



# The Banbury Bulletin The Rotary Club of Banbury

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

President John Bennett

**May 2012** 



John's Jotting's

haven't already, please put the date in your diary.

Bulletin.

#### President John Bennett

I was under the impression that I'd had a busy April, but it must have been non Rotary business, because this is definitely my shortest report so far. I can almost hear the cries of "thank goodness" filtering through the sound of the rain drumming on my office roof. Other than our Friday meetings it's been:

10<sup>th</sup> April: At around 8.30 a.m. and together with some very excited Rotarians, I boarded the coach for our **Rotary Outing** to Lords Cricket Ground and then on to the Imperial War Museum. We had a really enjoyable trip, in good company, and all thanks to Nigel Yeadon for his excellent organisation.

18<sup>th</sup> April: Although it's two years away, five of us assembled at Broughton Road to chat over some initial ideas for the next Contact visit to Banbury in 2014. We will be developing the programme over the next 12 months.

26<sup>th</sup> April: Broughton Road hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting of the year. As ever, committee chairs will pass on details at your next meeting.

I've also visited Tudor Hall School (and will be doing so again this week), to make final arrangements for the **Presidents Dinner**, which, as published in the diary, will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Dress will be casual Garden Party style and in the hope that it's a fine evening, we'll partake of drinks on the lawn, a little light entertainment, view the art exhibition and enjoy a relaxed meal together in the oval dining room. If you

And that's all for my Rotary April – I *must* have forgotten something......surely? John.

#### **TOUR DE TRIGS**

We are now supporting the Tour De Trigs event, which last year had to be cancelled at short notice. This has been agreed by Club and Council. We are hoping to gain good publicity for both Rotary and the Tour de Trigs event. The event has its own organising committee on which we have three of our members. Permission has been given by R.I.B.I. for the Rotary logo to be shown on the publicity material thus promoting Rotary to a wider audience as this attracts not only local teams but teams from the whole country and occasionally from other countries. As this is fully underwritten there is no cost to our Club. The event needed a responsible name to head it and we have been able to supply it. Watch this space for further developments. The Agreement between Rotary and the T.D.T. committee wil be shown in the next

# TOUR OF LORD'S CRICKET GROUND and The Imperial War Museum.

A select crowd of us recently did a tour of Lord's cricket ground as part of our annual Rotary trip. Lord's is the headquarters of The Marlybone Cricket Club, MCC, it is universally known as The Home of Cricket and also hosts the offices of the England & Wales Cricket Board, ICC. Regular tours are carried out for the General Public except on match days. The tours begin in the museum with a film recounting the history of the ground and the MCC. The museum has a huge collection of cricket memorabilia including paintings of many famous cricketers and the original Urn which contains the ashes of a cricket bail and is the trophy for which England and Australia play regular Test series. This urn is very small and delicate and never leaves the museum but there is a large Waterford Crystal replica which is held by whoever won the most recent series.

There followed a tour of the pavilion beginning in the famous Long Room. The players pass to and fro through this room on their way to the ground to bat or to field. This room is confined to members of MCC during Test Matches. As in the museum there are many paintings of famous cricketers on the walls.

Next we visited the team dressing rooms both home and away. In each one is recorded on honours boards players who have scored hundreds or taken 5 wickets in an innings in a Test Match at Lord's.

A walk round the ground took the tour to the impressive media centre. This relatively modern building sits high above the ground with a fantastic view over the whole ground. This centre houses the television and radio commentators and all the



press reporters, each with their own terminal for a laptop computer.

The outfield of the ground is immaculate, cut in cross squares and there is a slope of 9 feet from one corner to the opposite corner, the only Test Match ground which has such a slope. John Philips.

We then gathered at the Tavern next to Lords for a "Pint and a Pie" before proceeding through the centre of London to the Imperial War Museum. On entering we were greeted by a sight that resembled someones Airfix collection, suspended



from the domed roof were various full size aircraft.

The many collections were a fascinating insight into the various theatres of war that we as a country had been involved in over many years. We were able to descend into a realistic mock-up of a first world war trench system. The various exhibitions were centred on the three armed services Army, Navy and Airforce. There was also a special Holocaust exhibition which was very graphic, so much so that it was advised that young children should not enter. There was also a large research are, where one could gather information from many records on open shelves. The whole exhibition would probably take one several days to take it all in.

After a very entertaining day it was time to return home, during the whole day was also enjoyed each others company under the watchful eye of our organiser Nigel Yeadon. D.H.

# BOURNEMOUTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2012

A goodly number of Banbury Rotarians and partners gathered at the White House Hotel Bournemouth on the Thursday prior to the conference, which commences on Friday. So we were able to have a pleasant evening eating and socialising in our hotel.

After a good full English breakfast and a stroll around the Bournemouth shops it was time to get down to business. The Inner Wheel meeting came first with a speaker Leigh Bennett, who is Managing Director of Technical infrastructure at British Telecom and is also Chairman of the B.T. operations board at the London Olympic and Paralympic games.

The first Rotary Conference session introduced by Past District Governor Jean Charmak welcomed our present D.G. Niall Blair who brought greetings and introduced the various guests to the Conference. The first speaker was our own Alan Wolstencroft who gave an inspiring speech in his own inimitable style. The response from the audience was very enthusiastic and Alan received many personal commendations afterward. He also manned the G.A.G.A. stand in the House of Friendship together with Andrew Fairbairn who was showing Aquabox and Emergency Boxes during the three days of the conference.

There then followed R.I.B.I. President Ray Burman who was again a very inspiring speaker who got the Rotary message across with a lot of wit and humour.

Next came on stage Liz Palmer from P.E.A.C.H, the charity that gives support to parents of children with autism and similar behavioural difficulties. This was quite an emotional speech as Liz has first hand knowledge of bringing up a child with these problems.

There then followed Rita Viahos who spoke of her many fund raising efforts mainly doing long distance walks and raising sponsorship for Macmillan nursing. She then gave some ideas of the various ways we may perhaps use in gaining funds for the various charities we support.

Here endeth the first session.

It was then back to our Hotel for a wash and brush up and perhaps a quiet nap before going to dinner, again part of the excellent deal arranged by Nigel Randall. The evenings entertainment consisted of the "The Kentwood Show Choir" who gave stunning performances of a wide variety of music, from pop to musicals and opera. They rounded off a very enjoyable first day.

Up bright and early for a nine o'clock start after again the treat of an full English breakfast only allowed for some of us when we are away from home.

The first part of this session consisted of a Foundation presentation given by David Caswell and his team who again was able to educate us into some of the mysteries of Rotary Foundation. There also followed a Rotaract presentation. Tea break and then on to three more speakers the first being Mike Clare who is the founder of Dreams bed stores a self made man who created this very successful brand from very humble beginnings. After stepping down as Chairman in 2008 he created the Clare foundation which aims to support and improve the efficiency of charities throughout the U.K. A truly inspirational talk by a man who knows what he wishes to achieve and goes for it. We now had a talk from Andy Whyte who has worked for the R.N.L.I. for many years and is now their Fundraising Presentation Manager. It was good to have someone who new his subject from the sharp end and was able to instill in us our appreciation for the work of the Lifeboat organisation.

Now to the main event, Michael Portillo well known broadcaster and a member of Parliament and for many years working in Margaret Thatcher's cabinet. His very informative and witty talk was I suppose what we would expect from such a distinguished broadcaster and he did not disappoint, one felt that he could have interested us for a much longer time. Time for lunch.

The afternoon, as usual is time for the Foundation and Youth Rally. Our Ambassadorial Scholars and Group Study Exchange Team were prominent in this session. The enthusiasm of these young people was very evident and again showed the benefits of our own charity "Foundation".

Another rest and then dressing up for the evening's "Beach Party". Not as some thought a visit and barbecue to Bournemouth's beach or partying under the pier. It transpired that this was to be a great event in the Conference centre with many people entering into the theme and dressing in beach gear. It made a distinct change from the usual Black tie dress although some of us chickened out and appeared with D.J's. Our

President John although, did wear a knotted handkerchief all evening to keep the glare of the lights off his head. One or two beach shirts were

also evident among our party.



The dancing and music was conducted by Todd Miller & The Joe Loss Orchestra. They played the right type of music for its audience, evidenced by the numbers always on the dance floor, so much so that the band did not take their usual break and carried on playing "All Night Long". We then retired to our Hotel with one a two managing a night cap at the bar with the popular barman Dermot officiating.

Sunday morning, last day of imbibing of a substantial breakfast. At the Centre arriving by 9.30 we had the traditional morning service this was conducted by Rev. Headly Feast, a member of the Rotary Club of Oxford. He was joined by the Winton Salvation Army band, which made sure that the hymn singing was up to standard. There were the various Bible readings and much to our surprise one given by our own President John. Rev Headly Feast gave a short inspirational

talk which gott us into the right frame of mind for the rest of the days events.

The final session of the Conference again included several speakers each giving a us a different emotional journey. The first was the R.I. Presidents representative, Michael Olawale-Cole who passed on the message and greetings from R.I. President Kalyan Banerjee.

Our next speaker really tugged at our heart strings and brought an emotional response from the audience. It was Sister Francis Dominica the founder of Helen House Hospice for sick children. Her description of the many happenings and emotional responses that the children and parents who were going through such a difficult time left many reaching for their tissues.

The next speaker was R.I.B.I. President Ray Burman who again enthralled us with his own style of presentation, no chance of nodding off. District Governor Elect Judith Diment then invited us to next years Conference again in Bournemouth she outlined the theme and aims for next years event.

The final speaker was a Rotarian, Dr. Geoff Mackey he was obviously placed at the end of Conference to send us away with a good feeling. He again managed to instill tears in our eyes, but these were tears of laughter as he proceeded to tell his stories and also with a backdrop of visual jokes which some of us with the internet had seen before. In the words of another famous comedian "It's the way I tell them".

And so to the end of a very successful Conference both the organised events in the Conference and particularly the fellowship was enjoyed by us all. When next years conference is organised try to attend and see what Rotary is all about, particularly our newer members.

David Hitchcox

#### RIBI Young Musician 2012 final.

Gareth Jeremy and I decided that we would like to see Serena Holbech compete in the final round of this competition at Boscombe, and the experience made the journey very worthwhile

To set the scene, the finals were held in the Boscombe Salvation Army Citadel the main hall with seating for about four hundred people and more than half of the seats appeared to be taken. The eight vocalists and eight instrumentalists had progressed through their local competition, district and region, so in both sections the finalists were the pick of several hundred contestants. Serena was the sixth vocalist to sing so she had to sit through over an hour listening to other contestants, quite daunting one would suppose. At least she did not have RI President Kalyan Banerjee and RIBI President Ray Burnham in the audience as the brief visit which they made was early in the competition. The adjudicators were all professional instrumentalists or vocalists of distinction.

As soon as the competition started it was obvious even to me that the level of competition was high.

Serena did not display nerves and she sang beautifully as any who heard her sing at Sibford School would expect. Gareth is a far better judge than me but I am sure that he agrees that Serena lost out simply through lack of experience, the Banbury Young Musicians' Competition was the first that she had ever entered. There was not great variety in the two classical pieces that she sang, unlike the winner whose second offering was from Phantom of the Opera. Singing a well known and popular song gets the audience behind the singer and this in turn may possibly influence the adjudicators.

I am not sure whether Serena was the youngest vocalist, I rather think that she was. Certainly the winner was eighteen years old and her presentation spoke of experience.

Serena acquited herself brilliantly and it must be a matter of great satisfaction to Gareth and all concerned with the Young Musician of the Year competition that Serena performed so well against more experienced competitors. A feather in the cap of our club.

With experience added to her lovely voice and her overall presence I am sure that there must be many distinctions ahead for Serena.

Maurice Humphris

#### Anyone wishing to hear Serena singing again can do so.

Following a talk given by a member of Chipping Norton Rotary Club last autumn, pupils at Tudor Hall School raised funds towards donating a Shelterbox. As they still have a little way to go Serena and two of her fellow pupils are giving a concert in St Peters Church, Hook Norton on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>. June at 3.00 P.M. There will be a charge of £5.00 which includes Tea and Cakes. Following her success outlined above it will be a great opportunity to support her and her fellow pupils.

#### Andrew Fairbairn's South Coast Challenge.

The Olympic Games represent a unique opportunity to promote the concept of ShelterBox to a national and international audience.

With the endorsement of ShelterBox UK, the Rotary Club of Banbury is supporting a group of kayakers (including one of their own members) who intend to paddle along the south coast from Porthleven, Cornwall (close to the Shelterbox HQ at Helston) to Weymouth. They anticipate that this will take eight days passing landmarks, amongst others, such as The Lizard, Plymouth Hoe (Drake et al) and Chesil Beach whilst tackling the Portland tidal race on the final day.

A Shelterbox tent will be erected at each campsite. By giving presentations about the charity and the equipment during the evenings, through Twitter, Facebook and via publicity generated through the arrival timed to coincide with the Olympic Sailing Regatta week, our aim is to generate substantial interest and funds. On shore we will have a support team moving the gear each day and Rotarians from local clubs (or further afield) will be welcome to meet (bringing along friends, colleagues etc.) and join in with the evening festivities.

#### ITINERARY 2012

30th June Porthleven to Falmouth

1st July Falmouth to Fowey (calling in at Mevagissey and St. Austell)

2nd July Fowey to Plymouth (calling in at Looe)

3rd July Plymouth to Salcombe

4th July Salcombe to Torquay (calling in at Dartmouth)

5th July Torquay to Sidmouth (calling in at Exmouth)

6th July Sidmouth to West Bay (calling in at Lyme Regis)

7th July West Bay to Weymouth (the Saturday of the Spirit of the Sea Event – we are hoping that members of the Olympic sailing teams from countries where Shelterboxes have been sent will come along to see the equipment).

We are planning to contact schools, yachting and canoe clubs as well as Rotary clubs in respect of the places we are staying at or calling in en-route during the day.

#### Fred Riches – Speaker Report 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 NEPAL BEHIND THE SCENES

Nepal is a third world, landlocked country most notably associated with Buddhism, the Gurkhas and with the exploits of Mallory and Irvine on Everest in 1924. It remains unknown as to whether they reached the summit 29 years before the first proven ascent.

Fast forward 88 years from their disappearance on the North Ridge in little more than tweeds and Fred and Sue travelled to the republic to visit their daughter, Liz, who was undertaking valuable voluntary work as a teacher in a primary school. In addition to experiencing some interesting approaches to driving (including Sue on a motorbike without a crash helmet), they took the opportunity to contact a local Rotary

Club, were invited to a meeting and then went on to see the social work undertaken by Charity-Nepal. The latter provides grants to, and support for, families to start up businesses (making clothes and soft toys for sale). This helps the families to keep their children in school and thereby generates both short and long term benefits. The project is partly self-financing but also depends upon funding from both within and outside Nepal, including from Rotary.

As a Club we are frequently involved with the provision of international aid, but rarely do we get to hear first-hand experience of the results of overseas projects and we should be thankful to Fred and Sue for taking time out from their holiday to remedy this omission.

Andrew Fairbairn

#### **Speaker Report for Friday evening 30 March**

#### Mr. Richard Sermon, MBE on "Role of the Sheriff in today's City of London"

Richard, who had been Sheriff in the 2010/2011year, started by describing the history of the shrievalty which actually predates the office of Lord Mayor which itself predates Magna Carta. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, as a trade off for supporting the King, the City was granted the right to elect a Lord Mayor who still takes precedence within the Square Mile over everyone else except the Monarch, who traditionally however seeks permission before entering the City. The Lord Mayor is elected on Michaelmas Day by Liverymen of the City Livery Companies and for this the two Sheriffs are Returning Officers. The Sheriffs are elected earlier also by Liverymen but only take office on Michaelmas Eve so as to be 'untainted' by any past administration and impartial to the new! Both offices are held for only one year so that power is seen to reside in the office rather than the individual officeholder. Upon taking office the Lord Mayor is required by statute to "show" himself to the citizens and this is the original purpose of the Lord Mayor's Show. The City Sheriff's, being elected, differ from County High Sheriffs who are appointed by the Monarch.

The council of the City of London Corporation is the local authority, Court of Common Council, is elected by residents and businesses and is divided into two houses, the Court of Aldermen, comprising 25 Aldermen from whom the Lord Mayor is elected and the Court of Common Council with about 100 members. This was the model for our national Parliament – and therefore the mother of "The Mother of Parliaments". To be Lord Mayor you must be an Alderman and to have served as Sheriff thereby being elected by electoral 'colleges' of both the Livery and local authority voters at least twice.

The Sheriffs are responsible for oversight of the running of the Central Criminal Court at the Old Bailey and for the care of Her Majesty's Justices. There are 18 courts operating for about 48 weeks a year, 2500 people a day coming through the buildings, 600 rooms on 6 levels, 13 or 14 resident judges, and a daily 'diet' of "murder most foul", rape, and serious assault. Each day a Sheriff badged and formally robed has to bow and "swear in" the judges escorting each into court fully wigged, gowned, within a short space of time which even with some help requires some dashing around behind the scenes!

There are 13 varieties of clothing, varying from an 'Old Bailey' uniform with trousers or breeches and hose, lace jabots and cuffs to scarlet or blue robes with or without swords and invariably the badge of office with three chains to denote the office of Sheriff and a symbol of authority. There are support staff for the day to day organisation and during their year the Sheriffs reside in apartments at the Old Bailey. Each day a Sheriff hosts lunch for judges and guests, about 800 each year, drawn from business, the professions, politics, civil service the arts and sport providing an opportunity for them also to visit the courts and see justice at work.

The other main part of the job is to support the Lord Mayor in his civic duties and promoting the City's interests around the world. Functions take place at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor's private residence at which the Sheriffs attend in ceremonial dress, usually with their spouses. For State occasions, believe it or not, ladies may still be advised that "Tiaras will be worn"!

There are 108 Livery Companies, all of which hope to host the Lord Mayor and/or Sheriffs during the year but much of the organisation for that falls on the Companies. This means listening to a lot of speeches and giving quite a few too. There are lighter moments like the Annual Children's Fancy Dress Party (usually about 500 children) which culminates in the Conga being led by the Lord Mayor through Mansion House. There are also overseas duties since the Lord Mayor is the UK Ambassador for financial and business services and travels about 90 days a year promoting British interests to typically 20 to 25 countries. A Sheriff will accompany each trip and on occasions a spouse too.

Richard's wife Rosemary accompanied one such trip to Africa where she visited charitable projects with which local Rotary clubs there were associated.

Following this most interesting and amusing talk, a number of questions "from the floor" and the vote of thanks, the formal meeting closed, and Richard then had further discussions with members while others viewed photographs and various accourrements including Richard's Coat of Arms and personal standard. Ian Calderbank.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup>. April our speaker was Dr Jim McWhirter from the Henley Bridge Rotary Club who gave a very interesting and thought provoking talk about his visits to Kamuli Mission Hospital in Uganda. He is a retired General Practitioner who had experience in Obstetrics and joined the Rotary Doctors Schem to help in Africa. Before going he underwent additional training to achieve competence in Caesarian Section at JR2. He has now visited the 150 bed Hospital on 10 occasions of 6 weeks each over the last 5 years. He was responsible for all the Obstetrics during this time.

The facilities in the Hospital were very basic compared with the UK but the experienced Medical and Nursing

staff did very well with very little. Each time he returned he was disappointed to find that very little had changed as there was no additional finance for improvements. He was determined to leave some lasting benefit for them and was delighted when he raised the money for two generators which automatically start whenever the main power supply fails. Previously when this happened during an operation it was necessary to wait 15 minutes in the dark which could result in the deaths of both mother and baby.

He answered several questions and was formally thanked by Rupert Kipping

# Stefan McNally – (Habitat for Humanity) Speaker Report 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012 FIGHTING POVERTY AND BUILDING HOMES

Stefan gave an inspiring presentation with a number of memorable points.

- 1. How often do we receive depressing press reports about the despair in third world countries as overseas aid is diverted to fund wars or the personal coffers of dictators? That charities' efforts represent a 'drop in the ocean'. It was, therefore, an important reminder to be given a succession of statistics demonstrating how living conditions have been improving and the effectiveness of charitable projects;
- 2. Many club members will have had previous knowledge of Habitat for Humanity (HfH) and, like me, may have had the misconception that the organisation is simply a charitable house builder. Stefan was able to dispel this myth. HfH provides a holistic approach to shelter encompassing access to finance, resources, employment, education (particularly relating to land tenure) and the opportunity for those in need to help themselves. All critical elements in helping to create sustainable homes;
- 3. Representation in more than eighty countries provides an indication of the scale of the operation. Within the last 12 months, the charity has enabled around 81,400 families 'to transform their lives through new construction, repair and rehabilitation of homes' and 'were able to help a further 156,000 people through either securing land tenure or providing technical assistance'; and
- 4. Whilst expat experts are imported into countries as part of the structure to deliver homes, HfH employs locals as a conscious policy to engage with, and respect, indigenous cultures.

I am sure that Stefan has provided us with plenty of food for thought.

Andrew Fairbairn

# New Member. Rotarian Anthony Scott Andrews.



President John Bennett inducted Tony on 13 April 2012

**Community and Vocational.** The annual Party for the Blind will take place on 16<sup>th</sup>. May.

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 prescence 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 13<sup>th</sup>.

# <u>Foundation.</u> The Club have reached their target of sending \$100.00 per member to Rotary Foundation. Well done everybody.

Stephens Steaming is booked for June 17<sup>th</sup>. 2012.

**Sports & Entertainment.:** Golf: Bigwood Trophy is fixed for Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>. 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:** John Hansford is arranging details for the Contact visit to Italy on 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. May 2012 with a stay over at Lake Maggiore. Andrew Fairbairn will be conducting his "The Shelterbox Olympic Challenge" from Porthleven to Weymouth with overnight stops on the way. He has also shown Shelterbox and Aquabox at the District Conference in Bournemouth.

<u>Youth Opportunities.</u> Interact, talks are on going with Blessed George Napier School to explore the possibility of setting an Interact group at the school.

Both of our winners at Young Chef and Young musician have gone forward to district level competitions.

It is still hoped to find suitable participants for the R.Y.L.A. expedition.

The dates have been fixed for Children Singing for Children, 13-15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

#### **Trust Deed Update**

At our AGM unanimous approval was given to update the Trust Fund requirements necessary to incur expenditure from the Trust Fund. It was agreed that expenditure up to and including £250 (previously £100), could be incurred with Council approval, any sum over that level still requiring the approval of the majority of the members present at an ordinary Club meeting.

#### Gift Aid Tax Refund

As a result of gift aided donations made to the Trust Fund between 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012, which totalled £5,485.61, a claim has been submitted for tax refunds on this amount 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.

#### Where the money goes

During April payments have been made to the following:		Helen Holbech (National Finals Exps) -	£200
Practice Interviews		Young Chef	
N Randall (BGN Interview Exps) - Dragon Boats	£60	Banbury Pasties -	£25
Sutton Winson (Portable Loo insurance) - <i>Young Musician</i>	£90	Toybox -	£100
Sibford School (hire) -	£291	Rotary Foundation	£200
Sibford Trading (hire) -	£291	Rotary Doctor Bank	£250
St Johns Ambulance -	£75		
Banbury Pasties -	£82		

<sup>&</sup>quot;Free Funds" currently stand at just over £6,600

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COPY DATE is the penultimate Friday of the month.