



The April Diary

- 4th Community & Vocational Committee
- Classification & Membership Committee
- 6th Rotary Meeting
- 11th Foundation Committee
- 13th Rotary Lunch
- 17th Sports & Entertainment Committee
- 18th International Committee
- Youth Services Committee
- 20th Rotary Meeting
- 21st Barn Dance
- 25th Morgan Car Factory Visit
- 27th Rotary Meeting

For the full year's diary visit
www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk



President's Pen for March

It hardly seems possible that I am preparing my 9th monthly report for the Bulletin - doesn't time fly.

The Club continues to arrange events to support our End Polio Now campaign and the 2 Purple for Polio concerts at St Mary's church were two great evenings of musical entertainment featuring a total range of musical genres and both concerts were thoroughly enjoyable evenings. Many thanks to Fred Riches for all his organisational skills, John Bennett our MC and all Club members who helped steward the concerts which, as well as raising the profile of Rotary's involvement in the End Polio Now campaign, raised a considerable sum of money for the appeal.

Continuing with our work to support local youth we undertook Practice Interviews at Blessed George Napier over two days and I must thank Nigel Randall, Ashley Bedding and all those members and Rotary friends who participated in this very worthwhile event which I know is greatly appreciated by the School and the students.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on 19th March and the lure of a Pink Peppercorns buffet resulted in a good turn-out of members. We received reports from all the Committee Chairs and conducted all the normal business including a very healthy debate regarding Club subscriptions.

Last weekend nine couples and six individuals represented the Club at District Conference at Cheltenham. I know there is a report elsewhere in the Bulletin so I will not steal Ian's thunder but I must thank him for arranging our hotel accommodation at the Clarence Court and was really pleased we were in the Hotel and not the nursing home of the same name!!

Our speakers this month have all been “home grown”. John Webb talked about his day out representing the Club, as part of a Rotary contingent, at the Lord Mayor’s Show in London, Burt Pickering, one of our Brodey scholars impressed us all with his presentation regarding his engineering studies and one year work placement and I had the opportunity to give the Club an update regarding the Sierra Leone education projects.

Behind the scenes the newly formed PR working Group are undertaking a lot of groundwork to help the Club raise our profile within the local community and looking at all aspects of promoting and reporting on our Club events.

I would like to thank you all for your support and hard work so far this Rotary year and I look forward to that continuing for the next 3 months.

President Alan Wolstencroft

Speaker Reports

John Webb – Lord Mayor of London’s New Year Parade



John gave a very informative presentation on the New Year’s Parade which he attended together with

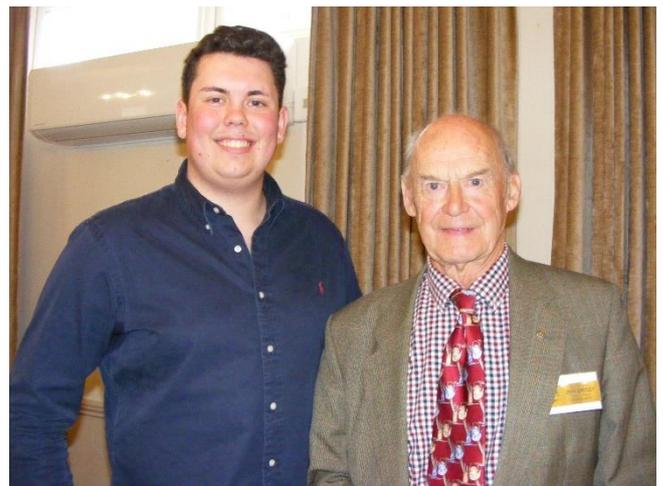
Rotarians and Rotaractors from other Clubs as part of making people aware of the Purple for Polio campaign.

He also informed us of his presence at the annual Grimaldi Service in memory of the father of clowns - Joseph Grimaldi. Not necessarily something one would naturally relate to Rotary (though possibly some Rotarians!) but the point being that one never knows what may arise from different events which might either promote the organisation or in some unexpected fashion lead on to other opportunities to help others.

Consequently, in his own inimitable style, John went on to furnish members with the message that it might be an appropriate time for the Club to review its approach to events and supporting good causes in order to assess whether its resources - time, people, equipment, contacts and money - are being used to achieve their optimum outcome and suggest that we might consider experimenting with new ideas. *NB a review has already been added to the C&V committee agenda.*

Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn

Burt Pickering – My experience as a Brodey Scholar



Burt went to Bournemouth University in 2015 to study mechanical engineering with a £1,500 Rotary Bursary paid in six equal tranches.

He told us how valuable the Bursary (£500 per year) had been to him as it allowed him to concentrate on

his studies without having to go out to work to make ends meet like most of his peers.

He has now successfully completed his first two years studies and is currently having a gap year working for Severn Trent Water in the West Midlands. He told us that his job is helping to move two huge settling tanks containing sewage sludge in order to make way for the new HS2 line which will be going through the site. Also involved will be moving a large screening plant which takes the contents from road sweeping trucks and separates them into reusable products like gravel.

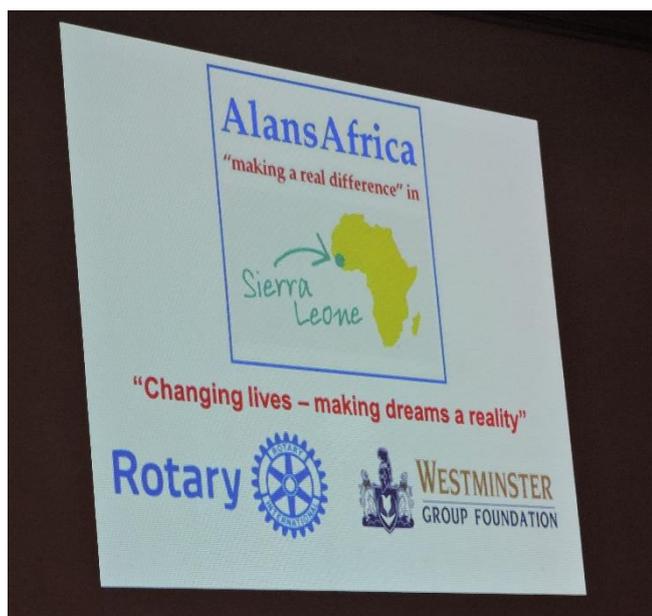
In September this year he will be going back to college for his final year before graduation and has already been offered a job by Severn Trent upon successful completion, with a promise of funding for a Masters Degree.

His hobbies are Rugby Union football and rebuilding motorcycles, of which he has three in his mum's garage - much to her annoyance!

Rtn. John Brodey

Alan Wolstencroft – An Update on, and background of, Sierra Leone Projects

Alan Wolstencroft of the Rotary Club of Banbury is being honoured with the prestigious RIBI's Champions of Change award for his outstanding work in delivering education and associated facilities to children in Sierra Leone.



In 2005 Alan visited Sierra Leone while volunteering for Mercy Ships. His 11 day trip as a volunteer was life-changing and he has visited the country 10 times and established direct links with 4 school communities where he works tirelessly to help them to develop.

The initial need was to reduce class sizes as children were tightly crammed into small rooms and often did not have any classroom furniture. Some of the classrooms were in makeshift buildings consisting of tarpaulins or matting with wooden timbers and were not always resistant to adverse weather conditions.

A project to rebuild classrooms addressed all these issues and it was possible to start secondary education, at the request of the community, in one of the four schools that he supports which had only catered for the junior age group. In addition to funding the building of classrooms, Alan has funded the building of toilet blocks, water wells and rainwater harvesting systems at the schools.

The project funding has all been co-ordinated by Alan with the full support of Club members. Alan has developed a network of support from Rotary Clubs within his Rotary District and beyond. He has worked with dozens of groups including local schools, WI groups, church groups, charitable trusts and local businesses to raise funds. He also receives a lot of support from individuals who have bought into the project knowing that every pound raised goes directly to the project as there are no administration costs.

Alan will receive his Champions of Change award (one of only 12 awarded annually), with other Rotarians from across the country, at a ceremony hosted by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff in Cardiff City Hall in May this year.

Denis Spiller, President of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland, commented:

"The selfless and truly life-changing impact of our champions really demonstrate that we can all make a difference. Alan's work in Freetown has given the communities a new lease of life. He is a very worthy recipient of a Rotary Champions of Change award."

Since 2007 when Alan started working directly with schools in Freetown he has raised a total of £211,000 and EVERY £ donated has gone directly to

the projects as there are no administration costs involved. Alan has undertaken 340 talks regarding his work and these talks have generated £85,000.

Press Release

Events

District Conference 1090 – a curate’s egg

Yes, it was good in parts - very good - but other parts? Well that’s for later.

There were those of us who grumbled about Cheltenham as a venue, but we were wrong. I know it wasn’t the seaside, but the facilities were quite excellent and Mrs Bennett, who led the ladies’ shopping expedition with her usual panache, tells me that the town centre was excellent.

By and large the speakers were excellent and among the highlights were:

Dominic Grieve MP - Excellent talk on the importance of community groups in today’s world;

Barbara Winton - The story of her father Nicholas Winton and his Kindertransport of Jewish children from Nazi Czechoslovakia in 1939;

The Rev Wing Commander Ian Brown on the role of an RAF chaplain;

Felix Francis - son of Dick Francis, Jockey and author; and

Paul Mayhew-Archer, comedy writer (Vicar of Dibley), who was the last speaker and left us holding our sides which were aching with laughter.

There were, of course, others who were also first class.

Back to that curate’s egg and the other parts.

I felt that the presentation and stage management was lacklustre to say the least and, at times, embarrassing!

The “district awards” section was brief in the extreme. I think there was a flash on the screen for a few seconds to say we were awarded the “best bulletin” award, and the trophy for the best individual score in the district golf event which should have been presented to Malcolm Nutt was left out. I wonder where it is.

The other omission, which I cannot forgive, was that Alan’s RIBI “Champion of Change” award was not even mentioned in spite of his being proposed by 1090. This will be recognised at the RIBI conference Cardiff.

So, some good (very good) and other parts best forgotten, but we all enjoyed ourselves and had two enjoyable and very good evening dinners in our hotel.

Next year it will be Portsmouth - I hope the 1019 committee were making notes.

Rtn. Ian Rodrick

Helen House Hospice

The following letter of thanks was received from Alison Hooker who attended the Club on 16th March.



‘Thank you very much for making me so welcome at your meeting on Friday afternoon. I really enjoyed meeting everyone and hearing all about your work in Sierra Leone. Thank you as well for your very generous donation of £2,524.44 from the Children’s Concerts which will make a huge difference to the families we care for, families like Toby’s.

Four year old Toby comes to Helen House for respite care, where he stays with his mummy and daddy, Kim and Tim. He has a complex neurological condition called Dravet Syndrome, which means he experiences very frequent and severe seizures.

Kim said: 'The reality of why coming here is so important is that we can't ever leave Toby and you can't ever take your eyes off him. He could have a seizure at any point and he stops breathing quite often, in probably one out of every two seizures he needs resuscitating. Only Tim and I trust each other to do that when we're at home.'

When they first came to Helen House before Christmas 2016, they felt that they had run out of options. Toby's seizures were getting worse, lasting over an hour and increasing in frequency. Kim said: 'Helen & Douglas House picked us up out of a deep dark hole and got us on our feet again.'

Thank you again for your continued support and I hope to see you all again soon.'

Helen Hooker, Community Fundraising Manager,
Helen & Douglas House

Rotary Club of Banbury Polio Eradication Partnership Project with Local Schools 2013-2018

Many thanks to all Rotarians who have taken an active role in what started as the "Crocus Concerts Project" and morphed into a number of mini-projects associated with the symbol of the purple crocus - culminating in our participation for the past two years in RIBI's Purple4Polio Project.



Photo courtesy of Tudor Photography

The plan is that certificates and letters of thanks will be sent in April to all establishments that have been involved in our highly successful five-year project. This article summarises the position at the close of this fifth year. We shall be asking those in school leadership roles to let us know their thoughts on continuing.

Summary:

Five years ago the Rotary Club of Banbury set up a partnership project with local secondary schools to

support the worldwide *End Polio Now* campaign. The EPN partners had set a target of eradicating the disease by 2018. Following the success of the first year's crocus planting and 'Crocus Concerts', the project has continued for five years. During this period almost 100,000 crocus corms have been planted locally by students and Rotarians and the latest estimate is that over £27,000 raised (£81,000 after the Gates Foundation's double-matched funding) - sufficient to immunise almost a quarter of a million children (if the costs of current injection vaccine doses are similar to those for oral vaccines).



The local picture:

The project has received financial support from Cherwell District and Banbury Town Councils, Sanctuary Housing, Banbury Charities and St Mary's Church Banbury. It has received excellent publicity through the local media, particularly the Banbury Guardian. Enough purple crocuses appear annually now for early spring "crocus walks" to be established and the collaborative crocus concerts have become part of Banbury's annual cultural programme of events. Together we have raised awareness and 'made a difference'.

The big picture:

Although Polio has not yet been fully eradicated the number of cases worldwide was reduced to 22 last year. To date there have been just five new cases in 2018 - all in Afghanistan.

What next:

Internationally, Rotary is committed to continue the campaign until Polio is eradicated. Locally, the Rotary Clubs of Banbury and Banbury Cherwell will continue to support the worldwide commitment.

This is the question we are putting. Would local secondary schools like to continue working on partnership projects with Rotary?

Here are a few options:

(i) Continue as now - with the focus on eradicating Polio;

(ii) Continue with the concerts at St Mary's Church, but raise funds for other worthwhile causes;

(iii) Encourage other departments/faculties to support the fight against polio (by staging a fundraiser such as a sponsored run or a writing/ art/ craft/photography festival for example);

(iv) Establish one or more Interact Clubs based at schools, linked to Banbury Rotary Club ('Interact' Clubs are Rotary-associated Clubs for 11-18 year-olds sponsored by their local Rotary Club); or

(v) Withdraw from the collaborative local secondary schools concerts partnership project.

We look forward to receiving replies from schools when the new term begins. This matter will be on the agenda of the crocus projects working group for a meeting scheduled for late April.

Rtn. Fred Riches (Project Co-ordinator)

Young Dementia UK - Oxford Charity Canal Walk



Tony Robinson is suffering from a rare and progressive illness Fronto-Temporal Dementia, or FTD, also known as Pick's Disease. The illness steals an ever-growing part of a person's memory and word usage, and also affects their social and reasoning skills.

Tony is still able to walk reasonable distances and regularly enjoys local walking in Oxfordshire. The idea of this charity event has developed from an original plan to walk the Oxford Canal from Oxford to Banbury. The proposal now is to walk the full length of the canal from Oxford to Coventry, a total distance of 78 miles, split into 6 to 7 mile monthly walks from 1st March 2018 and completing in the Autumn.

Tim Bryce has already accompanied Tony on one section and is proposing to walk the next on Thursday 5th April from Nell Bridge to Banbury Town Centre.

Rtn. Tim Bryce

Council Notes (28th March)

The International Committee are proposing assisting in the completion of three classrooms and examination hall on the ground floor at Prospects Upper Basic School, Mariama Kunda Village in The Gambia. Fundraising in the region of £10,583 is required with 50% having been promised already from other sources. There is £2,430.68 in restricted Funds ring-fenced for Water Sanitation & Education in sub-Saharan Africa and additional fundraising events will be arranged.

Community & Vocational have been approached to purchase paint up to £200 for redecoration at the Cornhill Centre (Royal Voluntary Service). The painting will be undertaken by volunteers.

The President accompanied by 23 Rotarians and partners attended District 1090 conference at Cheltenham Race Course 23-25th March, an enjoyable time was had by all. Thanks to Rotarian Ian Rodrick for organizing the attendance of our members.

Please ensure if you give your apologies for Lunches and decide to attend, let one of the House Committee know.

Rtn. Peter Wilkins Hon Assistant Secretary

C & V Committee

A request has been submitted by the RVS for volunteers to visit or phone an older person each week (even if for only 20 minutes). Anyone interested to contact Rtn. Andrew Fairbairn.

Weekly Meeting Duties for April 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
06 Apr	P Thomas A Warren J Webb R Worrall D Wright N Yeadon	J Smith R Thompson	E Woodruff	S Crump
13Apr	I Anthistle A Bedding S Bion J Brodey T Bryce M Budd	G Anker R Barnett	J Bennett	M Humphris
20 Apr	I Calderbank P Cavill S Dhesi M Douglas A Fairbairn P Gardiner	B Cornley N Deakin	J Donaldson	A Ilott
27 Apr	B Goodchild J Groves T Iles N Halfpenny O Kyffin C Hughes	H Braisby J Hansford	G Jeremy	R Kipping

PLEASE REMEMBER - If you are unable to carry out your duties as shown above, it is your responsibility to arrange a substitute and amend the list. This applies to all duties, including table duties.

Speaker Programme for April & May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
6 Apr	Nick Poole	Banbury Improvement District and Banbury Chamber of Commerce Update	Tony Ilott
13 Apr	Beth Lewis	Coffee and Conservation.	Malcolm Dibb
20 Apr	Banbury Space Studio	A Trip to Cern	John Webb
27 Apr	Graham Anker	A Very Proud Dad	Bob Thompson
4 May	Jonathan Walford	Achievements Money can't Buy	
11 May	Cymon Snow	Banburyshire and the American Way	
18 May	Sam Ritholtz	Rotary Scholar	Martin Phillips
25 May	Sir Tony Baldry	Being High Steward of Banbury	Maurice Humphris