



From the V.P's. Jottings



Our first lunchtime meeting for the month was on March 3rd. The subject was dentistry on Mercy Ships. The speaker was Chris Evans who had been on a Mercy Ship project. He was hosted by Rotarian Amin Voghoui. This was followed by Stephen Jakeman's President's Night which took place at Sulgrave Manor. It was attended by District Governor David Buckland and consisted of a Barn Dance and a superb buffet.

Saturday the 4th March was the final of Young Musician of the Year held at Sibford School. With the usual great standard from the competitors and an appreciative audience, it proved once again to be one of the highlights of our year. President Stephen and District Governor David Buckland was again in attendance. Rotarian Gareth Jeremy hosted the evening's activities.

Our Youth Opportunities chairman, John Meeres, was busy organizing the Schools Mock interviews held at Blessed George Napier School on 8th and 9th March. With many students taking part this was a great logistical exercise.

The 10th March speaker was our own Eric Woodruff who spoke of his experiences abroad in the R.A.F. Nigel Yeadon hosted him.

I do not know what happened at our Friday meeting on the 17th with both myself as Vice President and our President Stephen both away at District Conference, we left Rotarian Martin Phillips in charge of the meeting.

This years **District Conference** was held in Bournemouth. As I was described as a "conference virgin" (one who attends for the first time) I found it a great experience. Most of our party, organised by Fred Timms, arrived on Thursday and had a pleasant time with an evening meal in our hotel.

Friday morning, now the fun begins.

The first event which none of our party joined was the Golf Tournament commencing at 9.30. Perhaps a Banbury team next year?

The morning was taken up with the District Governor's guest's reception and lunch. Our morning was taken up with taking ourselves around the shops; it can only get better.

The first meeting was the Inner Wheel Meeting at 1.30pm. This was followed by the first Rotary session at 2.45. It started with welcomes from our District Governor and Cllr Anne Rey former Mayor of Bournemouth and Martha Smiley Inner Wheel President. The speakers for this session were Rotary International President's representative Jack Forrest from Texas, R.I.B.I. President Mike Webb and Laura Pratt who spoke on behalf of DebRA. A charity helping those with the genetic skin disease called Epidermolysis Bullosa.

The main speaker was Dr Brian Jones O.B.E. who with Bertrand Piccard was on the first non-stop around the world balloon flight. On his return he was instrumental in starting the "Winds of Hope" charity which helps children who are suffering in previously unreported or forgotten circumstances.

The evening started with Fellowship Dinners, in which Rotarians meet for dinner in their own hotels. This was followed by "Rotary at the Proms" with the

Bournemouth Philharmonic Orchestra and soprano Nicola Kirsch who was a winner in the "Stars in their Eyes" programme when she sang as Maria Callas. The evening finished with everyone enjoying a "Last night at the proms" singing Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory with Union Flags waving all over the auditorium.

Saturday morning had us at the Bournemouth centre at 9am. for the second full session. The session started with two short talks. The first by John Cunningham manager of the logistics warehouse for the British Red Cross. He was followed by Rotarian Ray Burman. He was instrumental in obtaining the jars of marmalade for foundation. His talk today was on "Health and Safety" issues. His delivery whilst getting the message over, was very humorous. We then had an enjoyable talk from Peter Heims a Private Investigator who related many of his experiences in the world of a Private Eye. We then had a welcome Coffee Break.

The Third session was entitled Rotary and Youth. The D.G. first acknowledged the Club Presidents, first time attendees, new Rotarians and past District Governors. The first speaker was Elizabeth Chacksfield who spoke on the D.G.s charity for the year "Dyslexia. Elizabeth who has taught Dyslexics for 25 years and now develops courses for other teachers. She was followed by the R.I. representative Rotarian Jack Forrest who brought greetings from the R.I. President.

There were then two talks by Ambassadorial scholars, Lisa Morris who has recently returned from South Africa where she studied African Diplomacy and Peace Keeping and Sergei Yalanetski from the Crimea. He gained a master's degree at Reading University, he then went to the Ukraine to help Government agencies to open up marketing opportunities. The guest speaker for this session was Preethi Nair, she was born in India and came to England as a child. She left her career as a Management consultant to follow her dream of being a writer. After being rejected by publishing companies she set about promoting her book herself. She eventually succeeded, and gained a three book deal with Harper Collins. Her message was - Follow your dream.

The Saturday afternoon session comprised of either the Foundation Rally or a visit to Stapehill Abbey. The Foundation Rally had presentations from the Australian G.S.E. team and Ambassadorial Scholars from Japan, U.S.A., Belgium, Canada, Australia and Mongolia.

Stapehill Abbey used to house an order of nuns and the interior is much as they left it. The gardens are extensive with lakes and woodland walks, it was a little early in the season to see the true beauty of the

gardens. A return visit in May or June would be a delight.

Our first event of the evening was a reception in our President's bedroom where twenty of us consumed wine and nibbles. We then proceeded to the Bournemouth International Centre for the District Governors Banquet and Ball. An enormous venue which held 850 of us in comfort. With tables decorated in Rotary colours and the usual balloons and streamers, which allowed us to relive our childhood dreams by propelling them across the room. The banquet was excellent and left one wondering how they were able to serve so many in such a short time. The entertainment for the evening was the Joe Loss Orchestra. They surely lived up to the reputation of this famous name. The ballroom was filled immediately with those wishing to dance the night away. It was equally enjoyable to sit back and listen to the music. The evening finished about midnight when we returned wearily to our hotels.

Sunday morning starting at 9.30am. we attended morning service at the conference centre. The service was conducted by the Rev. John Grover who had given us a thought for the day during the conference. There was the added attraction of the Glenmoor School Choir, a group of girls who enthralled us with some wonderful and uplifting singing.

After the service we commenced the fourth and final session of conference. We had presentation of awards for the club with the best Conference attendance, Best Bulletin, best web site and the winners of the Golf Tournament.

We then had a presentation by the Rotoract Chairman Adam Hunter who gave a very professional audiovisual view of Rotaract today. This was followed by the Thames Valley and Chiltern air ambulance presented by Glynn Lewis. The audiovisual presentation was impressive with the impression of the Helicopter swooping across the auditorium with corresponding noise. The national winners of the Youth Speaks competition from The Trinity School Newbury then gave us a very funny demonstration of their skills in public speaking. They are usually speaking to much smaller audiences and for them to show such confidence to an audience of over 1000 was quite amazing.

This was followed by farewell addresses by R.I. President's representative Jack Forrest and R.I.B.I. President Mike Webb. Incoming District Governor Jean Charmak briefly outlined her coming year and

welcomed us to Conference next year in Eastbourne. The final address was given by District Governor David Buckland. But this was not quite the end of proceedings, we were now to be treated to a presentation, which left many of us with tears of happiness in our eyes. I had never heard of Rod Taylor who has been in television for over 35 years mainly behind the scenes as a producer and director. His productions included Paul Daniels, Victor Borge, Tony Bennett, Roy Hudd and David Essex among many others. He also did his own shows working with Ken Dodd and Mike Yarwood. His own act, which delighted us, consisted of a trawl through many comedians of the past including Max Wall, Les Dawson and a life like depiction of Tommy Cooper. After the final session we left with a warm glow.

As I said earlier this was my first conference visit. It was a great time of fellowship with the various presentations giving a mixture of Rotary matters and Charity presentations, which left one wishing to do more, and humour. The organization was excellent with the timing always as per the programme. The lighting, audio and back projection screen keeping us fully informed throughout the proceedings. I look forward to next year in Eastbourne with perhaps a larger number of Banbury members there.

Now back to Banbury. Children Singing was the next event taking place at St Mary's Church on Wednesday and Thursday 22nd 23rd March. Eleven schools took part in a great presentation of "The Owl and the Pussycat" in words and music. Our Friday meeting welcomed the Australian G.S.E. Team who are staying a few days with our members.

On Saturday President Stephen Jakeman and Claire attended the 60th Charter lunch of the Inner Wheel of Banbury at the Jubilee Hall Bloxham. There were 75 ladies, including representatives from District 9, Brackley and Chipping Norton, President Ann Hitchcox chaired the celebration.

David Hitchcox

Massive polio immunization campaign protects Sudan's children



Khartoum, 20 February -- In a continuing all-out effort to eradicate polio from Sudan, the Federal Ministry of Health of the Government of National Unity and Ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partner organizations, today launched this year's first round of the national polio immunization campaign in Sudan, 20 to 22 February 2006.

The goal of this first round is to immunize the estimated 8.1 million children under five years in Sudan, particularly those living in the poorest communities or those intermittently cut off by conflict.

These children are the key to stopping the spread of the disease.

Sudan has succeeded in interrupting transmission of wild polio virus. No new cases of polio have been reported in Sudan since June 2005.

The total number of confirmed polio cases in Sudan in 2004 was 127. During the first half of 2005, only 27 cases were reported bringing the total number of cases to 154.

Continued attention and vigilance is needed, the current major population and cross-border movements linked to conflict and displacement in the west and the return of refugees from neighbouring countries after the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, ending two decades of conflict in Southern Sudan, could re-introduce the virus to Sudan.

Reaching the children living in areas under conflict in Darfur is crucial to build the population immunity.

The cooperation of armed groups is essential to avoid creating an immunization gap threatening the achievements of 2004 and 2005.

During the six national immunization campaign carried out in 2005, over 8.1 million Sudanese children

under five years of age throughout Sudan were vaccinated during six rounds of immunization completed. It is the goal of this first round of immunization in 2006 to reach as many children.

The immunization drive is crucial if further cases of infection are to be avoided among children. This year's campaigns are synchronized to happen simultaneously throughout the country.

In 2006, UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and the Centres for Disease Control, among other partners, are supporting the cost of vaccines, logistics, vaccination teams and social mobilization efforts in Sudan.



Here is an exercise suggested for seniors, to build muscle strength in the arms and shoulders.

It seems very easy, so you might want to give it a try. The article suggests doing it three days a week.

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-lb. potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides, and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, then relax. Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb. potato sacks. Then 50-lb. potato sacks, and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb. potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

Once you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.

And thanks to Ron Barnett for the following parable.....

A French teacher was explaining to her class that in French, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

"House", for instance, is feminine: la maison. Pencil, however, is masculine: le crayon.

A student asked, "What gender is 'computer'?"

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether "computer" should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for their recommendation.

The men's group decided that "computer" should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computer"), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay check on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine ("le computer"), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model

Finally – a plea for copy for the Bulletin. You will note that content is a bit light this month, therefore if you have an event you wish to publicize, or which has happened and you would like reported **please** let me have some words about it (preferably in electronic format!) - Owen