



SHELTERBOX

ShelterBox was founded by Tom Henderson, a Rotarian and former Royal Navy search and rescue diver. He saw that the aid response to most disasters was in the form of food and medicine to help people survive the immediate aftermath.

Little or no assistance was given in terms of proper shelter to help them through the first few days, weeks and months as they tried to rebuild their lives. ShelterBox was launched to fill that void.

In 1999, Tom started researching the idea, sourcing equipment and twisting arms to get the project off the ground. His persistence paid off in April 2000 when ShelterBox was launched and the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall adopted it as its millennium project. Little did they know that it would become the largest Rotary club project in the world, with affiliates in eight countries.

The first consignment of 143 boxes was sent to earthquake victims in the Indian state of Gujarat in January 2001. Over the next three years the project matured and by the end of 2004 nearly 2,600 boxes had been dispatched, following 16 major disasters. On 26 December 2004, news came of the devastating Boxing Day Tsunami and ShelterBox faced its most significant challenge, one that would change its course forever. Donations and volunteers poured in and we were able to ramp up our operations on a scale unimaginable just six months earlier.

In 2005 we sent out more than 22,000 boxes, almost 10 times the number we had sent out in the previous three years. Not only were we sending aid to victims of the Tsunami, but we were also able to help those who had lost their homes in Hurricane Katrina in the USA and the massive earthquake that hit the Kashmir region of Pakistan. In just a few short months, ShelterBox had emerged as a major player in the field of international disaster relief.

We have continued to build on our Tsunami experience, helping as many people as we can, as quickly as we can, the moment disaster strikes.

We have now worked in more than 50 countries in response to over 80 different disasters.

WHAT'S IN A SHELTERBOX?

SHELTER

At the heart of every ShelterBox is a ten-person tent. It is custom made for ShelterBox by Vango, one of the world's leading tent manufacturers, and is designed to withstand extreme temperatures, high winds and heavy rainfall. Internally, each tent has privacy partitions that allow recipients to divide the space as they see fit. The design is constantly being adapted to improve functionality and durability. 2008 saw the introduction of a heavy-duty tent that can better withstand extreme temperatures and UV exposure. Already it has been distributed in the African states of Swaziland, Somalia and Sudan, as well as the mountains of north Pakistan.

ADAPTABILITY

We keep a broad range of equipment in stock so we can adapt the contents of a box to a specific disaster. For example, following the Javanese earthquake in 2006, when some resources were available locally or could be salvaged from one storey buildings, the overwhelming need was for shelter – so we just sent tents, packing two in each box. Shelter Box also issues school boxes, which contain supplies for a teacher and 50 children, which are dispatched to disaster zones where the local school has been destroyed and there is little prospect of it being rebuilt in the short term. This provides a return to some form of routine and normality for children who are often deeply traumatised by the disaster that has hit their community.

FIT FOR PURPOSE

Every item is durable, practical and brand new. The box itself is lightweight and waterproof and has been used for a variety of purposes in the past – from water and food storage containers to a cot for a newly born baby.

A SMILE

Every box contains a children's pack containing drawing books, crayons and pens. For children who have lost most, if not all, their possessions, these small gifts are treasured.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

A basic tool kit containing a hammer, axe, saw, trenching shovel, hoe head, pliers and wire cutters can be found in every box. These items enable people to improve their immediate environment, by chopping firewood or digging a latrine, for example. Then, when it is possible, to start repairing or rebuilding the home they were forced to leave.

A HEART TO THE HOME

A key piece in every box is either a wood burning or multi-fuel stove - that can burn anything from diesel to old paint. This provides the heart of the new home where water is boiled, food is cooked and families congregate. In addition, there are pans, utensils, bowls, mugs and water storage containers.

WARMTH AND PROTECTION

In addition to the tent, the boxes contain a range of other survival equipment including thermal blankets and insulated ground sheets, essential in areas where temperatures plummet at nightfall.

Where malaria is prevalent mosquito nets are supplied, as well a life saving means of water purification. Water supplies often become contaminated after a major disaster, as infrastructure and sanitation systems are destroyed, this presents a secondary but no less dangerous threat to survivors than the initial disaster itself.

What has the Rotary Club of Banbury done for Shelterbox?

The first Shelterbox donated by the Rotary Club of Banbury was in 2003 when one box was sent to a disaster in Liberia. It was then three years later in 2006 that a further three boxes were donated and sent to Dili in East Timor. In 2007 two more boxes were financed and sent Dhaka in Bangladesh. There then followed another three boxes in 2008 and these were delivered to the recent disaster in Myanmar (Burma).

The Shelterbox team responded immediately to the devastating Cyclone Nargis that hit Myanmar in May 2008. More than 22,500 lives were reported to have been lost, plus 41,000 missing and 95% of houses destroyed. Shelterbox was one of the first Aid organisations to enter the Country after gaining visas from the Embassy. Shelterbox worked closely with local authorities as Cornish fishermen and SRT leader Ian Neal created a "train the trainer" session with the Burmese fire service. The majority of the 2,000 Shelterboxes were deployed in the two worst affected areas Labutta and Bogale.

Robert Julian Dix or as he was known to us all in Rotary "Bob." It was with much sorrow that we heard of the death of Bob. A valued member of our Rotary Club died on 14th August after a short illness, he was born on 10th September 1930. There were many friends and relatives at his service held at Banbury Crematorium on 25th August 2009.

The following is taken from the tribute given by Mrs Janet Veale at Bob's funeral.

Bob was born in Rangoon where his father was an official in the Imperial Indian bank. The two older girls had also begun life in exotic places, one in Calcutta and one in Lucknow. His sister Dorothy told me that little Bobby was brought back to England aged three months wrapped up against the cold weather so only his red nose was showing. Bob's version differs slightly. The all enveloping wrapping was his mother's attempt to hide him from view because he was an odd looking baby.



The following years were spent in France then Jersey. Fortunately the family moved back to England before hostilities culminated in the German occupation. They then settled in Bath.

His education began at Marlborough College. Although not his contemporaries but among his fellow Marlburians were many distinguished writers including Louis McNeice, John Betjeman and Seigfreid Sassoon. Bob's pleasure at being a part of the richness of that literary society must surely have outweighed any memory of the poor living conditions.

Later it was to Trinity College Oxford where he read law, gained his Master's degree and attended the Middle Temple dinners to qualify as a barrister. Bob did not enter Chambers but joined the staff of the Inland Revenue.

In the late 1950's early in his career he was sent to Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland and its people enriched Bob's life. He enjoyed the natural beauty of the countryside where he could walk freely with his dog. He revelled in the manner of speech and the idiom and the encounters with odd characters. Among his many stories is the one when going to the laundry in Enniskillen to collect some of his shirts. "Good morning Mr Dix" said the lady behind the counter. "Isn't it a lovely day Mr Dix? Are ye going walkin this weekend Mr Dix." "Indeed I am. Would my laundry be ready yet?" said Bob "I'll just see, what name please?"

When the time came for Bob to leave Enniskillen his secretary came to say goodbye and asked if he knew his successor. "Yes" said Bob, "he's from Glasgow". Oh No, "Not another Englishman."

He was a stalwart member of Banbury Rotary Club from 1977 having transferred from the Rotary club of Norwich South. He served as assistant Honorary Secretary from 1981 to 1986 and then became Honorary Secretary until 1991. I had the impression that Rotary clubs were for well intentioned people who wished to support some deserving causes but mainly their aim was to enjoy pleasant company and a few good dinners.

This does not at all describe the Rotary club of Banbury. Apart from fund raising for many charities the club became involved with education projects. A schools debating competition was set up with Bob taking on the task of inviting schools to promote the idea of inter school competition. He was received with varying enthusiasm but was successful in convincing head teachers of the value of the contest to the development of their pupils.

In 1991 the Rotary District Quiz was inaugurated. Bob was among a group organising the quiz when between fifty and sixty clubs in district 1090 took part. With his knowledge and astonishing memory it will come as no surprise that Banbury either won or came a close second in many contests. Then there was Group Study exchanges and visits and the search for host families for the participants from abroad. The Rotary club members have been immensely supportive in recent weeks. David Barlow and wife Wendy have looked upon Bob as a member of their family for many years. Others, Mike Budd and Maurice Humphris among them, have enjoyed his company, his wit and humour, the extraordinary wide range of knowledge of literature and his gentle undemanding personality.

The quiet man walking his dog was a familiar figure in Kings Sutton. The dog most remembered is Sara who shared Bob's life for more than 12 years. It is said that people tend to grow to resemble their dogs. With Sara, the dog became like his master, quiet, undemanding, friendly, and welcome in any company.

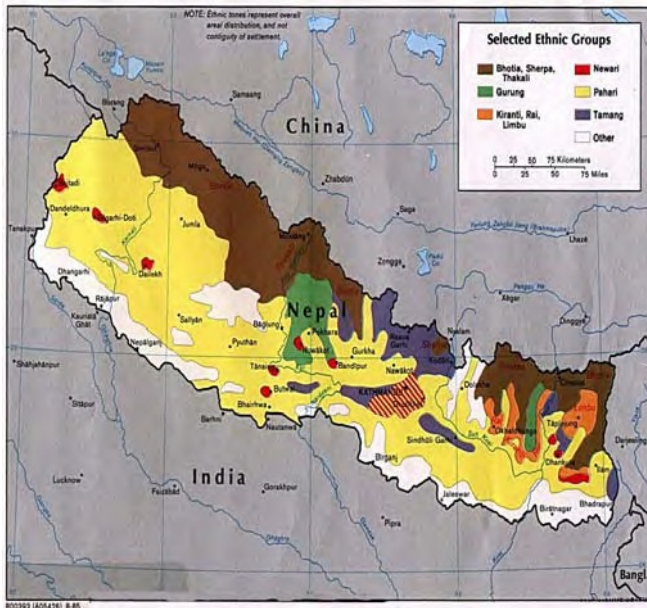
His memory for prose and poetry was prodigious. Visits to the theatre were always improved by the apres theatre session on reaching home – however late the time. Bob could remember speeches from all the Shakespeare plays and it was not unusual to have to insist that at two a.m. he should really cease the recital and get some sleep.

Bob's sister Dorothy said that Bob was always an enthusiastic traveller and an excellent travelling companion. A great raconteur and now, again on his travels she feels sure he is delighting a new audience.

SPEAKER REPORTS.

A year in Nepal – Presentation by Bob Price on Friday, 31st August.

At the evening meeting at Banbury House Hotel the members present enjoyed a well illustrated power point presentation by Bob Price, the immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Cheltenham Cleeve Vale. He opened by giving a little personal background before explaining why he and his wife Kath spent a year in Dharan in eastern Nepal.



As a teenager he was fascinated by maps and his ambition was to work for the Ordnance Survey. When he applied he was told that they had no vacancies but the Royal Engineers could possibly offer him mapping work. To his mother's dismay, he enlisted for nine years but he became little more than a map filing clerk. He thought of leaving the army but was persuaded to transfer to the RASC where he was rapidly picked out for promotion and following a course at Mons he was commissioned. After thirty seven and a half years in the army he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, not bad for someone simply joined up to draw maps.

His task in Nepal was to wind down one of the two Gurkha recruiting depots in Nepal, located at Dharan in the eastern part of the country. This was due to deductions in the size of the British Army. The other, more centrally located depot at Pokhara was to continue. Pokhara he

explained is a popular base for trekkers from many parts of the world, but in Dharan white faces were something of a rarity. He and Kath were very well received there though and greatly enjoyed their stay.

His talk covered his duties, the method of recruiting, some background on the Gurkha people, who are only one part of the ethnic mix in Nepal. We were given insights into life in Nepal both on and off base and some indication of problems which he encountered which often called for an imaginative and pragmatic approach. There was a period when no fuel was available and risking his career he used 'alternate sources', and at another time obtained pure opium from the same sources when the supply of morphine for a patient ran out and pain relief was desperately needed.

He illustrated a trek which he and his wife made from Pokhara to Muklinath on the Chinese border, this switchback route included five major climbs rising and descending many thousands of feet, clearly indicating the need for porters for whom no load seemed to trouble. The scenery was truly stunning. Wherever he went Bob was greeted with great respect as a British Army Officer and he and Kath were hosted on two occasions by former Gurkha officers, who are viewed with great admiration by the general populace.

Bob himself said that he has enormous respect for the courage and loyalty of the Gurkha soldiers who have served the British crown so faithfully ever since we made our peace with each other late in the 19th century. He has reservations though about all former Gurkha soldiers and their families coming to this country as when serving, and in retirement their income is very much greater than the average Nepalese and should there be a mass movement out of Nepal the economy could well suffer quite seriously, so the picture which we have been given is not as clear cut as it may have seemed.

A most interesting presentation and a fitting end to Rupert Kipping's term as speaker finder, he having been a medical officer with the Gurkhas.

Maurice Humphris

“555 111” A talk by Rotarian Roy Watkins on Crimestoppers.

Roy Watkins was our speaker on this date on what initially was thought to be a mystery subject namely "555 111" but as Roy soon explained if you put 0800 in front of these numbers then it was the phone number of "Crimestoppers". Rtn Martin Phillips said he thought it had something to do with Roys support of Newcastle United!

Roy has been involved in the legal world for some 34 years and in the good old days of the Probation Service as we knew it he was the senior probation officer in this area and was well known to the good and bad guys alike. Roy spoke with some justified passion regarding the watered down system which we find today as it would seem that to be the case to many of us who had experience of the old system.

Since his retirement Roy has been involved with Crimestoppers at a senior level and he went on to explain that in the late sixties and seventies, under the former Probation service, that 1% of the population was involved in the commission of crime, disturbingly that figure now stands at 40%. He went on to say that with the watering down of the Probation Service and the handing over to Social Workers, the misfits and miscreants in our society have little or nothing to fear from the Justice System.

Boarstals and like establishments had been closed and there is no present day deterrent in sentencing. Bearing all these facts in mind, Roy went on to explain that Crime Stoppers, which has been in existence for some 21 years is a vital tool in the detection of crime with it being entirely confidential and that there is absolutely no risk to a person who calls to report a crime. It is even possible to pass on the same details by Email with the same level of anonymity being guaranteed.

The National Centre for the organisation is at Morden and costs in the region of £84,000 a year to run, which seems incredible value for money.

As we all know, in several cases the police announce details of a reward for evidence leading to arrest and conviction of a criminal and it may well be that the person calling Crimestoppers will be interested in reaping the rewards for his information. If this is the case the person is given a code and will be contacted regarding the reward in about six months hence.

Several campaigns are frequently made to raise peoples awareness of the existence of the service and its ideals. It is normal practice to have the Crimestoppers contact number displayed on the ceilings of police cells to give detained persons the opportunity to call if they feel the need! It would seem that on a local level, the number is displayed on the interior of the Oxford taxi cabs.

Crimestoppers is entirely independent of the police but the evidence it is able to collect merely by its anonymity is vital in the fight against crime which blights us so much today.

Roys enlightening talk was well received by the assembled members and gave all many facts of which they were unaware.

Bob Nurden

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Foundation.

The Christmas Festival of Music is planned for the 12th. December at St. Mary's Church.

It is hoped that the various events planned will raise up to £4500 for Rotary Foundation together with Rotarians donations.

International Committee.

Events planned for the coming year are the Old Tyme Music Hall, A Race Night and a Concert to be given at Bloxham School by the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra.

Youth Opportunities.

The Young Chef competition is to be run again this year, in conjunction with Banbury Cherwell club.

There is a proposal to hold a dinner evening with Oxford and Cherwell Valley College to promote the college and Rotary fundraising.

The organisation for Children Singing for Children is well advanced with 23 schools participating with one still to reply. Sponsorship of £750.00 has been offered for this event from Bloxham School.

The Skidz project which we have supported in the past is desperately in need of funds.

Sports and Entertainment.

A number of events are being considered for the coming year including:-

The Varsity match in December, A darts evening with Banbury Cherwell Club, Inter Club Quiz, "Poetic License" an evening with Noel Coward or P. G. Woodhouse, The Annual Club Outing, A Theatre Visit and another visit to Rousham House.

Council Clippings.

It is requested that members holding any pieces of Rotary equipment such as banners, tabards etc. Would they let Alan Wolstencroft know as he has volunteered storage and safe keeping and a central storage so that we will know where they are when needed.

It was agreed that Anna Galvin should be invited to a Rotary event as thank you for the help given with committee rooms.

There was a reminder that it would be good if Rotarians should wear Rotary sweat shirts or similar when attending outside events to promote Rotary.

Proposals for funding were:- Hook Norton Youth Band £150.00, and set up costs for the Fairbairn Challenge booklet £750.00 and Children Singing for Children £2500.00.

SPECIAL DIARY DATE.

SATURDAY 31ST. OCTOBER

"PRESIDENTS NIGHT"

The Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon.

You will remember this wonderful venue when we entertained our Contact visitors.

Details to follow.



ATTENDANCE for July.

Average Attendance, 46

Percentage Attendance. 63%

Members other activities. 125

Visits to other Club's 5

Rotarian visitors 7

Fifth Friday evening 25 Rotarians

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