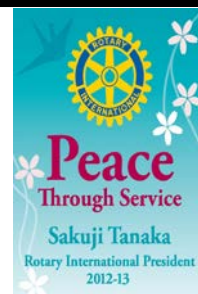




The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury



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

President Ian Rodrick

JUNE 2013

Wheelchair Appeal gets rolling in Banbury

Many of the clubs in District are taking part in Wheel Appeal which aims to raise money for WheelPower, a national charity to provide wheel chairs for disabled athletes and potential athletes. It takes the form of a relay whereby a baton (banner) is taken from club to club in District. Each club pledges to raise money for WheelPower and to pass the banner on to the next club using as many varied means of transport as possible and hopefully raising the profile of Rotary in the process. The banner was delivered to us on 17th May by The Rotary Club of Bicester. The hand over was not an unqualified success in that one of those delivering the banner to us came in a large mechanised wheelchair and it proved impossible to get this into the Masonic Hall. President Ian received the banner graciously and promised to pass it on. This happened on 21st May when it was handed over to Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club. The intention had been to use Charles Swain's Rolls Royce Corniche driven by Rotarian Nurden but unfortunately he was at the last minute called away by family health commitments. As a last minute replacement the banner was delivered by a 1952 MG TD to 6 stalwart Banbury Rotarians at the Whately Hall who in turn delivered it on to David Clarke President of

Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club in a blue wheelie bin.



The event was attended by Tony Wiltshire's son in law, himself a paralympian athlete who spoke a few words enthusiastically in support of the venture and displayed his Olympic medals. Many thanks to Charles for agreeing to lend his lovely car, to Bob for agreeing to drive it, to Tony for providing us with our own genuine paralympic medal winner and to the six members of our club who attended the hand over.

We have pledged to raise £250 for WheelPower which will be raised by our stalls at Banbury Show and the Broughton Cycle event.



Rodrick's

Ramblings

Another month gone and the End of the Rotary year will soon be upon us – something all Presidents' must have mixed feelings about.

The end of the year must be a time for reflection and thought, and in my case the preparation of a valedictory address to the Club.

This has been a month of contrasts.

It started with the contact visit to Olten which has been reported elsewhere. It was a terrific weekend of friendship, which Liz and I thoroughly enjoyed. The Olten Club did us proud in arranging a busy and interesting programme which gave us all an opportunity to mix with likeminded friends in wonderful locations.

In contrast to this was a visit with Andrew Fairbairn to Farthinghoe School. This tiny village school with less than 40 pupils had raised the funds to purchase a shelter box – a tremendous achievement of which they were justifiably proud. They were lovely youngsters. Talk about the many faces of Rotary – but that's what our movement is all about!

Banbury Rotary Contact 2013 OLTEN SWITZERLAND.

A party of 16 Rotarians and partners left Banbury on the 9th May for Olten via London Heathrow. All arrived safely and on time and boarded our B.A. flight to Zurich. On arrival and after gathering our baggage we were met by the Olten Presidents husband the ever cheerful Canadian Robert. We were then transported to our Hotel in Olten to quickly place our cases in our rooms and attend a reception on the top floor of the hotel and meet with the other attendees and our hosts. A glass or two of Champagne quickly revived us and prepared us for the evening's events. These were varied as we were all entertained at various venues by our hosts. We then returned to our hotel and some to their hosts for a well-earned nights rest. Don't mention the quarterly church bells to President Ian and Liz.

After breakfast next morning we all gathered for the trip to Solothurn. Solothurn is a very unusual mediaeval town with an imposing entrance which consisted of its original bastion and wall which guarded the town. We think of Switzerland today as a peaceful place but in olden times it was necessary to defend their towns from constant attacks. On entering we

were taken to the imposing cathedral which was painted completely in white so different to our brown stone cathedrals. This was particularly bright as it had been cleaned after an arson attack two years ago. During this attack the communion table had been destroyed and has been replaced by a most unusual table, on first glance it appeared to be covered by a damask table cloth, pleated and slightly creased, but in fact it was a most unusual carved marble table.



Our Group Looking for Heavenly Inspiration.

After visiting the cathedral we split into our language groups and taken on a conducted tour of the town. An excellent guide described the various buildings and the history of the town. We

then went to the Concert hall for a buffet lunch which was served by the local Rotaract club. We were welcomed by the Mayor of Solothurn and the Rotary District Governor Paul Meier. The afternoon was free and allowed us to meander through the streets of the town and to the beautiful riverside. We then returned to the Jesuit Church for an Organ recital, these appear to always be a necessary item of our continental visits.

There then followed the evening's entertainment our coaches took us up a very arduous trip up a steep hillside to Bluemlismatt. A fantastic view greeted us over many miles of Swiss country side. We were also greeted by a traditional Alpen Horn playing and Swiss flag waving followed by two wonderful ladies singing traditional songs. With a few glasses of wine outside in the mountain air we were prepared for the evenings happenings in a wooden hillside restaurant. The music continued with several entertainers giving us a flavour of Swiss culture. There was also an excellent buffet of traditional food and of course wine. The whole day was one of great fellowship and entertainment and a few quiet moments which allowed us all to feel rested.

Saturday and another 9.30 start, boarding the coaches to Schönenwerd the home of Bally shoes. This small town contained two museums both connected to the Bally name. The first was a shoe museum which I must admit a few of us thought might be of little interest. This proved to be wrong as it held not only the history of Bally but a display of shoes and styles through the ages including some from ancient Egypt. The displays were separated by the countries they represented footwear from China to America and throughout the world. All of this was enlivened by our guide who turned out to be a Yorkshire Lass who lapsed into broad Yorkie accent for our amusement. The second museum was one of mechanical models which were made by an employee of the Bally Company. His hobby was to construct these sometimes weird mechanical models from waste metal. They were a mixture of artistic and truly strange constructions one or two of which made our ladies giggle at the items shown particularly the one with Adam and Eve and the moving fig leaf. There were about 30 in all and our guide had each one working in turn. We were then transported to Bally Park for lunch. We approached a magnificent building in which we expected to have lunch. But no, we were instructed to go to the rear of the building where

we found trestle tables laid out for us. Near to these was an army horse drawn wagon which contained a boiler to serve food to the troops in the early 20th. Century. We soon found that this was to be our Military Lunch when we noticed the Billy cans on our tables. So it was grab your mess tin and go to the man with the ladle, dipping into the pot and filling our tins with a rich stew. This created a lot of laughter and was not as bad as it sounds. You perhaps noted that I said we were at Bally Park, well this turned out to be a retail park which contained various stores which included designer names and of course Bally. A few of our party were tempted to purchase, as some of us looked on hoping it was not going to cost us too much. The rest of the afternoon was leisurely enabling us to prepare for the evening.

The gala evening took place in the Stadtheater with a drinks reception which allowed us to catch up and talk with friends made over many years. We were then ushered into the main hall where the first attraction was group of young children entertaining us dancing as butterflies. We then had an excellent dinner which was interspersed with music from the talented musicians who were to entertain us all evening. The first to play was a composer and talented pianist who looked very much like Max Wall with long hair at the back and very little at the front. His playing was of the highest standard. This was followed by his wife who also played the piano and sang. It transpired that she was the Swiss entry in the 1986 Eurovision Song Contest and came second. This talent was still evident in her performance. We also had a few words from two of the visiting Presidents including our own Ian Rodrick who spoke with his usual wit and humour. After the dinner there was now time for dancing and the two previous performers were joined by their son playing drums. The Father went on to play keyboards and his wife Daniel Simmonds continued to sing. There was an immediate invasion of the dance floor with this very talented trio playing music for dancing.

The evening finished a little after midnight with everyone having enjoyed an excellent evening of fellowship and fun.

In the morning it was time to say our farewells and invite friends to meet us in Banbury next year. Some of our own party continued in Switzerland and went to the Sonne Hotel on Lake Zurich for another three days of Fun and fellowship, but that's another story.

David Hitchcox

Speaker Reports.

Ken Dalston – Friday 22nd March 2013

Ken Dalston is a retired Midland Bank Regional Personnel Manager and he came along to give a Talk about his life as a Puppeteer entitled – “That’s The Way To Do It.”

He saw a Punch and Judy Show on the sands at Clacton on Sea when he was about 8 years old and from a very early age wanted to be a Punch and Judy man having made his first puppet from an old Teddy Bear. He gave puppet shows in the garden and charged 1 penny entrance fee with a glass of orange provided. He built a dog kennel and when he asked his father who was home on leave during the war if he could have a puppy dog, he heard his dad having a row about his wish with his Mother in their bedroom that night and then nine months later his brother was born! He didn’t get a puppy dog but his younger brother had to suffer watching all the shows that Ken did in the garden. In the end his Grandfather helped him make his portable canvas booth.

At 12 years old he made all the puppets and had his first professional job for 7/6d at a church garden fete in Heston and then at 16 whilst continuing to perform his Punch and Judy, his parents encouraged him to have a safe, secure job with Midland Bank where he was employed for his entire career passing all his banking exams, but in 1990 when he took early retirement he created his own business “Kendal Entertainments” undertaking full time puppetry, “Punch and Judy Shows” and “Hand in Glove Puppet Workshops.”

Ken told us about lots of experiences where he had enjoyed giving his Punch and Judy shows all over this country and abroad and then showed us lots of examples of how to make puppets from recycled rubbish with paper plates, plastic bottles and bags with simple attachments and after a super entertaining talk he showed how to easily create a puppet – in a few minutes which became a lovely looking working dog from odd bits of material.

The charity Ken supports in the Shooting Star Chase Children’s Hospice for all the children that could not enjoy his puppetry and was grateful for the donation that the members made. “That Really is the Way to Do It”
Helen Morris.

Our speakers on the 19th. April.

Anyone who has seen the spoof flight disaster movie Airplane could be forgiven for panic when flying, but after our speaker guests Aileen Hawkins and Philip Sherer appeared in their full BA uniform, I for one was totally reassured.

The ideal team of attractive cabin director and annoyingly handsome pilot makes a formidable combination.

The total professionalism from the pre-flight checks to the handling of

passengers was very impressive. Aileen has looked after numerous personalities including royalty and pop stars whilst Philip flies the very latest addition to the BA fleet to all the long haul destinations A really great talk and a possible for the evening meeting in the future.
Rtn. Malcolm Douglas

SOUTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE SERVICE.

We were visited on 10th May by two ambulance members from the South Central Ambulance Service who came to give us an overview of their role and also that of the service in general. Ironically these two gentlemen were on “light duties” because of injuries sustained in the course of their work which underlined the sometimes hazardous conditions that ambulance crews face.

The area covered by this division was of 3550 square miles, and covered the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Hampshire which has a combined population of 4 million people. The service dealt with emergency calls that are relayed to them by their controllers, provided Community First Responders to accidents and emergencies, and provided commercial services which included logistics and training. The range of these services included providing the 111 service for “out of hours” and emergency aid in their area which, we were informed, was the model used as “best practice” for the rest of the country, and which other area service providers were to copy when aspiring to give this 111 service to the public.

Career opportunities existed in many areas. There were 999 and 111 call handlers who were based in operational control rooms. These people took the emergency calls and decided the level of response that was required.

Patient Transport Services Call Handlers were another level of the services provided, and these employees dealt directly with the public in allocating transport for appointments at hospitals and other NHS facilities and making

optimum use of the transport available. These call handlers were responsible for monitoring the transport during the day to ensure all was running smoothly and dealing with any problems as they arose.

Ambulance Care Assistants were another step upwards on the ladder. These personnel were the drivers who took outpatients to appointments and also to day care centres. They also took patients to routine hospital admissions when requested.

Emergency Care Assistants were the next level in the hierarchy and these personnel worked closely with clinicians and responded to 999 calls with Ambulance Technicians or Paramedics. They could assist at emergencies with care and treatment under supervision, and could also be trained to drive the ambulance. They progressed in the service to the role of Technician who was the senior member of any two person crew and took charge of an accident or incident scene in the absence of a Paramedic. It was this person who assessed casualties for the seriousness of their injuries and the requirement of First Aid. They could also be the person who arrived in the response car at any emergency and they were expected to undertake training to Paramedic status.

The highest level that could be obtained was that of Paramedic which was very close to being a Doctor. Paramedics were the senior person at any emergency attended and could go on to be trained to be an Emergency Clinical Practitioner who administered drugs and high levels of care at a accident scene and could also progress to being part of the Air Ambulance crew.

The South Central Ambulance Service had been awarded the "Service of the Year" award for 2012 and was justly proud of this accolade as it gave an assurance to the public that they were in safe hands in this area if they ever called upon the emergency services.

Altogether a very enlightening talk in a very short time span which provoked many questions that continued after the proceedings had been concluded. Rotarian Webb proposed a vote of thanks to our speakers who were congratulated in the usual manner.

John Webb

Dr Nicholas Baldwin – Wroxton Abbey.

Fifth Friday evening meetings are a mixed blessing, we can invite speakers who need more time than is available at our lunch meetings, but for a variety of reasons attendance is much lower than for normal meetings. This was certainly the case on 31st May which a great shame as our speaker was up with the best, and this intends no disrespect for others but he was exceptional.

Using notes but rarely he sketched out the history of Wroxton Abbey from its beginnings as an Augustine Abbey in 1217, through the Reformation period when one of Henry viii's commissioners, ironically himself a pope, Sir Thomas Pope in fact, sacked the abbey and his family took possession of it and virtually razed it to the ground, then in 1580 it was passed to the North family, relations of the Popes. They started to re-build the property and in three distinct stages between then and 1672 the building very much as we see it today was built. The North family lived there until 1932, the most famous member being Lord North who was MP for Banbury and Prime Minister from 1770 to 1782, often described as the worst Prime Minister we ever had. In Dr Baldwin's opinion this is unfair, he believes that Lord North was a very able politician whose reputation suffered due to the failure of the British Army to defeat the colonists in America in 1776 which lead to their independence. The title ceased in 1932 when the last Lord North died with no male

heir and the entire estate became the property of Trinity College, Oxford this being a condition of the loan to the North family by Sir Thomas Pope in 1580.

In 1963 the Fairly Dickinson University of New Jersey purchased the Abbey building and much of the estate and in 1965 they opened as a British off-shoot of that university. Dr Baldwin has been there since 1984 though at first in a limited tutoring role. Since then the college has progressed from being open for a limited number of courses operating about nine months of the year, to now offering 27 different academic programmes ranging from 2 weeks to full semesters of 17 weeks and open operating 47 weeks of the year. The vast majority of the students are Americans and all the subjects are taught by British tutors in the British style so that the students receive a true taste of British education. Dr Baldwin is the only full time tutor but he draws in tutors from many fields including such luminaries as former senior civil servants and government officials such as Lord Butler. The students visit many educational and cultural venues from Stratford-upon-Avon to the sites in Belgium and France of battles in the two world wars. The intention is to thoroughly immerse them in British culture and history. One can only imagine the amazement of these young people when they first arrived and found they were living in an historic building such as Wroxton Abbey.

Dr Baldwin did not lay claim for any credit for the development of the college though it is clear that

much of the credit is due to him and his leadership as Dean, a post which he has now held for over twenty years. In answer to questions from members and guests, he told of the priceless painted glass by van Lingen in the window of the chapel, the beautiful wood carvings around the house but particularly in the chapel. He told how from a building with bedrooms for about 40 with 8 bathrooms, they can now accommodate 70 students mainly in single

rooms, but a few twin and all with en suite facilities, all this without in any way damaging its grade one listed building status.

After the meeting Dr Baldwin was approached to enquire whether a tour of the Abbey for our members would be possible, he readily agreed. If such a visit is arranged I would strongly recommend this to all.

Maurice Humphris.

Committee Reports.

Community and Vocational.

The "Help for Hero's" concert with Banbury Symphony Orchestra will be held on 13th. July at St Mary's Church. See John Bennett for tickets.

Foundation.

Stephens Summer Steaming to be held again this year.

Sports & Entertainment.-

A trip to the Bloomsbury Theatre has been organised.

The Bigwood Trophy is to take place on 27th August.

International:-

The Banbury Show "It's a Knockout" Competition will be run again this year, it is hoped to have 24 teams taking part. Andrew Fairbairn would like more suggestions for teams he can contact to take part.

Youth Opportunities. Youth Exchange, a candidate has been interviewed and submitted to the District organiser. RYLA, Calvert Trust two young people have gone to Exmore on this course. School interviews are on schedule.

NEW MEMBER



**Rotarian Gilbert Csecs.
Classification:- Wholesale Clothing.**

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Please note that with immediate effect the R.I.B.I. Insurance Brokers are now:-
Bartlett & Company Ltd.

Contacts are:- Robert Day, Senior Commercial Broker, 0113 258 5711

Eddie Townsend, Business Manager, 0113 259 2563

E.Mail: rbi@bartlettgroup.com

Sutton Winston will complete any existing claims but all future claims and queries to be dealt with by
Bartlett and Co.

HON SECRETARY –David Sullivan

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