



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

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

President John Bennett

NOVEMBER 2011



John's Jotting's

President John Bennett

A Double Dose from President John Sultry September

September has been another relatively quiet month, with few excuses for me not to get on with painting the garden shed and cutting the hedge - although neither task is finished yet! However, the month started off on a very sad note.

2nd September: It seemed that half of Banbury attended Richard George's funeral at St John's, because the church was full to overflowing, a fitting indication of how this gentle gentleman had touched the lives of so many people. The service was attended by District Governor Niall Blair, who travelled from Marlow to join us

6th September: Together with Ian Anthistle, I attended the evening meeting of the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell to learn how other clubs had gone about forming either Rotaract or Interact clubs. Ian and Martin Humphris will be reporting back to club at a later date.

13th September: An invitation to attend a cheque presentation at Leonard Cheshire Disability in Warwick Road. Our own Paul Shea had organised the marshalling of the Brackley Beer Festival and his efforts saw £6000 raised towards their Mini Bus appeal. Congratulations Paul.

18th September: I joined the Mayor and other local dignitaries in the Battle of Britain Parade to St Mary's for a service of remembrance.

I then joined Helen Braisby and Andrew Fairbairn at the Bodicote Scouts fete to man the Rotary stand. However, Rotarian Paul Gardiner said he had just the job for a President and I spend a very hectic afternoon supervising the "Splat the Rat" stall - it's amazing how adaptable Rotarians can become!

20th September: At 9.30 a.m. I joined Alan Wolstencroft and Andrew Fairbairn at Hanwell Fields Primary School to erect the Shelterbox tent for a presentation to the students. Alan and Andrew were presented with a cheque for £600 to pay for the second Shelterbox the school has bought and they have committed to raise enough for a third Shelterbox next year. A wonderful example of commitment from children, parents and teachers, with the support of Rotary.

21st September: I was made very welcome at the Youth Opps. Committee meeting at Banbury House Hotel, good business transacted and an enjoyable visit to the bar afterwards.

22nd September: My third Council Meeting of the year. As always, report back on content will be given at your committee meetings.

30th September: The 5th Friday evening meeting was very enjoyable, although fewer people attended due mainly to so many taking the opportunity of a late holiday or weekend break. Who can blame them - I'm doing the same next weekend, so Ian Rodrick is standing in for me. It gives him the chance to try out the Big Chair ready for next year - well, it's what Rotary is all about.

I've just bumped into November, so it must be time for me to look back to see if I've been busy in October.

1st October. In the morning, Shirley Kershaw and I attended the open day at Dogs for the Disabled and saw demonstrations of what these wonderful canines can do and how they make so much difference to the life of the people who receive them. We met Sue and her dog Max. He was the dog we sponsored with the bequest from Rotarian Bob Dix.



As I reported at time, she asked me to thank our Rotary club for her best friend and I'm sure Bob would have been pleased with our choice of charity.

In the afternoon, I put in a stint at Stroke Awareness Day. Organised by Helen Braisby, it took place in Banbury's shopping precinct, where we invited people to have their blood pressure taken. Mine went up and we had a much large take up this year than last.

2nd October. Canal Day and what a day! It was hot & sunny with crowds of people in attendance. I helped set up and take down the Rotary display (well I think it was a help) which was masterminded by the Com. & Voc. Committee who seemed to be busy all day.

13th October. In the morning, I joined Geoff Pollard at Spiceball Park to help 2 Primary schools plant crocus bulbs as part of the Polio Plus awareness campaign. I thought I was just going to supervise, but finished up digging the trench. I thanked the teachers for going out of their way to support us, but they in turn advised me that they were very pleased to have been asked to take part. It makes it all worth while doesn't it? There should be a great display in Spiceball next year. In the evening, I had a meeting with the Secretary and First Vice to discuss the sort of things that Secretaries and a First Vice discuss. I replenished the drinks cabinet next morning.

15th October. Collected Alan Wolstencroft from Birmingham airport after his 2 weeks in South Africa and was regaled with his enthusiasm for yet another successful mission. He and his team built a dormitory house for 18 young people in an orphanage - now that really has made a difference.

25th October. I returned from Dorset just in time to attend the first planning meeting for the Dragon Boats event next year. Andrew Fairbairn has put in a lot of early ground work (as he always does) and he was able to start delegating. Bob Thompson couldn't stop nodding, so he got most of the jobs.

27th October. The monthly Council meeting at home, which we had finished by 9.15 p.m. Could this be a record, or did I miss a chunk out of the agenda? Committee chairs will tell you at your next meeting. Again, I replenished the drinks cabinet next morning.

Well, that's it. Where did October go? My thanks to everyone for all for the support I've received during my first four months as President - and please keep it up!!! We have a busy 2 months ahead, but as you know "that's what Rotary is all about".

Leonard Cheshire Disability Schools 4 All in Africa

I am continuing to fundraise and have a few remaining presentations booked in respect of the Scilly to Shetlands challenge in 2009 undertaken on behalf of the above project. Accordingly, I have obtained an update on the current situation. For general information, members can refer to www.school4all.org.uk. For information specific to the Uganda project, they can refer to the attached leaflet.

Given the great support provided by so many members of the Club, I would like them to be aware that the time and effort they generously gave in 2009 is still being utilized for the benefit of disabled children.

Thanks Andrew Fairbairn

Update on the Rotary funded School 4 All project in Uganda

In 1997, Uganda became one of the first countries in Africa to guarantee free primary education for every child. Children with disabilities were included in this law from the beginning. Yet when Leonard Cheshire Disability carried out a survey of two districts in the country, Budaka and Mukono, we found that many children with disabilities did not go to school because of specific barriers to attendance, including:

- Many schools were not physically accessible
- Teachers did not feel confident to teach children with disabilities
- There was a lack of adapted learning and assistive devices, such as Braille or large print materials
- The children needed more mobility and communication appliances
- In both communities some parents did not understand the value of educating children with disabilities

Against this background, the partnership between RIBI and Leonard Cheshire Disability began. As a result, 781 children with disabilities entered and have continued in school, and 447 disabled children already in school have benefited from improved facilities, teaching methods and rehabilitation support.

Project start-up

In June 2008 Leonard Cheshire Disability held meetings with project stakeholders including head teachers, the National Union of Disabled Persons, ministry of education officials, in Uganda, the Ministry of Education and Sports, Kyambogo University, and our local partners, the Budaka and Providence Home Cheshire services.

Together the groups identified how they would take the project forward and address specific issues. They noted that universal primary education, while a positive development, had resulted in extreme overcrowding in some schools, with as many as 146 children per class. This led to the quality of education declining, and the inclusive education project was designed to change this for all children by improving teachers' skills, updating schools' infrastructure and developing improved learning materials.

- 20 primary schools were identified to take part in the project.

A baseline survey was held in 33 villages around the schools. In Budaka it identified around 400 children with disabilities out of school compared to 505 children in school (few of those in school had disabilities). In Mukono, while 315 disabled children attended 10 project schools, another 79 children did not go to school at all. Poverty was also found to be a major factor in disabled children not attending school, as families could not afford extra support that might be needed such as wheelchairs or hearing aids.

Project objectives

Over its three-year life, the project adopted the following specific objectives:

- Enrol and retain 1,000 children with disabilities in 20 local primary schools
- Improve school accessibility through physical adaptations
- Train 100 teachers to address the learning needs of children with disabilities; 173 other teachers to attend professional development seminars
- Improve water and sanitation in the 20 schools through rain water harvesting
- Support schools with accessible learning and teaching materials
- Raise awareness and increase understanding of disability and inclusive education among the communities around the 20 project schools
- Establish and build the capacity of 200 members of school inclusive education committees
- Promote the concept of peer learning (child to child approach) among pupils in all 20 schools
- Strengthen the capacity of parents of children with disabilities to support their education, and advocate for their children's rights through formation of parents support groups
- Train parents and care givers in basic physiotherapy skills so that they are better able to support the health and rehabilitation of their disabled child

Outcomes for children, families and communities

Enrolment and retention of children with disabilities: The project enrolled 781 children with disabilities in the 20 project schools and an additional 447 children with disabilities who were already in the schools at the start of the project have been supported to stay in school. All benefit from the now accessible physical environments, improved teaching methodology, and increased awareness of disability rights of the school community through child to child and other activities.

Long term impact for individual children: Enrolling disabled children in local, mainstream schools serves as a model to replicate in other schools. This achievement demonstrates that if children with disabilities are supported with the necessary facilities and services, they can benefit from mainstream education in the same way as any other child.

Impact on society: The project's success has also changed perceptions and attitudes towards education for disabled children through community activities. At the start of the project in 2008, communities and parents of children with disabilities did not want to disclose that they had a disabled child in the family. Some would not even count a disabled child as one of their children, did not think a disabled child would benefit from education or were afraid that their disabled children would be bullied at school by other children. However, by end of the project's second year community members and parents were voluntarily contacting the project staff to seek advice on how their children could benefit from the education project.

How was this achieved? Physical adaptation of schools

All the 20 schools benefited from physical adaptation for improved accessibility by children with disabilities. 30 local artisans were trained in how to construct adapted facilities using accessibility standards developed by the Uganda National Action on Physical Disabilities in collaboration with the ministries of health and works.

These adaptations have created multiple benefits. Disabled children are now able to be more independent because of improved access to classrooms and washrooms. Works in the project schools have also set examples for district-wide school construction committees and district education officials now ensure that their schools capitalisation grants (government funding) have budget lines for infrastructure accessibility. For example after the project ended, the district government school fund built accessible latrines and buildings in two other primary schools

Water harvesting

Rainwater harvesting systems have been installed within nine project schools that were identified as having the most need. Five of these schools were directly supported by the Rotary Club of Nansana in Kampala, Uganda. The water harvesting equipment included 10,000 litre water tanks and accessories (gutters, pipes, taps, etc.). Both disabled and non-disabled children benefit from these water and sanitation activities: they no longer have to spend hours walking long distances to find water and are better able to concentrate on their studies. In addition, waterborne disease and associated pupil absenteeism should decrease.

School inclusion committees

Training of 200 members of the schools' inclusive education committees in inclusive education and disability issues enabled them participate in project implementation, especially in monitoring activities within their schools. This helped them to understand the immense challenges that disabled children face in their communities, and to encourage the inclusion of disabled children in their schools.

Teacher training

100 teachers selected from the 20 project schools were trained in special education and inclusive methodologies. The training was facilitated by the Leonard Cheshire Disability project team and Kyambogo University Faculty of Special Needs. The trained teachers then themselves became trainers of the other teachers in their schools and supported them to develop a positive attitude towards pupils with disabilities. In addition, the trained teachers learned to identify disabled children and provide counselling and referral support to them and their families

The child to child approach

The project used a common approach in developing countries called 'child to child' to promote attitude change and increase participation by disabled children. Peer support to children with disabilities and acceptance of disabled children across the project schools improved as a result of promotion of child to child activities in each school. Child to child clubs, which include both non-disabled and disabled children, engaged in activities such as drama, music, 'talking compound' displays, debating, and arts and crafts.

Accessible learning and teaching materials

All 20 schools were provided with accessible teaching/learning materials to support teachers in their work especially for children with visual and hearing impairments. These included sign language dictionaries, sign language charts, Braille charts, stylus, Braille slates, Braille paper and Manila paper for teachers to develop local teaching materials.

Raising community awareness

Changing attitudes has long been recognised as a necessary prerequisite to inclusion. The project achieved this among community members through a range of activities with stakeholders.

As a result of these activities, stakeholders became more involved in identifying children with disabilities in their communities. It also facilitated increased community feedback, good working relationships with the project staff and participation of parents of children with disabilities in school activities.

Parent support groups

The project formed 20 community-based parent support groups. Groups enabled parents to support and mobilise other disabled children to enrol in school, support their children in school and advocate for their rights. 465 parents of children with disabilities took part and were trained in disability awareness, basic physiotherapy to improve children's mobility, and what other support they could access to meet their children's needs. Through their quarterly meetings, parents also gave each other valuable support and, in addition, two Leonard Cheshire Disability project officers provided counselling to parents resulting in improved acceptance of their disabled child.

Rehabilitation of children with disabilities

76 children with disabilities were referred for assessment and rehabilitation support, and provided with assistive devices. These included wheelchairs, hearing aids, callipers, crutches and spectacles. Some of these children were offered eye treatment and surgical intervention. This resulted in the enrolment and retention of children who initially had difficulties participating in education.

Challenges and recommendations

This project has shown that for any inclusive education project to be successful, it needs a holistic design that includes families, education stakeholders and the child with disabilities themselves. This multiple focus is necessary at the community level and at the district and national levels to contribute to lasting changes in policy and practice.

Case study

Ahmed Mugoda is 12 years old and lives in Nalado Village with his family. One of eight children, one of his younger siblings has multiple disabilities. When Ahmed was ten months old he had a severe case of malaria that left his lower limbs and one hand impaired. When not using a wheelchair, Ahmed crawls with difficulty. His home is just 1.5km away from the school but in his community, a family with two disabled children is seen as being cursed for wrongdoing and as a result Ahmed was looked at with negativity.

Mugoda enrolled in primary school for the second time in 2011. He had first enrolled in 2008 but dropped out because the classroom was inaccessible. At 12, Mugoda should be in class 5 like his peers, but he is only in class 1 as a result of his delayed enrolment, which arose not only as a result of his impairments but also his parents' loss of hope.

Through community outreach and the identification and assessment process, the project staff and a member of the Namirembe School Parents Support group visited the Mugoda's family at the beginning of the year. During the discussion about how Ahmed could be helped to enrol, his parents commented:

"Mugoda is so interested in going to school. Many times he has cried seeing his siblings leave for school in the morning, and indeed from what I see him doing he is a bright boy. Our challenges however, are that we do not have a person to carry him to school daily since we have to be in the gardens and we do not know whether he will cope with the school activities."

After a thorough discussion with the project staff, Mugoda's parents were able to borrow a wheelchair from a neighbour to use in the morning to go to school. He enrolled in February but still found the classroom inaccessible. Leonard Cheshire Disability intervened immediately by creating a ramp on the side of the block. The project also provided a wheelchair and Mugoda can now go to school with only minimal help from his peers and siblings.

He has developed many friends in his class, who often push him around the school in his wheelchair. During one of the project team's visits to the school, Mugoda expressed his excitement and jokingly said "Will you also help Mwanamoiza so that he too can come to school like me?" (Mwanamoiza is a disabled child in the same village and suffered from a spinal injury and is always carried if he has to relocate to any place.)



Children with disabilities trying the new accessible latrines for the first time.

NEW MEMBER:-



Rotarian John Smith was inducted by President John Bennett on Friday 28th October.
Classification:- Hotel Management.
Committee:- Foundation

Community and Vocational:- Blood pressure testing day had seen a large number of people taking part also Canal Day was well attended. Future events include Christmas Street Organ collections at Tesco, Sainsbury's and Morrisons. The main event next year is Dragon Boats at Broughton Castle and the organising committee under the directorship of Andrew Fairbairn have met.

Foundation:- Family Christmas Festival of Music on Saturday 10th December St Mary's Church. Brian Doe will be organising the collection in lieu of Christmas Cards. Stephens Steaming is booked for June 17th 2012.

Sports & Entertainment:- Applications are now required for District Conference, Bournemouth 15th – 18th March 2012. The club is registered for the District Darts competition. The Club Outing is arranged for the 10th April to H.M.S. Belfast and Lord's Cricket ground.

International:- John Hansford will be arranging details for the Contact visit to Italy on 17th – 20th May 2012. Other events planned are a Race Night in February and the visit of the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra at Bloxham School, provisional date Sunday 15th April. Hanwell Fields have been very supportive of Shelter box and have donated £1200 enabling the purchase of two Shelter Boxes.

Youth Opportunities:- A number of events in the pipeline:- BYHP Interviews, Children Singing for Children, Young Chef, Young Musician and RYLA. Ian Anthistle is liaising with the Cherwell Rotary Club with regard to the possibility of setting up Rotoract or an Interact Club or both. Blessed George Napier School has shown an interest in forming an Interact Club.

SPEAKER REPORTS.

Our speaker on Friday 7th October was Emily Chapman, Emily is the daughter of Rev Janet Chapman who was a member of our Club during her stay in Banbury as vicar of St. Mary's Church.. Emily is currently studying for an M.A. in Town Planning at Sheffield. She arrived by train from Sheffield to speak to us about her experiences in Uganda.

During her holiday period this year Emily decided to go to Uganda for six weeks with a group of 20 young people to help in that country. The first week was a team period in which they got to know each other with various activities. Emily said she had a fear of heights so did Bungee jumping also a fear of water so White water rafting and Canoeing helped to alleviate these fears. She then went to a small rural school to teach, as this was the main reason for her visit. The class was a group of thirteen to sixteen years, initially she found a difficulty in teaching because of their use of English was limited. But by various means she adapted her method of teaching and things greatly improved. Regular attendance was often a problem among the older boys but for some reason the attendance improved with a young and attractive teacher taking the classes. Emily enjoyed the experience and found it to help in building her own confidence with teaching young people from a quite different culture.

She hopes to give help to the school in the future by raising a £1000 to improve the facilities at the school.

The children also made handicrafts as well as their basic education and these were sold to help fund the school activities. There is a Rotary club in the area and it is hoped that we may be able to make contact and help in Emily's endeavours.

It was very rewarding for us to see how a young person has made an effort to improve her own experiences and also to help people who have less than ourselves.

Rotarian David Hitchcox

BIRDS OF PREY

Keith Jones gave us a talk with a difference. Instead of the usual Power Point or slides projected onto the wall he arrived with a Falcon on his arm. Keith runs The Fir Tree Falconry at Warmington and has about 30 birds of prey there. He amazed us to begin with by telling us that the falcon he had brought with him cost £6,000 and that pure white falcons can cost tens of thousands of pounds and are very popular in Arab countries.

He told us that his birds fly every day and are fitted with tracking devices as they can often fly off many miles. The last time a falcon had flown off he had had to retrieve it from Burford. He described the various types of birds of prey, the ways in which they search for and find their prey. Acute eyesight is a notable feature and they can spot prey many miles away. Owls have acute hearing as they hunt in the dark. His talk aroused a high level of interest and provoked many questions. Several people held the falcon on their arms including :-



The President who looked a little nervous about it. Keith was warmly applauded at the end and a number of members talked to him after lunch. Rotarian John Phillips.

The Speaker on the 21st October was Brian Noble his subject was Cruse Bereavement Care in Banbury. Cruse was established in 1959 in Richmond on Thames, Surrey and initially sought to help women who had been bereaved and has over the past 50 years expanded its aims to embrace any person, irrespective of age or gender who has suffered from bereavement.

Cruse Bereavement Care exists to promote the well-being of bereaved people and enable anyone suffering a bereavement caused by death to understand their grief and cope with their loss. The organisation provides counselling and support and offers information and advice.

Cruse is the UK's largest bereavement charity and last year we:- Responded to nearly 1000.000 requests for assistance.

Helped 32,700 bereaved people face to face, including 2,500 children and young people under the age of 18. Worked with more than 1,7000 people in bereaved suicide.

Cruse has been established in Banbury since 1984. The local branch is part of the Oxfordshire and West Berks area and broadly covers Cherwell District and North Oxfordshire. Given our close proximity to Northampton and Warwickshire we also provide services for the southern areas of these counties and work closely with their cruse branches.

Cruse is a charity and services are provided free by volunteers, the majority of whom are trained in bereavement counselling. Cruse is supported by a Central Office in Richmond, which has a small core staff group.

A vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Paul Gardner.

On Friday 28th. October, Rotarian and Paul Harris Fellow, Tim Bryce told us of his life and work. He commenced by recalling research which he had done into his Scottish roots and went back to the 1600,s when his family were yeoman farmers in Scotland. His Grt. Grt. Grandfather became a Presbyterian minister who eventually joined the Irish Church in a parish near Belfast. He had a family which included nine sons who all went back to Scotland and attended universities

there. Tim's Great Grandfather became a Doctor as also did his Grandfather. His father also went to university and practised for a short time as an architect. He then started a Boat Chandlers business in Poole. Unfortunately during the war the business was bombed. Tim's father then bought a farm in north Wiltshire. Tim was now at boarding school where he was encouraged to take up his life long hobby and profession in photography. His first employment was in farming and went to agricultural college which he left with good qualifications which enabled him to take up a post with the Unilever Company who manufactured animal feeds. He worked as a technical sales man visiting and advising farmers. Changes in this industry led to redundancy and the opportunity to put his long time hobby to good use. Tim then began his career as a successful photographer. His experience in farming enabled him to do work for farmers who often wanted a record of their prize stock. He built up a successful business with professional equipment which enabled him to produce excellent results for his clients. He retired at 64 and at this time caring for his elderly mother. Because of this he became a member of the Oxfordshire Carers Forum and became chairman of the group. Tim found it quite a difficult position and the constant need for help by carers and the lack of funding to do all that he wished, led to his resignation. He was now member of the Windrush Valley Rotary Club who recognised the work he had done and they awarded him a Paul Harris fellowship for the time and effort he had put in for the Carers organisation.

He is now enjoying life with a narrow boat around the canal system and holidays abroad a welcome respite from a very busy life.

Past president Ron Barnett summed up this talk by stating that some of our most interesting talks come from our own members, this was no exception.

D.Hitchcox

CONGRATULATIONS. Two Anniversaries

Jack and Marget Friswell recently celebrated 65 years of marriage.

Stanley and Pauline Crump celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

OntheLighter Side.

A man suffered a serious heart attack while shopping. The paramedics rushed the man to hospital where he had emergency open heart bypass surgery.

He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at the Catholic Hospital . A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clip board loaded with several forms and a pen. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment. "Do you have health insurance or any money in the bank?" she asked. "No," He replied. "Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" asked the nun. He said, "Only a spinster sister and she is a nun."

The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters Nuns are married to God."

The patient replied, "Perfect... Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

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penultimate Friday of the month.

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