



Contact Meeting Olten Switzerland May 1st. 2008.

I arrived at Heathrow with no little feeling of trepidation on a number of counts.

Not only was it my fist trip to a Contact meeting, but we were to travel from the recently opened and somewhat notorious terminal 5 – we were pretty sure we were headed for Zurich, but where was our luggage bound?

As it went the whole “Terminal 5” experience was superb – the staff were helpful and friendly, the shopping and other points of interest more than sufficient to while away the 4 hours spare we had after our arrival at the airport, and our eventual flight superb.

On our arrival at Zurich airport we recovered our cases and were warmly welcomed by a member of Olten Rotary club accompanied by a coach, which whisked us off on a 45 minute trip to The Arte Hotel.

On arrival we found our rooms, changed and went downstairs to meet our hosts. This was probably the worst part of the weekend for a “new bug” not sure what was supposed to be happening or what to expect. However, a few glasses of chilled and very drinkable Swiss white wine soon calmed the nerves and Jackie and I successfully met up with our host, Ernst.

Ernst took us on a walk around the old city, over the medieval bridge and then back to the vicinity of our hotel for the first evening’s meal. We were not sure about the venue, a modern looking building which had, apparently little to

recommend it from the outside. However, once inside it turned out to have a wonderful roof terrace with stunning views over the city to the hills beyond, which were still bathed in the warm sun which was to stay with us for the rest of our trip.

The dining room also shared these views and after several more glasses of wine we found ourselves dropped into a mixed company of 30 or so for a delicious supper. English, French, and German conversations rattled around the good food and wine, our host impressing us with his ability to carry on conversations in all four languages simultaneously, and his care in making sure those of us less linguistically gifted were not left out.

The next morning the coach collected us punctually and we headed off on a drive up into the mountains which were covered in snow, in what can only be called a typically Swiss looking manner! We enjoyed superb views of the lakes and mountains as we wound towards our eventual destination Ballenburg. This is an open air museum set amongst stunning mountain peaks that displays traditional buildings and architecture from all over the country. It has over 100 original buildings that have been transported from their original sites.



Our guide was extremely helpful and informative in showing us around the large site, but eventually the President's need for a beer prevailed and we headed off for a superb lunch, with more delicious Swiss white wine.

After only the briefest of coach journeys to recover we arrived in Interlaken where we boarded a boat for a trip across the lake to Thon.

The sun shone, the lake glittered, the band played, cakes were eaten, and there was even the sight of some Rotarians dancing!

That evening following our return to Olten and after maybe half an hour to gather our strength we met up for an informal evening of drinks and canapés in a wine bar in the old town, followed by a gentle stroll back to our hotel for midnight.

The next morning saw us head to Bern, a charming old town where we were left to our own devices to explore before meeting at the splendid Casino for lunch.

After lunch there was a brief pause whilst we waited for our coach, which had apparently been detained by the authorities for driving down a road where no coach was permitted to drive!

Once it arrived we headed off to the Zentrum Paul Klee which opened its doors in 2005 to visitors interested in art and to art lovers from all over the world. At the heart of this centre is the artist Paul Klee (1879–1940), his life and his work. Of the 10,000 or so works that make up Paul Klee's oeuvre a good 40 per cent, or some 4,000 watercolours and drawings as well as archives and biographical material, have been brought together at the Zentrum Paul Klee. The Centre's collections are considered as the largest collection of a single artist of world renown.

The evening saw the Gala dinner in the old Theatre in Olten.

The next day saw us say goodbye to 6 of our number whilst the rest of us headed off to our next destination, the Hotel Sonne, in Kusnacht on the shores of Lake Zurich.

This was a superb venue, right on the banks of the lake and within easy reach of Zurich. We all had tickets for the local transport network which covered trains, trams, buses, and the ferry boats which circle the lake.

After the hectic bustle of the contact weekend it was a welcome chance for people to take things more at their own pace, exploring the city of Zurich, the surrounding countryside and the lake.

Our last evening saw a superb dinner to celebrate President Martin's birthday with more wine and excellent food, before our return to England for a well deserved rest!



President Martin on his birthday.

So, after my first trip to Contact would I go again – most definitely! John Hansford's organisation this end was superb, our hosts in Olten looked after us magnificently and I arrived back totally exhausted but having had an experience I will never forget.

Owen Kyffin

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Rotarian Rev. Janet Chapman on her appointment detailed below; although it will mean that we lose a valued member of our club.

Birmingham Canonry 6 May 2008

The Queen has approved the appointment of the Reverend Janet Chapman, Priest-in-Charge of Banbury, in the diocese of Oxford to a Residentiary Canonry of Birmingham Cathedral as Canon Liturgist. Since 2001 she has been Priest-in-Charge at St Mary's Church Banbury,

Birthday Greetings to our senior member Past President Rotarian Ken Gibbard, who attained his 90th year. He has been a member of our club since 1960, and we look forward to celebrating his 50th year as a member of The Rotary Club of Banbury. We may then again partake of some more Sloe Gin.

SPEAKER REPORT.

Ian Calderbank - Friday 4th. April. The Probus Club

So there was this poor old Probus Club member who was asked at short notice to give a talk to his local Rotary Club. When he arrived he realised that, in his panic and last minute rush, he had forgotten to put in his teeth. He explained his predicament to his host who promptly put his hand in his pocket and pulled out a set of dentures and said "Try these". They were too loose however, so he pulled out another set but these were too tight this time. So he delved around in his pockets for a while then pulled out another set which this time fitted perfectly. "You a dentist then?" asked our Probus member. "No, I'm an undertaker" was the reply.

Okay, so it's an old joke but that is the beauty of the Probus Club. You can tell old jokes and they seem like new. In fact you can tell the same joke twice in the same meeting and it won't be noticed. In fact you can tell the same joke twice in the same meeting and it won't be noticed. In fact you can tell.....

But Probus Club meetings are fun. The members all rush to greet and introduce themselves to each other and at every meeting they make new friends even if the membership changes little. When I was Secretary and now as Chairman, I am often asked "Who is that.....talking to such and such over there?" On Monday, when we went on an outing to the Tutankhamen Exhibition, while I was studying a photo of Tutankhamen in his coffin all uncovered, one member sidled up to me and "What is our Chairman doing in that box?" I think that was Bryan Doe. No, it was later during a comfort stop at a Service Station on the way back that Bryan asked "Who is that sitting across from me on the coach?" "Your neighbour, Ron Gorton" I replied and then realised that it could not be Ron because we had left Ron behind by mistake at the previous stop. Or maybe that wasn't Ron. I don't know. I was only the organiser. Actually, since taking over as Chairman, I have introduced new management techniques into the organisation. We hope to be ISO approved in due course and by using six sigma analysis for our outings I hope that by the

end of the year we should be losing less than 5 % of our members on outings.

Of course I'm sure that you would like to hear something about the history of the Probus Club movement and the Banbury Compton Club in particular. Like all organisations, it is important to remember the key players names, for example Paul Harris for Rotary, Louis Marchesi for Round Table, etc..

In 1965, Rtn. Fred Carhill of Welwyn Garden City Club conceived the idea of a club for "Professional and Business people" hence Probus. He called it the Campus club after the local venue. At the same time another Rotarian, Harold Bloxhard did a similar thing and called it the Caterham Club. The two then extended into neighbouring towns. RIBI was informed of its success and other Rotary Clubs were encouraged to do the same. During the 1970's there was a vast expansion in Clubs, including a new one at Bromsgrove where one Ralph Harpen produced lapel badges

In 1980, the Probus Information Centre was formed to deal with requests for information, and supply badges, regalia, and a newsletter. However, there has never been a central governing body and no capitation fees are paid in the UK.

The emphasis of Probus in the UK is to have simplicity of structure, freedom from the constraints and obligations of a service club, and low cost. For example, the annual subscription for the Banbury Club is only £9.00.

In Banbury, during the late sixties, some members of the Rotary Club voiced the idea of having a retiring age of 65 with a view to the retirees forming another club with less energetic activities. In those days of course retired people were not invited to join Rotary. The President at that time was past District Governor Jim Pearson Smith whose response was "Why not just start one?". The first meeting was in 1970 with 10 prospective members present supported by Jim and the late John Smith. The Whately Hall Hotel was selected as the venue, as it still is today, and the annual subscription was set at £1. The Club name was hotly debated apparently, Probus not being favoured, and eventually the Compton Club was selected, after Sir William Compton who

defended Banbury Castle against the Parliamentarians. A limit on numbers was set, originally 20, but this has been increased over the years and is currently 40, with some additional Associate members who, for health reasons, have difficulty in attending the evening meetings but wish to maintain contacts and take part in other events. In the early years there was a "Clark Dynasty". George Clark was Chairman for the first ten years and was then succeeded by his brother Ted with a Vice Chairman, Hugh Spottiswoode who died recently sadly, with the intention that in future years the Chairman's tenure would be limited to one year. However, this was not to be. Hugh fell and broke his hip at the critical time so that Ted had to be Chairman for a second year. The question often asked is "Did Hugh fall or was he pushed? Did the Clark's not want to let go?"

So what do we do in the Probus Compton Club of Banbury? We have a monthly evening meeting on the second Monday with a speaker and each member takes a turn to find and host the speaker – it comes around about once every two to three years! Typical attendance is between 25 and 35. We also have a more informal monthly coffee morning on the last Tuesday and typical attendance is 15 to 20, except at Christmas when the mince pie addicts swell the numbers. There is a Members Lunch in the early Spring, a "Lunch with our Ladies" in the late Spring, a Strawberry Tea in the Summer, and a Ladies Night Dinner in the Autumn.

Then we have other events and visits. For example in February, most of the members and wives, partners, girl friends, etc., came to tea at our home in Aynho – a right rave up with the neighbours complaining for days! Actually that was the week when our dieting Rotarians were due for the next weigh in and Tony Wiltshire's weight had increased by 4 lb which he blamed on our tea! Last Monday, we went to the Tutankhamen Exhibition in London. On Saturday 12 April we shall be visiting Lord and Lady Heseltine's home at Thenford to see the Arboretum and then having tea afterwards.

On 31 May some of us are going on a four day Battlefields Tour, Dunkirk, the Somme, Ypres, etc.. On 9 July we shall have a steam train trip through the Cotswolds with lunch, and on 12 July

some of us are going to Silverstone to the Formula Student event. This has free entry, is sponsored by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and students from around the world compete in the design, build, and testing of Formula 1 type racing cars. In August, we shall visit the new National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and, in September, we shall have a day at the National Space Centre.

If any members of the Rotary Club of Banbury would like to join us on some of these outings they would be very welcome – just let me know if you are interested and I can provide more details. Ian Calderbank.

GSE Team visit April 2008.

On Sunday 6th the team members comprising of **Calin Nandra** an anaesthetist, **Camelia Stanciu** an accountant specialising in Tax, **Elena Platon** a university lecturer in human genetics and molecular biology, **Marinela Voicu** another lecturer in physics specialising in the interaction of laser radiation with materials and **Zsuzsa Pilbath** a lawyer were collected from the Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth and then brought to Banbury.

The hosts included our President Martin Phillips, Graham Anker the Foundation committee Chairman and Nigel Randall as well as Bob Campbell and Mark Clayson of the Banbury Cherwell club.

First thing on Monday 7th there was a brief walking tour of Banbury with the team being shown the local landmarks by John Bennett and Graham Anker and then they went on to inspect Charles Swain's veteran and vintage motor car collection in Adderbury with the President and Robert Nurden joining the party.

Oxford was the next port of call via Park and Ride to the Randolph Hotel where lunch and a presentation to the Rotary Club of Oxford followed. A very pleasant and informative walking tour of some of the Colleges and other Historic buildings, in the company of District Ass. Governor Philip Bobby occupied the afternoon.

Tuesday 8th was in the hands of Banbury Cherwell Club members; they visited Norbar Engineering factory in the morning then toured Upton House

in the afternoon with another presentation at the Cherwell Rotary meeting in the evening.

Wednesday was set to be the 'Vocational day' this was when Calin spent time with Rupert Kipping visiting various departments in the Horton Hospital in the morning then, as a bonus for the team leader, on to Blenheim Palace in the afternoon.

Camelia was looked after by Owen Kyffin at Whitley Stimpson's offices.

Elena was hosted by Val Davidson who lives in Mollington. She is Director of the Regional Genetics Laboratory based in Edgbaston, the leading establishment of its kind in the UK and perhaps even in Europe. The organisation was found by Brian Croft,

Marinela viewed Swan Foundry in the company of our President and then they went down to Newbury to visit DMLS Metals, the UK's largest selective laser sintering provider. This firm having been researched by Ian Calderbank.

Zsuzsa spent the morning with Nigel Yeadon at Aplins followed by a very interesting afternoon in Court.

On Thursday Robert Thompson and Graham Anker took the party to Stratford upon Avon where they viewed New Place gardens, Shakespeare's Birthplace and the Butterfly Farm, in the afternoon a brief tour of the Cotswolds including a visit to the Donnington fish farm and concluding with a short stop in Stow on the Wold.

A party of 30 Rotarians and guests then had a pleasant relaxed evening of 'Skittles' and a meal at the 'Sun Inn' Hook Norton.

On the final day Lord and Lady Saye and Seal were on hand at Broughton Castle where the President, Brian Doe and Graham Anker joined the group and were treated to a fine personal tour of the building including seeing some of the private rooms such as the kitchen where coffee was served.

At the lunchtime meeting a final presentation was given to those members present and then off by train to London before moving on to the Gerrards Cross Club.

Next year the plan is to send a Team from this Rotary District to British Columbia so Graham

Anker asks you to look out for potential candidates and bring them to his attention.

Rotary relief reaches cyclone ravaged Myanmar

More than 1,000 ShelterBoxes were delivered to Yangon airport in cyclone ravaged Myanmar on Friday 16th May, thanks to the generous donations from Rotary members.

ShelterBox, the grassroots disaster relief organization set up by UK Rotary members, chartered the DC 10 aid flight from East Midlands Airport in Birmingham on Wednesday 14th May, and packed it with 1,050 boxes destined to help thousands of cyclone survivors.

A team of four specially trained volunteers were given visas and allowed to enter Yangon just five days after the cyclone hit, making them the first UK based relief team to have landed in Myanmar. The team immediately organised the distribution of 644 boxes to cyclone victims which were transported by local authorities to the Delta region using trucks and boats and tents were set up with the help of local fire services, trained by the ShelterBox response team in Yangon.

Note:- Banbury donated £1000.00 towards two Shelter boxes.

PARTY FOR THE BLIND.

The annual Party for the blind took place on Tuesday May 27th. at the Peoples Church, Horse Fair. Past President Rtn. David Blakey has organised the event as he has for the past 20 years, A remarkable achievement.

Twenty eight people were transported by Rotarians to the venue where they were treated to a lovely tea organised by the ladies of Inner Wheel under the direction of Linda Clarke. After the tea there was an entertainment given by "Impromptu" with a great selection of music introduced by Gareth Jeremy. Who's attempt to tell a few jokes needed a little more practice as the other members of his group derided his efforts. The audience though seemed to enjoy them. The music was of a high standard with songs from the shows and a few oldies that were appreciated by those present. A spray of flowers was then given to those attending before being returned to their homes by the Rotarian drivers.



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ROTARY MISSION CHALLENGE
“making a real difference in Sierra Leone”

Spring Bank Holiday - MAY 2008

CHRISTIAN HOPE SCHOOL, KISSY

Welcome to the latest edition of my Newsletter – especially to those of you who are new additions to the mailing list & apologies to others for any repetition of information in this edition.

In January 2007 I undertook to fund the building of a 6 classroom extension at the school at a **projected** cost of £25,000 - the reality is that the project will almost certainly cost more than the original estimate. The cost of materials in Freetown is an issue with, for instance, steel re-inforcing rods rising from 32,000 Leones in October 2007 to 50,000 Leones currently and this is obviously having an effect on the costings.



Since returning in January 2007 I have sent/taken £19,000 (including £3,000 last week) to the school. Things are really starting to take shape and the photo above shows the latest progress – you can clearly see the 6 classrooms and hopefully by the time you read this ALL 6 will be up to lintel height ready for the roofing to begin. With the rainy season fast approaching they are keen to try and get the roof on so that they can start on some internal work.

The photo below shows how the classrooms have had to be built into the hill and a lot of groundwork has had to take place which has added to the costs. However we are now going to be able to have either additional classrooms OR an open plan meeting or assembly hall under the 6 classroom block.



BANBURY ROTARY CLUB DONATE £1,000

Last week Banbury Rotary Club donated £1,000 and this takes the total raised to **£20,235** and I would like to thank the Club for this generous donation and for the ongoing support from Club members.

Thank you to the following for recent donations:

- South Newington Youth Club Quiz night
- Age Concern, Supper Club, Banbury
- Adderbury & Deddington Photographic Society
- Banbury Print & Design for sponsorship of promotional materials & laminated photographs**

STOP PRESS

This is the very latest photograph and as you can see all 6 classrooms are up to lintel height and the pillars for the verandah are nearing completion – great news.



Bwengu Projects Good News Up date 2nd May Orphan Care food Project

I felt that you all should be made aware of the following so that you can judge for your self

You may be aware that since 2006 we have been trucking in food to the village Orphan care centre. Because our main focus was in the renovation of schools we let the local management committee see to the feeding of the needy orphans and largely took a back seat.

On Tues 28th I drove up with another load to the centre, the chairman of the committee has now given us a report of the year on year numbers of orphans that have been fed.

Since Oct 2006 till 8th March 2008 8908 orphans have been fed

With the additional food I delivered this will feed a further 6,363 orphans

This now makes a total of 15,271 orphans who will have been fed.

Saying thank you to all of you that have helped us over the years seems on the face of it not quite covering the extent of what has taken place here. You have affected so many young lives that just saying thank you cannot convey our deep gratitude, of behalf of the little ones our deep thanks

Sue & Tony
From the bush 3/5/8

COUNCIL CLIPPINGS.

Here are some of the points discussed at the council meeting on May 15th.

The 2nd. V.P. Jewel now has a new bar attached engraved in memory of "Rotarian Tom Anthistle".

Proposed donations.

Christian Hope School Sierra Leone.	£1000.00
Kids Out Day. Up to	£500.00
Stroke Awareness Day To local Assn.	£100.00
Aidis Trust for a resident in Cheshire home for I.T. Equipment.	£312.90
Chernobyl Children's Visit.	£500.00

Gift Aid claim submitted for £1400.00.

STOP PRESS.



The Old Time Music Hall took place on Friday and Saturday, 30th. & 31st. May at Bloxham School. This was a resounding success with a good attendance particularly on the Saturday evening.



The Compere for the show in typical Music Hall style was Rotarian John Bennett who was ably supported by the many local acts taking part. We look forward to a full report in the next issue.

Stop Press: Approximately £2,800 was raised.

NOTE. The next bulletin will be out in early July after our Presidential handover.
Copy please .!!!!!!