



**President Roger Worrall**

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## **HAITI DISASTER APPEAL BANBURY ROTARY CLUB - HAITI SHELTERBOX APPEAL**

Banbury Rotarians, with support from Banbury Cherwell, collected for 3 days in January and raised **£4,578** for Shelterbox and everyone involved in the collections was amazed by the fantastic response.

On the first day we were approached in Castle Quay by a teacher who asked if “we did” school presentations? What a good idea – yes we could arrange that – and the rest as they say is history.

So far we have undertaken presentations in 9 local schools and attended fundraising events at 2 local primary schools and the response has been unbelievable – so far the donations received are:

- Harriers Ground, Banbury  
£490.00
- St Leonards, Banbury  
£490.00
- St Loys, Weedon Lois  
£980.00
- Bishop Carpenter, North Newington  
£680.00 (plus £70 Gift Aid)
- Alice Mitchell, Deddington primary school  
£ 88.00

We have a firm pledge of **£490** from Hanwell Fields School and are currently awaiting the cheque.

Kings Sutton School held a fundraiser on 27th February and have agreed to fund at least one Box.

We are erecting the Shelterbox tent and a display for the Sibford School assembly on Friday March 5th, at the request of the Head, and leaving it in place for the Young Musician event the following evening.

The Bell @ Great Bourton held a coffee morning which we attended and raised £531.00 for the appeal.

We have sent cheques for **£8,330** to Shelterbox which funds **17** Shelterboxes

Sweet Memories, Parsons Street are raffling a Giant Easter Egg for our Shelterbox appeal @ Easter!!

Rotarians Fairbairn, Webb & Wolstencroft visited Shelterbox HQ at Helston on Saturday 13th February to find out more about the set up and handed over a presentation cheque to Shelterbox

on for **£9,800 - 20 Shelterboxes** and we are confident that this total will be surpassed especially as Club has agreed to “top up” to the next complete box when we reach a cut off date.



Many thanks to ALL the Rotarians who helped with the street collections and/or made donations to the Shelterbox appeal – this proactive approach has certainly raised the profile of Shelterbox and Banbury Rotary Club within the local area.

A Wolstencroft

### My Job/My Life – Paul Gardiner.

Once again a talk by one of our own members proved to be absorbingly interesting. Paul gave a very full account of his working life, spoke openly about his personal life and his community involvement. The attention given and the numerous questions which followed bore testimony to the interest to which Paul's life story gave rise. He revealed that he was born an Essex Welshman, an interesting combination. More of his personal life later.

Born in Essex but with one Welsh parent Paul reckons that he has heard most jokes about inherited traits. He rose through the grammar school system eventually to move to the land of his fathers graduating from the University of Cardiff with a degree in chemistry. This took him initially to Expandite, a subsidiary of Burmah/ Castrol which manufactured sealants. Watching sealants weather on roofs for an inordinate time might well explain why, after only two years, Paul moved on to Ever Ready batteries at their central laboratories in Harringey working with many other chemists and mechanical engineers carrying out research and development on battery systems and how to manufacture them.

Much of this on the development of alkali/manganese batteries which in the late '70s led him to one of the Ceramic Engineering factories in Banbury, largely owned by Ever Ready. He then helped to install small factory units in Florence, Cologne and Newcastle, paying regular visits to them which were welcomed by the Italians, with “now you are here we do not need to worry”; resented by the Germans because he knew more than them ; but he was unsure about the Geordies as he never overcame the language problem.

Sadly Ever Ready were taken over, asset stripped and batteries were brought in from Japan and badged Ever Ready. Paul decided it was time to move on.

He became self-employed forming a building maintenance, cleaning, gardening, painting and decorating business with 80 employees. He

diversified into slot machines which dispensed products as diverse as children's toys and novelty condoms (not at the same site). Though this work was busy and stressful it gave him flexibility and enabled him to attend his sons' school functions. He retired seven years ago at the age of 56 (one of our younger members!).

As to his personal life, Paul, in his own words, “ managed to con a fantastic lady, Sue, into marriage straight after university”, sadly three years ago after 42 years of marriage, Sue died. “The hardest thing with which I have ever had to cope” Paul told us. Besides being the mother of their two sons she had a distinguished career culminating in her becoming Managing Director of Millward Brown plc of Warwick. Their two sons both graduated from the University of Cardiff, seemingly drawn to this seat of learning by their father informing them that it had the longest 'Union' bar in Britain.

In the Community, Paul served the Scout movement for over 20 years, 10 as Chairman of Bodicote Scouts and he is still involved in many ways. He also became involved in CAB on his retirement, at various, and frequently overlapping times he has been an adviser, quality audit assessor, case checker, trainer, board member and supervisor. Currently he is an advisor and supervisor. Paul said that he feels that Cab work is very worthwhile for the community and he finds it both stressful and rewarding, particularly when it is possible to make a real difference for a client.

He paid tribute to Ron Sharpe as a long term and very active board member. For relaxation in his spare time he is studying for a degree in mathematics!

He summed up his life saying that it had been divided into working – for others, for himself, for nothing.

My knowledge of Paul is confined to CAB where I know him as a leading and highly respected voluntary member of staff held in high regard by all and one who always lifts the spirits when in the bureau.

Maurice Humphris



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## ROTARY MISSION CHALLENGE

**“making a real difference in Sierra Leone”**

### **CHRISTIAN HOPE SCHOOL, KISSY, FREETOWN**

In January 2007 I agreed to fund the building of a 6 classroom extension at the school and as most of you will have seen in my last Newsletter the 6 classrooms were “officially” opened in June when I last visited.

The good news is that ALL the work was completed by the end of July and a major step forward is that at the request of the community elders secondary school classes started at the school in September.

I have also funded the refurbishment of the original classrooms as they needed some general repair work to floors & ceilings and re-painting throughout and the majority of the work was completed over the Christmas holidays and I will be funding the remainder in the next couple of weeks.

### **Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe**

In November I did a presentation to the pupils in their assembly and as a result received a cheque for £250. A big thank you to Roy Page, Headmaster, for inviting me and to the school for their great support.

### **Christopher Rawlins Primary School, Adderbury**

In December I was the guest at the school assembly and the school raised £70 by asking the children to send “alternative” Christmas cards to each other – this was in the form of a notice board with messages to each other. As well as supporting Sierra Leone it also resulted in a “green” Christmas at the school.

### **Bishop Carpenter School, North Newington**

At the end of last term the school put on a Christmas concert and the parents made donations to watch and raised £144 for their twin school Christian Hope.

I really appreciate the ongoing support from the staff, pupils and parents at the school - thank you.

### **St Mary the Virgin, Broughton & North Newington**

Over the Christmas period the Church donated the collection from their 3 Christmas services to the schools project in Sierra Leone - a big thank you to everyone at the Church for their festive support.

### **1st Grimsbury Scout Group, Banbury**

In March 2009 I was invited to give a talk to the Scout group and as a result they decided to raise funds for Sierra Leone by undertaking an 18 hour sponsored karting event at Shennington Airfield. I was invited back just before Christmas and they presented me with a cheque for £360. Many thanks to all the scouts, helpers and parents for their support.



**Thank you to the following for recent donations:**

**Bodicote Women's Institute The Oddfellows, Heart of England District Lodge Banbury Print & Design for their support**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME TO "make a real difference". Alan Wolstencroft**

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### **SPEAKER REPORTS.**

**WINIFRED ROBINSON** "You and Yours" Programme BBC Radio 4

A large audience of Rotarians and Inner Wheel members enjoyed an excellent talk on the 29<sup>th</sup> January by Winifred Robinson.

Winifred is an editorial member of a team of 25 who produce the BBC Radio 4 programme 'You and Yours' on a daily basis.

'You and Yours', where she is one of the main presenters, is a consumer programme which seeks among other things to expose the malpractice of what are commonly called scams. These are usually where ordinary people are cheated financially. The programme has been credited with a string of exposures which forewarn listeners about con tricks which could cost the members of the public many thousands of pounds.

'You and Yours' has a following of 5 million regular listeners, which stands up well with other similar programmes. Winifred also has the responsibility of designing the questions which other interviewers should ask. She indicated that she believed that probing questions were more productive than the belligerent questions employed by some other radio and TV presenters.

Winifred proved to be a very agile speaker and was more than a match for the traditional banter from the floor.

Brian Croft.

**An Ambassadorial scholar** was the speaker on the 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Ambassadorial Scholar Satoko Horii is presently studying at St Hilda's College Oxford for her MSc in 'Forced Migration'. She comes from Atika in northern Japan and her family comprises of her mother, father, a younger sister and an older brother. The Atika region has a population of about 1 million and it is predominantly rural. We were told that there are two memorable events in the area each year, one a 'paper lantern festival' the other 'a snow hut festival'.

Satoko obtained a BA in Sociology in 2004, worked for 6 months in Japan then travelled to Guadalajara, Mexico where she worked for 2 years at the Japanese Embassy and whilst in Mexico learned to speak Spanish. She spent 3 months in Dublin where she learned to speak English and by 2009 she had achieved a MA in 'International Public Administration'. Her studies now, amongst other things, centre around EU border control and UK Citizenship. She said how indebted she felt towards the Japanese Rotary Club / District that had sponsored her. Her final thoughts were 'Think local, act global and think global, act local'. Speaker host Graham Anker

**OUR SPEAKER** on 12<sup>th</sup> February was Shiralyn Hunt who is the fund raising co-ordinator for Oxfordshire for Marie Curie Cancer Care. This charity provides palliative care and respite care for terminally ill cancer patients. Typically a Marie Curie Nurse will provide palliative care for cancer patients to enable them to die at home, starting a shift at about 10.00 p.m. and finishing at about 6.30 a.m.

There are 8 Marie Curie Nurses in Oxfordshire, of whom 4 are contracted nurses who are employed full time, and 4 Bank nurses who are either retired or have jobs elsewhere. One night shift costs £160. One week costs £1120.

She is urgently looking for help for any of their fund raising ventures namely :-

Anyone for Tennis Fields of Hope (a gardening scheme) Rise to the Challenge.

Things like running, abseiling, mountaineering. Shiralyn herself took part, with other colleagues, in a climb of Mount Etna in Sicily, raising £22,000, and had some photographs to prove it.

The Great Daffodil Appeal. This is their flagship event for which she is looking for helpers who can give 2 hours of their time collecting especially at Tesco in Banbury on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March, Morrisons in Banbury on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March, Banbury town on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March, and Banbury Castle Quay on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Anyone who can help should contact Shiralyn Hunt, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Lairg House, Chapel Square, Bicester OX26 6BD (Tel: 01869 246655).

The vote of thanks was given by Rtn Michael Banks



## CONGRATULATIONS

WE EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO ROTARIAN GRAHAM ANKER ON HIS RECENT MARRIAGE TO LEUEEN SYMONDS. ALL IN OUR CLUB WISH THEM A HAPPY LIFE TOGETHER.

## NEW MEMBER.



At our meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February President Roger had the pleasure of inducting a new member she is

**Helen Anne Morris**

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Telephone No.s :- 01295 258073 Mob. 07725 654175

E.Mail address :- <thedirhams@talktalk.net

Employment :- Secretary P.A.

Classification :- Banking Administration

Proposer Malcolm Douglas.

## Rotarian Bob Dix.

We all remember the passing of Rotarian Bob Dix on the 14<sup>th</sup>. August. Bob was a member of our Club for many years, acting as secretary and helping in many ways, he was particularly missed for his dry wit which often entertained us.

The club has recently learned that he has left us a sum of £5000.00 for the Club to use as it deems fit. I am sure that we will put it to good use in Bob's memory.

## Note this is not an obituary.

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February we as a Club bade farewell to Rotarian Ron Sharpe. Ron has been a member of our club for over ten years in which time he has involved himself with many of our Rotary projects. Ron was originally manager at Banbury Marks and Spencers and on his retirement decided to stay in Banbury. He involved himself with a number of organisations in the town and his help was appreciated by all of them.

Ron made his farewell speech to the Club in his own inimitable fashion, using his wonderful Irish accent to great effect, ensuring that no one missed a word that he had to say of his pleasure of being a member of the Rotary Club of Banbury. Ron and Liz are moving to the north coast of Somerset. We look forward to seeing Ron on occasional visits back to Banbury where he has made many good friends.

David Hitchcox.

**Rotarian Geoff Wood :-** We have received the resignation of Geoff from our club due to ill health. Geoff has been a member since 1971 and has served on many committees over the years. He was President in 1986/87 . We trust that his friends will keep contact with him and that he has an improvement in his health.

**Congratulations** are in order for **Rotarian Ken Gibbard** who on 5<sup>th</sup>. February attained 50 years of membership of our club. What an achievement. More on this in a future bulletin.

**It is with regret that we announce the death of Honorary Member Jim\_Pearson Smith.** Jim died at Brooklands Nursing home on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>. February. He was a District Governor in 1976/77 and President of our Club in 1969/70. He joined Rotary in 1959. Details of funeral arrangements to follow.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

### **Fellowship and House.**

**Please note.** Following the recent problems with members who have apologised for a meeting and then arriving which has caused problems with sufficient meals being available from the kitchen, the following has been resolved.

“ROTARIANS” IF YOU HAVE APOLOGISED FOR A MEETING YOU MAY ATTEND, BUT PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR MEAL IS NOT GUARANTEED.

### **Publicity.**

Members should have noted the various events noted in the Banbury Guardian I have copies of these press releases sent by Philip Cavill. I will reproduce some of them in the next bulletin. E.D.

### **Foundation.**

Foundation Donations

As members will recall when we have a frugal lunch the difference between what we pay for the meal and the sum charged by the caterer is considered as a gift aided donation to Foundation. As a result of our last frugal lunch a total of £240 was donated by members to that fund.

The final figure for the Family Christmas Festival of Music is an excellent profit of £2133.47.

**Thanks for Life Week,** In Partnership with the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell a window display was promoted in Banbury High street. This was manned on each Saturday by Rotarians and the End Polio Now leaflets were given to interested people. The aim was not to collect money but to promote Rotary,. Although a small amount was collected.

### **Community & Vocational.**

**Dragon Boats is to be the main event this year it will take place on 30<sup>th</sup>. May at Broughton Castle.**

### **Sports and Entertainment.**

Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>. February was the date for our annual darts match held at the Cricket club. We were joined with some members of the Banbury Cherwell Rotary club. A very convivial evening was enjoyed with the usual fish and chip supper. The actual competition was hard fought with teams of two competing fiercely for the honour of winning. The eventual winners, after the usual battle to get double one, were Brian Croft and, modesty stops me from naming his partner. The winners were presented with a bottle of wine and the runner up John Meeres who fought on his own received a chocolate egg. A great evening well organised by Nigel Randall.  
David Hitchcox.

Events to come include.

16<sup>th</sup>. March Poetic Licence with Sonia Blinkhorn “Devout Coward” based on the works of Noel Coward.

19<sup>th</sup> March District Golf Competition Willingdon Golf Club.

27<sup>th</sup>. April Club Outing to Portsmouth

26<sup>th</sup>. May Towcester Races.

May. Clay Pigeon Shoot

19<sup>th</sup> May Spring Golf Tournament

July. A guided tour of Rousham House & Gardens.

### **International.**

Contact weekend in Germany from 13<sup>th</sup> May, there will be an additional few days for those interested on Lake Constance.

The visit of the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra will be on 29<sup>th</sup>. May at Bloxham School.

### **Youth Opportunities.**

Events include Young Musician final 6<sup>th</sup>. March.P.P.S “Mock interviews will be carried out at B.G.N. and Warriner schools.

**ATTENDANCE.** For January

Average attendance, 44

Visits to other Clubs 2

Percentage attendance ,60%

This includes Evening meeting.

Members other activities, 28

**HON SECRETARY** – Dr. Ian Rodrick

**CLUB WEBSITE** ;- [www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)

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