

The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury
District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

President Ian Rodrick

September 2012



Rodrick's Ramblings

The things people say sometimes bring you up short, and make you think. A senior ex-Pres said to me the other day –“Well that’s a sixth of your year over”! Makes you think, doesn’t it? How do you measure progress? Eight meetings done, first two council meetings completed and 4 kg of sausages eaten, rounds of the various committees well in hand – or is it more important to look at what progress we are making and how much fun we are having.

As far as progress is concerned I see that a lot of work is being done and plans are well advanced for many of our annual events. Thank you to all concerned.

The fun and fellowship side is doing well too. Those who attended had a super evening at Charles Swain’s home and to my amazement raised about £300 for foundation at the same time - thanks to Charles and Annie Philips, who seemed to be in charge.

It was good to help at Cherwell’s fun day last Monday – a success in spite of the threatening clouds. The embryonic Rotaracters had a stall and I am told that they are almost up to double figures with members and are thinking about Chartering soon. Please try to help and encourage any potential members – family, neighbours, friends, employees – to go along and meet them. I hope they will share our stall at the Canal Day on Sunday 7th October.

A final thought – I have had good feedback from members regarding my aim to allow speakers a twenty minute slot, even if we run after 2.00 o’clock, but a recent DG commented to me the other week that there are only two clubs in 1090 who always have a dress code of wearing ties at meetings. Food for thought??

Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland runs a host of competitions aimed at celebrating the talents and achievements of young people.

[RIBI Young Chef](#) [RIBI Youth Speaks](#) [RIBI Young Musician](#) [RIBI Young Photographer](#)

[RIBI Young Writer](#) [RIBI Technology Tournament](#) [RIBI Young Citizens Award](#)

Two of our competitions, Young Writer and Young Photographer, have all been awarded the prestigious [London 2012 Inspire](#) mark, which has provided opportunities for young people all over the country to be part of the 2012 Games.

Foundation Cheese and Wine.




A pleasant evening at Rotarian Charles Swain's house and garden. A rain storm preceded this evening but it did not dampen the spirits of those attending. The first priority after having the first glass of wine was to view the terrific selection of vintage cars in Charles collection. The pristine way in which each car was displayed was a joy to behold and quite a few of us were drooling over the magnificent bodies on view. All in working order with some going out to events on the Holiday weekend. We all then gathered for a pleasant social evening of friends catching up with the family news.

Rotarian Martin Phillips together with the help of his wife Annie and bartenders Rotarian Owen Kiffin and Jacqueline made sure that we were all well fed and watered. The evening raised over £300 for Foundation. The best part though was the social side, meeting together and having a pleasant evening. Rotarians Bion and Swain taking things easy.

D.H.

The profile of the Foundation scholar that we are hosting. Julie will be speaking to Club on the 19 October.

JULIE Self		Canada	Oxford University	Interests: Travel, Hiking, Camping, Music, Cooking, Yoga/Aerobics	Host Club: Banbury	Counsellor: Martin Phillips
		District 5370	Brasenose College			
		Edmonton Alberta	Studying: Water Science, Policy & Management			
		RC Edmonton West				

Speaker Reports.

Our Speaker on Friday, 27th July was Jane Richards from Action on Hearing Loss, a Charity formerly known as The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID). She was accompanied by her Area Manager, Jo Pickard.

In her talk entitled 'Changing the World for Those with Hearing Loss', Jane described in great detail the practical difficulties experienced by those who suffer hearing loss and tinnitus and spoke of the severe sense of isolation it brings to many sufferers. The Charity seeks to assist by offering practical advice and guidance to those with hearing loss or tinnitus and does itself offer a wide range of products designed aid hearing. Jane told us that it is also deeply involved in the support of both technical and clinical research, and spoke of an important recent development in the field of stem-cell research. Far too early to be certain, but 'encouraging'.

They were hosted by Rotarian Tony Brace.



MY LIFE – Rotarian SURINDER DHESI 3rd. August.

Surinder was born in Moranwali Punjab, India in 1961. Her father came to Britain in 1963 and two years later She came over with her mother and two brothers. When they arrived in England they stayed with her uncle and aunty at Molineux St Derby.

After one year her father purchased their first house in Fleet Street, Derby. Her father used to work double shifts at Leys Foundry in Derby and her mother worked as a winder at English Sewing Belper Derbyshire.

When Surinder was five she started at St James Primary School and then on to Derby School.

She was married to Balbir at 18 and then moved to Banbury. Her husband used to work at Fine Lady Bakeries as a Supervisor and is currently a civil servant for

the Job Centre Plus. Surinder worked for a short period at Faccenda in Brackley before her oldest son Benjir was born. Five years after her oldest son was born she gave birth to her second son, Manvir Singh. When Surinder saw an advert for Sales Staff for a Marks & Spencer store that was going to be built on Bridge Street, Banbury, she applied and was successful in getting a job as a Sales Adviser. That was 30 years ago. She is currently the Chairman of the Business Involvement Group at Marks & Spencers and also deals with charity letters from the public.

At 26 Surinder went on her first family holiday to India, she thought it was very exciting as it was a new experience for the whole family because she could not recollect any early memories.

Surinder and her husband Balbir encouraged their children to do well in education. Every day they used to spend one hour doing English and Maths and she used to buy the different Keystage books. Benjit was a good tennis player and Twai Kon Do. Manvir also joined in the activities because they believed their sons needed a balance of good sports and academic education.

Benjit got 9A and 1B in GCSEs and 2A and 1B in his A levels. Manvir got 9A, 3A* and 1B in Maths. Benjir went to UCL and got a degree in Computer Science. He then went to Sandhurst and became an Officer. He volunteered and went to Iraq and because he proved himself, he became a Captain and went to Germany for a year and was Second in Command at Pirbright Surrey one of the largest Phase 1 Training establishments.

He started his MBA when he was in the Army working fulltime and studied in his free time. On July 19th 2012 he was awarded his MBA. Manvir Singh went to King's College in London and did a degree in Theology and did his masters in Birmingham. He is a teacher of RE and is also a Sikh Prison Chaplain at Bullingdon Prison. Surinder joined the Banbury Labour Party twenty years ago and was selected to stand as a candidate for Neithrop Ward. She has been a Councillor for nearly seventeen years and has been involved in local campaigns including Save the Horton Hospital, Woodgreen Swimming Pool, Parking Charges and the current Dial a Ride. She enjoys helping to fight for loan issues and she always put people first and their needs.

In 2004 Surinder was elected as the Banbury Town Mayor. She felt it was an honour and a privilege to serve the people of Banbury. She attended nearly 400 events, some were very low profile and some were very high profile. She felt it was a very humbling meeting so many volunteers, some of whom are members of Rotary who do a very good job in helping the community for no recognition or monetary gain. Surinder met Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne when she came to unveil the Lady on a White Horse statue. During her Mayor's term she managed to raise £15,000. Sadly she lost her Town and District Seat in 2008 and County Seat in 2009. However, May 2012 she was re-elected for Neithrop Ward.

Throughout her life, Surinder has learnt that life is too short and that one should always help other people and said that God will judge you on your good deeds.

Steve Orchard Managing Director of Quidem Midlands Ltd

Our speaker on Friday 17th August 2012

Steve is principal shareholder and Managing Director of Quidem Midlands Ltd a company formed to purchase a number of Local Radio companies and merge the operations to provide operational benefits. Now owning 8 local stations these include Banbury Sound our local radio station on 107.4

He describes himself as coming from very humble beginnings in Oldham, Lancs but Steve managed to win a place at Oxford University where he read History and graduated successfully not only in this subject but also with a Masters degree in Applied Social Services.

His first job was with Social Services in the Banbury area and he specialised in dysfunctional families and teenage delinquency. He mentioned being required to spend some time in the Banbury Horton Hospital in the maternity unit!

During his time at Oxford he was the social secretary for the Student Union and organised many social events that often included discos and musical entertainment. As a result he became well known locally in this field and was invited to join the local Radio Station Fox F.M. as a football reporter (Oxford Utd) and also subsequently to become a disc jockey on a breakfast show.

This was the start of a fast moving and highly successful career.

In 1985 Steve moved to Bristol to assist with the relaunch Bristol a local radio station GWR and became a regular Breakfast D.J. This company grew very rapidly and soon became a merger target for Gcap Media a major media Plc. As a result of Steve's progress he was recruited as the overall Operations Director as the group expanded worldwide. Stations were purchased in the Far East, Australia and New

Zealand and South America. Steve managed the creation of Classic F.M. as part of the group that continues to be a highly successful station to this day.

Effectively Steve had become a 'turnaround specialist' and when Gcap Media Plc was sold he continued in this type of role until circa 2 years ago when a group of investors persuaded him to lead their newly formed company specialising in Local Radio. With 8 stations now owned Steve foresees the group continuing to grow particularly as the latest financial performance evidences a 30% improvement in profit and advertising turnover in the last financial year.

Whilst very modest in outlining his highly successful career Steve indicates that his achievements have been based on knowing what local listeners want and his strong desire to support and contribute to local communities. He is particularly keen to support fund raising events for charitable organisations in view of the current economic scene and the extensive need for public support to fund local services.

A very interesting presentation laced with humour and continuing impressive success stories.

Bernard Goodchild.

The [World Pooh Sticks Championships](#), organised by the [Rotary Club of Oxford Spires](#), Oxfordshire, have been named 'Britain's favourite quirky event' in the [Countryfile Magazine Awards](#) 2012.



Now in its second year, the Countryfile Magazine Awards are a celebration of countryside and its people. In each of the 12 categories, a panel of experts drew up a shortlist of candidates. The awards were then voted for by readers of the magazine and members of the public. Here's what the magazine had to say about the World Pooh Sticks Championships: "Britain would be a poorer place without eccentric country pursuits. From a line-up including pie throwing and snail racing, you chose the classic game invented by Pooh Bear. The championships, organised by the Rotary Club of Oxford Spires, are played at Little Wittenham."

Karen Eveleigh, event organiser of the World Pooh Sticks Championships and member of Oxford Spires, commented: "We at Rotary are delighted that we have been awarded this honour and would like to thank everyone that voted for us. The award is just as much for the friends, family and other volunteers who help us run the event. We look forward to another successful event in 2013 which will be the 30th year of the championship".

The Championships traditionally take place on a Sunday in late March. Pooh Bear and Tigger bounce around all day long entertaining children and performing for TV cameras. Articles following the event this year appeared on the TV news in places as far away as China and Dubai and the individual winner, four year old Aidan Eltham from Wallingford, was even invited to appear on BBC The One Show sofa with Alex and Matt.

Other activities that are put on for families to enjoy were Roll-a-Penny, Hook-a-Duck, a Coconut Shy, Welly Throwing, a Bouncy Castle and Splat-the-Rat as well as the ever popular BBQ.

The championships could not be run without the help of members from other Rotary and Rotaract clubs: [Abingdon Vesper Rotary club](#), [Rotary Club of Banbury](#), [High Wycombe Rotaract Club](#), [Oxford Rotaract Club](#), [Sinodun Rotary club](#) and [Windsor & St George Rotary Club](#). Thanks also must go to the residents of Little Wittenham, the [15th Didcot Scout Group](#), to friends and family of Oxford Spires members and to local sponsors.

The event raises approximately £3,000 for local, national and international charities supported by the Rotary Club of Oxford Spires and the other Rotary clubs that helped.

Rotart Club of Banbury Cherwell “An Audience With”..... Dave Richards

We shall be continuing our theme of “Audiences with” on Wednesday 31st October at the Whately Hall in - Banbury and cordially invite you and your guests to attend. -

Our Guest Speaker will be Dave Richards who is Chairman of Prodrive and Aston Martin. A former World Rally - Champion he then set his sights on Formula 1 and became Team Principle of BAR & Benetton Racing Teams. We - look forward to hearing about his career and of course the development of Prodrive’s new premises in Banbury. -

The evening will be a Black Tie event and I very much hope you will be able to join us – our previous events have - all raised significant funds for local charities. The proceeds of this event will be divided between Lets Play, - Banbury and Rotary Charities. -

Tickets will be £35 each and tables of 10 can be arranged. -

If you are interested please contact – John Rathbone on 01993 813500 or email -

john@mr-ifa.co.uk

Committee Reports.

Community and Vocational.

Blood Pressure day is to be October 13th. The Christmas Street organ collections were now being organised as usual. It was proposed to donate £100 to Polly Preedy for her Food bank.

Foundation.

Martin and the Club are hosting an Ambassadorial Scholar, Julie Self from Canada.

Forthcoming events include:-

Stephens Summer Steaming Sunday 16th. September.

Christmas Festival of Music 15th December at St Mary’s Church.

The Christmas card donations are to be organised again this year.

The annual Frugal Lunch is to be held on Paul Harris day 22nd. February.

Sports & Entertainment.:-

Golf :- Bigwood Trophy is fixed for Thursday 30th. August.

Going to the Dogs at Oxford for an evening meeting on Friday 28th September..

Golf competitions to be arranged, also awaiting date for the 4B’s competition.

Club Darts evening to be held on 14 January 2013 at the Cricket Club.

We will also be entering the District Darts competition.

The Club quiz to be held on 11 March 2013 at the Cricket Club.

District Conference. Hotel is booked, further details shortly.

Joint Service clubs Carol Service to be held on the 16th. December.

Ideas required for the Club Outing to be on the 8 April 2013.

International:-

The visit of the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra will take place at Bloxham School on Sunday 21st - October. -

It is proposed that the Polar Bear Dip will be staged again for those hardy souls on the 1st January 2013. -

Youth Opportunities.

The dates have been fixed for Children Singing for Children , 12 -15th. November 2012 because of an excellent response from schools it will require a fourth night, Monday 12th. Charities to be supported are Children in Nepal , Goodwill and Growth in Africa and See-Saw the bereavement charity. Ninety per cent to be divided equally with 10 % for other children's charities.

The Young Musician competition will be held again at Sibford School, the heats on 18 & 19 January and the final on 23 February 2013

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. -

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