



The February Diary

- 1st Rotary Lunch
- 3rd Incoming President's Lunch
- 6th C & V meeting
Classification &
Membership Committee
- 8th Rotary Lunch
- 13th Foundation Committee
- 15th Rotary Lunch
- 18th Club darts
- 19th Sports & Entertainment
Committee
- 20th International Committee
Youth Services Committee
- 22nd Rotary Lunch
- 27th Council Meeting

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



President's Pen for January

Christmas and New Year have passed and we now begin 2019 which marks half way through the Rotary Year - the first six months were very busy and the next six months will be more of the same but with Surinder preparing to take over as President in July. I wish everyone a very happy and successful New Year!

The first lunch of 2019 was on the 4th January and was a Fellowship meeting. It was good to meet up with everyone and have a good chat about the recent festivities and things in general. We had many cards giving best wishes to the Club and also several cards from people and organisations who thanked the Club for the Christmas Food Parcels - they show that the project is very important to those in the community who are not so fortunate as the rest of us.

Since our last Friday meeting before Christmas we held five collections at local Supermarkets and also manned the Christmas Float on 16th December. Many thanks to all involved in these events especially Andrew Fairbairn who was heavily involved in it all and also John Webb. I think they both must have developed new muscles to keep the Street Organs turning!! The total collected from the street organ collections was £4247.21 which will benefit Katharine House Hospice and other Rotary supported Charities and events.

On Wednesday 9th Helen Morris held her New Year Drinks event at her home - it was a very enjoyable gathering and many thanks to her for her invitations. Also extra thanks as she donated the £100 collected during the evening to go towards the Club's Container fund.

On Friday Ian Calderbank was our Speaker at lunch when he gave his talk "Famous Last Words" which was very entertaining if not

a little depressing at times!! I understand the origin of the talk stemmed from when he was Club Speaker Finder and was let down by the booked Speaker and Ian quickly crafted his talk at short notice as a replacement.

Monday evening was another Contact Meeting when it was agreed that our invitations to the Presidents of the Contact Clubs and their members for the Contact Weekend in late May should be sent out and that full details of the agenda for the weekend and its cost would be circulated to them and our Club within the next few weeks. (The letters to the Presidents were sent on 16/1/19).

Tuesday was a Container Meeting when the four quotes obtained were discussed. One of these was chosen as the best but it was agreed that Martin Phillips would talk to Fort Locks in Banbury to see if they could help us in any way, also Martin will obtain a letter from the Secretary of the Cricket Club confirming that we can site the Container there.

Friday's meeting had Surinder as our Speaker talking about the Guru Aasra Trust - she explained the background of the Trust's formation and how it helps to provide care to children and prepare them for their life ahead. It was a very interesting and thought provoking talk.

Friday and Saturday were the Young Musician Heats at Tudor Hall School - over 90 young people took part and the Adjudicators congratulated the participants on their high standard of performance. The finals are on Saturday March 2nd.

Monday 21st brought the Food Parcels project review meeting - it was agreed that in general the project went well with 265 Food Parcels being prepared and delivered. The main discussion was about the project's finances and whether there was a need to top up the reserve for the project from the 2018 Christmas Supermarket collections as discussed at November Council. It was decided that due to donations the reserve was adequate for 2019 Food Parcels and so no request would be made for a top up but that the Community & Vocational committee would be approached later in the year to ask for Food Parcels to be included in the 2019 Christmas Collections beneficiaries as in 2018.

Wednesday was the January Council Meeting - the minutes will be out soon but among other things it was agreed to progress the purchase of a 20 foot

Storage Container and we have a letter of permission from the Cricket Club to site it on their premises, the next thing to do is arrange for a cement base to be laid. Also, it was recorded that the Brodey Bursary Fund will close and have no further beneficiaries - many thanks from the Club to the Brodey family for their generous support of young engineers.

The next evening was the Indian Meal at Cherwell College organised by our International Committee. It was a great evening with good food, good entertainment and good fellowship - it also made a surplus of £626. Many thanks to all involved in arranging the event especially Nigel Deakin, Surinder, Peter and David Richardson, Peter Wilkins and John Bennett.

Friday's Speaker was Rupert Kipping who gave a talk about "Recruiting Ghurkas". His slides of when he was in the Army as a Doctor were very interesting and informative on how life was at the time.

President Paul Gardiner

Speaker Reports

Ian Calderbank – Famous Last Words



Ian opened by suggesting that "Kiss me Hardy", the last words uttered by a dying Horatio Nelson, is a well known classic. Ian illustrated this by suggesting that should our President, Paul, be about to expire at one of our lunchtime meetings and utter, "Kiss me Recchia" to our club secretary Mark Recchia sitting next to him, how would Mark respond? This illustration, set the scene for the rest of Ian's talk. At this stage, Ian's attentive audience didn't know whether to laugh or cry!

Economist John Maynard Keynes and one of the liberated Bloomsbury set, stated, just before he departed, “I wish I had drunk more champagne”, words much admired by Ian.

However, this was just the beginning! Thomas Edison, famous inventor of the working light bulb, described by Ian as a bright spark, when he was dying in 1931, his wife enquired, “Are you suffering”, to which he replied, “No, just waiting”. Then, as he died, he said, “You know, it’s very beautiful over there”.

George Moon of Banbury Operatic Society fame, on the morning of his death in his nursing home when they brought him his breakfast, he said, “I shan’t need that thank you. Mary has been to see me and told me it’s time to come now”. Mary was his wife who had died a few years before.

Sir Walter Raleigh, just before he was executed in 1618, his last words were, “This is sharp medicine, but a sure remedy for all evils”.

Poor Dylan Thomas died in 1953 at the age of 39 saying, “I’ve just had 18 whiskies in a row. I do believe that that is a record. Ian then admitted that he had broken Dylan’s record when he won a drinking competition at college in 1959!

Ian reported many other famous last words from famous people and also reported the emotional last words of those on the hijacked plane which eventually crashed in to the New York Trade Centre on 9/11.

Ian gave us his last words shortly afterwards by saying, “Thank you for listening”. Thankfully these did not prove to be his last words as he happily answered questions afterwards.

Rtn. Nigel Halfpenny

Surinder Dhesi – Guru Aasra Trust

On Friday 18th January Rtn. Surinder Dhesi gave a talk about the Guru Aasra Trust in Mohali, India. The Trust was set up when four Sikh women were arrested and imprisoned after the 1984 Sikh massacre in Punjab, India and they made a pact with each other. They promised whoever would survive should look after all of their children and two ladies survived and the other two did not. The main objective of the Trust is to shape the lives of destitute children and give them a good education and enable them with skills to be



self-reliant. The children when they grow up are found partners and are married and they still come back to the Trust to visit as they consider it as their family. The Trust also looks after older people who have no other relatives and spouses and their children who are victims of drug abuse partners. The Trust instils Sikh values of sharing, respecting people of different faiths and equality of women and believing in oneself that anything can be achieved. The Trust has helped children reach their goals in becoming doctors and engineers.

Rtn. Pat Thomas

Rupert Kipping – Recruiting Ghurkas

Rupert took us through a series of slides taken when he was completing his National Service in Nepal in 1961. On his arrival by train, he was struck by the roads which were just dirt tracks and, in the distance, the snow-capped mountains of the Annapurna region. Suitcases, including Rupert’s belongings, were carried, three high, on the head of a Sherpa. Rupert’s luggage included an important delivery of the mumps vaccine.

Slides showed remote villages hanging on the edge of mountains with houses perched on ridges. A slide showing a sick lady being transported in a basket on the back of a Nepalese man with the help of a forehead strap was described by Rupert as a local ambulance.

Gurkha pensioners took on as many as sixteen youths as potential Gurkha recruits and trained them up. All potential recruits were given some

education for the first time in their lives. Assessing their age was not easy as there were no birth certificates.

Part of Rupert's general medical duties was to carry out the PULHHEEMS system of grading physical and mental fitness. This functional classification meant that unless the potential recruits achieved 100%, they were rejected as so many wanted to become Gurkhas.

PULHHEEMS takes its name from the first letters of the division under which the medical examination is carried out. P=Physical capacity, U= Upper limbs, L= Locomotion, HH= Hearing. EE = Eyesight, M = Mental capacity and S= Emotional Stability. On one occasion Rupert examined an outstanding candidate who had only the very tip of a finger missing, which meant that he was rejected.

Rupert closed his talk by showing slides of west and east Nepal including The Shining Hospital in Pokhara which was a hospital for leprosy referrals and is now the only spinal cord injury hospital outside Kathmandu.

Rtn Nigel Halfpenny

London New Years' Day Parade 2019



On New Years' Day Joy and I attended the London New Years' Day parade. Our theme once again was supporting our Polio Eradication campaign. We set off bright and early for the capital, courtesy of Chiltern Rail, and arrived at our allocated spot in Piccadilly by 10am. The crowds were already gathering even though the parade was not scheduled to commence until midday. We found our organizer, Eve Conway, and were given our purple tabards. We were asked to come in purple clothing and the tabard was for our corporate identity. When

we were all appropriately dressed we certainly looked smart but were overshadowed by our Volkswagen Beetle with the polio eradication markings and also our very own Teddy Bear courtesy of someone who was mug enough to volunteer to wear the costume for four hours. Luckily for him it wasn't very warm that day!

We were number 41 in the parade. Last year we were number 15 and we had completed the route by 13-30 hours, but not this year. We were preceded by Marching Bands, Baton Twirlers, Walking Parades, floats on lorry trailers, twenty or thirty "Minis" like they used to be when they were produced in Oxford, and someone had borrowed a brand new Aston Martin from Gaydon Development and was determined not to get it scratched otherwise he was going to have a bill for a few pounds. There were also a range of these cars which had featured in James Bond films, and very impressive they were too. The American Police cars always make a magnificent spectacle and a good distraction from all those short skirts and long legs which baton twirling ladies inevitably possess.

It was half past one before we started on the route, but the crowds were still five deep as we went down Regent Street and Pall Mall. Then it was into Whitehall with the crowds still cheering, "glad handing" us, and taking many photos and videos. Eve was interviewed along the way and spoke of our Polio Eradication campaign to a worldwide audience of millions through the many TV camera teams set up all down the route. We had the Traction Engine with us again this year and with the Fair Organ on the trailer it was a magnificent sight playing away as we progressed along the route.

The crowd was uplifting, and, hopefully we did our bit to keep our Polio Eradication programme in the public eye. Perhaps in a year or two we can have a banner to carry which proclaims that Rotary has eliminated Polio worldwide, wouldn't that be something to really celebrate?

Rtn. John Webb

Oxford Canal Charity Walk – to support Young Dementia UK – finished on 1st January 2019

77 miles - Oxford to Hawkesbury Junction (a little north of Coventry).



Final update for those who have taken part in this walk or on previous walking ventures with Tony.

The walk was completed on New Year's Day after a series of 12 walks of between 3 and 11 miles each section, over a period of 17 months.

The walk was started with Tony in August 2017 as part of regular walks in the Oxfordshire area.

After the 3rd walk (from Upper Heyford onwards) it was decided to get Young Dementia on board.

The view was that as well as Tony continuing his passion of walking, there was an opportunity to raise awareness of the disease and at the same time supporting the charity by setting up a Virgin Money website. The original target for this was £500 and I believe the total is now approaching the £1500 mark with a few further donations coming in.

(The website should remain open for a week or two so anyone still wishing to make a donation can do so via:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/TonyHaroldWalkingCompanionsandFriends>

Tony completed well over half of the distance - he walked from the start at Oxford to the village of Marston Doles near Leamington Spa - a great achievement.

The event was supported by friends and family and members of the Rotary Clubs of Banbury, Southam and Eynsham. Many thanks to all who took part.

I will have a lot of memories of this event including:

- Tony often setting a fast walking pace on many of the sections, leaving many walkers

in his wake and seldom checking if they were keeping up!

- Taking tea with a certain Lady Shuckburgh
- Finding a new route between Oxford and Coventry, much slower than rail or road but much more relaxing - if you like walking.

Lesley is gathering any photos taken for a record of the walks - if you have any contributions please send through to Lesley. I have attached some photos taken throughout the walk and on the last day.

Rtn. Harold Jerred

The above is an event supported by Rtn. Timothy Bryce and to date has raised in the region of £1500 for the charity. As well as raising a great sum of money, it has also raised awareness of the charity and demonstrated what can be achieved by someone diagnosed with the disease. Ed.

Council Update

Youth Services Committee had questioned the continued need for 10% from proceeds of Club events to be paid over to Club funds. AGREED that the Honorary Treasurer would keep this under review.

Membership Committee/PR - a paper was submitted by Rtn. David Richardson covering various issues, including an update on the promotional leaflet, reference to the new front page for the Website and stressing the need for a sea change by the Club if it was to attract new and active members.

Interact- Young Carers- Rtn. Ian Anthistle

The President had discussed this with Rtn. Anthistle and it seemed that the scheme was not working out due to low numbers attending/participating. A request from BGN to re-start the Interact group had been received and Rtns. Bennett and Anthistle would meet with the school to look at this.

Revd. Sarah Bourne (whose family has been heavily involved in Young Musician over the years) is being licensed as an associate Priest and Chaplain for the Arts at St Mary's Church, Banbury on Wednesday 6th February at 7.30pm. Amongst other matters, Sarah will be involved in LiveArts with whom the Club link with in respect of Club events. Members are invited to represent the Club.

Weekly Meeting Duties for February 2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
01 Feb	M Phillips D Richardson I Rodrick J Smith R Thompson	P Richardson P Thomas	F Riches	R Kipping
08 Feb	A Warren J Webb A Wolstencroft N Yeadon G Anker	R Worrall H Braisby	E Woodruff	D Sullivan
15 Feb	I Anthistle A Bedding J Bennett S Bion P Cavill	M Budd T Bryce	B Cornley	T Wiltshire
22 Feb	N Deakin S Dhesi J Donaldson M Douglas A Fairbairn	G Jeremy K Manning	J Hansford	S Jakeman

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 February & March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
1 Feb	Helen Anker	Life on Tour	Graham Anker
8 Feb	Alastair Welford	Friday Night Hooligans	Andrew Fairbairn
15 Feb	Mervyn Edwards	Walking the Beat to Nirvana	Owen Kyffin
22 Feb	Frugal Lunch		
1 Mar	Nina Baker	Katharine House Hospice	Roger Worrall
8 Mar	Fellowship Meeting	District Conference at Portsmouth	
15 Mar	Helen Morris	Inner Wheel events in Abu Dhabi	Malcolm Douglas
22 Mar		Longer Serving Member	
29 Mar	Clare Jakeman	Moving House	Ian Rodrick