



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

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

President Ian Rodrick

August 2012



Past President John Bennett passes over the Presidential mantle to Rotarian Ian Rodrick.

Ian then spoke to the assembled audience.

My Lord Saye & Sele, Mr Mayor, District Governor Judith, Distinguished Guests, and Fellow Rotarians. I'm sure that all incoming Presidents share the same emotion and think to themselves, as I do, "I can hardly believe I'm standing here".

The Secretary, of course, is a great help on those occasions. Good secretaries and treasurers run the Club. Presidents come and go, but secretaries go on forever – or so it seems.

So I look down at the agenda that the secretary has helpfully prepared and it says:- "Incoming President's **inspirational, motivational, strategic and witty speech!!!!** "

David - I think we may have problems this year.

Where do we start? As most of you will know I came to Banbury in 1972 – more or less forty years ago with a young family to start a career in general practice.

A few months later whilst at a drinks party at my partner's home, I found myself chatting to a chap who had a lapel badge which I did not recognise. He told me that it was a Round Table badge and I could come along. I did and that was the start of things. It was my introduction to Service Clubs and the seeds of service were sown. There were some terribly important people in Round Table at that time, pillars of the community like Humphris, Jeremy and Anker. I was inducted by a fellow called Calderbank the only Chairman I can ever remember who learnt the induction speech by heart.

A year or so after retiring from Round Table I was collared by Maurice Humphris and he said "its time you come along to Rotary".

My first Rotary lunch was not an unqualified success. Meetings in those days were much more formal and stiff. Somehow it did not seem much fun. One of the bright spots was the very agreeable old boy I sat beside. He was good company, rosy cheeks and when the meal started he flicked his tie over his right shoulder. When I looked sideways at him he explained "I am a very dirty eater". It was of course the late

Aubrey Phillips. The next couple of times seemed much better and before very long I found myself being inducted into the Club by the President of the day, Reg Charles.

As I said at Club Assembly a couple of weeks ago, I think I was the 74th member when I was inducted and the District Governor will be interested to know that we currently have 73 members and 3 Honorary Members. Our numbers have stayed almost exactly the same which is due to both an active recruitment programme and we seem to retain members. There are, however, two important changes, we now have lady members which is good but our average age has crept up from 66 to 69. I am now above average! My form master at Lancaster Grammar School would be delighted as I was never above average at school.

One of our targets for year 2012/2013 is to recruit some younger members and bring that average down again.

A new Rotary year is a time for reflection looking at the good things that this Club does and perhaps things we can do better in the future. So what is this Club all about – I think we would all say different things and have different priorities but let me say from the outset that I really love being a member of this Club, cannot ever imagine not being a Rotarian. I think the main reason is FELLOWSHIP, friendship as well but fellowship is much more than that. It is about common ideals, shared interests and a sense of togetherness. We can stick together during the good and the not so good times. Without going into any details most of you will know that there have been a couple of occasions in the last twenty-five years or so when I have needed support and you have always been there. I know there are many others who would say exactly the same.

The first Committee that I chaired in the Club no longer exists. It was, of course, the **Rotaract Committee**. Banbury had a very strong Rotaract Club in those days but unfortunately, like many other service clubs, it folded. Fortunately our daughter Cherwell Club are working on restarting Rotaract and I am sure we all wish it well.

Thanks to the initiative of my predecessor, John Bennett, and the hard work and persistence of Ian Anthistle, we hope to start an **Interact Club** based at BGN School in September. This is a tremendous achievement and the way of introducing youngsters to the ideals of service and citizenship. We must commit ourselves to support Ian and his team to ensure its success. Actually I can tell you that another school has also expressed interest in Interact and this is being followed up. Although it is early days yet would it not be fantastic if we had two Interact Clubs in Banbury.

What about this SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY we talk about – David Cameron's **Big Society** – I'm sure he got that slogan from Rotary - I have been looking at the figures for the last three years and believe it or not this Club has raised over £108,000 for local and international projects – an average of £36,000 per annum. This has been distributed between many local, national and international charities from Katherine House (I often wonder how we managed before the Hospice Movement) to Christian Hope School in Sierra Leone and Shelter Boxes which we have sent to disaster areas in many parts of the world.

I must, at this point, pay tribute to two of our members who have done outstanding work in this field – I mean, of course, Alan Wolstencroft and Andrew Fairbairn.

Just as important other things we do that don't cost much money – our annual **party for the blind** and the regular help we give at the **Banbury Young Homeless Project**. What about the work we do with the youth of the community – **Children singing for children** – Listening to youngsters from 20 or so primary school singing their hearts out over three nights in St Mary's Church. I don't believe there is anyone who doesn't have a tear in the eye when they get together in a mass choir for the finale.

The **Banbury Young Musician of the Year Competition** is now in its 23rd year giving hugely talented youngsters the opportunity to perform and show their skills in front of an audience and professional judges. The fact that our winner went on to the National Finals is a testament to the high standard of the Banbury Competition.

What about **Dragon Boat Racing**. Lord Saye & Sele kindly allowed us to hold this in his moat again and it was a fantastic day of fun. Everyone enjoyed it, even the participants who got wet. And do you know what I remember most – John Bennett and I being on car park duty and being approached by a family who asked if we were Rotarians. When we said we were, she said she would like to thank us for a lovely family day out and the fact that they had not been ripped off. Isn't it nice to give something back to the community without asking for money.

But we do ask for money, we nearly all help with the Christmas Street Organ Appeal at the various shopping venues in the town and how readily people give us thousands of pounds when they see our Rotary Banners and tabards.

Surely that trust is what Rotary is about.

THE OLD FORD RALLY.

Once again we attended the Old Ford Rally at the Motor Museum Gaydon.

There were many 100's of Ford cars there, with a large number people attending what was an excellent day, the sun shone. The selection of cars from the very earliest to some of the very latest super models. All lovingly restored by the enthusiasts. It engendered quite a bit of nostalgia among us remembering the cars we used to own and wished we still owned.

The reason for our attendance was again to fly the flag for Rotary and raise some funds for Polio Eradication. Four stalwarts from our Club with a visit from past District Governor Niall Blair who brought the Polio Mobile.



We ran three competitions to attract the people to our stand. We filled Niall's car with balloons and asked the public to guess how many it contained. There were also three classic Ford cars which the punters had to guess the year of manufacture and the value at that time. Harder than it sounds until one "Anorak" Ford enthusiast got them all almost correct.

President Ian pondering which to buy.



The third fun item was for the younger people there although one or two adults took part in Splat The Rat.

Past D.G. Niall doing his stuff.

We did not raise a fortune but an amount for Polio was raised and a lot of Publicity for Rotary. President Ian, Past President John together with Bob Nurden who supplied the food, or was it Joan?, Alan Woolstencroft who kept us organised and David Hitchcox looking after the money all enjoyed a great day and particularly Niall who brought the car and stayed all day. D.H.

Rodrick's Ramblings

As I said at my induction – “I can hardly believe this has happened”, but as Mrs. R has reminded me, “it is August in a couple of days and one twelfth of your year is over!!” Well, I’ve managed to get three meetings under the belt, thanks to the Hon Sec, and have negotiated the first Council meeting. It has to be downhill from now.

As President, things have begun to warm up this month

- 12th. July – I represented the Club at Annie Phillips induction as Inner Wheel President. It was a most enjoyable evening and I’m sure we wish Annie well
- 17th July - I accompanied Bernard Goodchild to a presentation on their Tall Ships event at BGN School. We were made most welcome and thanks were expressed to Rotary for our help in funding the project.
- 22nd July – The “Old Ford Rally” at Gaydon. We were there to promote Polio Plus and Niall Blair joined us with his impressive Polio promotion car. It was a good day and thanks to John Bennett for organising it
- 29th. July – Pig Roast at the Cricket Club. Annie it was a great success, much enjoyed by all and I hope you generated funds for your charity.

I have been giving some thought to our meetings and am conscious that we seem to give “short shrift” to some of our speakers. Meetings used to finish at 2.15 and this was changed in 2001 to 2.00pm in an attempt to cut down the number of early leavers. I don’t think it has made any difference except that some speakers have been treated a bit unfairly. The ladies who spoke last week had travelled by train from London to talk to us and it only seems right that they should have their full twenty minutes. This may mean that we run after the 2.00 deadline and might even take towards 2.15, depending on how much business we have. I mentioned this at council and would like to hear your views.

Must stop now – beach volleyball is on the tele!

A Letter from: Rotarian Geoff Pollard SILVER STAR SOCIETY

Dear Past President John

May I record my personal thanks to Council for their generous additional donation over and above the £500 plus Sponsorship support from many of our own Club members for my son, Simon, on his successful Charity Bike Ride from John O'Groats to Lands End 30th April - 13th May 2012.

The Cheque for £600 is magnificent and will be added to the sum of £12677.54 (without Gift Aid) which was handed over to Professor Redman at a recent meeting at John Radcliffe Hospital.

Thanks to everyone who supported this challenge.

Sincerely
Geoff Pollard

Speaker Reports.

On Friday 13th July we were delighted to have as our speakers Elaine Adams and Jane Rendle from ARCh, Oxfordshire. ARCh is the Assisted Reading for Children organization that trains, equips, and then sends into Oxfordshire schools volunteers who assist children on a one-to-one basis for two reading sessions per week to raise their reading standards. These two ladies, along with three others work from an office in Bicester and are the only paid staff members of the organization in the county, so, we were told, they were always very busy.

Volunteers are recruited mainly through word of mouth, although much effort is put into Fun Days, Fundraising, awareness of the website, and appearances at various venues around the county in order to bring the organization to the notice of the wider public and aid recruitment. When a prospective volunteer has been identified they go through an application, vetting, and training programme where the expectations of the organization are explained and recruits are able to ask relevant questions and discover whether they are able to give the commitment required to the programme. The training takes place usually at a venue in Bicester and consists of two days training and the explanation and display of the reading and play materials that will be supplied by ARCh are discussed, and the fact and the volunteer will be expected to attend book exchange days and further training as required in the future is competently explained. The commitment of the volunteer is for a minimum of twelve months and the attendance at the mutually agreed school will be for two sessions per week of one and a half hours duration, during which the volunteer will assist the three selected children in raising their reading skills to the level of testing required for their age. Once in place, the volunteer is supported by telephone and personal supervision by a team member from the Bicester office who will also liaise with the school should any conflict occur between the volunteer and the allocated school.

The organization actively recruits trustee members to the board and has well known authors and illustrators of children's books such as Korky Paul on their board of trustees. Each volunteer costs almost seven hundred pounds a year and the school is expected to fund 50% of the cost, so there is serious money involved from the school's perspective and they are therefore entitled to expect a high level of commitment from the volunteers placed in their establishments.

The question of the need for this type of scheme was addressed by the speakers stating that Oxfordshire has, for the last two years, had the dubious distinction of having the worst reading ability across all age groups in primary and secondary education according to published national statistics and therefore there was an urgent and pressing need to address the fact that we have in the county the best university in the world and the worst reading standards in the country!

There were many reasons why children dropped behind in reading ability such as not having English as a first language and not speaking it at home, family upheaval, social exclusion, and the lack of extended family, or indeed any family input to the child's education at home. This situation did not exclusively impact on any social class and it could be demonstrated that some comparatively well off families gave their children much money but little attention.

The speakers pointed out that there was a Rotarian in the club who was active in a local primary school, and the report from the head teacher gave the acknowledgement that the volunteer was not only regarded as a "Grandfather" figure by his children, but also that the reading standard of one of his allocated students had risen from 4 to 7 in nine months. This adequately demonstrated that there was a need for the volunteers and that there was a definite benefit to the school and the students from one-to-one tuition. The speakers also stated that the Rotarian had stated to them that not only had the student benefited from the interaction but there was a "feel-good factor" from him that he had "made a difference" in raising these students reading ability.

There were many questions regarding student's general reading ability, funds available to continue the work, and the need for this service in our locality and the wider county. All of these questions were readily and expertly answered by our speakers who had given us so freely of their time and knowledge of the subject matter and they were thanked by the President and the assembly in the usual manner.

Committee Reports.

Council:- For a trial period Council would like speakers to have until 2.15 **if needed**, it has been felt that occasionally speakers have been unable to finish their talk and take questions. The President would like comments on the subject.

Community and Vocational.

Andrew Fairbairn and his team were thanked for the great success of the Dragon Boat event, Money raised in excess of £2800.00 and the good Public Relations gained.

It was suggested that we give £250 to the Banbury Air Cadets for their assistance at Dragon Boats.

Blood Pressure day is to be October 13th. The Christmas Street organ collections were now being organised as usual.

Foundation.

Martin and the Club are hosting an Ambassadorial Scholar, Julie Self from Canada.

Forthcoming events include:- Car evening at Charles Swains' Postponed date now 21st August.
Stephen's Summer Steaming Sunday 16th September.
Christmas Festival of Music 15th December at St Mary's Church.

Sports & Entertainment.-

Golf :- Bigwood Trophy is fixed for Thursday 30th. August.
Probably going to the Dogs at Oxford for an evening meeting.
Golf competitions to be arranged, also awaiting date for the 4B's competition.
District Conference. Hotel is booked, further details shortly.
Joint Carol Service to be held on the 16th. December.
Ideas required for the Club Outing.

International:-

The visit of the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra will take place at Bloxham School on Sunday 21st October.
It is proposed that the Polar Bear Dip will be staged again for those hardy souls on the 1st January
Since 2010 we have supplied 31 Shelter Boxes and as we have funds allocated for more, it is proposed that these funds are topped up to allow us to send four more. There are also funds allocated to Water Projects and a proposal for these to be allocated to Alistair Welford and his Charity to supply Aqua Filters to young people in Guatemala with whom he is involved. A further amount was suggested to Water Aid which is to be doubled up with a Government Grant. These were approved by Council and put to Club.
Alan Wolstencroft reported that Toilets at Christian Hope School in Sierra Leone have now been completed.

Youth Opportunities.

Interact, talks are on going with Blessed George Napier School and it is to form an Interact group at the school this should commence at the start of the next academic year in September.
The dates have been fixed for Children Singing for Children , 13-15th. November 2012 because of an excellent response from schools it will require a fourth night, Monday 12th. Charities to be supported are Children in Nepal , Goodwill and Growth in Africa and See-Saw the bereavement charity. Ninety percent to be divided equally with
10 % for other children's charities.

The Young Musician competition will be held again at Sibford School, the heats on 18 & 19 January and the final on 23 February 2013. Young Chef is to be held Dec/Jan and organised by Bernard Goodchild.

Classification & Membership.

It is proposed to have a stall at the Banbury Canal day to promote Rotary and our Club without the need for fundraising.

Members are reminded of the continual need to attract new members, think of potential Rotarians among your Friends and work colleagues with whom you come into contact with. Over the years there has always been a need to induct about 5 new members a year so please bear this in mind.

Bob Thompson and his committee are here to help.

Treasurer's Talk.

Subscriptions now mostly all in after a little nagging and some confusion by those **not** increasing their Standing orders from 2/3 years ago. Don't forget next year.

Fellowship and House.

As chairman of the Fellowship & House Committee I thought that this year, rather than write to all the committee members individually I would put a note in the Bulletin so that all club members, especially the newer ones, can have the opportunity of understanding what goes on.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2012 THE COST WILL BE £11 PER PERSON

It is expected that members will attend the Friday lunchtime meetings unless they apologise by 5pm on the previous Wednesday as it is that evening I pass the numbers on to the caterers to give them a chance to do the shopping on Thursdays. If apologies are not received in time members will receive an envelope asking for the cost of the meal prepared but not taken. This is not a fine, merely a reimbursement of the meal cost the club would otherwise have to pay. If I am going to be away members will be advised who to contact instead.

When we have fifth a Friday we normally have an evening meeting, with our partners, to which we "opt in" and separate lists are prepared as such meetings are not always at the Masonic Hall. Therefore there is no need to apologise for non-attendance at those meetings.

The rotas that you see for table duties etc. are still being prepared by Rtn Stan Crump. It is each

members own responsibility to arrange for someone else to stand in for them if they are unable to fulfil the duty allocated to them.

Rtn Tony Wiltshire is in charge of the books for attendance and guests as he pulls together the statistical figures for Council which you all see. I take this opportunity to thank both of them for their support. I look after the apologies book which you can fill in ahead of time to save having to ring or e mail me.

While you are on the rota for Fellowship & House Member-in-charge, you are officially relieved from the table duty and cash desk rotas, although on the days when you are the nominated member in charge you are, amongst other duties, responsible for ensuring that the table duties are properly covered which may in fact involve you in helping wait at table. Fellowship may also come your way from time to time. Because of the overall responsibility of the F & H Member in charge I have set out all Friday duties below. The duties on fifth Fridays are much less and will be explained as and when they arise.

Fellowship and House Committee Member in Charge:

The Member in Charge is responsible for ensuring that all equipment is set up and that all duties are carried out.

- a) Endeavour to arrive by 12.00 noon.
- b) Place on appropriate tables the following items, to be found in the “Rotary Cupboard” (key on board behind the bar).

President’s and Speaker’s reading desks.

The bell.

Unveil the Rotary wheel and banners and open the Past Presidents Board.

- c) Ensure that the Fellowship officer is present and the cash desk is manned, or appoint someone to cover.
- d) Check arrival of Rotarians on table duty and allocate duties including tables to those on Table Duty, it is important that the top table is well covered and that the President and guest speaker and any other top table guests are served quickly. When a member is absent, appoint a replacement from those Rotarians present.
- e) Sit near to the door, so as to be available for late arrivals, and ensure that the front lobby door is locked before the meeting and after “early leavers” have left for security reasons.
- f) When meeting closes, draw curtains over Rotary wheel and banners, all equipment, and replace tidily in the Rotary cupboard. Lock cupboard and return the key to the bar.

Fellowship

- a) Endeavour to arrive no later than 12.15 pm.
- b) Ensure that ALL visitors are welcomed by the President or one of the Vice President, and give visiting Rotarians attendance cards if requested. See that all visitors sign the Visitors Book.
- c) Complete agenda form in block letters giving details of ALL visitors present and hand to the Hon. Secretary by 1.00 pm.
- d) Say Grace

Cash Desk (This and the following included because of your supervisory role).

Arrive no later than 12-15 pm, earlier if possible.

- A. The current meal charge being £10 a few £10 notes may be helpful as a float. This is increasing to £11 from 1st September 2012 so coins will also be needed. Cheques are to be made payable to Pink Peppercorn.
- B. Tick off names of members on list provided as they pay, adding names of visiting Rotarians and any other visitors and of any who are being paid for by the Club, e.g. the Speaker. Record the number of people present and number of members who have paid.
- C. At one o’clock, balance total cash against number present, give cash to the caterers and pass the list to me or if I am not there I will deputise somebody to take it.

Table Duty

- a) Arrive no later than 12.45 pm
- b) Service the table allocated to you by the Fellowship and House Members in charge.

Naturally if anyone has any constructive criticism please let me know.

Yours in Rotary fellowship
Malcolm Dibb

Foundation:- Group Study Exchange.

Contact our Foundation Chairman Martin Phillips if you can help.

The Group Study Exchange visit in March and April 2013 will be to District 9670 in New South Wales, Australia, just north of Sydney. Frank Knowles from Maidenhead Rotary Club was selected as the Team Leader a few weeks ago and we are now looking for four team members. All clubs in the District are asked to support GSE and to encourage young professionals in their area to apply to this fantastic scheme. The details of the scheme are attached and are also on the GSE pages on the District website (these will be posted within the next 2 days).

<http://www.rotary-ribi.org/districts/page.php?PgID=256006&DistrictNo=1090>

We have provided three information leaflets, with basically the same information but each with a slightly different focus - for potential candidates, for candidates' employers, and for clubs.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday 19th September. The interviews will be held in Marlow on Saturday 29th September.

We look forward to receiving lots of applications,

Karen Eveleigh

Chair of GSE Sub-Committee.



The Mayor of Banbury Rotarian Tony Ilott with President Ian Rodrick and District Governor Judith Diment at the Banbury changeover meeting.

Latest news A new date for the Foundation evening at Charles Swains, Now to be Tuesday 21st. August.

HON SECRETARY:- David Sullivan

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