



The March Diary

3rd C & V Committee

Classification & Member
Committee

5th Rotary Lunch meeting

12th Rotary Lunch meeting

16th Sports & Entertainment
Committee

17th International Committee

19th Rotary Lunch meeting

22nd Council Meeting

26th Rotary Lunch Meeting

For the full year's diary visit

www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk



President's Thoughts for February

You can now see the results of this year's crocus planting as they have burst into their purple glory hopefully not attracting the squirrels. The crocus display is part of Rotary's long-term fundraising worldwide campaign to 'End Polio Now'.

2020/21 will be remembered because of the onslaught of Covid 19. This pandemic virus has affected everybody and may have changed many habits, conventions and behaviour for a long time to come. Helping the vaccination process has been wonderful and sincere thanks must be offered to everybody involved. The help and service given at the Banbury Cross Health Centre has been highly praised and is a great example of service given by Rotarians.

Rotary continue to meet every week on Zoom and we have enjoyed a great variety of speakers. Recently we have learnt about the efforts to stop modern forms of slavery and trafficking not to forget efforts to help the homeless, constructing HS2 plus the wonders of owning a number of Vauxhall Vivas.

We were extremely pleased to be able to donate £2,000 to Katharine House Hospice and also to provide vouchers for various agencies to give away to those they felt needed help to buy Christmas food and supplies. This was a good use of some of the money raised in the street collections and was of course a variation on our usual extensive Christmas efforts that could not take place because of restrictions imposed on everybody to fight the pandemic.

Rotary members remain positive. Some engage in a weekly Pilates session run by Rtn. Sakine Faulkner. This helps them keep fit and also raises money for a children's charity in Kenya. We are beginning to hear that the pandemic could end. We still have to

be careful and follow current rules and also have to face up to what may be the cost of returning the economy to normal but most are beginning to feel that a good recovery is feasible and in sight.

There will still be many in our community and worldwide who will need help when some controls in place are eased and normality returns for the majority - probably far more than ever before. The experience of the last year shows that there are many willing to help others and there is little doubt that we all feel better when we are actively involved in helping others. Perhaps there is a change of attitude in many people that may be a very positive feature for the future. Comments like 'there is no time in my schedule for that sort of thing' may alter and become 'I would be really happy to get involved and help in some way' and even give rise to a waiting list to join a Rotary Club.

President David Richardson

Speaker Reports

John Bridgeman – The Sunshine Centre



On Friday 8th January 2021 John Bridgeman, Chairman of Trustees of the Sunshine Centre, gave a very interesting talk about the Sunshine Centre.

It was created to act as a hub for a range of family and childcare support services for the Community in Bretch Hill and surrounding areas.

Ofsted has awarded the Sunshine Centre outstanding nursery which provides childcare for children from 3months to 5 years, organises classes and courses for families in the Community, and hosts a range of baby and toddler groups. It also works in partnership with other organisations such as the NHS to provide weekly antenatal clinics and drop in sessions with health visitors

In January 2020 as a result of the expansion of services a new extension was opened. The extra space has enabled the Sunshine Centre to offer

additional activities and services in the Community. There are English and maths classes for parents and children, English as a Second Language (ESOL) courses and healthy eating classes.

The Sunshine Centre aims to support and help families in the Community by creating the foundation to reduce inequality and provide support that will prevent problems from escalating or reaching crisis point.

The Sunshine Centre was awarded The Unsung Hero in Oxfordshire Award by Victoria Prentice MP, Cherwell Business Award overall winner.

Banbury Rotary Website

Maurice Humphris – Rambling Recollections



On Friday 29th January, we were treated to an illuminating talk by one of our oldest serving members (come on newbies) Maurice Humphris BEM. In his inimitable way he rambled on about the changing face of Banbury town over part of his lifetime covering the period of just after the war to just before covid. Perhaps he might give us a similar talk for the 50 years after covid.

We were told which shops had disappeared and what had replaced them, some good and some not so and even an insight into the Judiciary system changes.

Truly a walk down memory lane.

Well done Maurice and thanks from members.

Rtn. Harry Matthews

Marius Hopley – Is that an Escort, Mate?

The above line was the title of Marius Hopley’s talk to the club on Friday 12th February.

He’s not only a classic car enthusiast, but also our District Governor, so members were all on their best behaviour. And it soon became clear that it wasn’t a Ford Escort, because his car of choice is the Vauxhall Viva.



The enthusiasm started as a teenager, when his father bought a brand new yellow Viva back in the 1970s and he was hooked.

Like so many “petrol heads”, I completely understand where he’s coming from. My father bought a new VW Beetle when they first came into the country in the 1950s and although I don’t own one now, they always bring back great memories whenever I see one.

However, Marius is more than just an enthusiastic driver. He’s also a very hands-on restorer, having completely renovated 4 different models of the Viva, including cutting and welding in new panels to eliminate the rust, rebuilding the engines and suspension, replacing the wiring - and he still owns all four cars, which he regularly uses and takes to classic car shows. More than that, one of the cars is his father’s original Viva, which he is currently rebuilding for the second time and intends to replace the petrol engine with an electric motor powered by batteries.

Nigel Deakin will be impressed!!

Marius’s enthusiasm and knowledge of his subject was obvious and members clearly enjoyed the talk, it being followed by an interesting questions and answers session.

Rtn. John Bennett

Martyn Amsel – A Taylor-made trip to Peru and the Galapagos

Back in May 2018 following my retirement from Dentistry, I embarked on a trip with my son and Sister-in-Law to South America. This involved many flights from London to Bogota, Cusco, Lima, Ecuador and the Galapagos. We pre-booked personal guides at most places which was excellent advice as we would have missed so much information otherwise.

I have always been interested in Darwinism and couldn’t wait to see the animals he saw still looking the same, and of course the one of seeing Machu Picchu at the same time.

We flew in to Cusco, the original centre of the Inca empire, to not only acclimatise but to discover the wondrous sites, markets and food of Peru. It is very high so it takes a few days to acclimatise but nevertheless the ancient huge stones put together by the Incas to withstand earthquakes were amazing, something the Spanish failed to achieve.



Travelling up the Sacred Valley visiting colourful markets then on up to Machu Picchu by Vistadome train was next. Early morning views of the classic picture of Machu Picchu in reality was just fantastic. So much history, so much unknown, never found by the Spanish and still preserved with trails well marked and timed to keep visitor numbers down.

Next it was on to Quito, capital of Ecuador, lying on the equator and full of religious buildings glinting inside with gold.

After a few days it was off to the Galapagos where we had organised a cruise on a small very comfortable boat, 16 crew and 16 passengers plus

our guide. We decided to visit the Western Islands which are the youngest and most actively volcanic.



From the very beginning at the first port and fishing village we were just thrilled to get so close to Pelicans, Sea Lions and Iguanas who all took no notice of any of us. A visit to the Darwin museum first to see the Turtles being bred and then off to the distant islands overnight.

Each day was full of adventurous and strenuous walks on Lava, lots of Snorkelling and playing with the turtles and Sea Lions, including a well-earned afternoon siesta before more of the same as the day cooled down.

The animals and birds were just fantastic including Frigates, Blue footed Boobies with thousands of Marine Iguanas and Sally Lightfoot red crabs on the beaches.

The Blue Footed Boobies and pelicans flew in formations and dived down for fish right between us whilst we snorkelled. Almost a Red Arrows display!

It was truly amazing and I took 1500 photos with my newly bought Canon SLR camera and Telephoto lens (partly funded by Peter Wilkins as a retirement present!)

I loved every minute of this journey and putting together the slide show brought back happy memories of pre-Covid life.

Martyn Amsel

Giving Covid a good ~~kicking~~ pricking

I know that lockdown and the cancellation of so many of our projects (except the Christmas Street

Organ collection) has made the last 10 months very frustrating for our club members, as it has for Rotarians everywhere. So a late phone call on Wednesday lunch time from Banbury Cross Health Centre asking if we could help to marshal 600 patients for their Saturday morning Covid vaccination programme, gave us a chance to get back to some "Service Above Self".



I had suggested they contact us if they were short of volunteers and of course it was a bit of a late call due to availability of vaccine supplies. However, seven of us were able to respond to the request, so armed with tabards and masks and adopting the mantra "Keep Calm and Carry On" we reported for duty.

The program ran from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and we arrived at 8.30 to be given our duties. Alan, Charles and Jonathan were on car park duty (and it was cold!) while Surinder, Alison, Malcolm Douglas and I had locations in the building, guiding patients to achieve a swift throughput. Inoculations took place over two floors.

The whole operation had been really well organised, the Centre staff friendly and efficient and I lost count of how many patients commented on how well the programme was run. Congratulations to all involved at Banbury Cross Health Centre.

And I can truthfully say that quite a few visitors thanked Rotary members for supporting the Health Centre - but as one lady said "that's what Rotarians do". For all of us it was great to do something worthwhile again and as Jonathan said, it was a pleasure to actually talk to people face to face (all be it social distancing) after months of only

communicating with checkouts at supermarkets. Thanks all, a job well done.

Rtn. John Bennett

Alan's Africa – Liverpool Community School, Waterloo



Due to increasing numbers the school has, on their own initiative, built 2 temporary classrooms for the juniors. As you can see, they are very basic and I don't believe they will withstand the rainy season which starts at the end of May. I have just received a detailed estimate to construct the same size classrooms from concrete blocks, with concrete floors and a corrugated tin roof and could complete and equip these 2 rooms for JUST £5,200.



We can reduce the normal cost by utilising the existing two whitewashed walls that you see in both the pictures.

As I have other commitments at the moment, I am going to launch an appeal to try and raise the funds and complete the work in 3 phases. Phase 1 - concrete walls and roof will cost £3,100. Phase 2

concreting floors, doors, windows, ceilings and painting is another £1,400 and Phase 3 - equipment, is another £700. IF I can complete Phase 1 before May, they will have a watertight facility and anything else will be a bonus.

If anyone is interested in supporting this project please e-mail me - alanwooly@msn.com.

Rtn. Alan Wolstencroft

Walking for the Sunshine

Ian Calderbank and Andrew Fairbairn have entered a walking challenge together - no, not the Tour de Trigs again as in 2015, nor Andrew's famous Isles of Scilly to Muckle Flugga achievement in 2009 but it is Land's End to John O' Groats. Well, a contribution towards it at least !

Those members who attended the Club Zoom meeting on 8 February will have enjoyed John Bridgeman's talk about the Sunshine Centre and the wonderful Community Support work that it does based in the Bretch Hill and surrounding areas. There is a report about this on the Club website.

To raise funds the Centre have issued a Community Walking Challenge, running (sorry about that!) from 15 February to 30 March. The idea is that people join up to the challenge, walk as much as they can during that period and clock up their miles. These are all added together then in an attempt to reach the 838 miles required. It is sponsored by Sport England and individuals can seek personal sponsorship from friends, etc.

Anyone wishing to donate may do so also by visiting a Go Fund Me page taken out by Sharon Ellis of the Sunshine Centre. If you join up to the Challenge the Centre will provide a pedometer and some local walking maps if you need them. The walking can be anywhere - wherever it's legal that is of course!

So, if any members wish to have a little light walking exercise with no pressure here is an opportunity to support a good cause at the same time. Alternatively, if you simply wish to show support for Ian and Andrew you can visit the Go Fund Me page and donate at:

Fundraiser by Sharon Ellis: Community Walking Challenge

Andrew was first out of the blocks on the first day (15 February) and by the 22nd day when this was written he had already reached 362 km (228 miles). Ian, being of a more leisurely nature started on the eighth day and has reached 185 km (116 miles). As you see we may be walking together but very much socially distanced.

If you do wish to join the challenge and have a bit of exercise, you can see the details in the flyer and use the form within it.

Rtn. Ian Calderbank

Speaker Programme for March & April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
5 Mar	Nic Hogarth	Crisis in Oxfordshire	
12 Mar	Richard Moyle	Broughton Castle Sportive	
26 Mar	Adrian McGlynn	The Origins of the Thoroughbred Racehorse	