



# The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury  
Rotary International  
Club No. 19229 District 1090  
President John Hansford



[www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)

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June 2014

## The June Diary

- 4<sup>th</sup> Community & Vocational Service Committee Meeting
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sports and Entertainment Committee Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> Banbury & District Show
- 11<sup>th</sup> Classification, Membership & PR Committee Meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> Foundation Committee Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting
- 17<sup>th</sup> International Committee Meeting
- 18<sup>th</sup> Youth Service Committee Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting - Club Assemble
- 21<sup>st</sup> Super Summer Solstice Splash
- 25<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting
- 26<sup>th</sup> Practice Interviews Warriner
- 27<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting - Retiring President's Valedictory
- 28<sup>th</sup> District Handover

## For He's a Jolly Good Paul Harris Fellow



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May was another special day for both our Club and Rotarian Fred Riches as he was made a Paul Harris Fellow for the magnificent work he's undertaken on behalf of Rotary.

On being awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship...

Ron asked me to put together a piece to explain what I'd done during my time at Rotary that had led to the award. Oh dear, I thought, but here goes...

Firstly, may I just attempt to summarise the sudden mix of emotions that went through me as it dawned on me what President John was talking about as Sue, my wife, emerged from the kitchen a couple of Fridays ago - shock, surprise, amazement, unworthiness, confusion, gratitude, pride all rolled into one!

I hope I managed to express at the time, in a brief, spontaneous and inimitably muddled way, how much of an honour I feel it is to be given this award by the Club. As I see it, all I've "done" is share a couple of ideas, and then, once the Club accepted they might work, I've worked as hard as I could, when I could, for many hours, to make sure they became successful.

Additionally, I've tried to ensure that they develop as quickly as possible from being an individual member's wheeze to becoming a working group/team project - to being seen as a Rotary Club of Banbury Event.

Anything I have "done" as an individual came to fruition only because of the incredible support of Club members. It's the willingness and readiness of fellow Rotarians to get behind the ideas, give time, share talents, and work together that has led to the "Children Singing for Children" thirteen-year run by local primary schools and to the "Crocus Concerts" by local secondary schools taking off.

What I think is really great about these two events is that they support schools, they support teachers, they support children singing, they make best use of the brilliant performing space that St Mary's Church presents, they support local and international charities, and they showcase the spirit of Service that characterises what's best about Rotary.

To return to Ron's Request: "Would you be kind enough to let me have a write up about what you've done during your time in Rotary that has led to the award..."

What do I think I have actually done that's turned out a bit special? I suppose in the last analysis it's twice (2001/2 and 2013/4) taking the plunge - accepting personal responsibility for an unknown, ever-expanding workload with no guarantee quite what was involved! And twice finding I'd initiated a successful project that raised the profile of Rotary across the community and highlighted our own Club's efforts to support the worldwide Rotary commitment to the eradication of Polio.

During each of those years I liaised with headteachers and staff in all our local schools and involved our partners in the projects - sponsors, local councils, musicians, LiveArts volunteers, media and so on - all the while ensuring that a working group of fellow Rotarians had essential roles to play and that as many members as possible could play a part in the outcome. By taking a personal lead in the initial year of "Children Singing for Children" I was able to know how the whole thing worked and could thereafter share the leadership - and where necessary take a year off!

What's involved? Crafting letters and responses, striking an encouraging tone when persevering with negotiations via email and phone over several months, holding it all in your head, managing the difficulties that arise, hiding disappointment and irritation when something goes awry - and

remembering all along that the effort is worth the while because of the inherent goodness of the whole project - for both givers and receivers, participants and recipients.

So - thank you to everyone who's helped make them happen - especially those who've taken a lead or responsibility for various aspects of each project and made them genuine team efforts - Jonathan, Alan, Phil, Ian, Bernard, Johnx3, Stephen and Martin to name but a few!

Finally, two specific 'thank-yous' - to Gareth for inviting me to join in 2001, and to Martin for having the foresight a few years back to replace my proffered resignation at a time of duress with a long-term leave of absence!

Fred Riches

## *District Assembly*



Eight members of our club made an impressively early start to attend the District Assembly meeting in Henley on Saturday morning 10<sup>th</sup> May.

After a welcome coffee and the usual admin' announcements by Secretary Greg Wilkinson, DG John Greening gave a brief opening speech then made the day for the Banbury contingent by presenting our own Alan with a cheque from District for £2000 towards his projects in Africa.

Everyone in the hall applauded this and of course Alan's appropriate acceptance and reply. A splendid start to the proceedings!

DG elect Tim Cowling then set out the District Themes and Emphases for the next Rotary year. RI's theme is "Light Up Rotary" and Tim talked about this but also extended the concept to "Lighten Up Rotary" as his message for District.

He set out his own targets and ambitions for the year, including a 5% increase in membership which has been declining in District in recent years. He is also seeking larger contributions for the effort to eradicate polio - some Clubs in District appear to

have made little contribution so far. He mentioned the District boundary changes presently under consideration which, if they go ahead, will increase our size to more or less what it was some years ago as District 109.

The District Team were then introduced individually, followed by the Committee Chairmen setting out their stalls for the year.

Helen McKinnon of the charity SeeSaw was then introduced to speak about the support that it gives to children trying to cope with bereavement. Following the talk, Tim stated his intention to carry out a series of Sponsored Runs in the District in support of SeeSaw and in his mother's memory, having revealed that she had died when he was only four years old.

A presentation on the next District conference in Telford from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015 then brought the first part of the Assembly to a close and, following an interval for sustenance in the form of more coffee and rolls, we split up to attend "Breakout" Group Sessions. These were:

"Presidents, VPs and Assistant Governors" - attended by Phil Cavill and Ian Calderbank.

"Secretaries and Treasurers" - attended by Mark Recchia and David Hitchcox.

"Membership and MPRC (Communications)" - attended by John Hansford.

"Foundation and International" - attended by Ron Barnett, Alan Wolstencroft and Andrew Fairbairn, and at which both Alan and Andrew made presentations.

"Youth, Community and Vocational Services"

Our attendees above can no doubt provide more detailed information for these Sessions to anyone who requires it. There was no formal "plenary" closing of the Assembly but it all came to an end at about 1.00 pm, and we headed back to Banbury after an interesting and rewarding morning, particularly for Alan!

Ian Calderbank.

## *Party for the blind and partially sighted*



On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May the Club hosted our annual party for 30 guests at the Methodist church in Marlborough Road.

The advance troops of Rotarians and other volunteers arrived promptly at 3pm to be drilled, by the boss, Helen Braisby, into a smooth, efficient team of multi-taskers who showed that it is possible to be skilled at erecting and laying tables as well as acting, later in the day, as supremely confident food servers/washer-uppers.

Thanks to the other team of Rotarian chauffeurs our guests all arrived in time to have a really fabulous tea of, amongst other things, freshly made sandwiches and fabulous varieties of cakes including a scrumptious, hot from the oven, Cornish heavy cake. Our sincere thanks go to Pat and Malcolm Dibb for all the enormous work in providing the catering.

The mayor of Banbury, Cllr. Sean Woodcock, was kind enough to attend the whole event and spent a great deal of time circulating amongst the party-goers and hearing some truly fascinating stories. He was particularly thrilled to meet George who had played for Stockport County as a professional footballer from 1936-38 being paid the princely sum of £10 per week.

A full hour of entertainment was provided through the auspices of Fred Riches who called upon his family and Florence the winner of our Young Musician of the Year. What a superb show and these sentiments were expressed in a vote of thanks both from the guests and the Mayor.

Of course behind the scenes the hall was cleared, the washing up done and everything put away and once the carriages had returned to take our guests home, we were able to reflect upon a very successful evening. Our thanks go to all the Rotarians who helped make the party truly special.

A very special thanks should be extended to Helen Braisby who pretty much did all the organising plus making the posies of flowers for each attendee to take home.

Here's to next year - Simon Bion



## Calendar Girls



### THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING 69

What does the W.I. and the Rotary Club of Banbury have in common? According to Tricia Stewart of Calendar Girls fame (one of the original 12), an average age of 69! Should we be twinned?

Tricia provided us with a fascinating and informative recollection of an idea which, when originally conceived, her group anticipated might (hopefully) sell 200 calendars to friends and family but mushroomed into a fundraising spectacular through tens of thousands of sales, a film, a stage show and in excess of £4m raised for the charity Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. Her presentation was full of humour and self-deprecating (down to earth) wit. Clearly Tricia is not one for taking herself too seriously despite TV and Radio appearances both in the UK and world-wide, not to say mixing with Royalty and Film stars. What an inspiration!

This was the culmination of the fundraising via the 2013 Tour de Trigs event for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. Whilst not all the figures have been calculated yet, this should have generated funds approaching £3,000. Preliminary ideas for the charity aspect of the 2014 tour are already being discussed.

Many thanks to Tricia Stewart, all who attended and helped, the Town Mayor for providing the venue, and to Paul Clement (Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell) and Jeremy Wilton for their much appreciated input into fundraising and promotion.

On a day on which the Club also supported the Rotaract Club of Langley and Iver at their Family Fun Day in aid of a local hospice and ShelterBox, perhaps we can reflect on the advantages of effective communication whereby the whole can exceed the sum of the constituent parts i.e. together with others we can make a greater difference than on our own.

Andrew Fairbairn

## Speaker Reports

### Long Serving Member – Graham Anker



Graham's family can be said truly to be residents of Banburyshire, he told the club that he was able to trace the Anker family back to 1642 when his ancestors lived around Cropredy. His Father was Banbury born as too was his mother, she being born at 32, High Street. Following their marriage in 1938 they moved to Bloxham Road where Graham was born in 1946, one year after his father became president of this club. He had an older brother John, and a younger sister Rosemary.

Graham's early years were blighted by polio which he contracted at the age of five. This led to some months spent in an isolation hospital in Oxford. Sadly his older brother John went down with TB and meningitis which caused him to become profoundly deaf. This did not prevent him qualifying as a Civil Engineer, working for Oxfordshire and Yorkshire County Councils, it also led to his early death at 50.

Graham claimed not to be an academic though his spread of subjects sounded pretty fair and were certainly good enough for his entry into the Surveying and Estate Agency profession. At school though he excelled at 'The Plunge'. This involved diving into swimming pool and travelling as far as possible under water without moving arms or legs! He also enjoyed his time in the army cadets at one time even helping to blow up a bridge.

For two years after leaving school he worked for his father in the family insurance company, then in 1964 he joined Buckell and Ballard in Oxford where he worked alongside Paul Lester, both of them qualified as Chartered Surveyors and in later years worked in Banbury. Graham qualified first as a Chartered Auctioneer and Estate Agent. After five years working in Oxford he returned to Banbury working in the Buckell and Ballard office and a few years later became manager, later with

responsibility also for their offices in Brackley, Bicester, Chipping Norton and Kidlington. However they were taken over by Lloyds Bank as the Blackhorse Agencies and Graham, believing in personal service, left to set up his own firm in 1984. At its peak there were 5 partners and a staff of 20.

From childhood Graham has been interested in magic and he became an accomplished magician, a member of the Magic Circle and at one time President of the Leamington and Warwick Magic Society. He has performed at many local functions and charitable events, some years giving as many as 60 performances. He still dabbles and this year he will be entertaining our contact visitors. His other public interests have included 'The Felons' or The Neithrop Association for the Protection of Persons and Property of which he was Chairman for 10 years.

He has been an active member Banbury Round Table No. 379 and Chairman in 1978/9. He has also been an active member of this club since 1982 and he was President in 2003/4. His main interest now is Freemasonry and he is member of several lodges and a Past Master of the Cherwell Lodge.

Some years after the breakdown of his marriage of 38 years, he met and in 2006 married Leueen. They both love to travel and have enjoyed holidays in many countries. In any spare time he has Graham turns his hand to practical work of many kinds, refurbishing two cottages himself, assisting with two others and supervising the modernization of three houses.

A very interesting and varied life, fully lived. On a personal note, one of life's true gentlemen.

Maurice Humphris

*Ruth Champion – LARK*



LARK - Link arms with Rescued Kids

Ruth Champion, the current Chair of this UK registered charity and Libby Fuller (wife of former Club member David Fuller) joined us to speak about their work with the charity that was formed in 2005 and is based locally in Kings Sutton.

The charity's origins date back to one of the Kings Sutton Baptist Church's congregation members visiting a war torn Kenya in the early 2000's and recognising the excellent work undertaken at a local Rescue Centre supporting orphaned, street children suffering abuse. On his return to the UK he outlined the awful conditions in Kenya, at that time, resulting from the civil war and the obvious need to fund protection for the children who were suffering wide ranging abuse, principally at the hands of warring soldiers. The rest is history as they say!

Since 2005 the Kings Sutton Church have raised substantial sums that have been transferred to the Rescue Centre in Kenya to provide daily food, increase the accommodation on site, provide primary, secondary education and vocational training for the young people. The result - the Centre has flourished and cared for and supported increasing numbers of young children. As an example Lark forwarded some £14k earlier this year to fund a new' and independent 'girls' dormitory alongside that provided for the boys who have been rescued.

The charity has been successful in increasing membership within the UK and can now claim that circa 50% of its members are spread throughout the country, therefore substantially improving its fund raising potential. At the present time the charity is committed to transferring £4k per month to the Rescue Centre every other month on the basis that this amount will cover two thirds of the monthly overhead expenses.

The Rescue Centre is based in the town of Eldoret that is the administrative centre of the Uasin Gishu District in the western part of the country. It was founded in 1910, during the colonial era principally as a form of Post Office support for national and local communication purposes. It remains primarily an administrative rather than touristic location. It is situated in one of the poorest areas of the country and inhabited by the Nandi tribe. At the time of the civil war differences arose within the population, when an election was held and won by one of the principal tribes in the country. The Nandi population did not agree with the outcome - hence the bitterness and abuse that was seen.

A full time manager and support staff are employed to manage the twenty acre leased site that is in use. Over time and with the assistance of LARK new brick buildings have been added to replace former dilapidated wooden and corrugated ones. The Rescue Centre is a safe refuge for about 200 children and young people who had previously been living on the streets.

Its focus is rehabilitation and it provides a safe, caring environment, health care, counselling and education - key to enabling the young people to gain independence and to grow into useful, productive members of Kenyan society. It is an exciting, challenging place, dealing as it does with children rejected by society - abandoned through extreme poverty, orphaned, and those who have run away from an abusive situation.

Children are carefully assessed by trained permanent staff and if accepted are washed, health checked and given new second hand clothes. Some children are returned to their families should they or their parents attempt to 'play the system'.

A further dormitory for street mothers has been added recently alongside workshops for vocational training intended to provide skills development - carpentry, motor repairs, bread making, sewing and horticulture.

As a result of these efforts Ruth indicated the Centre is now self-sufficient in food and further funds are raised locally from the sale of products in the local markets.

Whilst the Centre continues to rely on LARK for funding for its major projects the original objective of providing protection for young people has resulted in the children cared for becoming fit and healthy, skilled, better educated and potentially more self-sufficient personally, hopefully becoming respected, responsible citizens in the future.

An excellent outcome from small beginnings and the generous commitment of Kings Sutton's Baptist Church.

Bernard Goodchild



## *How does The Rotary Foundation promote world peace?*

### Scholarships (formerly Peace Fellowships)

1999 saw the establishment of centres in leading universities worldwide for studies in Peace in North America, International Christian University in Japan, University of Queensland in Australia, Uppsala University in Sweden and University of Bradford in England.

Candidates, who must already be graduates, are put forward by Clubs to their District, which must approve the application. If approved, applications are then forwarded to Rotary International, which will select up to sixty people worldwide to participate in the programme each year. Applicants, who then undertake a Master's degree, show commitment to promoting of their lives.

In 2005 a further programme was approved for a shorter course at the Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. Twice each year thirty participants undertake the three month professional development Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies. This course is of a more practical than academic nature, and participants come from occupations closely related to fields where study of conflict resolution would be particularly beneficial.

The Rotary Foundation's Global Fund (see April Buletin) funds the costs of these Scholarships, so that there is no cost to any District. To date over four hundred Fellows have taken part in twenty-nine different countries in the newer and shorter programme.

### Vocational Training Teams

Under this programme, introduced worldwide in July 2013, Rotary Clubs and Districts may suggest members for a travelling team of a Rotarian Team Leader and, usually, two or three Team Members (non-Rotarians), who travel to another country for a few weeks to train other people or to be trained in their vocational area or interest.



The range of projects undertaken, as well as the ages of members of the Team, are much wider than afforded by previous Rotary Foundation grant mechanisms. The visit is also a chance to forge links to develop partnerships which may lead to humanitarian projects, and/or a Vocational Training Team may be attached to an existing humanitarian project to ensure that the financial scope reaches or exceeds the budget minimum for Global Grant Funding (currently c. \$30,000).

An example from 2014 was District 1090's inaugural Vocational Training Team of UK medical professionals, led by the sitting District International Committee Chair, who visited a maternity hospital in Uganda to train the medical staff there and to equip the hospital with sustainable facilities, in particular contributing to Rotary International's stated goal of improving global maternal and child health. (one of the Six Areas of Focus).

All costs of a Vocational Training Team are borne from District money (the District Grant), although further grant assistance from the Global Fund is available following a successful Global Grant application.

This is another example of how Rotarians' and their Clubs' contribution to the Rotary Foundation actually does a tremendous amount of "Good in the World", and underlines, once again, the importance of giving as generously as possible every year to the Annual Programmes Fund of our CHARITY. Our contributions, which helped fund District 1090's Vocational Training Team in 2014, directly helped save and prolong mothers' and children's LIVES in Africa.

## *Around the Committees*

### *Sports & Entertainment*

The year's program is now complete and Nigel Yeadon and his committee were thanked for the excellent events so far. Nigel has had some good suggestions for 2014/15 and is working on the itinerary.

### *Programme*

Helen Morris was thanked for her good work, speakers booked until end June and she has started to plan for the new Rotary Year. Council members were asked to assist where possible with speaker suggestions to Helen.

### *Community & Vocational*

Age UK have requested help with stewarding Jazz @ Broughton Castle on 11<sup>th</sup> July. Two people required, announcement at Lunch meeting proposed. Stewards also needed for Banbury Show on 8<sup>th</sup> June, ensure board is circulated again at next two meetings. Working on dates for Xmas Barrel Organ collections - Aldi have been approached.

### *International*

Rotarian Andrew Fairbairn was thanked for organising the very good Calendar Girls evening, confirmed approx £1,000 raised for Leukemia and Lymphoma charity. Alan Wolstencroft thanked the Club & District for the support and donations he has received for Sierra Leone projects.

### *Youth Services*

Reg McLean said his committee had considered 3 local and 2 International Charities to receive Children Singing for Children donations in 2014, and the Youth committee recommended 180 Degrees and Waterloo School Sierra Leone and these were confirmed by Council. Rotarian Nigel Randall has two Frank Wise students attending Calvert Trust / RYLA this week, and speakers will be arranged for later in the year.

### *Foundation*

Request for £1,500 to be donated to End Polio from committee funds, agreed to be put to Club. This will take total for year to a magnificent £6,500.

### *Membership & PR*

Good progress being made on an updated Club Website, Facebook & Twitter pages. Some questions raised about Leave of absence and Attendance. It was confirmed that LOA should be requested if members were likely to miss 4 consecutive meetings.

### *Rotaract / Interact*

BGN School Club now back on track and some interest shown from the Warriner School in forming a new club. Learning from BGN is to have a mix of year groups to avoid all members leaving at the end of an academic year.

### *Contact Club*

Arrangements and Programme now complete, Club hosts will be sent helpful notes on procedures, timings and protocol. There are fewer Banbury

members supporting the event this year resulting in some hosting multiple guest couple/families. We need to understand why this has occurred and what can be done to improve participation in future.

### *Council*

Phil confirmed the Rotary Branded Gazebo, (3x3 metres), table & cover, flags and pull ups have been ordered. Delivery expected in time for the Banbury Show on 8<sup>th</sup> June. Cherwell Club are contributing 50% of costs.

D.G. John Greening had acknowledged receipt of £100 donation to Hillingdon Mencap Pool.

District Assembly attended by 7 club members. A grateful Alan Wolstencroft was presented with a cheque for £2,000 towards the Waterloo School project by the District Conference Committee. Assembly was very good, key points will be reported in the Club Bulletin.

President John is meeting Jane Miles at Katherine House Hospice on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 2.30 pm to progress the Big Project idea and present the Xmas Organ Collection cheque.

Feedback from the Party for the Blind had been very good, 30 plus people attended. Thanks were given to Helen Braisby for her excellent organisation, Malcolm & Pat Dibb for high quality catering and all members who helped to make it such a success.

Planning for the new Rotary year was in hand, Shadow Council will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June at Wroxton House Hotel, 7.00 pm. Club Assembly is planned for 20<sup>th</sup> June, Asst D.G. Keith Crawford will be in attendance.

There was a discussion about procedures and nominations for Associate / Honorary Membership.

Free Funds are currently £2075. The proposal to increase the advertising Levy to £5 was defeated at RI Conference and they had failed to approve the existing levy of £2.75. Recommendation now is for Clubs to spend the £2.75 per head on local initiatives to raise the profile of Rotary. For our Club this equated to approx' £200 - Membership Committee to consider options and make recommendations. The program advertising money has now been allocated to Committee accounts £300 each.

### *A true Entrepreneur*



After many years of campaigning for free town centre car parking the police had to direct traffic when Rtn. Malcolm Douglas opened the first UK drive-in facility at his men's wear emporium.

### *The Month in Pictures*







## *Weekly Meeting Duties for June 2014*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&amp;H in charge</u>
6 June	S. Dhesi B. Doe M. Douglas A. Fairbairn B. Gardner B. Goodchild	J. Donaldson H. Matthews	D. Blakey	R. Kipping
13 June	T. Iles N. Halfpenny S. Kershaw O. Kyffin K. Manning S. Maxwell	A. Ilott H. Matthews	T. Taylor	D. Sullivan
20 June	J. Meredith A. McHugh H. Morris R. Nurden M. Nutt M. Phillips	R. McLean H. Matthews	J. Cooke	S. Crump
27 June	G. Pollard N. Randall M. Recchia I. Rodrick J. Smith R. Thompson	F. Riches P. Shea	D. Barlow	M. Humphris

PLEASE REMEMBER - If you are unable to carry out your duties as shown above, it is your responsibility to arrange a substitute and amend the list. This applies to all duties, including table duties.

## *Speaker Programme for June/July*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
6 June	Jason Ferguson	Snooker	Peter Williams
13 June	Wendy Biddington	Green Pasture Nursing Home	Tony Wiltshire
20 June		Club Assembly	
27 June	John Hansford	Retiring President's Valedictory	
4 July	Philip Cavill	Presidential Handover	
11 July	Matthew Titman	Portrait of My Years at Sheffield University	Michael Budd
18 July	Brian Cornley	Longer Serving Member	Bob Nurdon
25 July	Paul Clement	40 years of Sandwich Bashing	Simon Bion