



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

President John Bennett

June 2012



AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLAR CALEB GAYLE with our President John Bennett.

We were treated to a most impressive speaker on Friday 25th June. He was an Ambassadorial Scholar Caleb Gayle who is studying at Oxford and coming from Tulsa Oklahoma. Caleb was an impressive character in more ways than one, He had the physique of an American Football player, which he was, and had the presence of a Baptist Preacher, which his father is. His presentation had us all spellbound. If anyone had any doubts about the value of the Ambassadorial Scholar scheme they must have been dispelled after this presentation.

Caleb was sponsored by the Sooner Club from District 5770 a Club of over 100 members. He gave a description of his hometown, Tulsa which he said had an unpredictable climate similar to ours, so he felt quite at home here. His hometown had high levels of poverty and unemployment which bred crime and drug use. He helped to start a Youth Council to engage the young people in sport and assisting them to find employment, he also advised the City Mayor in ways to help the underprivileged. On hearing Caleb speak I am sure he had a great impact on those he was dealing with.

His future after his time at Oxford is to help alleviate poverty by working in Mexico on a Micro Business project to enable people to make products that will sell and improve their standard of living. He is also going to help with the Obama election campaign as he sees him to be a President who will make Social Care a priority.

He concluded by thanking Rotary for enabling him to come to Oxford to enhance his education.

I believe we have heard a man who in the future will make a great impact on whatever course he takes. Caleb whose family come from a poor background in Jamaica, has the skills to carry through his ambition to improve the lives of those he comes in contact with. A really impressive scholar who probably gained his skills listening to his fathers preaching.

Rotarian Martin Phillips gave an excellent vote of thanks.

David Hitchcox

John's Jotting's



President John Bennett

May 2012.

Another month of relatively few meetings for me – I'm beginning to feel guilty – although the number of Rotary related e-mails I receive and respond to seems to be on the increase. Other than Friday lunch times it's been:

Saturday 5th May: Attended the Inner Wheel Ball at BGN School and what a great evening it was. Carol and her team had put in a great deal of preparation and as well as giving their men folk a "good time" they raised over £3000.00 for their See-Saw charity.

Thursday 17th May: Seven members and six partners (Annie let Martin loose solo) headed for Gatwick at the start of the **Contact Weekend** in Biella, Italy. Our hosts had planned a wonderful weekend and were very generous with their hospitality. Although it involved quite a bit of travel, the programme was interesting and the venues excellent. If you haven't been on a Contact visit before, give it some consideration. Shirley and I have now visited each of the four countries and each time it's a case of meeting up with old friends and making some new ones – the circle gets bigger each time. Next year we return to Switzerland.

On Sunday morning we were all taken to the airport, but seven of us had decided to take an extra three days, hire a minibus and visit Ascona on Lake Maggiore, just over the Swiss border. Although the weather was a bit on the damp side, it was an enjoyable trip, in good company, no one criticised my driving too much and we were all still friends when we got back to the UK on Wednesday 23rd May. Just don't mention me getting on the wrong bus for the Gatwick car park!

For organising the Contact weekend and making all the arrangements for Ascona, I know I speak for all the weary travellers in saying a big "Thank You" to **John Hansford** for his meticulous planning – the whole trip went like clockwork. I now need a rewind.

Thursday 24th May: The drive at "97" overflowed again for the **May Council Meeting**. As ever, any details of note will be given at your next committee meeting.

And that's it – but as I write this I'm limbering up for a busy weekend. Sunday morning will see us helping to set up the tables for the Jubilee Tea Party. On Sunday afternoon we start putting up the marques and laying out the site at Broughton Castle for the Dragon Boats, ready for the big day on Monday – let's hope it's dry. But do you know what?

"It's What Rotary is All About" – See you there?

John.

LATEST NEWS.

Banbury Rotary Dragon Boats event at Broughton Castle was a great success with 100's of people attending. Twenty One teams competing on a dry and sometimes sunny day. The competition was keenly contested and was a great spectacle for those attending especially those supporting their teams and cheering them on through the heats until the final which was won by "Hawii 5 Row".

In attendance was Lord Saye and Sele who allowed us to use this beautiful venue with the Castle as a backdrop. President John Bennett presented the awards with District Governor Niall Blair in attendance.

Hawii 5 Row receiving the award from President John Bennett.

Broughton Castle.



CONTACT 55 Biella Italy

MAY 17-20 2012-SOME PERSONAL REMINISCENCES

It is a long time since I have enjoyed the sobriquet of a 'first timer', having reached the age when 'old timer' seems more appropriate.

Having signed up Pam and I for our first Contact experience and spoken with fellow Rotarians who had previously been involved with this event, I thought that I had some idea of what was going to happen. The reality was full of surprises—not least of which was that the party from our club all arriving on time and on the right day to board our flight to Milan.

On arrival at Malpensa airport our transfer buses were waiting to take us to our hotel in Biella, where we were greeted so warmly by members of the host club. The reception area was a melee of Rotarians and partners noisily making new friends and re-establishing old contacts in any one of five different languages. Being reasonably fluent in English Pam and I were soon able to join in the party atmosphere!!!

In that first hour it became clear that there would be great camaraderie and fun throughout our stay and we were not disappointed. Our hosts had taken great care and attention to ensure that their guests would be at ease and made to feel special. A beautifully printed multi-lingual 'pack' of information awaited us, including detailed timings etc for the days ahead.

A really great touch of kindness was the specially labelled Contact 55 bottles of beer that were placed in our bedrooms.



I had been warned that the days would be 'full-on' and that was no exaggeration. A champagne reception plus an eleven course meal in a local restaurant finishing some time after midnight set the scene.

Up at 0630 hours (ugh) for our later departure by coach to Stresa for a morning guided tour to the Isola Bella and Fisherman Islands in Lake Maggiore. So beautiful.

At lunch time we repaired to a local hotel, where a superb buffet and drinks were served on the roof terrace bathed in glorious sunshine with fantastic views over the lake.

Unfortunately Pam felt unwell and was unable to enjoy any of the lunch and was eventually taken to hospital. In a strange way this turn of events, although very worrying, brought home how special Rotarians are. Two Biella members, Massimo (a doctor) and Sylvio (acting as interpreter), insisted on coming to the hospital and ensured that Pam got the very best attention. I will also be eternally grateful to our own Helen Morris, (and Joe who waited so patiently for her), who stayed at the hospital until Pam was well enough to be discharged—none of us arriving back in Biella until 9.15 p.m.

I thought that our Contact visit was effectively over and whilst missing out the next day's programme in Milan, we never felt abandoned. Phone calls, visits and offers of help from concerned Rotarians and partners from all the Clubs were constantly received. We will never forget the kindness and friendship shown by everyone.

Clearly I was very disappointed not to visit Milan and miss all those opportunities to accompany Pam around the designer fashion shops!!! Every cloud has a silver lining.

On Saturday evening I did attend the final banquet with my charming hosts, Ermanno and Loretta who chaperoned me through the evening.

Whilst the Contact visit turned out to be different from that planned I would not hesitate to go again. The obvious delights of the venue and the excellent programme of events, well planned and executed, don't outshine the memories of being with like-minded individuals committed to the ideals of the Rotary movement.

I understand that the Contact activity will not appeal to everyone and changes to the format, costs etc will be debated. This is to be welcomed if only to keep the event fresh and relevant to future attendees.

Last but not least, many thanks must go to John Hansford for organising the arrangements for the Banbury contingent .All went well without a hitch.

Simon Bion



A happy group enjoying a slightly damp visit to an island on Lake Maggiore during our contact visit. Thanks to Simon for his excellent memories of our visit. The visit to Milan included a conducted tour of the famous cathedral and a buffet lunch in a local restaurant. We did wander around the very expensive designer shops, Although I did not see much purchasing to the relief of our credit cards.

D.H.

You are cordially invited to attend
The President's Summer Soirée
at Tudor Hall School Saturday 16th June 2012 7.00 for 7.30 pm
Tickets £30.00 Dress: Garden Party Casual

Let's hope it's a sunny evening, because we plan to serve Pimms on the lawn in front of the house, enjoy a little light entertainment, view some of the schools art exhibition and then proceed to the oval dining room where we will partake of the following menu:

Starter

Sliced Finest Scottish Salmon with traditional garnish & horseradish sauce.

Main Course

Roast Lamb and all the trimmings

Dessert

Vanilla Panna Cotta served with cherries in kirsch

Cheese & Biscuits

Selection of 5 cheeses served with grapes, strawberries & assorted biscuits.

Coffee & Mints

Wines, procured from S H Jones, will be just £6.00 per bottle.

If anyone has special dietary requirements, please let us know.

Shirley and I hope you and your friends can join us for a relaxed evening to celebrate the year during which I've had the pleasure to be President of the Rotary Club of Banbury.

Tickets are available from Alison Warren or John Bennett.

Speaker Report.

MARK RECCHIA

Our speaker on the 11th. May was one of our new members Rtn. Mark Recchia he gave his My Life/ My Job talk. As ever it was good to hear of one of our own members life and this was no exception.

Mark explained how his family came to York from Italy between the wars and how they settled and progressed from Ice Cream sellers, the various strands of his family working in the renowned chocolate factories and also as publicans. Mark himself had a difficult few years as a child but his own abilities gradually emerged as he took advantage of his educational opportunities. After taking various courses and eventually having an honours degree, Mark moved into local government with North Yorkshire County council. During this time he had met his future wife, Karen who came from Coventry. This was one of the reasons that Mark looked for employment in the Midlands. He applied for and gained work at Cherwell District Council as a Principal Officer in 1990. One of his roles during this time was to assist in the setting up of the Banbury Town Council. After many years working for C.D.C. the opportunity came up in 2007 for the post as Town Clerk of Banbury, Mark applied and duly took over the post on April fools day in that year.

One of his first challenges was to organise the celebration of the first Borough charter of 1608, 400 years of Banbury history. This was to be made more challenging as Her Majesty the Queen was to visit the town for this celebration.

Mark concluded stating that he had along way to go to supersede a previous Rotarian in the post of Town Clerk, Ernest Owen Reid a founder member of our Rotary Club served for 23 years from 1932 to 1955.

A vote of thanks was given by Ron Barnett after this fascinating insight into Mark's life. D.H.

Committee Reports.

Community and Vocational.

Various members have agreed to assist Andrew Fairbairn in his Kyak south coast expedition.

It is proposed to have a stall at the Dragon Boats event. We are also hoping to have a presence at both the Canal Day, and Banbury Show.

We have again been asked to run a charity event at The Old Ford Rally at Gaydon on 22 July.

Blood Pressure day is to be October 13th.

Foundation. The Club have reached their target of sending \$100.00 per member to Rotary Foundation.

Forthcoming events include:- Stephens Steaming is booked for June 17th. 2012.

Car evening at Charles Swains' on 16th. August.

Christmas Festival of Music 15th December at St Mary's Church.

Sports & Entertainment:- Golf :- Bigwood Trophy is fixed for Thursday 30th. August.

Probably going to Dogs at Oxford for an evening meeting.

Spring and Autumn Golf competitions to be arranged, also awaiting date for the 4B's competition.

International:- Andrew Fairbairn will be conducting his "The Shelterbox Olympic Challenge" from Porthleven to Weymouth with overnight stops on the way. The visit of the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra will take place at Bloxham School on Sunday 21st October. The Club has given £750 towards the toilet block at the Christian Hope School which Rtn Alan Wolstencroft is supporting. Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn reported that Alistair Welford, formerly of Toy Box, is now forming a charity to help young adults in Guatemala. It was felt that by Andrew that they would benefit from the use of Aqua Filters to improve their overall health. It was agreed to donate £500. to the visit of the Children of Chernobyl.

Youth Opportunities.

Interact, talks are on going with Blessed George Napier School to explore the possibility of setting an Interact group at the school this should commence at the start of the next academic year in September.

A sum of £500. is to be given to the B.G.N. Tall Ships expedition.

Two participants have been selected from the Frank Wise School for the next R.Y.L.A. expedition.

The dates have been fixed for Children Singing for Children , 13-15th. November 2012.

Classification & Membership.

It is proposed to have a stall at the Banbury Canal day to promote Rotary and our Club without the need for fundraising.

Treasurer's Talk.

Gift Aid Tax Refund As a result of gift aided donations made to the Trust Fund between 6th April 2011 and 5th April 2012, which totalled £5,485.61, we have received a tax refund of £1,371.40. The individual gift aided donations that we make throughout the year may be small but they all add up to a very worthwhile result.

Bloxham School Sponsorship Bloxham School have again extremely generously sponsored this year's Trust Fund activities with a donation of £1,500.

Car Insurance

Members should be aware that it is necessary to inform their car insurance company if they are involved in voluntary/charity activities as apparently this is not considered to be "social, domestic or pleasure" activities. There is some controversy about this as it appears some insurance companies simply "note" the information, but unfortunately other increase the premium.

Where the money goes

During April payments have been made to the following:

Christian Hope School - £4,500

RF(UK) - £200

Rotary Doctor Bank - £250

Leonard Cheshire Disability - £750

Dragon Boats

CDC (Event Licence) -£21

Gable Events Ltd - £6,676

Young Musician Helen Holbeck (National Finals Exps)-£200

"Free Funds" currently stand at just over £7,800

NEW E.Mail Addresses.

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HON SECRETARY –David Sullivan **CLUB WEBSITE :-** www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk

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