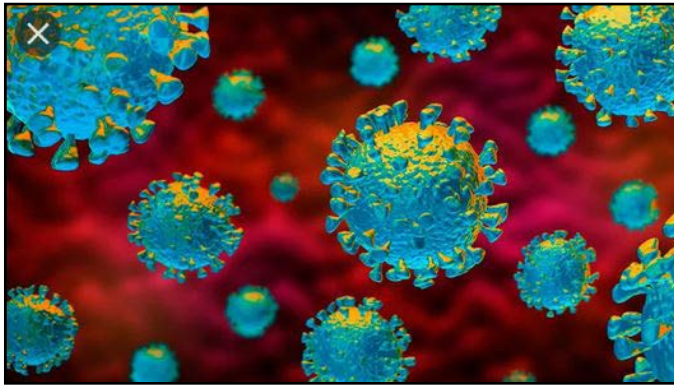




## Volunteering and help for those self isolating from Citizen's Advice North Oxon

The Cherwell Volunteer Driver Service is expanding into an Emergency Food Parcel Delivery Service to ensure that people who are self-isolating because they are in high risk groups or because they have been contaminated with Covid 19 have access to food and some basic essentials. Citizen's Advice have worked tirelessly to get this in place and with the help and support of many of you, it is now ready to go.



South Oxfordshire Food Education Alliance and other food distribution charities have kindly offered to deliver bulk loads of mostly non-perishable food to our Banbury depot where (if it is not already) it will be sorted into food parcels by volunteers.

For those with specific food allergies it will be pot luck!

People who need a food parcel will be able to call our answering service telephone number where they will be instructed to leave their name and telephone number so we can call them back.

Admin volunteers working from home will be able to call the system and retrieve these messages. They will

The Rotary Club of Banbury  
Rotary International  
Club no 19229 District 1090  
President: Surinder Dhési

then call the client to get their details and some basic information so they can be entered on the cloud based client database.

There will then be a planned distribution run.

Volunteer Delivery Drivers will collect the food parcels from the depot and then deliver them to client's

doorsteps. These Drivers will have training about how to maintain physical distance to prevent cross contamination.

They will ring the doorbell and then move two metres away. If the client

does not open the door to retrieve the parcel, within a few minutes, the driver will leave the parcel and inform the main office so that an admin volunteer can follow this up.

SOFEA will be taking emergency contact numbers for all clients so we can check on them. The food is free so no money needs to change hands and drivers and clients will be prohibited from physical contact. Where there is a family in a house sufficient parcels will be delivered. Anyone identified as needing more than a food parcel will be linked to the appropriate telephone service such as advice service, social prescribing, befriending schemes etc

Citizen's Advice have recognised that some people may need sanitary products such as soap, toilet paper and sanitary towels. We have set up a fundraising initiative on our website to raise money so that we can bulk purchase these items as the likelihood of having them donated is low. Please

support this if you can and encourage others to do so too.

This way we can put two toilet rolls and a bar of soap with the food parcel.

It is important to note that this service is a last resort and only to be used when people have exhausted the other local community support eg have no friends or neighbours who can safely get food for them.

This service will cover the whole of Cherwell but we want to get the first runs happening in Banbury next week to iron out any teething problems.

Citizen's Advice are engaging with many social media groups that are currently setting up to encourage them to direct those in desperate need to this provision. We will also be asking them for volunteers.

What do we need from you? If any of you know of any clients in Banbury who would benefit, could you please could you ask them to call us on 0300 3030 125 and leave their name and number so we can call them back. If you know of people who want to volunteer as drivers please direct them to this link.

Pat Coomber-Wood  
Chief Executive Officer  
Citizens Advice North Oxon and South Northants

April 2020



# Dhesi's Diary

**On Friday 6th March Jenny Smith and Diane Avery spoke about the charity Breathe Easy.** Jenny explained that her mother in law had problems with her lungs and she joined Banbury Breathe Easy. Jenny started going with her to the meetings and the Chairman Rev Keith Wakely asked her to become secretary. *Breathe Easy* is a support group for people with lung problems and breathing difficulties for all ages. It is supported by the British Lung Foundation which was started in 1956. People with lung conditions and those who care for them often feel alone. Making friends is important and *Breathe Easy* provides a good opportunity to enable this to happen. The membership includes 'fit' volunteers who help out as well as dedicated health professionals from the Horton Hospital. The Group raises money for the British Lung Foundation which undertakes research but also provides funds locally for respiratory equipment at the Horton Hospital and for the Oxon Community Respiratory Nursing Team.

**On Thursday 12th March the first of the two annual Banbury Rotary Club's Charity Crocus Concerts in aid of The Brodey Centre and End Polio Now was held at St Mary's in Banbury.**

Rotarian John Bennett was the master of ceremonies and students from North Oxfordshire Academy and Wykham Park Academy performed numbers from 'The Next Episode, Young People, Dead Head Blues, Season's of Love, and One Short Day (from Wickard).

There were group and solo performances from some amazing young people. The evening was fun filled with great music and charming, talented young inspiring performers of the future. A big 'Thank You' goes to Banbury Charities who were the main sponsors, everyone at St.Mary's Events Team and the dedicated members of Banbury Rotary Club's Crocus Charity Concerts Project Working Party.

**Friday 13th March saw the induction of Rotarian Ron Bloxham and**

**Rotarian Harry Matthews. It was also the date of the Fellowship Meeting.**

It was a pleasure to welcome the new Rotarians. At Fellowship, Rotarian President Surinder Dhesi, First Vice President David Richardson and his wife Jan, Helen Morris and Tim Bryce attended the conference. There was a tour of Newbury Racecourse and we were informed by our guide that the stables were used as a jail for prisoners at the end of the Second World War. He spoke about how horses are trained and monitored before and after a race. In the evening there was a *Las Vegas Style Games Night* with Roulette, and Singer *Jacob Cole* sang some amazing numbers from well known musicals. This year attendance was low due to coronavirus outbreak.

**On Saturday 14th March District Governor Frank Quinn welcomed everyone** and there were presentations from Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland President Donna



Surinder with new members: Ron Bloxham (l) and Harry Matthews

Wallbank, Mark Cook and Gordon McInally gave a presentation about *Hope and Homes for Children*. Derek Smith gave a presentation about *Thames Hospice* and Chair of Ladies Inner Wheel, Zannifer, explained about the Ladies Inner Wheel. Our very own Rotarian Alan Wolstencroft gave a fantastic talk about his work building new classrooms and toilet facilities in Sierra Leone. David Bruce gave an interesting talk about how he came up with an excellent idea selling beer



The Breathe Easy team with Rotary President Surinder Dhesi and Joan Bond

and some of the challenges he faced and how he overcame them. He spoke about the charity he started enabling people with learning and physical disabilities to have holidays on specially adapted canal boats.

Dame Sara Thornton, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, gave a heart rendering presentation about modern day slavery and how the police had intervened in certain cases and how to report incidents. Karen Evenleigh gave a presentation about Rotary Scholars and Park House Interactors, Rotaract in, Faringdon and Newbury Rotakids also gave an amazing presentations about their fundraising events at school including pizzas and film nights to making sweets and cakes. In the evening there was a 'Black and White with a splash of colour themed Dinner'.

**On Sunday 15th March there was presentation from Colonel Lucy Giles about her experience in the British Army. Message from President Rotarian Surinder Dhesi. Due to the Coronavirus Banbury Rotary Club is suspending all Rotary Activity and Club Meetings till further notice. The health of our members is very important and I would like to offer my help if anyone needs any support.**



## In memorium

**Message from President Rotarian Surinder Dhesi.**

*It is with a sad heart that I have to inform members of the sad and unexpected death of Rotarian David Hitchcox (pictured right with wife Ann) on Tuesday 17th March 2020. He was a hard working Rotarian, former President and treasurer who served our club admirably. My deepest condolences go to Ann and his family, may God give them the strength during this difficult time.*

*David Hitchcox pictured with Ann when he was presented with Paul Harris award for his contribution to Banbury Rotary Club.*



## Welfare

Following the Prime Minister's announcement and the suspension of our Rotary meetings, I have contacted Surinder about welfare. I have no doubt that many of us will be making contact with other members either by 'phone or email, but I am concerned about anyone who is unwell. Surinder agreed with my thoughts, that if you agreed, members should be told, that if they are unwell or should they know of another member who is unwell, I would be grateful if they would contact me. I would make contact with the patient and with their permission pass information to you to be circulated to all members. If you are in agreement with this I should be grateful if you could inform the membership. Keep well. Maurice Humphris.

## Emergency Committee

Council has approved the creation of a small committee to run the club until the Covid 19 crisis is over; this will consist of Rtns Surinder Dhesi, David Richardson, Nig Randall, Andrew Fairbairn, Malcolm Dibb and Peter Wilkins. We are hoping to meet by teleconference in the next few days. I will circulate minutes of these meetings. If you have any issues you would like discussed please let me know so I can add to agenda. I hope you are keeping well and if there is anything the club can do to assist you contact me, keep well Peter Wilkins Hon Sec.

## Air Cadets Cheque

On Monday 9th March, Banbury Rotary Club President Surinder Dhesi and Rotarian John Webb presented a cheque for £1752:28 to FLt.Lt Kisley of 1460 Banbury Squadron Air Cadets for the purchase of a Squadron Banner. Rotarian John Webb and his helpers raised the money through the Annual Christmas collection at Tesco Morrison and Sainsburys playing the organ, also money was raised for Katharine Hospice and they were presented with a cheque for £5256:83.



This month's newsletter is a little shorter than normal - for obvious reasons.

Please look out for the next newsletter at the end of April