



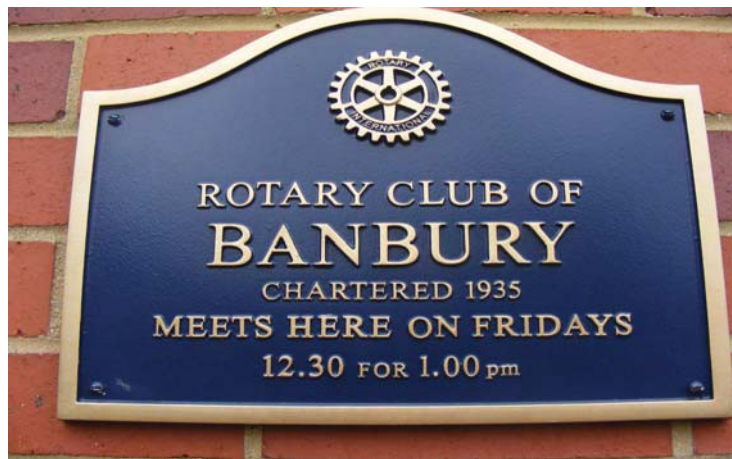
SERVICE Above Self

## *The Banbury Bulletin*

The Rotary Club of Banbury  
District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

President Ron Barnett

DECEMBER 2010



Town Mayor Colin Clarke with our newest member Alison Warren.

Unveiling our new plaque to celebrate 75 years of The Rotary Club of Banbury.

## *THE PRESIDENTS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.*

Christmas is a time when we celebrate Jesus' birth. It is a time when we are reminded that Jesus came into this world to bring hope and to spread peace on earth and goodwill to all of us.

It is also the time of the year when we visit family and friends and enjoy a spirit of togetherness.

As Rotarians we strive throughout the year to bring cheer to those less fortunate than ourselves. Let us continue to remember these and other people who are suffering or in need, because Christmas is a time for giving. Giving and sharing, however, do not always mean giving money or material things, sometimes taking time to help and give comfort to someone in need is worth as much if not more.

May we all find time in our busy schedules to give a word of encouragement to someone with problems, a neighbour, a relative, a friend going through a particularly difficult time. Let us give of ourselves freely with love.

As we reflect on the year that has passed and approach a new year, let us all consider what we can do as individuals and as a club to continue to make a difference in our community, nationally and internationally. As Gandhi said, "you must be the change you want to see in the world".

As we remember that Jesus came to spread peace and goodwill on earth, let us all ask ourselves what do we personally plan to do to help make our meeting's closing toast of "Rotary and peace the world over" a reality?

I wish us all a peaceful, enjoyable and safe Christmas, and I wish for you, your families and friends, peace, love, happiness and prosperity in 2011.



### FROM THE PRESIDENTS PAD

November 2010

A good month with Children Singing for Children Concerts as the highlight of the month. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the undoubted success of the event. Things just seem to keep getting better and better.

November 5<sup>th</sup>. Rotary meeting - as part of our 75th Anniversary celebrations we've placed a new plaque on the wall on the Masonic Hall where we meet, and were delighted that Town Mayor, Cllr Colin Clarke, and our newest member Rtn Alison Warren agreed to unveil it prior to our meeting.

Colin Clarke gave us an extremely interesting talk about his career in the police force.

He was hosted by Tony Ilott

November 9 -11<sup>th</sup>. Children Singing for Children Concerts in St. Mary's Church - words cannot describe the sheer joy on the faces of so many boys and girls from 19 local primary schools, and the tremendous pleasure that their performances give capacity audiences. One of the real pleasures of being President of the Rotary Club of Banbury is having a reserved front row seat for this magnificent event.

The boys and girls receive so much support from their schools, families and friends, and a really big thank you has to go to Jonathan Meredith, and his team of colleagues, the Youth Opportunities Committee and all the Club members who assisted in ensuring that all three evening's performances were so smoothly and professionally organised.

Many thanks also to John Bennett for deputising for me on Wednesday evening.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November A Rotary Meeting - another excellent warm hearted, good humoured meeting.

A very interesting and humorous talk by Mike Swann about his experiences with 'It's a Knock Out'.

Many thanks to Malcolm Nutt for hosting Mike.

Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>. Remembrance Day Parade and Service - It was a real privilege to be able to represent the Club in the Town's Remembrance Day Parade and Service in St. Mary's Church followed by the wreath laying ceremony in People's Park.

It was also pleasing to see so many of our Club members turn out to hold up the traffic to allow their President to parade through the streets, although I did think that the Hon Secretary's curtsy as I march round the Cross a little OTT. On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>. November we had a 2011 Contact Visit Interest Meeting - a small but enthusiastic group of us met at the Cricket Club to consider plans for our Contact Club visit to Villefranche sur Saone in France on 2nd to 5th June 2011. Owen will be developing these further and giving a short presentation at our SGM on 3rd December.

Many thanks to Owen and Martin for organising the meeting and especially for the excellent wine and refreshments that were provided.

The Rotary Meeting on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> was- another excellent meeting and a great pleasure for us to have as a visitor the National President of 41 Club, Malcolm Lockey.

Our guest speaker, Peter Talbot gave us a fascinating and extremely interesting insight into his ski touring expedition in Greenland, I really did feel exhausted just listening to all the adventures he went through.

Peter is using this experience to raise funds for Prostate UK, a very worthy cause.

Andrew Fairbairn hosted Peter and gave the vote of thanks.

Our fifth Council meeting on Thursday was- another excellent meeting with many good reports from Committees.

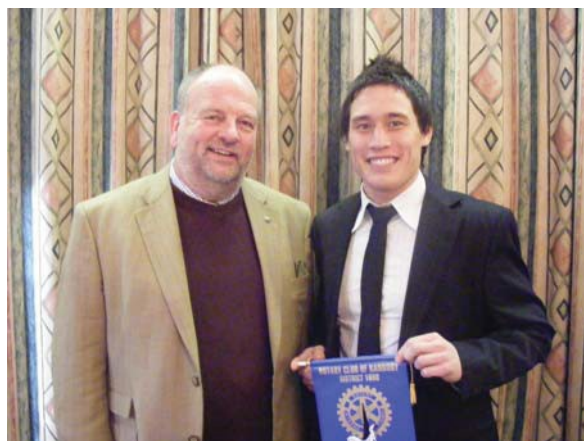
The final Rotary Meeting of the Month was held in a really friendly atmosphere again.

It was a real delight to have two excellent young Ambassadorial Scholars, Minjeong Song from South Korea, and Andrew Bilski from Australia, give us excellent presentations about themselves and their home countries.

They were hosted by Martin Phillips.

December promises to be an equally good month with the Family Christmas Festival of Music Concert and our traditional Street Organ collections.

President Ron.



Martin Phillips and Andrew Bilski



Minjeong Song and President Ron Barnett

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup>. November we welcomed two Ambassadorial Scholars to our Rotary meeting. They were greeted by Foundation Chairman Martin Phillips and President Ron Barnett. They are part of the 17 strong Ambassadorial group who are attending universities in our District. After getting over the initial shock of meeting with over 50 Banbury Rotarians the scholars settled in to lunch and then prepared to speak about their lives and aspirations.

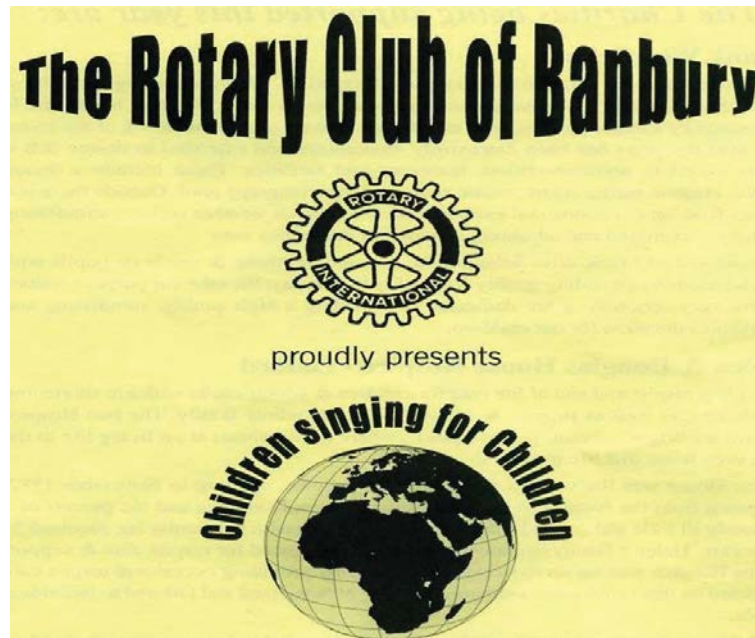
Andrew Bilski comes from Australia living in Canberra with a population of 300,000. He is fluent in French, Mandarin and of course English. This is because of his upbringing in a mixed family background. After his early education he went on to Law School in Sydney and achieved B.A. In Law & Finance. He is currently studying for a masters in International Environmental Governance at Christ Church Oxford. His first

contact with Rotary was at 17 taking part in a Rotary Citizenship Programme. His hobbies include cricket !! but his expertise is in wrestling in which he wrestles to International Standard and hopes to be included in the Australian team for the 2012 Olympics. On his return to Australia he hopes to encourage local people to be involved with Rotary.

Minjeong Song if from Seoul, South Korea she has a M.S.C. In Education Research Methodology.

When she returns to South Korea Minjeong intends to teach English and to train Teachers in English and Curriculum development. Seoul is a large city with a population of over 10, 400,000 . Minjeong spoke of the things she likes about

Britain these included our Journalism, the BBC our puddings and Beatrix Potter. She contrasted the way in which we do our charity fund raising, in Korea it is a quite serious business but in Britain we make it enjoyable with things like Red Nose Day. Her other likes are Jane Austin novels the many gardens and cream teas.



On 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
at St Mary's Church, Horsefair, Banbury.

- 20 local primary school choirs and around 450 pupils took part in the Banbury Rotary Club 'Children Singing for Children' concerts this year.
  - The charities being supported are Helen & Douglas House, BeKind, Frank Wise School and other Rotary Children's Charities. This year the concerts generated over £3,000 for local and international
- In the early 1980s Jeremy Rowe, Val Scarff and Tony Keen worked with Banbury Lions to stage a series of Christmas Concerts at St Mary's church called 'Children Singing for Children'. With St Mary's refurbished, the three originators of the series staged a highly successful comeback with two 'One World Theme' concerts in 2002. The concerts have proved very popular and have become an annual event on the Town Calendar, with an increasing number of schools taking part each year. In total around £35,000 has been raised for local and international children's charities.

Now in the ninth year of the new series, Tony Keen will again provide the percussion accompaniment to the finale items. Jonathan Clarke, musical director of St Mary's is our piano accompanist and our guest conductor for the fifth year running is Assistant Head of Oxfordshire Music Advisory Services, Liz Stock. Over the three nights, choirs from 20 local primary schools sang songs from around the world on a 'one world' theme. Participants from 'Banbury Young Musician of the Year' and local oboist Corinne Ellul also performed.

Approximately 130 children sang at every concert and following individual items by each school, the massed choirs joined together for the finale.

Participating primary schools were

Bishop Carpenter	Chacombe	Christopher Rawlins	Cropredy
Frank Wise	Great Rollright	Hardwick	Harriers Ground
Hornton	Kings Sutton	Orchard Fields	Queensway
St John's RC	St Joseph's RC	St Leonard's	St Mary's
Shenington	Sibford Gower	The Grange	Wroxton

: Phil Cavill

## SPEAKER REPORTS.

### Greenland on Skis

Greenland is the largest island in the world but, with only circa 56,000 inhabitants, the least densely populated. In excess of 80% of it is covered by an ice sheet. Inland is a barren wasteland, void of settlements, roads and is home to freezing temperatures. Yet in the spirit of adventure, a few intrepid explorers are attracted each year by the opportunity to test their individual mettle, stamina and team skills in a beautiful though hostile and unforgiving environment more suited to its resident polar bears.

Peter Talbot is from South Shields and Sunderland supporter. Unperturbed by our Geordie's reference to the recent 5-1 trouncing in the Premier League, he proceeded to describe in an understated manner how he, together with a small group of colleagues, coped with a few minor (!) difficulties:

- the need to create a 300 metre runway in soft snow conditions to enable their tenuous link with the outside world, a small plane, to land and take off;
- practising and honing their survival techniques to cope with crevasses and cornices amongst other hazards;
- planning for a lack of time. Everything takes longer including the basic essentials e.g. two hours each day to melt ice so that they could drink;
- navigation by aerial photographs (no maps);
- travelling in white-outs; and
- sleeping when the sun never sets.



Not only was there much about the expedition to capture and hold the attention of club members, but Peter also used the occasion to enhance the prominence of the charity, Prostate UK. This is the most virulent form of cancer in men in the UK and is the cause of 10,000 deaths in men every year. 50% of the male population will suffer from some form of Prostate disease at some stage of their life. A convenient business card sized free leaflet was given to every member incorporating straightforward, simple plain advice. Peter travels the country giving his time free of charge to articulate the danger of procrastination, the least we can do is to display our very grateful appreciation for a most entertaining presentation by taking heed. For more information see the Prostate Cancer Web Site at [www.prostateuk.org](http://www.prostateuk.org).

Picture copyright "Peter Talbot"  
Andrew Fairbairn

### International Committee.

Future events to include Race Night and Aunt Sally evening.

Birmingham Chamber Orchestra 20<sup>th</sup>. February at Bloxham School.

An Interest meeting has been held in preparation for next years contact meeting in France.

A collection at Sainsbury's raised £350 towards help for the Pakistani Floods it will probably be an Aqua Box.

### Foundation Committee.

#### FOCUS ON THE CROCUS.

Rotary clubs all over R.I.B.I. have planted over 5.1 Million crocus bulbs and when they appear in February they will be a reminder of what Rotary has achieved in eradicating Polio.

Our Club has planted

2,500 at the Leonard Cheshire Home

2,500 at the entrance to Banbury Cricket Club

2,000 Planted in and around Epwell by the Gardening Club

3,500 have been handed to primary schools and the Frank Wise School.

Look out for the publicity when they are in flower.

Frugal Lunch is to be on 14<sup>th</sup> January an opportunity to get over the Christmas and New Year festivities.

### Sports and Entertainment.

Club outing to Bristol on 12<sup>th</sup>. April.

Other events being organised are a Quiz Night, Indoor Bowls or Skittles and Club Darts.

### Community and Vocational.

Christmas Street Organ collections:-  
Sainsbury's Friday 17<sup>th</sup>. December.  
Tesco's Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>. December.  
Morrison's Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>. December.  
Tesco's Friday 24<sup>th</sup>. December.

Collection to be allocated 50% Katherine House Hospice, 10% Britannia Road Family Centre, 40 % Club Charity Funds.

IT's a Knockout 2011. It has been agreed that we will organise and promote this event. The Banbury Show Committee have promised £1,000.00 towards costs. It is hoped to attract 24 teams to take part. Youth

#### Opportunities.

Young Musician Gareth Jeremy is again organising and contacting schools for entrants.

Young Chef is again being organised together with the Cherwell Rotary Club a donation of £500 has been received from Banbury Charities.

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1 Dorchester Grove, Banbury. Tel 01295 -253733 Copy by preference to e-mail which is [david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk) COPY DATE is the penultimate Friday of the month