



President Richard Watts

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“The Fairbairn Challenge”



ANDREW TAKING THE CHALLENGE TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

Unfortunately Andrew's attempt to gain entrance to our parliament was thwarted by the river police.

With the current state of our economy he perhaps would not have received much in the way of sponsorship from our M.P.'s.

Don't forget to keep Andrew's challenge in mind and offer assistance when the time comes.

D.H.

BWENGU PROJECTS UPDATE

It is at this time we think about going back again into the bush in 2009, we then think about what problems need fixing and if we can raise the money from our donors.

The following projects are being considered for 2009. Subject to funding availability and donor choice. Some or all of these projects may be possible.

1) Orphan care food project. Estimated project cost £2,200

To purchase and transport 5,000 bags of Vita meal porridge to the Bwengu Store rooms. This food will provide 260,000 meals for all orphans and all children under 5 in a further 15 villages for an estimated 18 months

2) Thumbi Full primary junior School renovation project. Estimated project cost £2,600

To renovate 10 classrooms. New walls, floors, Doors, Locks, Blackboard, windows, Termite treatment. There are 800 children at this school.

3) Thumbi Full Primary Junior School Furniture Project. Estimated project cost £2,400

This project will provide every child with a bench to sit on and table. All teachers to have table and chairs. There is no furniture in any of the 10 classrooms at this school. The children sit in on bricks.

3) Orphan Girls secondary education bursaries project. Estimated cost £ 1,300

This project will allow up to 30 orphan girls to receive a secondary education. It will cover 4 years of school fees.

4) Bwengu Medical Centre building project. Estimated project cost 4,900

This project allows a new 10 bed maternity ward being built; in addition 4 nursing staff houses will be built attached to the existing medical centre. This project will take 3 months to complete.

There are some 5,000 people in the Bwengu area villages and 2 maternity beds at the medical centre.

5) Luzi Secondary School Text Book Project. Estimated project costs £ 5,000

This project allows the complete national curriculum text books to be supplied to Luzi secondary school.

This school has some 300 pupils and few books.

Notes

The reason we can do so much for so little money is because the main ingredients for any building project within the community are provided by the villages.

BRICKS, SAND, LABOUR ARE FREE FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We provide the transport, tools, cement, Iron sheet for roof, wood, Paint

If you seek any addition assurances or references I can put you in contact with the First Minister of Malawi Mr. Goodall Gondwi and the British High Commissioner Mr. Richard Witnash who are both familiar with our work.

Sue & Anthony Melia.

EDUCATION IN TRANSYLVANIA– Presentation by Rotarian Trevor Davies. 9th. January.

President of the Rotary club of Brackley.

An inspiring address about the work of the Rotary Club of Brackley and Brasov with the village communities of Tarlungeni and Zizin in the Carpathian mountain region of Transylvania in Romania. He painted a picture of the beautiful scenery but contrasted it with the grinding poverty suffered by many of the people, his illustrations showed both, the beauty of the mountains and the shacks where people were living which looked like some of the shanty towns of the poorest areas of Africa.

Trevor became aware of the situation some years ago and when put to the Rotarians of Brackley it was decided to make a three year project working partly with the Brasov Rotarians to try to make a real impact on this group of villages.

The population of the group of villages is about 8,500 of whom 3,000 or so are the despised Roma, of gypsy folk who have suffered persecution for centuries most recently by the Nazis and the Communists. The remainder of the population is made up of Romanians, Hungarians and Germans from Saxony.

The communist regime under Ceausescu left the people dis-empowered, disillusioned, and desperate – without hope of the ability to pull themselves up. In spite of western ‘market led’ reforms by the likes of the World bank, many sections of the population especially in rural areas are even poorer than ten years ago, 44% are reportedly living in poverty and in 2004 Romania was just above Namibia and Columbia in its economic indicators.

This is a situation the Brackley Club as well as many folk across the UK and Europe are trying to redress.

To Date they have :-

Contributed to the construction of a kitchen at Tarlungeni School.

Hosted a Romanian Scholar for a month, for teaching experience.

Helped to purchase a heater for a family with a pregnant mother who had nearly died from cold.

Funded and organised a ‘Science and technology day at Tarlungeni school.

Shipped a 46 foot lorry full of equipment and furniture for five Schools working with Green Standards. Guess who helped load it, watching H&S points of course.

With a matching grant :-

Purchased and shipped 12 skills boxes (Trade Aid) to start up a vocational training programme.

Funding the purchase of musical instruments and equipment and funding a peripatetic teacher for a year to start a music school.

This then is the three year project but, for the future a possible major infrastructure project may follow.

An outstanding project which brought the plight of the Romanian people into sharp focus and made one feel horror and amazement that this part of 21st. Century Europe.

Very practical but very caring projects, Rotary Humanity at work.

Maurice Humphris.

The Speaker scheduled for the Rotary meeting on the 16th. January was unable to attend and at very short notice Rotarian Ian Calderbank agreed to fill the gap. His topic was "Famous Last Words". He then gave a very thought provoking and humorous selection of famous peoples supposed last words. A few of which are listed below.

William Mizner, A conman, regaining consciousness briefly on his deathbed on hearing a priest inviting to confess responded "Why should I talk to you? I've just been talking to your boss."

Lady Astor, first female MP at 85 awoke to find herself surrounded by her entire family and famously said "Am I dying or is it my birthday?"

General John Sedgwick, Commander of the Potomac at the "Battle of the Wilderness", while other men were diving for cover from the Confederate sharpshooters, scoffed at the danger, stood up and said "They couldn't hit an elephant at this Dist.....ugh."

Bing Crosby, "That was a great game of golf fellows" then dropped dead of a heart attack.

Dylan Thomas, "I've just had 18 whiskies in a row. I do believe that is a record."

Brendan Behan. His final words to a visiting nun " Bless you sister. May all your sons be Bishops."

Conrad Hilton. Hotel owner. "Leave the shower curtain inside the tub."

Karl Marx. "Go on get out! Last words are for fools who haven't said enough."

Vote of thanks given by Rupert Kipping.

Thank you Ian for your talk, it is often the case that our own members give the most entertaining talks, this was no exception.

Our latest Honorary member Rotarian Past President Ken Gibbard is in the news again. On the 20th February Ken and Sheila celebrate their Diamond Wedding (yes 60 years).

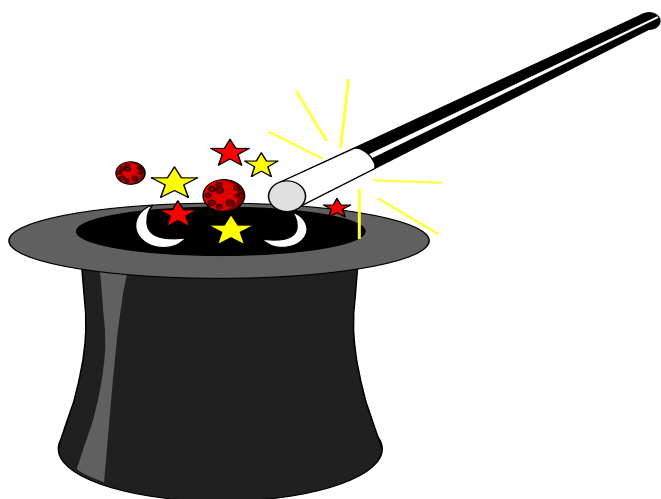
All members of the Rotary Club of Banbury wish them the very best of health and happiness on this auspicious day.

Visit of Dr Scilla Elworthy - 10th February Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club

Following the successful Rotary Peace Conference at Oxford in September 2008 we are delighted to advise that we have been successful in obtaining Dr Scilla Elworthy, one of the main speakers at that conference, as a speaker at our club meeting on Tuesday 10 February 2009.

Dr Scilla Elworthy founded the Oxford Research Group in 1982 to develop effective dialogue between nuclear weapons policy-makers worldwide and their critics. In 2003 she founded Peace Direct which funds and promotes peace-builders in conflict areas all over the world. Since 2005 she has been an advisor to The Elders initiative and in 2007 was appointed a member of the World Future Council and also the International Task Force on Preventative Diplomacy. Scilla has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize and was awarded the Niwano Peace Prize in 2003.

We would be delighted if you and your members could attend this event. Contact President Richard if you would like to attend.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Rotary Club of Banbury Joint President's Night and Service Club's Ball.

This great event is to take place at the General Foods Sports and Social Club, Spiceball Park on Friday 17th. April. The entertainment will consist of a "Frank Sinatra" tribute and a quiet Disco.

Dress will be a Black tie with a five course Buffet Dinner costing £27.50 per head.

The Banbury Town Mayor and the Rotary District Governor have also been invited to this our Presidents prestigious DO.

GLOBAL HEALTH COMMUNITY COMMITS MILLIONS IN PUSH FOR POLIO ERADICATION

The news that Rotary International, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the British and German governments on Wednesday 21 January committed more than \$630 million in new funds to fight polio. The Gates Foundation is awarding a \$255 million challenge grant to Rotary, which Rotary will match with \$100 million raised by its members over the next three years. At the same time, the UK government is giving an additional £100 million (\$150 million) and Germany is giving an additional \$130 million (€100 million), over the next five years, both to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

As a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), Rotary's chief role is fundraising, advocacy and mobilizing volunteers. The announcements came during the Rotary International Assembly. Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland have so far raised **£10.5million** towards the project. "Rotarians, government leaders and health professionals have made a phenomenal commitment so polio afflicts only a small number of the world's children," said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Gates Foundation. "However, complete elimination of the polio virus is difficult and will continue to be difficult for a number of years. Rotary in particular has inspired my own personal commitment to get deeply involved in achieving eradication."

UK International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander said, "This £100 million pledge by the UK Government, combined with the money from our other partners, is a massive boost in the battle to rid the world of the scourge of polio. Now is the time to make the final push to eradicate polio. This investment will ensure future generations in the developing world will no longer have their lives blighted by this crippling disease."

Polio has been completely eliminated in the Americas, the Western Pacific and Europe, but the wild polio virus persists in Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan, and imported cases from these countries threaten other developing nations. It is in these four countries that the most serious challenges exist, including vaccine effectiveness (India), low vaccination coverage rates (Nigeria), and access problems due to conflict (Afghanistan and Pakistan). Much depends on the countries themselves. Recent progress in key areas has shown that these challenges can be overcome with sufficient national and sub-national commitment. Launched in 1988, the GPEI -- spearheaded by Rotary, the World Health Organization, U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF -- has reduced the number of polio cases by 99 percent over the past two decades, from more than 350,000 cases in 1988 to an estimated 1,600 in 2008. The GPEI partners will use the new polio eradication funds to support a range of activities, including:

National Immunization Days, when countries aim to immunize every child under five years old with oral polio vaccine.

Supplemental immunization activities focused on providing extra vaccinations to children in high-risk areas.

Research into new vaccines and ways to ensure they are available to vulnerable children.

Surveillance activities to detect cases of polio so that progress can be measured and outbreaks contained.

This is the second challenge grant for polio eradication the Gates Foundation has given Rotary. The first came in November 2007, when Rotary agreed to match a \$100 million grant dollar-for-dollar.

Rotary clubs world wide already are hard at work raising the matching funds for what the organization has named Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge. Since the first Gates Foundation challenge grant was announced, Rotary clubs have raised more than \$60 million toward the goal. Their enthusiastic commitment was a major reason the second challenge was made and accepted.

DID YOU KNOW???? About Rotary.

Membership Statistics.

Current membership world wide.

Rotary members world wide. **1.2 million.**

Rotary clubs world wide, more than **32,000**

Rotary countries over **200**

Rotary districts **350**

Rotary members in Great Britain & Ireland **56,800**

Rotary clubs in Graet Britain & Ireland **1,838**

Rotary Mission.

The main objective of Rotary is service – in the community and throughout the world. Rotarians build goodwill and peace, provide humanitarian service, and encourage high ethical standards in all vocations. The Rotary motto is “**Service Above Self**”

Committees :-

Youth Opportunities,

Young Musician of the Year has attracted about 120 entrants, this is an increase on previous years.

The Rotary Young Leadership project is going ahead with a joint effort with Cherwell Club to find two suitable candidates, Members are to be encouraged to seek out suitable applicants for the great project.

The Banbury heat of the Young Chef has taken place at Broughton Hall Banbury School on the 28th January in partnership with the Cherwell Club.

Mock interviews. A number of interviewers are still required to complete this event as there are a large number of pupils taking part both at B.G.N. and Warriner Schools.

International.

The Old Time Music Hall is confirmed for the 29 – 30th. May 2009 at Bloxham School.

Community and Vocational.

Vocational Visits were being explored to Swan Foundry and a possible visit to Donnington Brewery.

It was proposed that we donate £100.00 to the Beacon Centre to assist in their work to give meals and assistance to disadvantaged people.

Promotion is now underway for the Scillies to Shetland event. Andrew Fairbairn is undertaking a number of speaking engagements to promote the event. The Challenge will now begin 1st June 2009.

The date for next years Dragon Boats event is to be Sunday 30th.May 2010.

Rotary Foundation,

The latest fundraisers have produced:- From the Christmas Card donations £610.00

The New Year Frugal lunch £265.00. The Christmas Festival of Music raised an excellent £1,727.85 and the plate collection at the event raised £380.80 for the Home Farm Trust. The festival is already booked for this year and will take place 12 December 2009, a date for the diary.

Our **Foundation committee** has had an excellent year and it was agreed that a sum should be sent to District for Rotary Foundation.

Sports and Entertainment,

The Club Darts competition is to be held at The Red Lion Bloxham on 9th February.

A Greyhound Racing Evening is being planned for the 24th February.

The Inter Club Quiz is to be held at the Masonic Hall on the 16th March.

The Club outing is fixed for the 28th April 2009 a visit to Brooklands Museum.

An overseas break is being considered for Seville in the Autumn 2009.

Council Clippings

The following donations were recommended by Club Council for approval by the club.

£100.00 to The Beacon Centre at St. Mary's Church.

£ 50.00 to Ken Brazier a Rotarian walking for Mercy Ships.

£400.00 to Schools for All in Africa the Leonard Cheshire based appeal for which Andrew Fairbairn is doing his Challenge.

£500.00 to Home Farm Trust a charity we have supported for many years, £380.00 of this was raised by plate collection at the Christmas Festival of Music.

£500.00 to The Toy Box appeal following the presentation given by Alistair Welford from Deddington.

£500.00 to The Anjali Dancers for camera equipment to promote their dance which involves disabled children. They give dance presentations at various venues throughout the country and are based at The Mill Banbury.

Treasurer's Talk

Gift Aid

The Club's Trust Fund, the account where all our charity money goes is a charity account registered with the Charity Commission. As such it is able to take advantage of the tax refunds that are available through the Gift Aid scheme. This scheme allows registered charities to claim back from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs income tax paid by donors on voluntary donations which they make to the charity. Such claims have to be covered by a written declaration that it is a voluntary donation on which they wish the charity to be able to claim back the tax they have paid.

Prior to this financial year the reclaimed tax increased any donation given by 28%. Unfortunately with the reduction in basic rate tax this year the figure has reduced to 25%, but to assist charities through a transition period the government is adding 3% to that figure to bring it back to 28% on donations made up to April 2011.

Our Trust Fund benefits from this scheme by approximately £1,200 per annum.

Much of the donations which take advantage of this are from our own members: many make voluntary contributions to Foundation alongside their subscription payment; many make voluntary donations to Foundation in lieu of sending Christmas Cards; and all those who attend (or fail to give an apology), make voluntary donations when we have a frugal lunch.

For the benefit of new members, for our normal meetings the money collected for the meal is the sum charged by the caterers, however when we have a frugal lunch members still give the usual amount of which about half goes to the caterer and the remainder is given as a voluntary donation.

Where the money goes

During December and January donations have been made to the following:

Bwengu Project -	£1,820	Town Mayor's Toy Appeal -	£62
SKIDZ -	£910	Mercy Ships sponsored walk -	£50
Lets Play Project -	£910	The Beacon Centre -	£100
Katharine House Hospice -	£2,500	School 4 All in Africa -	£400
The Brodey Centre -	£2,500	Toy Box Charity -	£500
Christian Hope School -	£5,000	Anjali Dance Co. -	£500
Carers Centre (N&W Oxon) -	£100	Home Farm Trust -	£500

And setup costs of various events have been incurred totalling £959

What a great result The Club and all members should be proud of this achievement.

D.H.

ATTENDANCE.

November. Honorary Members 3 Members 72 Average Attendance 76%

Members other activities 75 Visiting Rotarians 6 from Shipston on Stour. Tim Bryce Windrush. Richard Jelfs Oxford North. Mike Kervell retired member of our Club.

December. Honorary Members 3 Members 72 Average Attendance 67%

Members other activities 127. Visiting Rotarians Laurie Cunningham and a number of guests at our Christmas Lunch.

HON SECRETARY – Dr. Ian Rodrick **CLUB WEBSITE** - www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk
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