



From the V.P's. Jottings

The last day of March was the date for our Fifth Friday meeting with spouses. This was held at the Jubilee Hall, Bloxham with an excellent dinner provided by Good Food of Bloxham. The speaker for the evening was Professor Guillebaud his subject was "Sex, Population, Pill, Pollution and the future of the planet." This was one of the most informative and thought-provoking talks that we have had for many years. He was hosted by Rotarian Rupert Kipping.

A new member, Geoff Pollard, was the speaker on the 7th April with his my job talk, he was hosted by Rotarian Ken Gibbard.

On 19th April David Barlow again organised a successful visit to the Little Tew Theatre, to see Bare Foot in the Park.

The next Friday meeting was on 21st April, there having been a break for Good Friday. The speaker was the well-known actor David Yipp. His subject was Buddhism and how he became a convert to the faith, and his host was Michael Banks.

The Community and Vocational Committee held a Market stall and raised in excess of £250.00. They also organised a painting session at the Citizens Advice Bureau with Alan Wolstencroft, Andrew Fairbairn and Bob Nurden wielding the brushes to great effect.

On Monday 24th April we held our Annual General Meeting at the Masonic Hall. It was well attended and the budget for the year was presented and a subscription of £87.00 was agreed. The six members of council for the coming year are Bob Thompson, Alan Wolstencroft, Jonathan Meredith, John Bennett, Philip Cavill and Andrew Fairbairn.



An early start, for some, led to a great day out on our annual club outing. This year the venue was Portsmouth after a delayed journey owing to a traffic accident we arrived at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport. There followed a very interesting site visit and a tour around a Submarine hosted by a retired submariner who gave us a true insight into life underwater. Not a job for the fainthearted!

It was particularly poignant for one of our group whose grandfather died on a submarine and was honored on a plaque commemorating those submariners who died in the two world wars.

We then took a ferry and arrived for lunch in Portsmouth. After we had lunched at the variety of cafe's and restaurants we visited the Spinnaker Tower.

An impressive building and after all the adverse publicity regarding it's building it now seems well worth while.

The view from the crow's nest was quite impressive and would have been even better if it had not been for the sea mist which hid the Isle of Wight.



Some members then did a little shopping, some of us succumbed to the shops even without any persuasion from our wives. The day was completed with an excellent dinner at the Four Pillars Hotel Oxford. The assembled crew thanked David Barlow and Brian Cornley for the organisation of a great day out.

The lunchtime meeting on 28th April had a change of speaker to the one advised. Peter Barwell who was Lord Mayor of Birmingham came at short notice and gave an insight into his role as Lord Mayor including Royal Visits and the setting up of the Birmingham Grand Prix motor racing, which lasted five years. He was hosted by Rotarian Nigel Halfpenny.

David Hitchcox

Extract from the Roy Hattersley column in the Daily Mail, Tuesday 25th April 2006

A hill overlooking Cromford, the Derbyshire village where over 200 years ago Sir Richard Arkwright harnessed the water power of the River Derwent to change the way in which the world spun wool and cotton.

The warehouse on the hill's crest is the property of a wholesale fruit & vegetable merchant, but his boxes occupy only half the building – the rest is rented by a company called Aquabox.

Every weekend morning several men, of an obviously professional appearance, labour in the warehouse and yard. None of them are in the first flush of youth and last Saturday all the men were members of the Wirksworth Rotary Club. The Aquabox project, wholly dependent on the effort and energy of the volunteers is, in the words of the Club's mission statement designed "to promote humanitarian aid and safe drinking water wherever it is needed in the world.

The idea is absolutely simple, like all the best ideas – plastic boxes, about the size of a baby's bath are sent to "emergency areas". Each one contains a filter and enough purification tablets to make 1,000 litres of polluted water safe for human consumption – enough to provide a family of four with decent drinking water for five months.

But that is only a part of the ingenious basis of the Aquabox scheme – by the time the equipment arrives at it's destination the boxes are packed with the essential items of everyday living that most of us take for granted, but much of the world lacks. Each Aquabox is sponsored - £50 including transport and the sponsors are asked to fill the spaces around the purification equipment with items from what Wirksworth Rotary call the recommended packing list. It includes – buckets (strong rubber, plastic or canvas), safety pins, scissors, safety matches, candles and clothes lines.

Down in the yard boxes were being sealed ready for despatch – Frank, a retired chartered surveyor from Sheffield, was pulling a trolley on which a dozen or so were loaded – Frank is 87. He attributes the success of the project to the recruitment of volunteers who ENJOY helping other people. It is that spirit that has enabled the organisers, during the 14 years of it's existence, to send 65,000 Aquaboxes containing 65 million litres of pure water and 2,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid to emergencies all over the world.

The Wirksworth Rotarians talk of emergencies rather than disasters. Suffering goes on day after day, year after year throughout the world BUT it does not always catch the headlines. Pure water is needed in places that are never mentioned on the front pages of newspapers in the developed world.

Of course the demand is greatest at times of crisis – Aquabox has a normal annual income of between £350,000 & £400,000 per year however in the year of the Tsunami it rocketed to £2.5 million. Martin Beresford & Martin Cruttenden were both at the Aquabox warehouse every day for weeks after the Tsunami and it is because of men like them that the project goes from strength to strength. It now ships out Aqua30, a combination of Aquaboxes which provides 30,000 litres of water to meet the needs of a whole drought ravaged village.

The most spectacular feature of the operation is the modesty of the volunteers whose labours make it work. They are all desperate to emphasise that Rotary Clubs from all over the region lend a hand and that Rotary

Clubs throughout the UK have given financial sponsorship. There is a strong feeling at Aquabox that it is more blessed to give than receive.

Aquabox is doing more than meeting a desperate need - for morning after morning, week after week Wirksworth Rotary Club and all its supporters are demonstrating "Service Above Self" the organisations motto still has a great part to play in the 21st century.

Article submitted by Alan Wolstencroft (with a little poetic licence)



Following the AGM Treasurer Ron thought it would be useful to include the following information for your edification!

This year's AGM agreed to set next year's Club Membership Fee at £86.00. The majority of the increase over this year being due to a £4.00 increase in the RIBI capitation figure. The joining fee will remain at £50.00.

The treasurer also reported on the results of the Trust Fund consultation that had been carried out with Club Members.

In summary the results indicate the following majority wishes of the returns made.

1. 97.92% consider that an emergency/contingency fund should be held.
2. 41.67% consider this emergency/contingency fund should be £5,000.
3. 60.42% consider we should not hold large capital sums on a long term basis in addition to the above.
4. 75.00% consider money should not be held in long term investments where there is a possible risk of loss of capital.

5. 66.67% consider money should not be held in fixed long term investments.

At its last meeting, Council considered the survey results in detail and agreed that they should be put to the AGM along with the following policies which it considers reflect the majority Club Members' views:

1. all Trust Fund long term investments are realised as soon as possible.
2. £5,000 is deposited as an emergency/contingency fund in a high interest Building Society or Bank Investment Account.
3. with the exception of the above £5,000 and the Brodey Bequest, all other funds are considered as freely available for use.
4. the President for the time being continue to nominate a charity of their choice to which interest accrued on the Trust Fund during their year of office (excluding the Brodey money), is donated.



ABERDEEN CLINIC & FISTULA CENTRE, FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE. (ACFC) UPDATE

As this bulletin goes to print Alan Wolstencroft will be back in Sierra Leone – and the news is all fantastic!!

He was scheduled to arrive in Freetown around midnight on May 22nd/23rd and hopefully will have had a little time to prepare for the official opening which was due to take place on May 23rd.

The news gets better – the clinic, although operational for over a year, has never been officially opened and the President of Sierra Leone is therefore opening the ACFC AND the "Rotary Hostel of Hope" – this is the 35 bed patient hostel that Rotarians have been working on since last October.

The founder of Mercy Ships, Don Stephens was due to be present as was Anne Gloag (the founder of Stagecoach) who donated the ship "Africa Mercy" to the charity and other VIP's (plus Alan!).

The story begins – October 1st 2005



This is how the site looked when the first Rotary team arrived - remember everything is done by hand there have been NO mechanical aids on site during the building project.



When Alan arrives a lot more work will have been done but there will hopefully still be a lot of odds & ends to finish off the end of the project.

As well as the ACFC project there are a couple of other mini projects that Alan will be working on during his 11 day trip to Sierra Leone.

BISHOP CARPENTER SCHOOL, NORTH NEWINGTON TO TWIN WITH THE CHRISTIAN HOPE SCHOOL, FREETOWN



A group of 9 year olds from Bishop Carpenter School in North Newington are going to write letters to the children of the Christian Hope School in Kissy, Freetown in the hope of establishing a twinning with the school. This is as a result of a presentation Alan made to the children about the visit he made to the school last October whilst he was in Sierra Leone. Bishop Carpenter held a non uniform day on the last day of the Spring Term and raised £50 which Alan will take with him later this month to help the school buy essential equipment.

AQUAROLLS – A SIMPLE SOLUTION

Whilst in Freetown, last November, Alan saw dozens of youngsters carrying water in large containers, often for up to distances of a mile, and decided to try to improve their quality of life by introducing AQUAROLLS into Sierra Leone. His aim was to take an initial batch with him when he returned, and he asked me to pass on his thanks to the 7 members of Banbury Rotary Club who have each sponsored an Aquaroll.

An address change for your records – Graham Anker has moved – please note his new details:

Hunter's Moon,
1, Church Close,
Adderbury,
OX17 3LN.
01295-812456

e-mail: graham@ankerandpartners.co.uk

Press release Tony Blair receives award for UK's fight to create a Polio-Free World



11 May 2006 -UK Prime Minister Tony Blair was named Polio Eradication Champion by Rotary International.

The award, presented by Luis Vicente Giay, Past President of Rotary International, was accepted on the Prime Minister's behalf by Hilary Benn, UK Secretary of State for International Affairs.

Rotary established this award in 1995 to recognize governments and world leaders who have made outstanding contributions toward the goal of eradicating polio. "On behalf of Rotary's 1.2 million members worldwide, I am honored to present this award in recognition of Prime Minister Tony Blair's unwavering support for polio eradication," said Giay.

Hilary Benn said:

"Eighteen years ago 125 countries were blighted by polio. Today it is endemic in only four countries. If we are to wipe out this terrible disease in the next two years, donors from around the world must fill the funding gap so children in Africa and Asia continue to receive polio drops and immunisation drives are not disrupted.

"I think we all look forward to the day when polio can be consigned to the medical history books and there will be no need for such an award."

The UK is the second largest public sector donor to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, most recently having pledged £60 million for 2005-2008, £20 million of which has already been disbursed.

Mr Benn called on the other members of the G8 group of industrialised nations as well as non-traditional donors and the private sector to step forward and fill the \$85m funding gap by July. He warned that if a further \$400 million was not raised to take action from 2006 to 2008 it would lead to over 10 million new polio cases around the world by 2050. Mr Benn

suggested that funds could also come from other, non G8 countries, such as countries belonging to the Organisation of Islamic Conference, who are playing an increasingly important role in tackling development issues.

Today, polio is only endemic in Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan - the lowest number of polio-endemic countries in history - but Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nepal, Niger, Somalia and Yemen have been re-infected.

Polio is a highly infectious disease which mainly affects children under five years of age. There is no cure but it can be prevented. For as little as US .60 cents worth of vaccine, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life. The number of children infected with polio has dropped by 99 per cent from 350,000 cases in 1988 to 2000 reported cases at the end of 2005.

Past recipients of the award have included Bill Clinton, Kofi Annan and Pervez Musharraf.

Rotary International said the award to Tony Blair was for his efforts at last year's G8 summit to encourage other world leaders to make good on past commitments on polio eradication. During meetings of the Commission on Africa in 2005, the Prime Minister had encouraged leaders of polio endemic countries, particularly Nigeria, to take swift action and finish the job of eradication.

REAL NEWSPAPER ADS

FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.
8 years old. Hateful little dog. Bites.

FREE PUPPIES:
1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbour's dog.

FREE PUPPIES...
Mother, KC German Shepherd.
Father, Super Dog...able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

FOUND DIRTY WHITE DOG.
Looks like a rat been out a while.
Better be a reward.

COWS, CALVES: NEVER BRED.
Also 1 gay bull for sale.

NORDIC TRACK
\$300 Hardly used, call Chubby.

GEORGIA PEACHES California grown -
89 cents lb.

JOINING NUDIST COLONY!
Must sell washer and dryer **\$300.**

WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE.
WORN ONCE BY MISTAKE.
Call **Stephanie.**

AND THE BEST ONE:

FOR SALE BY OWNER:
Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica,
45 volumes.
Excellent condition.
\$1,000 or best offer.
No longer needed, got married last month.
Wife knows everything



Theatre visit to Little Tew – Barefoot in the Park

All those who went enjoyed this comedy hugely, and our congratulations go to all concerned at the Grange Theatre.

The atmosphere of the bitterly cold five floor apartment was created from curtain up. The newly wed Bratters were both well played, the star being Lucy Catlin whose bubbly performance on stage belied her 17 years! All of the cast were excellent and even a Cameo appearance from Fred perhaps Val will write a part in for herself in the next play Well done everybody. Here's to the next time!

David Barlow

Report on Club Outing to Portsmouth

This proved to be an interesting day, despite an early hold up in Deddington and traffic chaos on the A34!

We arrived only a little late at Gosport, with the driver making up time for us after the A34. We were conducted around a submarine that had only been decommissioned in 1972. The conditions under which submariners had to live and fight were made very real to us all. The bravery of these men under such terrible conditions were beyond belief.

Our first Naval combat submarine was on display in one of the museums. This, The Holland was a vessel in which King George V took the future George VI for an actual dive.

We crossed over to Portsmouth on our own ferry. As we were leaving Gosport we were met by a Rear Admiral's Barge, his Wren Aide de Camp looking fantastic in her uniform!

We had lunch across the water and then ascended the Spinnaker Tower. This was an experience in itself even though visibility was not very good.

We then had a wander round Portsmouth's new shopping centre.

Following this, we repaired to the Four Pillars Hotel at Sandford on Thames for an excellent dinner.

Many thanks for all the support.

Brian Cornley & David Barlow