is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

It is the main umbrella body for the Oxfordshire voluntary and community sector. It provides advice, information and training, act as advocates and representatives, and builds partnerships. In simple terms it acts as a conduit between the voluntary sector and businesses for the overall good of the community.

Full membership is offered in return for a subscription payment to any voluntary or community organisation in Oxfordshire. Associate membership is open to others. Typically voluntary organisations join and their needs are communicated throughout the membership on the basis that ready assistance will be identified. For example a charity needing professional support or possibly office furniture or a redundant computer may receive free support from other registered members.

During his presentation Grant mentioned several Case Studies: An individual who had suffered mental illness was provided with a voluntary job role within a Oxford based solicitors practice and has since been recruited for a permanent full time role with the firm.

A major local charity was put in touch with a Public Relations firm whose staff developed an extensive promotional campaign free of charge in their own time for the charity. As a result very substantial funds were raised for the charity.

Staff at Oxford based supermarket (Waitrose Witney) committing time to a local charity and gaining considerable personal development experience.

These details all highlighted a win win position between businesses and voluntary groups provided by this umbrella group - bringing people together.

OCVA have a Resource Centre with a collection of books, CD-Roms and subscription websites, including funding information, such as FunderFinder and the Directory of Social Change trustfunding website.

Volunteer Centre Oxfordshire accredited by Volunteering England is a member of OCVA and may be contacted regarding all matters relating to volunteering, how to find a volunteer role, advertising for volunteers and volunteer management issues.

A meeting room is available for general use. OCVA members can hire the room for £5hr, non-members are charged £15hr. The room seats up to 15 people and is available during office open hours (Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 4.40pm).

OCVA staff help you with:

Development Team: funding research, help with project planning and writing policies

Reception: booking meeting room and training events

Strategic Partnerships Manager: Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance (OSCA) and Oxfordshire Learning Network

Communications and Promotions Officer: information on OCVA training and events, Community Concern newsletter and Voluntary Voice.

Volunteer Centre Manager: advice on volunteering opportunities for individuals or helping organisations to develop volunteering opportunities, information on the Oxfordshire Good Neighbours Scheme.

An Information Points project is an OSCA initiative, managed by OCVA, that aims to provide local access to useful information on sources of funding, working with volunteers, legal requirements, approaches to setting up a community group, and other sector issues.

Each Information Point provides access to:

The Oxnet web portal - your online community packed with news and resources! Search for volunteering opportunities, access a directory of 1,000 local voluntary and community groups, find information on training courses, promote events and download useful documents

FunderFinder software - a searchable database of over 4,000 grant making trusts

Publications - browse through a wide range of publications and factsheets such as 'Writing a better fundraising application' and 'The voluntary sector legal handbook'.

A Lend-a-Laptop scheme is being trialed for groups in West Oxfordshire. The laptop contains FunderFinder software and can be borrowed from the Volunteer Link-Up office in Witney and retained for one week for a deposit of £100. The deposit is refunded on the return of the laptop.

Banbury - Local Information Point Venues

WRVS Cornhill Centre, Banbury Castle St, Banbury OX16 5NT

Open: Fridays from 10am-2pm (by appointment)

The Volunteer Centre Oxfordshire offers a service to both those that want to volunteer and those that are looking for volunteers both free of charge.

Visit the website

www.oxnet.org.uk/voluntary-sector-services, or contact Grant Hayward, Local Business Partnership Coordinator, to establish an interest in employer supported volunteering opportunities
grant.hayward@ocva.org.uk

The ROBIN initiative was established with the help of OCVA to establish a bond between local businesses and public sector bodies with Oxfordshire's voluntary and community groups and organisations.

Local businesses and Public sector bodies are welcome to join the growing network to make a real difference to Oxfordshire. To find out more email grant.hayward@ocva.org.uk

OCVA is keen to assist local employers in their activities to discharge a number of these responsibilities by facilitating engagement with the voluntary and community groups and charities that it supports.

The Directory of Support Services

The Directory of Support Services for Voluntary and Community Groups in Oxfordshire is a quick and easy reference to find out where to go for funding advice, CRB checks and other support for organisations.

This document is compiled by OCVA on behalf of the Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership, the Directory is available as a hard or electronic copy.

The document is currently being updated and will shortly be released as an up-to-date version. Information is available by calling us on 01865 251946 or email info@ocva.org.uk

Hopefully this outline of the content of Grant's presentation clearly highlights the wide ranging support that OCVA provides throughout the county and the excellent role that it plays in bringing together those with resources and those in need of them.

Bernard Goodchild.

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

The Bunkhouse, 8 Chestnut Road, Mollington, Oxon. OX17 1BG.

E. Mail: sullyhouse@googlemail.com Tel. Work Home 01295 750460 Mobile 07739 122054

EDITOR -David Hitchcox, 1 Dorchester Grove, Banbury. Tel 01295 -253733 Copy by preference to e-mail which is

david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk COPY DATE is the penultimate Friday of the month.