



The Banbury Bulletin SERVICE Above Self

President Richard Watts

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PRESIDENTIAL HANDOVER.

Friday the 4th July was the occasion for our presidential handover. Outgoing President Martin Phillips introduced the proceedings and then handed the chain of office to our new President Rotarian Richard Watts. Richard welcomed the distinguished guests including Cllr. Rotarian Andrew Fulljames, Chairman C.D.C., Cllr. Anne Bonner, Banbury Town Mayor, and our Honorary Member Lord Saye and Sele. Other guests included the town Service Club's representatives and our Paul Harris fellows. He then addressed the meeting.



“President Richard and Martin”

Distinguished Guests and fellow Rotarians
I'm a Bristol lad who has travelled around a bit, largely in the south west, but finally settled in Banbury with Sally in 1991. I have spent longer in Banbury than anywhere else and although I cannot call myself a Banburian, I consider myself a local now. I am a youngster – well in the Club anyway,

having joined the Rotary organisation here in 2000.

Well how did I feel when asked to be the President of the Rotary Club of Banbury. Surprised, pleased, excited and proud. After all there was little choice. You don't turn down an offer like that. I was told that the time flies by and here we are at the end of a very good year led by Martin.

Now I am entrusted with the mantle and I am indeed honoured to be the 74th President of this club. I am treading in the footsteps of a long line of distinguished gentlemen – some of whom are here today. I will do my best to follow their example and with the support of all members of this club, I'm sure we will have another great year.

There is a wealth of experience in the Chairmen and members of the various committees. No doubt we will repeat the old favourites, ensuring we raise magnificent sums for local and international charities. But we also need to think of new ways to support our local community, as well as people elsewhere in the world. Please give this some thought and let us know.

A good example here is the Olde Time Music Hall at Bloxham School, which was a success this year, and will be repeated in May 2009. Likewise the Dragon Boat racing – which I hope will become a regular fixture - although perhaps bi-annually. Our thanks must go to Lord and Lady Saye & Sele and Bloxham School for supporting us in events

such as these as they enable us not only to raise funds and but also to involve the local community. As a Club we are well supported by a number of local businesses, organisations and individuals – we are truly appreciative of that support. Thank you.

This year, the theme chosen by the RI President is 'Make Dreams Real'. Rotarians throughout the world can do much to change the lives of others less fortunate than ourselves and it is therefore important that we not only support local and international charities but also those chosen by RI and RIBI.

One of the international charities chosen by RIBI is Leonard Cheshire Disability and here Andrew Fairbairn is planning to kayak, cycle and walk from the Scilly Isles to the Shetland Isles in summer 2009. This event – which I believe is a first - will be a mammoth 4 – 6 week undertaking taxing him both mentally and physically. Although some of us will join Andrew on various sections to keep him company.

This event will require commitment from all club members to publicise and help secure massive amounts of sponsorship. That way we can really help in 'making dreams real'.

There are formal aspects to Rotary but our involvement must also be sociable and fun. There are a number of service clubs in the town and I believe there should be more co-operation between us. Why not ask one another for man/woman power if needed for a particular event and indeed why not circulate details of functions that are to be held, thus enabling us to support one another.

Certainly we have a daughter club just up the road and as we are trying to achieve the same goals, why not undertake joint ventures on occasions.

Visits to other local Rotary clubs should also be on the agenda. We had a scatter to Stow on the Wold the other night and had a very enjoyable

evening. It would be nice if some of us were able to scatter perhaps once a month. It doesn't have to be the same people each time, perhaps only a car load.

Why not also challenge the nearby clubs to some form of competition? Indeed, I propose that we challenge Banbury Cherwell to an annual sporting event and I will put up a handsome trophy. What sporting function? Well we'll decide that later when our fitness levels have been assessed! Probably tiddlywinks.

Past President Martin made mention last week of the need to get new members in Rotary. It falls upon us all, not only in this club, to work on this. Yes we are a lunchtime club but remember Banbury Cherwell is an evening club. You may know or meet someone who is interested in joining but cannot make a lunchtime meeting. Well introduce them to Banbury Cherwell and vice versa.

This Rotary year we will be having a gazebo at the Canal Day on Sunday 5th October and the idea is to perhaps have shelter and aqua boxes for people to look at together with information on Rotary and the charities supported recently. If we asked people what they knew about Rotary, we would probably be disappointed with the response so we need to let the public know what we are about and in this way recruitment may become easier.

Certainly, I believe we would benefit from a higher profile. Why not have this as a joint venture with our daughter club?

We should also have more social evenings with our ladies and partners, so I will be looking to implement this. There will be the return to a traditional President's Night and I am hoping that we can organise a traditional Burns Night supper and ceilidh at the end of January 2009.

Fifth Fridays will continue, the first being on 29th August at the Banbury House Hotel. I am sure Rupert Kipping and his team will source good

interesting speakers for these evenings. Please support them.

During my Presidential year we are also hosting the Contact clubs. A small committee has been working away on the arrangements for some time now and the programme is coming together. More will be heard on the subject in weeks to come but this again needs to have full club support and commitment.

You have been advised of the dates by John Hansford in the past but it doesn't hurt to repeat them. Our guests arrive on Thursday 21st and depart on Sunday 24th May 2009. Please put the dates in your diary.

Well time has ticked by and these are just a few of my thoughts in my first minutes as President. It is indeed a privilege to stand here before you and to represent the Club. Thank you for listening and for your continuing support. Let's have fun.

And I'm going to start by accompanying Andrew on a training session in the Highlands of Scotland. First vice president Roger will be taking next week's meeting.

Richard then concluded the meeting with our closing toast "Rotary and Peace the World Over"

CLUB ASSEMBLY.

Our annual Club Assembly took place on Friday 6th June with assistant District Governor Niall Blair from the Marlow club in attendance. President Martin Phillips handed over to President Elect Richard Watts to oversee the proceedings. He introduced his main committee chairmen for the coming year, as these chairmen were carrying on from the previous year they gave us an update on the current year and a short presentation for the coming year.

Community and Vocational Chaired by Andrew Fairbairn.

Andrew thanked his committee for the support they had given him during the last year and to the number of Club members who had helped at the various events. It had been a very busy year with Market Stall, Barrel Organ, Xmas Float, Stroke Awareness Day, Blind Club Party and Kids out.

An excellent new event organised, was The Dragon Boats at Broughton Castle, one worth repeating. Also attendance at the Blenheim Super Sprint and Bloxham Steam Fair.

Next Rotary year it is proposed to concentrate on links with other local service groups and Rotary Clubs. Assisting at Katherine House Midnight Walk, at a Ceilidh for Water Aid and a Scilly's to Shetlands sponsored Trip. The will also be looking into the possibility of running a schools quiz competition.

Many causes were assisted during the last year, B.H.Y.P., Aidis Trust, Oxfordshire Stoke Awareness, Polly Preedy feeding the Homeless in Banbury, Katherine House Hospice, R.I.B.I. Flood disaster appeal, The Home Farm Trust and Child Brain Injury Trust.

Foundation Committee Chaired by Graham Anker.

Last year the committee sent £3500.00 to District and a further £500.00 to the District Polio Plus appeal. The Foundation Committee also recommended that £1000.00 should go to the Christian Hope school in Sierra Leone and 500.00 to the Home Farm Trust. The committee also hosted the Group Study exchange team from Romania for one week. Various events organised by Foundation raised the funds to make the donations possible.

The coming year should see many of the successful events repeated also they are going to make an effort to find a G.S.E. team member to go to British Colombia.

International Committee Chaired by Alan Wolstencroft.

The year started with the concert of The Young Zulu Warriors at St Mary's Church given by God's Golden Acre a charity working with aids orphans in Natal, South Africa. The Concert was a resounding success raising a total of £6500.00. A Shelter Box was on display at The Dragon boat event and the Old Time Music Hall raised £2636. In the next Rotary year it is hoped to again run the Zulu Warrior's event also the Old Time Music Hall. The Auction of Favours and a Race Night are possible fund raising events that the committee may wish to pursue. The next year is our turn to host the contact weekend involving all members of our Club to entertain the Rotarians from the four contact clubs.

Youth Opportunities Chaired by Philip Cavill.

Philip thanked his committee for the work and support in the last year.

The main events planned for the forthcoming year are Children Singing for Children, Rotary Young Chef of the Year, Young Musician of the Year, Mock Interviews B.G.N. School, also possible Mock Interviews at The Warriner School and finding a suitable R.Y.L.A. candidate.

Brodey Engineering Bursary Chaired by Michael Budd.

Michael spoke of the one successful candidate this year and that he has three possible candidates for next year, subject to them passing an interview and evaluation.

International Contact Chaired by John Hansford.

It will be our turn to host the four other clubs in our contact next year. The outline programme has already been formulated. John stressed the need for all the club to become involved in helping with hosting and welcoming our guests from the continent. The diary dates are the 21st. to 24th. May 2009.

Sports and Entertainment. Chaired by John Bennett.

A very busy social year has been enjoyed by Club members. The next year will carry on with our usual successful events and perhaps a few new ones for us to enjoy.

Club Service Committee's Richard Watts.

Richard gave a brief update on these other committees. Classification and Membership to be chaired again by Malcolm Douglas, Publicity and Bulletin to be chaired by David Hitchcox, Fellowship and House by Roy Watkins, Programme to be chaired by Rupert Kipping and Attendance by Gareth Jeremy.

District.

Niall Blair, representing District Governor Elect Malcolm Boddington spoke of the R.I. Logo for the year "MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE". It is also hoped by R.I. That each Rotarian will give £3.00 each per year towards the eradication of all types of Polio, this is to match the \$100 million promised by Bill Gates. He also stressed the need for continuing to keep membership in our minds by inviting friends and business associates to Rotary.

Our usual very concise Assembly meeting finished at 2.10 is this a record?

David Hitchcox

Lake District Trek

Following on from last years expedition to the Lake District our intrepid organiser "Wainright" alias Brian Croft decided to organise another visit, with perhaps better weather. As it turned out the weather was glorious as 12 Rotarians and ladies arrived on Saturday 7th. June. After a rest at our B&B and a stroll around Ambleside it was time to settle in for an evening of bonding at the Queens Head Hotel. This involved building ourselves up for the next days travail, with copious amounts of food and not a little drink, eight real ales to choose from.

Sunday 8.30 a good breakfast set us up for what was to come. Our first walk was in Borrowdale which we reached by car after stopping off at the famous Ashness Bridge.

We parked at a hill farm called Watenhath and after donning our walking gear proceeded to make our way following our "Wainright" with the map. This "easy" starting walk led us up a steady incline before dropping down a very steep rocky descent through a forest. This drop was quite tricky although "Wainright" stated that he had done it 30 years ago and it was not nearly as steep then. A walk along the valley bottom then brought us to Rossthwaite where we were able to get food and refreshment at the local Inn. It was then time to make our way over the last part of the walk up hill and down dale to our cars and the return to Ambleside. Time for a rest and a good soak in a bath to rest our aching muscles. Later we had another visit to the Queens Head to replenish ourselves.

On Monday it was decided to offer two walks, a difficult one over Langdale Pikes and a easier day going to Ravenglass railway. George Currie from the Cherwell Club offered to take four ladies over Wrynose and Hardnott Pass to Eskdale and then onto the railway and Ravenglass on the Cumbrian Coast. George was congratulated by the ladies on his rallying skills around the narrow passes. This left seven of us to do the arduous Langdale Pikes. We started from The New Hotel near Great Langdale for the first ascent to Stikle Tarn and then to our first objective Pavey Ark we then scrambled across the ridge to the next and very high point of Harisson Stickle. We now had wonderful views across the Lake District including Windermere. The other mountains now in view included Helvellyn and they say on a clear

day Morecombe Bay although the distant mist did not allow us this pleasure. Onward, after a little rest, to Loft Crag and then Pike of Stickle at over 2400 feet. It was now a case of getting back down to civilisation. This would take quite a time, and again some of the steep descents were quite difficult and on reaching the almost level ground we still had several miles to go.



President Martin who had found some of the climbs difficult decided to show us what his abilities really were and stepped out at a rate which left the rest of us way behind. After eight hours we reached what we first thought was where our cars were parked, but found that it was the Old Hotel and we still had a further mile to go. It was decided unanimously that we would not pass the opportunity by for some liquid refreshment and then on to our cars and the return to Ambleside. Again after some rest we decided that the Queens Head Hotel was the place to go with its extensive menu and the welcome they gave us moving tables so that we all twelve could sit together. Next morning after our good English breakfast we decided that we would all make our own ways and not do the last organised walk. We thanked "Wainright" alias Brian for his organisation and an excellent weekend of fun and fellowship. Note:- Wainright wrote descriptions of the Lake walks over many years, at times we did not agree with his comments especially when he mentioned easy climbs. David Hitchcox

CONGRATULATIONS.



Rotarian Jim Johnson and Barbara celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on the 21st. June. Best wishes from all their friends in Rotary.

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## ROTARY CLUB OF BANBURY SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT.

Eleven golfing Rotarians assembled at Chipping Norton Golf Club on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>. June to battle for the Spring Tournament Trophy, including defending champion, John Brodey. The golf course was in excellent condition and the forecasted downpour held off well, apart from a smattering of rain very late on. Whilst the course was excellent, not all the golf was. We played a stableford competition off full handicap and as usual, some did better than others.

As is traditional, there was a nearest the flag at a short hole and this was the par3 3<sup>rd</sup>, where you have to hit your tee shot over a pond to a raised green. Well done to Keith Manning, who won this tee shot being a few feet away.

Overall in third place was defending champion, John Brodey with 35 points. Malcolm Nutt was second with 38 points, but the winner with an outstandingly good score of 40 points was Phil Cavill. A superb round of golf from Phil. Unfortunately, he had to attend a Parish Council meeting that evening so the trophy and his cognac reward were presented to Phil at the Friday lunchtime meeting on 6<sup>th</sup>. June by President Martin Phillips.

Phil is now a double champion, as he also won the Autumn event at Wychwood Golf Club in October 2007. Our records are limited, but I do not think too many have held both trophies at the same time. Well done Phil. All the rest of us have to do now is try and play better to stop the hat trick!!!! The Autumn 2008 competition will be held at Brailes Golf Club in the last two weeks of September. Once the date has been finalised, I will send out notification to all golfers on my circulation list. If you are not on my list and

would like to play, ring me or drop me a note to say so and I will get the details to you. Finally, on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>. August next, the Keith Bigwood will be competed for at Tadmarton Heath Golf Club. This is the annual service clubs' match between Lions, 41 Club, Round Table and Rotary. As we have won it for the last two years, we are the organisers again. This year we hope to make it three in a row!!!!

Malcolm Nutt

### **MY JOB TALK.**

Recent new member Malcolm Dibb gave his "My Job Talk" on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. June.

He was born in County Durham a number of years ago. He moved first to Sussex and then to Cornwall. He commenced work for Barclays in their Trustee Department. After 21 years he moved to Head Office. On retirement from the Bank he worked for Oxfordshire County Council driving people with special needs. He maintained this interest in driving and passed his advanced driving test and hopes to become an Instructor for the advanced driving association. He also has an interest in vintage cars and owns a 1928 Hillman saloon.

His Cornish connection, having married a lady from Cornwall, has got the better of him and together with his son they opened a Cornish Pasty shop in Banbury Market Place. The shop named Morris caters for the local trade and also has deliveries to various businesses in the area. He was hosted by Alan Wolstencroft who gave a vote of thanks.

### **TOWCESTER RACES.**

Sports and Entertainment Committee organised a great evening at the races on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>. June.. Rotarian Margaret Tilstone arranged us an excellent set of tables in the Grace Stand. We were able to eat, drink and be merry, except those driving. A glorious evening with the sun shining over this most spectacular course, we had bright sunshine and as the evening went on we were able to see a great sunset as the last race was run. Some lost a little and some won a little, but it did not matter in the excitement of watching our horses win or lose. Most were there for the first race at 6.40 and the last race was at 9.20. It was then time

to wend our way home after trying to escape through the elegant gates at the Towcester Course. It was not Ascot but Annie Phillips managed to add a touch of elegance to our proceedings. Ed.



### **SPEAKER REPORT**

Steve Cunningham was our speaker on the 20<sup>th</sup>. June, he was introduced by Rotarian Amin Voghoui. Steve gave a very witty and enjoyable talk some extracts are noted below.

The world disappeared from Steve one sunny day when the green Malvern Hills became a creeping grey mist that clouded his vision. He was totally blind aged twelve and housed in the Lickey Grange School for the blind.

One of five children from a working class family Steve found himself in a black world. This was a disaster for Steve as his days as a promising junior footballer for Aston Villa were over. Surely this would be a recipe for a one-dimensional existence of assisted meals, radio, TV and talking books, or as he put it "making baskets and selling matches". However Steve never made a basket or sold a match.

After a period of readjustment he simply set about getting on with his life without eyesight. To him that meant tackling virtually everything that a sighted person could undertake. He carried on with his sporting achievements by again playing football driving racing cars and power boat racing. He passed his examinations at Business College and came to work in Banbury for Barclays Bank. He has raised substantial sums for Guide Dogs for the Blind and is married with two children.

He now runs his own Company called "Blind Vision" and gives talks on how to improve performance and how to build self confidence.

A statement that sums up Steve is that he has "**Vision Not Sight**"

Ed.

# ***THE TOWN MAYOR and ROTARY CLUB OF BANBURY***

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## **'A BANBURY FESTIVAL OF VOICES'**

Banbury was granted its Town Charter by James 1<sup>st</sup> on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1608. To mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary a whole week of celebrations under the Festival of Arts banner was planned by the Town Mayor in the lead up to the anniversary date.

The Rotary Club of Banbury collaborated with Mayor Ann Bonner and the National Association of Primary Education, (NAPE), to present two evening concerts at **St Mary's Church, Banbury on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008.**

NAPE organises "Festival of Voices" concerts at Wembley Arena and Birmingham Symphony Hall annually and the Banbury version followed a similar format with local primary school choirs singing a programme of 10 songs en masse each evening. The programme chosen by NAPE included music written for the nursery rhyme "Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross" by local composer David Martin (one-time head teacher at Queensway), which was especially appropriate for this event.

Eight Primary School Choirs of 200 children were Conducted by Liz Stock and accompanied by Val Scarff (piano), Jonathan Stock (percussion) and Lee Kie on bass guitar.

In addition to the school choirs Umito Choji (piano), Isabelle Bourne Swinton Hunter (cornet) and Jonathan Weirs (cornet), past winners from the Banbury Young Musician of the Year competition performed solo pieces. The youth orchestra of St John's RC School and the Drum Group from Hornton School provided instrumental items.

The children sang with spirit and feeling and their voices and faces showed how much they were enjoying the occasion. The enthusiastic audiences of some 400 people responded with a standing ovation and were rewarded with a rousing rendition of the traditional closing finale song "World in Union". The concerts raised a magnificent £1,331 which will be donated to Mayor Ann Bonner's charities and local and international Rotary Charities.

**Participating Schools included St John's RC, St John's Priory, Queensway, Kings Sutton, Orchard Fields, Sibford Gower, Deddington and Hornton.**

**The concert sponsors were some of Banbury's longest established organisations, Blinkhorns, Walford & Round, J & M Humphris, S.H.Jones, Bloxham School, McDonalds and Banbury Charities**

The Rotary Club of Banbury & the Town Mayor are extremely grateful to the staff and children from all the schools, the sponsors involved and the parents for their support.