



The October Diary

- 3rd Community & Vocational
Committee
- Classification &
Membership Committee
- 5th Rotary Meeting
- 10th Foundation Committee
- 12th Rotary Lunch
- 16th Sports & Entertainment
Committee
- 17th International Committee
Youth Services Committee
- 19th Rotary Meeting
- 20th Joint Social with Inner
Wheel – Warhorse Speaker
- 24th Council Meeting
- 26th Rotary Meeting

For the full year's diary visit



President's Pen for September

The end of the last week in August brought the first fifth Friday of the Rotary Year. It was held at the Banbury House Hotel and was well attended. We had a very tasty meal, good service, good company and a talk from David and Jon from the charity Second Time Around. The charity mainly refurbishes old furniture with most of the work being done by around 25 volunteers who have various disabilities. The charity offers opportunities for training and volunteering to promote work, social inclusion and independence for adults with learning disabilities. Well worth a visit to their premises - they have a cafe too!

Sad news! - we learnt of the peaceful passing of Stewart Maxwell on the afternoon of Tuesday 4th. He was a very respected member of the Club for 47 years and was our President for the year 1982/83. He attended Club on 17th August to Host his grandson Hector who was our Speaker and talked about his trip across the Atlantic by pedalo with three of his friends. There was a Service of Thanksgiving for his life at St Marys Church in Banbury on Tuesday 18th September at 12 noon. The previous funeral service was strictly for family only.

Later that day I attended the Broughton Castle Sportive Presentation Night which was held in the impressive Great Hall. It was a good evening and on behalf of our Club I thank our members who helped the Cherwell Club at the event. Our Club was presented with a cheque for £250 as a thank you.

Thursday 6th brought the first District Council of the year at Benson which I attended with David Richardson - it seems that in general all is well in the District apart from membership numbers which we are all aware of.

The next day Inner Wheel held a Memory Walk at Stowe, organised by Carole Humphris. It was a very pleasant morning and several of our members attended - a most welcome bacon roll and coffee were available at the end of the walk. Returning to Banbury we held our usual Friday Lunch Meeting when our Speaker, Chris Brockbank gave an interesting talk about Bomber Command. He told us of the staggering figure that 44% of the 125,000 Bomber Command airmen were killed in the war with missing and injured not included in that figure.

On Tuesday 11th I went to Tudor Hall School with Carole Humphris of Inner Wheel to discuss the menu for the meal at the Warhorse event on 20th October. Tickets are on sale now to the public at £10 each to come and hear Ruth Rogers, who was the head of Joey the horse, give her talk about the amazing puppetry involved and also to give an insider's view at what happened at auditions and rehearsals. Following the talk there is a meal in the school restaurant for Rotary and Inner Wheel members and their friends. A board will circulate each Friday lunch so please support the event if you can.

In the evening we held an Aunt Sally evening at the Cricket Club in Bodicote - thanks to John Bennett for organising and doing all the work. Helen Morris and Andrew Fairbairn were the stars both scoring six points, although pretty useless I happened to be on the winning team.



Wednesday brought the first Christmas Parcels meeting of the year at Banbury House Hotel. It is our fifth year for this event and there is a lot to do but all is under control.

Thursday evening was the Early Bird Supper and Friday we had our normal lunch meeting with a Brodey Scholar - Gemma Rowe -Jones - as our

Speaker. She was an excellent speaker and talked about her first two years at Bath University and her third year on secondment to a civil engineering company who were so impressed with her that they have offered her a job after her final two years at University. She answered many questions from our members and John Brodey gave the vote of thanks.

Sunday was Battle of Britain Sunday when Jen and I represented the Club at a service of thanksgiving and remembrance at St Mary's Church - this year is the 100th anniversary of The Royal Air Force. The service made you think quite deeply about the sacrifices that were made by our airmen and indeed the other services during the war.

Noon on Tuesday was the service of thanksgiving for Stewart Maxwell's life, his funeral was held earlier in the morning. Jen and I represented the Club along with many other Rotarians and Tony Wiltshire gave a Reading - "Farewell My Friends". Talking to Stewart's daughter Fiona afterwards, she spoke of Stewart's commitment to Rotary and how pleased and proud he was to host Hector, his grandson, at the Club in August.

Monday and Wednesday involved visits to Tudor Hall School for meetings about arrangements for the Warhorse event and on Thursday Banbury Samaritans held their Annual Meeting - many thanks to Surinder who represented the Club in my place due to a prior engagement.

On Friday we had our own Rupert Kipping giving his Longer Serving Member talk which was very entertaining including anecdotes about his time as a General Surgeon and on Saturday I went to a District Membership Workshop in Oxford with Ian Rodrick. It seems that we have a very broad brief in an attempt to attract new members.

It is now preparation time for Council on Wednesday.

President Paul Gardiner

Speaker Reports

Nathan, Jon & Dave – Second Time Around

Our speakers on our evening meeting at The Banbury House Hotel on 31st August were Dave and

Jon from the unique charity, 'Second Time Around', which has been developing over the last eight years.

Each week at their premises in Units 18 and 19 at the end of Beaumont Close on the Beaumont Industrial Estate in Banbury, they have a total of between 25 and 30 volunteers and clients who benefit from being able to help restore old wood furniture, meet up and have a chat and enjoy a sense of achievement. Those attending are adults with learning disabilities, the clients and they have the opportunity to be supported in gaining new skills such as painting and sanding old furniture, learning customer service, hospitality and computer skills.



The majority of the work done in the workshop on furniture now is commissions and Rotarian Maurice Humphris mentioned how Second Time Around had done an excellent job of repairing his damaged table which is a typical example of the work being undertaken.

Jon and Dave talked us through a film showing the work and training being undertaken under the close supervision of trained staff. The film gave a clear illustration of the growing confidence and happiness of those taking part.

Members of the public are welcome seven days a week to view the goods which have been restored and take advantage of the increasingly popular tea room and coffee shop.

Rtn. Nigel Halfpenny

Christopher Brockbank – Bomber Command

Early in 1940 Churchill said “Bombers alone provide our means of victory”.

This is how Chris Brockbank introduced his most interesting presentation on Bomber Command which was founded in 1936. There had, of course, been bombing before this, by Zeppelins in the First World War and by the Germans in the Spanish civil war which they used to “hone” their bombing techniques.



The first serious bombing campaign was against Warsaw in 1939 followed by Rotterdam in 1940 and, of course, the blitz of London started in August of that year. November 14/15th saw Moonlight Sonata, the first serious fire bombing, targeted on Coventry.

Bomber Command replied in kind with the development of the heavy bombers (mainly the Lancaster and Halifax) and retaliated with strategic bombing of Germany, which did much to reduce the duration of the war. At first targeting was a major problem because of the lack of navigational aids and, with “dead reckoning” only, it is estimated that a third of bombs missed their target by 50 miles!

Bomber Command aircrew totalled 125,000 men and 55,000 or 44% were killed in action. Many others had life changing injuries or became POWs.

A long overdue memorial to these men was unveiled in Green Park in 2012 and a Memorial Spire and Plinth erected in Lincolnshire in 2016 as an appropriate symbol of recognition and remembrance.

Rtn. Ian Rodrick

Gemma Rowe-Jones – Brodey Scholar

Gemma is studying at the University of Bath. Her subject is Civil and Architectural Engineering.

Gemma told us that her early studies covered the equilibria and integrity of structures, designing and making a structure to their own design to 1/10th scale using paper and string then making it to full scale using balsa wood and rope.

Her course did a group design for a covered market at Bradford on Avon and also a computer aided design (CAD) for a bridge.



They also went on geology field trips to learn how to apply modern surveying equipment, checking levels, assessing ground conditions and making sketches.

After two years she took a one year placement with ACOM in St. Albans who are an international firm of structural consultants. Among other things the firm were working on the Thames Tideway Tunnel which is being designed to divert surface water from the Thames. Gemma told us that she is also involved in the Northern Estate Programme to revitalise large circa 1900 blocks of residential houses.

Gemma will now be returning to Bath University to complete her three year degree course after which she will stay on for an extra year to obtain a Master of Engineering (MEng) qualification.

Rtn. John Brodey

Rtn. Rupert Kipping – Longer Serving Member

Born in 1934. It was always assumed he would be a Doctor to follow in the footsteps of his father who was a G.P. in Beaconsfield.

Attended the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe and then Jesus College Cambridge studying, yes, medicine.



Rupert considers fortunate in having attended the Christian Union meetings where he heard some of the best teachers and preachers in the country, ever since he is proud to be a committed Christian.

National Service followed where during the last year he served in a Gurkha training camp in North Malaya. During this time, he proposed that the mumps vaccine, which was being administered after the new Troops moved to Malaya, should be used during recruiting to deter the transmission of the illness from Nepal. His suggestion was adopted.

Rupert was a general surgeon at the Horton General Hospital between 1973 and 1996 where he did almost everything including plastic surgery, urology, kidney, bladder, prostate, breast, thyroids, bowel, head and neck, carcinomas etc, etc...

In his time the Horton was a teaching Hospital but now the catchment area is not considered large enough to support this or many of the departments that were operating then.

Now every surgeon is a specialist and virtually all of them, serving Banbury and district, are working out of Oxford.

After retirement for five years Rupert became a member of the Specialist Advisory Committee monitoring surgical training in North of England Hospitals. He was also teaching basic surgical skills at the Royal College of Surgeons in London along with being an advisor to the Holby City TV soap programmes. He resigned after 18 months as the producers favoured drama over accuracy!

Rupert admitted being a shy person, however he feels joining Rotary has proved to be a tonic in that all the members have been, and continue to be, so welcoming and friendly.

Rupert has two daughters and five grandchildren; he enjoys sailing, cruising plus mountain and fell walking. He is presently building model of the Mayflower and has built radio-controlled model yachts in the past.

Rtn. Graham Anker

Rtn. Nigel Deakin – The House of Grace



Nigel gave a fascinating illustrated account of his time in Haifa at “The House of Grace”. Starting with a ruined house in 1982, a Palestinian Christian Couple had created a home for ex-prisoners - a half-way house en-route back into society.

By the time Nigel arrived in 1991 the couple had five children and were sharing their home with fifteen ex-prisoners. Louise, then Nigel’s fiancée, joined him there and for both it was a life-changing experience. Hardened criminals ‘blossomed’ in the context of a caring family environment. Everyone had contributory roles and the community gained recognition in the cosmopolitan town of Haifa as a place where people of various nationalities and religions could live and work together - Arabs and Israelis - Jews, Christians, Muslims.

Nigel closed by explaining that his son, Joe, had visited the House a month ago - and great was the rejoicing as he met with the children his parents had known some 26 years ago - now about the age Nigel and Louise were when they first came across the “House of Grace”. Joe, who was with us, explained how, a generation on, receiving state

financial recognition and support, despite tighter regulation, the life, work and ethos of the House of Grace continue still.

Rtn. Fred Riches

Council Notes (26th September)

The Membership and PR committees are making good progress. A draft brochure has been produced to be available at all our functions as an incentive to encourage new members; District funds may help with the production costs. There is to be a review of most of our procedures with the view of streamlining and modernizing our routine activities without losing the main principles of the Club. Any recommendations will be brought to Club for discussion and approval.

Chair of PR, Rtn. David Sullivan, will in the near future give a presentation to Club on the improvements to our PR strategy and members will be offered basic training in the use of social media platforms and our Website.

Council stressed the responsibility of each of our members to encourage the recruitment of suitable new candidates for Club.

Contact 2019 plans are being finalized with an interesting itinerary including visits to Oxford Museums and colleges on the Friday, a Farm tour with lunch on the Saturday then the Gala Dinner at Gaydon Motor Museum with barn dancing.

Monies raised from the Christmas Float are to be used for our Christmas Appeal.

A “Meet the Scholars” evening is planned for 30th October at the Principal Oxford Spires Hotel, Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4PS. Details to follow.

Council discussed Retiring collections at our events with the conclusion that plates should be available if members of the audience wish to donate but bucket shaking should be avoided. However, working groups organizing events will be invited to suggest their own preferences.

Volunteers are sought for the fascinating post of Honorary Assistant Secretary for next Rotary year; please submit applications promptly to the Hon Secretary to avoid disappointment.

Rtn. Peter Wilkins, Hon. Assistant Secretary

Weekly Meeting Duties for October 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
05 Oct	J Donaldson M Douglas A Fairbairn B Goodchild N Halfpenny J Hansford	N Deakin S Dhesi	J Groves	D Hitchcox
12 Oct	C Hughes T Iles G Jeremy O Kyffin K Manning R Nurden	H Matthews J Meredith	G Pollard	D Sullivan
19 Oct	M Nutt M Phillips N Randall D Richardson I Rodrick P Shea	H Morris P Richardson	A Warren	A Wiltshire
26 Oct	J Smith R Thompson A Wolstencroft E Woodruff R Worrall N Yeadon	F Riches P Thomas	J Webb	I Calderbank

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 October & November

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
5 Oct	Andrew Whiffin	Life as a film extra	Nigel Yeadon
12 Oct	David Richardson	Lend with Care	Nigel Deakin
19 Oct	Dr Robin Carr	Combat Stress	Nig Randall
26 Oct	Dawn Golder	FND Hope	Surinder Dhesi
2 Nov	Simon Batten	Remembering the Great War	Nig Randall
9 Nov	Tony Ilott	My Life continued	John Donaldson
16 Nov		Rotary Special General Meeting	
23 Nov		Fellowship Meeting	
30 Nov	Ian Scott-Hunter	The Life of a Royal Footman	