



The May Diary

- 5th C & V Committee
Classification & Member
Committee
- 7th Rotary Lunch meeting
- 14th Rotary Lunch meeting
- 18th Sports & Entertainment
Committee
- 19th International/Foundation
Committee
- 21st Rotary Lunch Meeting
- 26th Council Meeting
- 28th Rotary Lunch Meeting

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



President's Thoughts for April

It was recently the day to celebrate the birthday of Paul Harris and it was also the Queen's birthday this week plus three weeks ago it was the day I received the second Covid vaccination so perhaps this is the right time to think about celebrating. It is clear though that the end of the pandemic will not mean an immediate change to the way things were in 2020 when we enjoyed the last normal Rotary meeting - Friday 13th March 2020.

The lessons from the last year could herald permanent changes and adoption of new behaviour criteria for ever more. As Paul Harris said "this is a changing world: we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again."

A yearly jab in the arm might be the easy part but the long term impact on the world economy and the changes to many peoples economic well-being are still likely to be dramatic even if largely ignored by most then there is the ever growing need to protect the planet we all live on and its environment. It will mean increases in costs and will mean changes to how we live and what we can afford.

The Rotary Club of Banbury will hopefully be able to use the opportunity to consider its organisation and the protocol of meetings and formalities. It may even impact on where and how we meet. It will not mean that we will forget the old ways of doing things but adapting them to meet the requirements of the modern generation.

Zoom might well continue to be used where appropriate. Less formal gatherings may help attract a younger group of members

and we may be able to link up with other suitable organisations and businesses. We must look at ways of getting younger people involved and working parties are looking at this and also assessing suitable ways of celebrating stylishly when freedom from lock-down is announced.

President David Richardson

Speaker Reports

Richard Moyle - Broughton Castle Sportive

Richard Moyle was our Zoom speaker on Friday 12th March, informing us that The Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell, with fingers tightly crossed, is planning to run the Broughton Castle Sportive on Sunday 11th July. This popular event was cancelled last year due to the Covid epidemic, but they are hoping that, if all goes well, Boris's plan to lift lockdown will come to pass just in time.



We are back for 2021, after a small delay.....!



Arrangements are well underway and some sponsorship is already in place. Five different routes have been planned, varying from 5 miles for family groups, and then 20, 50, 75 and 100 mile routes through the Cotswolds for those with a little more ambition. I've got a puncture so won't be able to enter!

Ed No worries JB, you can borrow my puncture repair kit.

It's a real fun day and I'm sure that cyclists from near and far will appreciate having an event of this scale organised for them. As in previous years, we have volunteered to run the refreshment stand and provided we get the numbers, one of the staging points out en route. Let's hope the weather is kind on the day for all concerned.

Rtn. John Bennett

Adrian McGlynn – The English Thoroughbred

On 26th March, Adrian McGlynn regaled us with the development of the race horse we know today. We were told it first appeared 2 million years ago, not very quick and around the size of a dog. To survive, it had to learn to run faster and grow, until around 2,000 years ago when man started to use it as a beast of burden and probably discovered that riding it in races could be quite good fun.

Alongside man, it continued to develop into the animal our forefathers would have used to plough, draw heavy loads and ride into battle. But to discover the origins of today's thoroughbred, we only have to go back 250 years, when English noblemen, wanting to improve the performance of their racehorses, bought Arabian stallions to breed with their mares. Thus, the English Thoroughbred was born and this is the stock on which racehorses the world over come from.

A top flight race horse can travel at over 44 mph with an 11 stone jockey on board and they have been timed at almost 50 mph - but that was downhill! When you consider that a sprinter like Usain Bolt runs at half this speed and doesn't carry anything on his back, you realise what an amazing creature the Thoroughbred is.

Adrian's enthusiasm and knowledge of racing and the English Thoroughbred was evident from his talk and was followed by a range of questions from an appreciative audience.

Rtn. John Bennett

Covid Vaccination Clinics

Stop Press!

Just so you know how much our involvement is appreciated by Banbury Cross Health Centre, I was handed a letter from Practice Manager Helen Murphy, dated 31st March, thanking us for our support. It reads:

'I am writing to express thanks on behalf of the staff at Banbury Cross Health Centre to the members of the Rotary Club of Banbury for the support they have given to us as volunteers at our COVID Vaccination clinics. The Rotary Club members have supported our clinics across the

week and at the weekends over the last five weeks and are continuing to do so.

The team has helped to manage access to our car park and has guided patients on their journey through the vaccination clinic. We have been vaccinating often between 300 and 900 patients per day and the support of the team has helped to ensure that everything has run smoothly and safely. We have had many compliments from patients about how well the clinics have been run.

The Rotary Club team has been a pleasure to have in our Practice and we are extremely grateful for their support. Please pass our thanks to all of the volunteers who have given their time to help us and our patients.

As I'm sure you are aware, our Practice is part of Principal Medical Limited. The Board of Directors met last week and agreed that they would like to recognise the support you have given us, by making a donation to support your activities in the community.'

So, well done everyone. The donation will be split 50/50 between our two Rotary clubs and it's great to think that, after a rather dormant 12 months, our combined club efforts are once more wagging the Rotary flag and practicing "Service above Self".

Rtn. John Bennett

Alan's Africa

As usual, Rtn. Alan Wolstencroft is involved in plenty of charitable activities in Sierra Leone. The following is just one example.



Momoh (in the photo above) is due to be evicted from his home. The Elders from the village have gifted him a plot of land for a house. However, that had left one important issue - money!

Following publication of Momoh's predicament in Alan's Newsletter, the appeal swiftly raised the

£4,940 to build Momoh a home and construction is well on the way. As Alan always signs off:

'Together we can make a real difference.'

Source - Alan's Newsletters

Ed - if you do not receive Alan's Newsletters, contact him. They are very informative.

Sea to sea for Sunshine

In our March Bulletin, we reported that Ian Calderbank and Andrew Fairbairn had entered a walking challenge together in support of the Sunshine Centre and the wonderful work that it does based in the Bretch Hill and surrounding areas. This challenge which involved walking as many miles as possible towards the 838 miles distance from Lands End to John O'Groats, lasted until 30th March.

It is pleasing to report that the target mileage has been exceeded when all contributors' miles are added together - so Ian and Andrew have now walked into the sea and have wet feet. In fact, Andrew's and Ian's contributing mileages were 501.1 and 270.2 respectively - no mean feat (or should that be feet?) in the time period of the challenge. Their efforts have also resulted in a significant amount donated to the Centre and, with some still coming in, the financial target of £1,000 has already been exceeded.

Ian and Andrew would like to thank all who have donated in support of their efforts and if anyone else wishes to do so the link to the relevant Go Fund Me page is still active:

[Fundraiser by Sharon Ellis: Community Walking Challenge](#)

Rtn. Ian Calderbank

Ed - at a recent Trustees' meeting, The Sunshine Centre Manager expressed thanks to the Rotary Club of Banbury for the contributions, both financially and for publicising the services provided. Ian, as thoughtful as ever, has also submitted some constructive suggestions to the Sunshine Centre to help with their future fundraising.

Speaker Programme for May & June

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
7 May	Alan Wolstencroft	Sierra Leone Update	
14 May	Emma Douglas	Stoke Mandeville Spinal Research	
21 May	Antoinette Hornby	Social Work in the Community	