

SERVICE Above Self

# The Banbury Bulletin

President Roger Worrall

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## Banbury Young Musician of the Year 2010

Took place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March saw a capacity audience of over 200 people gather at Sibford School for a spectacular evening of musical entertainment at the Banbury Rotary Young Musician of the Year finals for 2010.

The performances given by over 50 young people, aged from 8 to 18 who took part in the finals, ranged from good to absolutely fabulous. Each and every one of them should be extremely proud of their performances.

The standard was such that the three adjudicators, Mark Paine, Jonathan Leonard and Trevor Barr found it hard to select the winners for the 27 category trophies, and extremely difficult to select the overall winner.

Their final decision was that the Rotary Banbury Young Musician of the Year 2009 is Catriona Bourne Swinton Hunter who gave a captivating performance of Hypnosis by Clarke, Hicks, Painter on the flute. She received the Alcan trophy from Rotarian John Phillips.

Junior Duet Singers Tavia Lewis & Molly Hughes won the Junior Musician of the Year and was presented with the Humphris Family Trophy by Christopher Humphris. They sang Panis Angelicus by Cesar Franck.

The 30 trophies made a spectacular display before being presented by various dignitaries to the winning contestants. These trophies have been presented for many years, some of which date back to the 1950's when they were part of the Banbury Arts and Crafts festival which was held for many years in Banbury Town Hall.

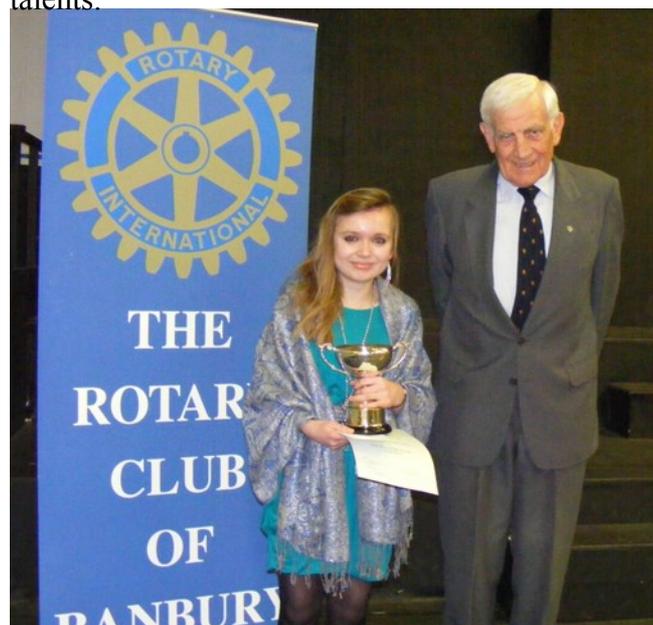
The main sponsor for the past 20 years of the competition has been **Banbury Charities** and the Rotary Club of Banbury is extremely indebted to them for their support without which the event would not be possible.

Young Musician is also supported by the Bluecoat Foundation, Banbury Town Council, Cherwell

District Council, Sibford School, The Inner Wheel Club of Banbury, One Man Band and many Rotarians and friends too many to mention individually.

The final was attended by Councillor George Parish for Cherwell District Council, Banbury Deputy Town Mayor Colin Clarke, Banbury Rotary President Roger Worrall, Inner Wheel President Rosalind Kipping and Rotary District Governor Elect Laurie Cunningham.

Rotarian Gareth Jeremy once again organised the event together with a committee of Rotarians. Gareth was the prime mover for this competition 20 years ago when he heard of the Banbury Arts and Crafts trophies lying idle and should once again be used to encourage the young people of the Banbury District to show the talents.



Rotarian John Phillips presenting the Alcan trophy to Catriona Bourne Swinton.

Catriona, as the Young Musician Of The Year, (instrumentalist), and Kelly Hempson (singer) have both been invited to take part in the, Rotary Musician Of The Year Finals for Great Britain and Ireland, to be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>. May 2010 at Brentwood Cathedral, Essex.

Both young ladies are delighted, and excited to have been selected. Gareth Jeremy.

**The Banbury Town Council** recently honoured Rotarian Maurice Humphris by making him only the second Honorary Burgess of Banbury. He was presented with his award at the Town Council meeting on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup>. March.

We in Rotary know of the work that Rotarian Maurice carries out in our community and we are delighted that he has received this well deserved award.



Maurice received the award from the Town Mayor Cllr Tina Wren.

The other person to have had this award is our own Rotarian Jack Friswell for his fund raising for the Horton General Hospital and the Fine Lady statue.

Maurice's activities in our community included being a Magistrate for 39 years and chairman of the bench for three years. a member of Round Table and of course Rotary becoming President in 2002/03.

He is also a member of Marlborough Road Methodist Church and together with his wife Rita, was a founder of the Marlborough Road Methodist Youth Club. He was also until February Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

He is well known for his efforts in the various fundraising events he is involved with.

At the Town Council meeting Cllr. Keiron Mallon said "the town council expresses its thanks and appreciation to Maurice for his work to improve the life of Banburians in a quiet unassuming way.

David Hitchcox.

### **The Club Annual General Meeting.**

The A.G.M. was held on 29<sup>th</sup>. March. The following items were resolved.

To Elect six ordinary members of council. Those elected were:-

Rtn. Owen Kiffin, Rtn. Martin Phillips, Rtn. Helen Braisby, Rtn. Alan Wolstecroft, Rtn. Nigel Randall and Rtn. Maurice Humphris. Co-opted Non voting:- Welfare officer and Bulletin Editor David Hitchcox.

Elect two Honorary Auditors:- Rtn. Roger May and Rtn. Nigel Halfpeny.

The Hon. Treasurer Rtn. Ron Barnett proposed that the Annual Subscription should be £90.00 and that late payers should attract a fine of £10.00. The joining fee to be £50.00.

The various reports from committee chairmen were received.

The representatives at Rotary District Council are to be Rtn. Ron Barnett and Rtn. John Bennett, substitutes to be Rtn. Ian Rodrick and Rtn. Andrew McHugh.

**The New Wilmington Hotel Eastbourne** was the venue for our gathering at the 2010 **District 1090 Conference**. The usual hotel's that we have stayed at in the past were full, so our organiser Rotarian Nigel Randall trawled the Web and found us this hotel. What an excellent choice it turned out to be, not quite as smart as some other hotels but this was made up for by the excellent food and the cheerfulness and attention of the staff. Dr. Ian Rodrick particularly, took to the female staff and his usual bedside manner proved a hit. The proximity to the conference venues was also an advantage as we often had to dash through the rain.

A number of us arrived on the Thursday prior to the conference and celebrated President Roger Worrall's birthday at dinner, this was followed by the in-house musician and the singing of happy birthday with the cutting of a cake. This evening finished with a finale from the musician of The Damn Busters March in recognition of our organiser's career with R.A.F.

Friday morning was free to see the delights of Eastbourne, unfortunately it was raining and Eastbourne on a wet morning is not very exciting. During this time the rest of our party arrived with the exception of one couple who found Rugby in Paris a more exciting prospect. The first session was the Inner Wheel meeting that was attended by a large number of Rotarians. The speaker Ken Wells was from the Thames Valley police museum and gave us a history of the force and showed some of the artefacts held at the museum in Sulhamstead. Some ex policemen were a little perturbed as some of the items shown as museum pieces they could remember actually using.

So on to the main conference, the first session had the welcome from District Governor Terry Kenyon followed by the Mayor of Eastbourne and the various other guests at conference. The main speaker was Rotarian Thomas Thorfinnson an American who was representing the R.I. president. Much to our relief he did not give the homily from R.I. but gave an interesting talk on his life as a Rotarian and the various projects he had been involved in, which included 8 trips to Haiti. He joined Rotary at the tender age of 23 on the insistence of his father. The club he joined was a "singing Club", he was welcomed with the strains of Daisy Daisy, he nearly left there and then. But there then followed 30 years in Rotary. The final speaker for this session was Lizzie Webb who does fitness sessions on Breakfast television. We were a little disorientated trying to keep track of her moving swiftly around the stage. She is very active in the community with dance and fitness programmes for disadvantaged young people and junior young offenders. The final speaker for this session was Robin Tatler who spoke on the "Homeless World" cup which started in 2001 and involves over 30,000 in a football competition which ends with an international final held annually in different parts of the world.

Now back to our hotel for a rest and dinner. The evening comprised a theatre style Showgroup singing "Our Kind of Music" the second half was an ABBA tribute which had Rotarians dancing in the aisles and waving their arms to the well known ABBA songs.

Saturday dawned with a Golf Match that was not attended by any of our party, a quiet breakfast was far more inviting. At the first session D.G. Terry acknowledged the various guests and first time attendees at conference. The Theme for the Conference was "Hands on Rotary" and the next two speakers certainly fulfilled that aim. Alan French has been leading a "Hands Up For Africa" project to supply a Micro Credit scheme for the working poor in Malawi. He showed many examples where a little cash loan was able to change the lives of many people in Malawi. Another Rotarian to speak next was President of Reading Rotary club he spoke of his work in Nyumbani in Kenya where he has visited on a regular basis. Certainly a case of Rotarians doing outstanding things.

After a short break it was the turn of our District Foundation chairman David Caswell to give us information about Foundation. Many Rotarians had said their knowledge of Foundation was very sketchy, David attempted to put this right with various people talking on Ambassadorial Scholars, Matching Grants, GSE Teams and Thanks for Life – End Polio Now. There followed two presentations one from the Interact Club of Wye Valley and Bourne End and at short notice a Rotarian retired Doctor telling of his experiences of going to Africa for extended periods to carry out surgery in quite primitive conditions. That ended the morning session.

The afternoon was the time for the Foundation Rally chaired by David Caswell. I did not attend this as our President Roger Worrall with Ann and I were at the District Governors lunch. Back to the hotel a nap and then wash and brush up ready for the District Governors Banquet and Ball. Many hundreds gathered in the Floral Hall for the dinner with poppers going, balloons flying and the traditional strings of balloons reaching

to the roof of the building, each trying to outdo the others. Rotarians at Play. The dancing to “The Jazzberries” was in an adjacent room enabling those that did not dance to talk and enjoy each others company.

Sunday morning was a “Time for Reflection” a service led by Canon David Tonkinson. A number of our party attended, I have to admit that the attraction of a restful extended English breakfast and a recovery period from the night before won me over. I did manage to get to the conference centre by 10.30 for the final session. There then followed the presentation of awards for the various categories including best Bulletin and Web Site. The main speaker for this session was John Green a trustee for ShelterBox and a response team member. He was deployed by ShelterBox in 2004 following the Tsunami and has since been to the Los Angeles disaster, Java and was key member of the support team to Haiti. His hands on talk about ShelterBox was an inspiration. Farewell addresses were given by R.I. President elect Thomas Thorfinnson and Jim Moulson President elect for R.I.B.I. Thomas Thorfinnson took centre stage and gave an inspirational talk, no notes, a talk which I am sure will enable us to relate to him when he becomes R.I. President. As Jim Moulson said after that “I wish there were a trap door here” but he also went on to speak and said how he was looking forward to his next year as R.B.I. President. D.G.E. Laurie Cunningham and next year’s conference organiser John Rathbone gave an insight into next year’s conference in Birmingham, a change of venue and a different way of booking with the whole package including hotels. The centre of Birmingham with its modern shopping area and refurbished canal side looks very attractive.

As is traditional the final talk is arranged to send us away smiling. This year was no exception “The Knicker Lady” gave us a history of undergarments in her own inimitable way. The wife of a vicar, Rosemary Hawthorn seemed to have a sense of humour not usually associated with a vicar’s wife.

Time to go home!! A few of us could not bear to leave each other’s company so we stayed at the hotel for another lunch.

The conference was mostly very informative with fewer guest speakers than in previous years, it was more about Rotary and the achievements of various Rotarians emphasising the theme of the Conference “Hands on Rotary”.

David Hitchcox

## **SPEAKERREPORTS.**

### **Cecily’sFund**

A most interesting talk was given to our Friday meeting on 26<sup>th</sup>. February. The subject of “Cecily’s Fund” by Mr Basil Eastwood.

Basil had been a career diplomat for the United Kingdom, having served in many countries including several in the Middle East and as our diplomat to Sweden.

His daughters’ pursued their own careers after leaving school with the eldest becoming a barrister in London. The youngest daughter, Cecily, took a gap year out from education at the age of 18 before starting university, and went to work with Aids/HIV orphans in Zambia. Tragically, she was killed at the age of 19 in a motoring accident whilst she was in that country, and her family were naturally devastated at the loss. Wishing to have a positive outcome from that tragedy her mother and father set up a fund in her memory to educate Aids/HIV orphans and abandoned children in the location where Cecily had worked, which was in the “copper belt” of Zambia.

A major obstacle was the sheer number of children which were orphaned by the disease, often losing both parents whilst they were very young. This was especially hard for the girls as they were then vulnerable to outside influences and were preyed upon by older men, and because of this cycle and general ignorance as to how aids is spread the cycle of Aids/HIV was easily perpetuated.

“Education” did not just mean lessons. There was the matter of uniform, tuition fees, classroom materials, and an incentive to attend in the form of a substantial mid-day meal, possibly the only meal the student would eat each day. There was also the problem of finance for further education past the primary school stage and also entry into the world of work once education was finished.

From modest beginnings the charity, now ten years old, has grown and currently occupies offices at New Yat, Witney, where a small multi-functional staff head up the organization. The turnover, after ten years, now approaches ½ million pounds annually and the donations range from modest individual giving through corporate sponsorship to major fund raisers which also heighten the profile of the organization such as an annual show at the London Palladium or The New Theatre, Oxford. There is also a major operatic event staged at Brill where the performance is followed by a three course meal in the large house which stands in the grounds where the opera is performed.

The fund has workers on the ground in Zambia, but is also regularly visited and monitored by staff from Witney because the size of the project and the cash flow needed to sustain it attracts unwanted attention at times from people who would divert funds if a chance to do so became possible.

Some of the students who have been through the education process are then helped through college and university to become teachers back in their communities where they have first hand experience of the problems faced by the next generations of children having lived through these problems themselves.

Some become mentors of groups of youth as they have empathy with the subject of Aids/HIV and, because of their youth, they are able to communicate well with these peer groups.

Basil also told us of his fundraising initiatives and the publications they produced to enhance their work here and in Sweden and the U.S.A. He told us that their Annual Report had won the first prize in a competition designed to find the Annual Report giving most information and clarity of the mission to the target readership and others who wished to become involved with the work of Cecily's Fund.

A most enlightening talk, big on facts, and delivered in an appropriate way for the assembled Rotarians who showed their appreciation in the usual manner. Rtn. John Webb

### **Affordable Housing.**

Our Speaker on the 12th March 2010 was Philip Clarke - Head of Planning and Affordable Housing Policy at Cherwell District Council.

This was Philip's second visit on the subject of development proposals in the Cherwell District up until 2026.

Members were provided with a booklet detailing the draft core development strategy, this was very helpful.

Key points require Cherwell District to provide 13400 new homes between 2006 and 2026. The majority of the development to take place in Banbury and Bicester, and approximately 1000

homes at RAF Upper Heyford.

In Banbury particular interest focused on the Canalside development (1200 homes and flood plain concerns) and the relocation of Banbury United Football ground.

In Bicester the ECO development in the North West of the town was of interest with land allocated to provide 5000 homes, 3000 of these to be built by 2026.

Keep your booklet for future reference. We hope Philip will return for a third visit when the proposals are finalised after a Public Enquiry in 2011.

Bryan Doe

### **The Advocacy Service.**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> March we were lucky enough to have a most informative and eloquent speaker called Gill Howe who is a trustee of the Oxfordshire Advocacy Development Group.

The Advocacy service is based in Oxford but provides services further afield including Banbury.

The service exists to help people who are confronted by Government or local authority agencies or commercial concerns, or who need to get their needs and point of view across to those in authority but are unable for whatever reason to articulate their own position.

The service is a charity and relies on volunteer help and donations for all of its work except where they are representing those who lack mental capacity and in those cases alone they are funded by local authorities. Gill stressed the independence of the advocacy services from any other source of pressure or interference from outside bodies. That fact alone reassures many of their clients who see local authority departments or other authorities as the "enemy" or "them".

At a time when an increasing number of people are feeling marginalised and stressed and that no one is listening to them, this service enables them to be heard and gives them a voice.

The volunteers in the service do not pretend to have all the answers to problems but rather concentrate on empowering clients to get the answers themselves, perhaps with the volunteer accompanying them to guide and reassure them as they put their own case to those in authority.

We always regard the number of questions as a barometer of a speaker's effectiveness. Despite being much reduced in numbers because of attendance at the Conference, Gill was called on to field a substantial number of questions triggered by the passion and persuasive nature of her presentation.

Yet again, members left lunch that day saying that here was another speaker who would be excellent for a 5<sup>th</sup> Friday!

Nigel Yeadon.

## **COMMITTEEREPORTS.**

### **Foundation.**

#### **Thanks for Life – End Polio Now.**

At the recent **R.I.B.I. Assembly** which I attended it was announced that the T.F.L. week had raised in excess of £1 million, a great achievement. It was therefore agreed that because of the success in fundraising and the fact that it had raised the profile of Rotary with the general public, it would be repeated next year. It will take a similar form at the same period and using similar posters etc. Look out for future details. D.H.

### **Youth Opportunities.**

It is proposed to hold a "Gala Concert" on the 19<sup>th</sup>. June **2011** to involve the annual winners of "Young Musician" over the past twenty years. Seven replies have already been received. Young Musician again very successful, see report. The District final of Young Chef has taken place, unfortunately our competitor did not go through to the final.

### **Sports and Entertainment.**

The "Devout Coward" evening given by Poetic Licence devised by Sonia Blinkhorn, was a great success, an enjoyable and fun event. It would have been better if a few more people had attended. Poetic licence have other items in their repertoire it would be good to hear them again with a larger audience. D.H.

Future evnts include:- Club Outing 27<sup>th</sup> April, other possible events Towcester Races, a tour of Rousham gardens. Spring Golf at Chipping Norton 19<sup>th</sup>. May. Bigwood Trophy at Tadmarton 26<sup>th</sup>. August. **Council**

### **Clippings.**

It was noted at council that requests for help/sponsorship (usually from young people) are often sent to the wrong person - past presidents, committee chairmen etc - and are left pending for an inordinate length of time before reaching the right hands for consideration. This reflects badly on Rotary these communications should be passed on ASAP to the right person .

## **ATTENDANCE.**

**February.** Honorary Members **4** Members **74** Average Attendance **53** - 71%.

Members other activities **300**

Visiting Rotarians **0**

Rotarians visiting other clubs:- **1**

**HON SECRETARY** – Dr. Ian Rodrick **CLUB WEBSITE** :- [www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)

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[david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk) **COPY DATE** is the penultimate Friday of the month.