



## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S SPEECH



Distinguished Guests and Rotarians, I believe we would all agree that we have had an excellent Rotary year under Stephen's leadership. He has attended almost all committee meetings and every Friday meeting except two, which were during our French contact visit when he was leading our party there and at District Conference.

In the Presidents training manual it states that a President should take a holiday to allow the incoming President to have experience of running a meeting. Stephen did not do this although he allowed me to take one meeting during his year. How he managed to do this together with his work commitments is beyond belief.

It gives me great pleasure to present my wife Ann with the President's partner's Jewel, particularly as it is one that I have not had to pay for. Ann has been the President of our Inner Wheel club for the past year and now is, I am sure, going to give me a lot of support and guidance on how this job should be done.

### 1st Vice President Martin Phillips

Martin has grown up with Rotary, his father Aubrey was our President and a District Governor. From a young age he was involved in our European contact visits and made many friends in our Rotary contact clubs in France, Germany Italy and Switzerland.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Richard Watts

Richard has shown a commitment to our club in many ways and is particularly remembered for some of his acts in the annual Inner Wheel Christmas entertainment!

I am pleased that I also have a team of Committee Chairmen and members who will keep us, as a Club, busy with our fund raising and our various club events in the coming Rotary year.

I am pleased to welcome our guests here today, it is a measure of the standing of the Rotary Club of Banbury that they have given up their time to attend this ceremony. Joining us are:

**Cherwell District Chairman Cllr John Harper and Banbury Town Mayor Cllr John Donaldson** who I recently heard supporting the Horton Hospital Demonstration in the Peoples Park. He will, I am sure together with John Harper, be looking after our District and Town of Banbury in the year ahead.

The President of the Banbury Inner Wheel Club **Hazel Croft** - I am looking forward to working closely with Hazel, but perhaps not as closely as I did with the outgoing Inner Wheel President.

President of Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club **Rotarian Mike Gaston** – Mike and I have already met up a few times during the past year as we prepared ourselves for this year ahead. I look forward to our clubs working together and supporting each other in

our various events during the next year, particularly the Beer Festival.

We are pleased that we have with us the Chairmen of the other service clubs in our area:

Chairman of Banbury Round Table **David Dean** sends his apologies.

Chairman of Banbury 41 Club **Rtn Ian Rodrick** who is also assistant secretary in our club. So a busy year ahead for him.

President of Banbury Lions Club **John Washburn**.

Chairman of Compton Probus Club **Neville Turner**, Who I believe will be keeping a lot of our elder Rotary members in order.

We have with us several Paul Harris Fellows. This is an award given by the Rotary International Foundation for people who this club believes to have done exceptional work for our local community and for our Rotary Club. Those present are **Mrs Hester Phillips** for services to Rotary and as The Inner Wheel Club tea lady.

**Mr Neil Gadsby** who was the inspiration for the Katherine House Hospice

Past District Governor **Jack Friswell** who's fundraising and activities in our Town are well documented.

Past District Governor **Jim Pearson Smith** who was involved in Rotary work at district and local level over many years.

We have received an apology due to illness from Past President and Honorary member **Rotarian John Smith** he was instrumental in building the various youth programmes within our Rotary District and also his commitment to this club over many years.

Thank you all for being here today.

A few words about myself.

I was born in Banbury within the sound of St Mary's church bells so I am a true Banburian whatever that means. Although being born during the war I don't suppose the bells were ringing. I, like so many, went to Dashwood Road school with Rotarian John Proctor as headmaster. I have worked in retailing in Banbury all my life employed by a family firm from Northampton

W. Ekins Ltd. who had four shops in Banbury and also in Brackley and Northampton.

I eventually became manager of the Banbury shops and became a director of the company. This lasted until 1988 when the Ekins family retired. I together with Ann took over part of the business ourselves supplying Curtains and Blinds to many of you here today.

During this time I became involved with the local community In the Junior Chamber of Commerce and later became for two years president of the Banbury Chamber of Commerce. I also served on the Mill management committee, the North Oxon Technical College, Nortec training agency and became chairman of the Banbury Crime prevention panel.

During this time I became a friend of Rotarian Jim Church and it was not long before he asked if I would like to join Rotary. My first impression was of a club of elder statesmen who met for lunch on a Friday. He soon educated me in the wider view of Rotary, its International commitments and of the work the Banbury club did for the local community. I believe in some respects we still have a problem communicating to the wider public what Rotary really achieves. On an International level the contribution to world problems is enormous, over \$400 million going to our greatest project Polio Plus which together with the World Health Organisation is eradicating Polio throughout the world.

More recently The Tsunami appeal and in the Pakistan Earthquake Rotary helped in sending aid to these disasters. We as a club sent disaster boxes which include things needed after such a happening including tents.

Recently Rotary received a letter from the British Ambassador to Indonesia who had been touring the disaster area, he said his proudest moment was when he saw many tents with families living in them with the Union Flag and the Rotary Logo on them, a visible sign of what this country and Rotary were doing to help. This club also gave funds to our local Pakistani community to help their fundraising. British Rotary is unique in having its own organisation called Rotary Great Britain and Ireland it recently gave a commitment to raise £500,000 for Mercy Ships to fund an ophthalmic operating surgery in a new ship being fitted out in this country. This is a redundant car ferry which has been given to Mercy Ships. This will enable the treatment of another 45,000 people a year.

This is just one of the many projects that R.I.B.I. Supports. Mercy Ships currently have a ship stationed off Sierra Leone which is able to carry out surgery in sterile conditions where there are none for the local communities and where it is too dangerous to be land based. Our own member Alan Wolstecroft has been to Sierra Leone twice to help with their work there. The British fund is now over target with £526,000 already raised.

I joined the club in 1983 during this time I have chaired several committees and like all Rotarians assisted in the many fund raising events over the years. I had been asked to get in line to be President but I felt that with my work commitments I could not do it justice. In 2003 Ann and I decided to retire. The day I signed over the business was the day that this club elected its Vice presidents for the next two years as I entered the meeting three of our elder members approached me with the inevitable question, to which I was able to say yes before it was asked, it was quite an experience for once to see these Rotarians open mouthed and speechless. That was two and half years ago. I was informed that those two years would pass quickly and they certainly have. I have also been informed that this year will go even quicker!

It is an honour to be standing in this position and following the many names on the board behind me commencing with the Garage proprietor Sidney Ewins in 1935. It is also with a little nervousness that I stand before these distinguished Rotarians today and try to lead them for the coming year. We have a committee structure in Rotary with each member taking various responsibilities within our club. With the team we have and the commitment of our members I am sure we shall have a very successful year both locally and internationally and of course in our social functions, one of our recent annual mottos was “Enjoy Rotary“, it is important that we do this.

I would like us to consider among our regular charitable giving, Dogs for the Disabled which is a National Organisation that is based locally with a number of local people committed to help.

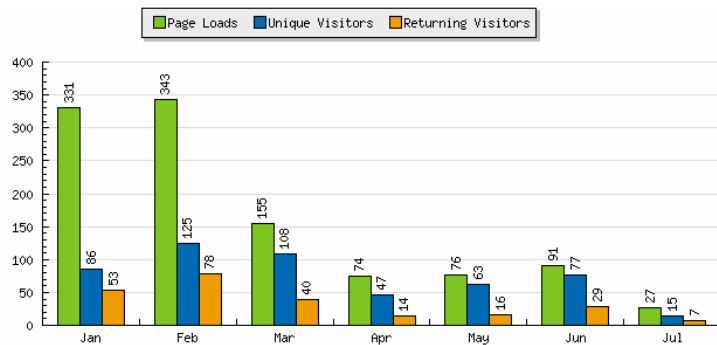
The other major fundraising event in our district is, of course, The Cheshire Home appeal. The actual building cost is beyond our fundraising but I believe we can contribute to some of the equipment that will be needed within the building for the benefit of those using the facilities.

I would again like to thank you all for being here today and I hope you are looking forward to another enjoyable Rotary year, remembering our International theme for the year “Lead The Way,” but particularly our Rotary motto of “Service Above Self”.

Note:- This is not quite what I said on the day owing to lack of time, but it is what I meant to say.

**David Hitchcox**

## Rotary Club of Banbury Website Activity 2006



Month	Page Loads	Unique Visitors	First Time Visitors	Returning Visitors
Jan-06	331	86	33	53
Feb-06	343	125	47	78
Mar-06	155	108	68	40
Apr-06	74	47	33	14
May-06	76	63	47	16
Jun-06	91	77	48	29
Jul-06	27	15	8	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>237</b>

I thought this month I would restore my dictionary feature in the attempt to save a few archaic words which have fallen out of use:

Tyromancy – divination by the coagulation of cheese

Flooster – To flatter, coax, make much of. Of a dog to play or gambol.

Accipitrary – A Falconer

Bum Bailies – Those who arrest debtors, bailiffs.

Please see below an e-mail received by John Grindle from the British Ambassador to Indonesia



**Original message From:** ehumphrey  
**Date:** 06/08/06 16:30:42  
**Subject:** Message from British Ambassador in Indonesia

Dear John Grindle,

I have just returned to Jakarta after spending today in Yogyakarta looking at the damage and the relief efforts in the earthquake affected area around the city. The devastation is enormous with, on some estimates, as many as 200,000 houses destroyed or badly damaged. One of the worst hit villages is Bawuran which is south-east of the city. Every house there has either collapsed or is severely damaged. Over 80 of the 1500 inhabitants died and some 500 were injured.

In the centre of the devastation in the village I suddenly came across numbers of tents with little Union Jacks on them and the Rotary symbol of Helston Lizard Club. These tents are obviously invaluable. They were pitched in the ruins of individual houses and are now serving as much needed temporary homes for the families of those houses. It is likely to be months, at least, before the houses can be rebuilt and your club's tents are the best individual tent accommodation that I saw during my tour around the affected villages.

I thought you and your members might be interested to know this. I am not sure how these tents came to be in Baruwan and would be interested if you were able to let me know.

I tried to attach some photographs that I took but could not send them. If you would like to see them please give me your email address and I will try to send them again.

My thanks and congratulations to the club for what you have done. As British Ambassador here it made me proud to see the tents with their Union Jacks representing help from people in the UK.

Best regards,  
Charles Humphrey,  
British Embassy, Jakarta

## From the V.P's. Jottings (belatedly for June!)

The month of June commenced with our Friday meeting when our own member Ros Grant gave a talk on her charity Compassion Direct. It was fascinating to hear of the reasons for her starting her charity and why she centred it on South America.

The 9<sup>th</sup> June meeting was our annual Club Assembly when the incoming President and his Committee Chairmen outline their plans for the year. This was also attended by our District Representative Philip Bobby.

Our next meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June had again as its speaker one of our own members Philip Cavill, who gave his "My Job" talk. This illustrated talk was of particular interest to some of our members as it concerned Philip's involvement in the wine trade. This was also the date of the Cherwell Presidents night with a good number of us attending Alison's end of year celebration at the Banbury Cricket Club.

St Mary's Church was the venue for Children Playing for Children on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, with many Schools from the area taking part. A good audience of mainly parents and family members, enjoyed an evening of musical entertainment. John Meeres and the Youth Opportunities Committee organised a splendid event.

The subject of our next meeting on the 23rd June was The Polish Support Group in Banbury. The speaker was Magdalena Zawadzka who spoke of the increasing number of Polish workers in Banbury and of her and her committees aim to assist them in settling in our district.

The evening meeting on the fifth Friday was held at President Stephen and Clare's home with partners, I am told that a very good time was had by all. I unfortunately was unable to attend.

Rotarian David Hitchcox

**Many thanks to Ron Barnett for the following musical contribution.....**

- Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Weatherman's Hymn.....There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
- Contractor's Hymn.....The Church's One Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn.....There's a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises
- Optometrist's Hymn....Open My Eyes That I Might See
- The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All
- The Gossip's Hymn.....Pass It On
- The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light
- The Shopper's Hymn.....Sweet Bye and Bye
- The Realtor's Hymn.....I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop
- The Massage Therapists Hymn..... He Touched Me
- The Doctor's Hymn..... The Great Physician

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

- 45mph.....God Will Take Care of You
- 65mph.....Nearer My God To Thee
- 85mph.....This World Is Not My Home
- 95mph.....Lord, I'm Coming Home
- 100mph.....Precious Memories

**Speaker Report - 23 June, 2006**

**The Polish Community in Banbury - Magdalena Zawakzka**

An article in the Banbury Guardian prompted me to get in touch with Magdalena to invite her to come and speak to the Club. She had arrived in England from Torun in December, 2004. She looked for a town of a similar size to her own in Poland but within striking distance of London and alighted upon Banbury.

Originally her idea had been to travel around after a brief stay in town but finding Banbury so welcoming and pleasant has put roots down. At home she is a trained psychologist but here has found work as a support worker as her homeland qualifications are not recognised. To rectify this she hopes to be able to continue her studies at Oxford - another reason for choosing Banbury as a base.

She first heard tell of England at her grandfather's knee. As a blond haired 9 year old he was taken from his home in Poland during the war to work in the fields of Germany. A Royal Air Force airman found him in

1944 and smuggled him to England where he grew up before moving back home. He was not happy with the Russian occupation and allied himself to Lech Walesa and was still one of his supporters when the occupation ended. Her grandfather used to listen to BBC radio and this is when Magdalena first heard English spoken and of his love of this country. When she thought of coming to England he encouraged her to do so. On arriving in Banbury Magdalena found that other Poles had beaten her here and there was quite a community of them but with little focus.

Consequently she contacted a number of her fellow countrymen, the local councils and Catholic Church with a view to forming a local Polish Association. The association is now in being with officers appointed and meets on a regular weekly basis. Those of you shopping in Banbury Market on Saturdays may have noticed a new stall selling Polish food and goods. Its popularity has lead to thoughts of a town centre shop offering similar lines.

Numerous questions from members brought forward some interesting facts. It is estimated that there are around two million Poles in the UK at present. They fall into two main categories those seeking a new life with their families and those coming to work to gain capital to go back home to start businesses, buy houses or pay for university fees. Many arrivals are well educated while others are more poorly so. While many stay there are quite a few that return home after a relatively short period as they cannot settle or cope.

One problem new arrivals have is the difficulty of obtaining accommodation as many of them are seeking work when they get here. This is something the Polish Association hopes to assist with in due course. Before coming, Magdalena was told that the English were cold and distant and preferred cats and dogs to other people but she says all this has been dispelled by the warm welcome she received on arrival and continues to experience.

Magdalena proved to be an excellent ambassador for her home country and is likely to remain here as she is engaged to an Englishman.

Geoff Todd