



### **President's Christmas Message**

Dear fellow Rotarians the Christmas period will soon be in full flow; this is a time of the year when we reflect on our happy memories of past years our present challenges and the hope for our families and friends future health, happiness and peace in the world whilst at the same time being thankful for the many good things that we ourselves are lucky to enjoy.

We should also reflect on the importance of being a member of this wonderful organisation that carry's out so much good work throughout the world, we are all aware Rotary truly "Makes a Difference" to so many people less fortunate than ourselves throughout the world.

I am sure that in 2010 The Rotary of Banbury together with Rotarians throughout the world will continue to meet the challenges forced upon us and strive to make the world a better place through the advancement of international understanding, charitable work, goodwill and peace.

May the spirit of Christmas bring you and your family peace,  
The gladness of Christmas give you and your family hope,  
The warmth of Christmas grant you and your family love.

I, Beverley and my family take this opportunity to send you and your families our best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful, Happy and Healthy New Year.

Yours in Rotary friendship

**Roger Worrall**  
President 2009/10

## Children Singing for Children Concerts 10<sup>th</sup> , 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2009, St Mary's Church, Banbury



Over 430 children from 20 local primary schools, supported by the winners from the Banbury Young and Junior Musicians of the Year 2009, took part in this year's hugely popular Children Singing for Children concerts.

The highlight of each evening's concert was the massed choir finale, where up to 160 children were on stage to sing, World in Union, Hey Mr Miller and Senwa Dedende, leading to calls of 'Encore!' from the large & enthusiastic audiences.

Approximately £4,300 was raised for children's charities by the pupils from participating schools, which were: Harriers Ground, Great Rollright, Queensway, St Leonard's, Middleton Cheyney, Hardwick, Wroxton, Sibford Gower, Bishop Carpenter, Kings Sutton, Shennington, Chacombe, St Johns R.C., St Josephs R.C., Christopher Rawlins, Hornton, Orchard Fields, St Mary's, The Grange, Cropredy and Frank Wise.

The Rotary Club of Banbury would like to thank the children, teachers and helpers from all of the schools who worked really hard to learn 5 songs off by heart, and Live Arts @ St Mary's for their support.

Representatives from the nominated charities – Multi Cultural Play Project Banbury, Leonard Cheshire Schools4all in Africa and other Rotary Children's Charities will be presented with cheques shortly.

The two main recipients will receive £2000.00 each.

Children Singing for Children was the first event to use the new sub committee structure and it worked well. Jonathan Meredith led a group consisting of Fred Riches, Alan Wolstencroft and Phil Cavill. The committee is also grateful for the support of other club members, in particular Ian Anthistle, Reg McLean and Malcolm Dibb and all those who stewarded at the events and rehearsals. The slide show was generally thought to be a huge success in communicating the objects of Children Singing for Children and giving a positive message about Rotary to the audiences.

Rtn. Phil Cavill.

**Ted Wheatley** Incorrect Phone number in our directory.

**Should be 01295 722231**

## **SPEAKER REPORTS.**

### **The Rise and Fall of Menvier**

Rotarian Charles Swain, the ex chairman of Menvier gave us a fascinating account of how Menvier started in 1975 and charted its rise to becoming a company of international importance operating in 9 countries, employing 2,400 people and having a turnover of some £115 million.

Pre 1975 Charles was running an electrical contracting company in Banbury with some people permanently occupied in keeping the electric's at General Foods operating smoothly, President Roger Worrall being one of those people]. Due to legislation there was a need for battery operated emergency lighting systems in all public buildings, but architects and designers did not like the ugly systems that were available at the time.

Charles saw the potential for fitting an emergency system within the envelope of existing fluorescent lighting fittings, which nobody had been able to achieve before.

He started a new company which was called Menvier, brought Roger back in house to run production and employed more electrical engineers to work on the difficult problems of getting emergency fittings to stand to the heat generated inside the fluorescent fitting and also give a good battery life.

The new product proved to be a success and the fledgling company was given a huge boost by the miners strikes at the time, causing random power cuts which could leave offices and factories, without emergency lighting systems, in darkness.

A new factory was built to cope with the demand with Roger in charge of the production of emergency lighting systems, fire alarm panels, controllable micro processors and printed circuit boards. Two of the notable successes at this time were the supply of ELS systems for the new Birmingham Airport and for the Hong Kong Railways.

Rapid growth built on demand continued, supplier and allied companies were taken over and a factory built in Australia.

In 1985 Menvier was floated on the Unlisted Securities market and in 1987 the old, Townley Stone Co. building was acquired to increase the manufacturing capacity in Banbury.

In 1992 Menvier achieved a full listing on the Stock Market and in 1993 intruder alarms were added to their basket of goods on offer.

By this time Menvier controlled 18 companies including factories in Australia, Holland, Sweden,

Germany, Portugal, France (Luminox) and Ireland. The French Government actually gave them a factory and the Irish Government gave them a 50% grant to start up in Kilarney with a plastic injection moulding company.

In 1993 Charles retired as Chairman and sold his shares in 1996, control of the company fell into the hands of US based Cooper Inc The American giant, Cooper Industries asset stripped it so within two years of Charles retiring Menvier was no more.  
Rtn. John Brodey.

### **My Job Talk by Andrew McHugh Friday 30th Oct 09**

Andrew McHugh has had a varied and interesting career as a soldier working for the Queen, in business working with the Sultan of Oman, and with the Aga Khan's Health Service in Tajikistan.

He trained initially at Sandhurst and subsequently worked with the Royal Artillery serving in Belize. He transferred to the Army Pay Corps and was Paymaster to the Scots Guards. While attached to the Pay Corps he developed an interest in amateur dramatics.

He subsequently worked with the Sultan of Oman as Staff Paymaster encountering considerable corruption which he was asked to eradicate. This was achieved by introducing a transactional computer system in order to identify each individual soldier thereby preventing fictitious payments to the wrong people.

In 1996 he developed an interest in the design of beds for the morbidly obese and became a Director of the company making beds for people who were fifty stone in weight.

In 2000 he went to Tajikistan working with the Aga Khan Health Service as Chief Finance Controller. He showed us beautiful pictures of the countryside including the high Pamirs and the extremely poor quality of the hospitals which had no water and no oxygen. He was involved in their renovation and again encountered considerable corruption. There was no heating even though the temperature went to -27 on occasions.

His wife obtained a job in St Helena in the South Atlantic and he accompanied her. During this period he did a correspondence course and graduated with a Masters Degree in Health Services Management from the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He is currently the Manager at the Horse Fair General Practice in Banbury and recently oversaw their move from North Bar to South Bar.  
Rtn. Rupert Kipping

## **Classic Car Rallying.**

Our speaker on Friday 6th November was David Rings, who incidentally, was a founding member of the Rotary Club of Brackley. Never one to be too serious, his talk was both informative and very amusing.

Having realised an ambition to own a classic sports car, he soon tired of, as he put it, "just driving it" and decided to get involved in Classic Rallying. Obviously not being one to do things by half measures, the first rally he entered was the Monte- Carlo Retro, where he surprised himself and the other competitors by finishing in the top 30 out of around 90 entries.

He has since taken part in 2 more Monte-Carlo and numerous other rallies in the UK, the continent and one in North Africa, in either his Austin Healey 3000 or Porsche 356.

Professional rallying by modern works teams takes place on closed roads or tracks and is an out and out speed event, where the fastest car is the winner. Historic Classic rallies take place on public roads, the aim being to drive at a given average speed between check points. Points are deducted for arriving too early or too late. If, due to hold ups or through taking the wrong route, you have to make up time, that's when the fun begins!

As with the professional teams, the navigator is as important as the driver; David's navigator is his daughter. Teams are usually only given their route details shortly before their start time and in that period have to consult the maps, plan the route and their strategy for the rally. Route plans can vary from detailed notes combined with distances and illustrations of road junctions, to just a series of grid references.

David's talk covered several aspects of rallying and after fielding a variety of questions from the members, he was given a warm round of applause for an entertaining insight into his hobby.

Rtn. John Bennett

## **To The Ends and Beyond. The Scilly's to Muckle Flugga.**

Since Andrews return from Muckle Flugga lighthouse, fundraising has continued and money received or pledged is now in excess of £12,500. And hopefully will continue to increase as a result of attending Rotary conferences and giving presentations.

He has a further ten presentations booked together with further enquiries and a hope that more will be arranged in due course.

In addition Leonard Cheshire Disability has been given permission to submit an application for a matching grant which, if successful, will make a huge

difference. Andrew would like to express his very grateful thanks for the absolutely tremendous support from the Club and all the members.

## **Who's Who Next Year!!! 2011/2011**

President	RON BARNETT
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	JOHN BENNETT
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	IAN RODRICK Hon
Secretary	IAN RODRICK
Assistant Hon. Sec	DAVID SULLIVAN
Honorary Treasurer	ANDREW McHUGH
Assistant Hon. Treasurer	TED WHEATLEY

Nobody knows the age of the human race, but everybody agrees that it is old enough to know better.

## **NEW MEMBER.**



## **Rtn. Paul Anthony Gardiner**

Was recently welcomed into our club.

Details.

Date of Birth: 11th May 1946

He is a Retired Industrial Chemist.

Introduced by Rotarian Maurice Humphris.

### **Doctors were asked to contribute to the construction of a new Hospital wing:-**

So What did they do??

The allergists voted to scratch it!

The dermatologists preferred no rash moves!

The gastroenterologists had a gut feeling about it!

The neurologists thought the administration had a lot of nerve!

The obstetricians said they were labouring under a misconception!

The ophthalmologists considered the idea short sighted!

The orthopedists issued a joint resolution!

The pathologists yelled "over my dead body"!

The pediatricians said "grow up"!

The proctologists said "we are in arrears"!

The psychiatrists thought it was madness!

The surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing!

The radiologists could see right through it!

The internists thought it was a hard pill to swallow!

The plastic surgeons said, "this put a whole new face on things"!

The podiatrists thought it was a big step forward!

The urologists felt the scheme wouldn't hold water!

The cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no!

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Foundation**

I recently attended a presentation given by four Ambassadorial scholars at Witney. It was truly inspirational to hear these students speak of their lives and future aims after their studies. The part that Rotary was playing in their lives came across and in most cases it has led to their ambitions to make a difference in the world we live in. We have an ambassadorial scholar speaking on the 5<sup>th</sup> February. Find listed below the details of the Rotary Ambassadorial scholar scheme. Rtn. David Hitchcox

#### **Ambassadorial Scholarships Program Objectives**

**The Ambassadorial Scholarships program supports The Rotary Foundation's ultimate goal of world understanding and peace by:**

- Increasing awareness of and respect for cultural differences by sending ambassadors of goodwill to study in another country;
- Instilling in scholars the Rotary ideal of Service Above Self through active participation in Rotary service projects
- Encouraging scholars to dedicate their personal and professional lives to improving the quality of life for the people of their home community and country;
- Developing leaders who can address the humanitarian needs of the world community
- Impacting all areas of the world through a balanced geographical distribution of scholars
- Encouraging Rotarians world wide to increase the educational opportunities for scholars from low-income countries
- Fostering a lifelong association between Rotary and its scholars

#### **Community and Vocational.**

**The Christmas barrel organ collections will take place on the following dates.**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>. December Morrison's - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>.December Marks and Spencers

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>. December Tesco's - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December Morrison's

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>.December Tesco's

The Xmas Float on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>. December around the villages, starting from the Barley Mow Warwick Road.

Leaving at 6.00 p.m. All these collections are great fun and raise valuable funds for charities.

Your support will be appreciated. Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn.

**Sports and Entertainment.**

.January . Club darts.

19<sup>th</sup> February "Service to the community celebration" and Rotary Awareness at The Town Hall.

16<sup>th</sup>. March Poetic Licence with Sonia Blinkhorn "Devout Coward" based on the works of Noel Coward.

19<sup>th</sup> February District Golf Competition Willingdon Golf Club.

27<sup>th</sup>. April Club Outing

May - Towcester Races.

May - Clay Pigeon Shoot

19<sup>th</sup> May Spring Golf Tournament

A busy schedule as listed below.

February . Inter Club Quiz.

A host of items to put in your diary.

**Charity Donations in Lieu of Christmas Cards.**

Those taking part listed below:-

Graham Anker

David Blakey

John Brodey

John Cooke

Malcolm Dibb

Malcolm Douglas

Paul Gardiner

John Hansford

Tony Ilott

Keiron Mallon

Roger May

Reg McLean

Malcolm Nutt

Geoff Pollard

Ian Rodrick

David Sullivan

Fred Timms

Ted Wheatley

Roger Worrall

Ron Barnett

Tony Brace

Michael Budd

Brian Cornley

Brian Doe

Andrew Fairbairn

Bernard Goodchild

David Hitchcox

Stephen Jakeman

Keith Manning

Joe McGloin

John Meeres

John Phillips

Nigel Randall

Ron Sharpe

Tom Taylor

Roy Watkins

Alan Wolstecroft

Nigel Yeadon

John Bennett

Helen Braisby

Ian Calderbank

Brian Croft

John Donaldson

Richard George

Nigel Halfpenny

Maurice Humphris

Rupert Kipping

Stewart Maxwell

Andrew McHugh

Jonathan Meredith

Martin Phillips

Fred Riches

Paul Shea

Bob Thompson

John Webb

Eric Woodruff

All the above Wish everyone a Happy Christmas

**HON SECRETARY** – Dr. Ian Rodrick **CLUB WEBSITE** :- [www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)

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