



# The Banbury Bulletin

**The Rotary Club of Banbury**  
Rotary International  
Club No. 19229 District 1090  
President John Hansford



**August 2013**

[www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)



## **President John Hansford's Handover Address 5 July 2013**



I have been looking back recently, perhaps the thought of standing here encourages you to do that, when I realized that it is a few weeks over 30 years since I was inducted into this Club by the then President Stewart Maxwell, and I have Keith Manning to thank for putting my name forward for Membership – Keith thank you I have enjoyed immensely the fun and fellowship of this Club.

During the early months of Membership I was encouraged to always respond YES to any request to become involved. My first YES led to Gill and I hosting an Italian couple at the Contact Meeting in Banbury – they could not speak English and we could not speak Italian but by the end of the weekend we were communicating and although hard work it was a rewarding time.

My second YES was as Secretary to the Schools Debating Committee and the following year I was asked to run this Committee. Before saying YES I was offered the alternative of Assistant Secretary of the Club. The Schools Debating Committee, as I am sure some will remember, involved organizing competitions between schools as far afield as Milton Keynes, Buckingham, Oxford and Warwick usually during the winter months and was a nightmare and therefore 5 years as Assistant Secretary and another 5 years as Secretary at the time seemed appealing – having said YES I soon realized that this was a good tactic to recruit a new Assistant Secretary. I do hope that the Chairmen this year do not feel that they have been recruited in the same way.

After 10 years and a short period of rest and recuperation, my next YES involved me in the International Committee and the Contact Club visits and it has been great fun and good fellowship over the last few years being involved in Contact and arranging some of the visits to the other Clubs.

You may recall the presentation by the Membership Committee a few weeks ago and the short video of the incoming RI President Ron Burton and his message of Engage Rotary, Change Lives. As we all know Rotary is about Service and Fellowship and I believe that we are, as a Club, at our best when we work through our established Committee structures, and that by working together in this way we will get to know each other and strengthen our fellowship and friendship. I also believe that this is how we Engage Rotary and Change Lives.

I would now like to look at the work of our various Committees for the coming year.

I am aware that the plans of Youth Service are already underway for a number of events. I am sure that we have all attended Children Singing for Children and seen the faces of the young children as they perform, they all clearly enjoy themselves and we are able to raise funds which in turn are used to support needy children both locally and internationally. This I believe is Engaging Rotary and Changing Lives.

The Youth Service Committee will also be organising the Young Musician of the Year, Young Chef and Practice Interviews with local Schools – This is Rotary being Engaged and Changing Lives.



We have over the last few years achieved the target of donating \$100 per Member to our charity The Rotary Foundation and I am aware of various events, Steven's Summer Steaming and the Family Festival of Christmas Music that are being planned and I am sure will help us achieve the target again this year.

District Governor John has asked that we continue the fight to eradicate Polio from the World and fellow Members you should be aware that for every £1 that we donate, Bill Gates has pledged a further £2. I am aware of early plans which will involve the Senior Schools of our area and I hope will allow us to make a donation to Polio eradication. I know that everyone will agree with the comment of Past President Ian last week that we cannot become known as the Organization that nearly eradicated Polio. All of these events are Engaging Rotary and will Change Lives.

As we know some of the events that are organized by the Community Committee are to raise money, the Barrel Organ collection which last year raised nearly £7000 is one such event and will take place again this December – this is certainly Engaging Rotary and the money donated will Change Lives. Other events organized by this Committee provide a service such as the Party for the Blind, no money is collected but I am sure that the lives of the people that attend this event are maybe not changed but are certainly enriched.

A great deal has been achieved in the last few years with the International Committee with Shelterboxes, AquaRollers and building Classrooms and a playground for Schools in Sierra Leone. There will always be work to be done and I am aware of a number of schemes that will need to be discussed and agreed for this year, but I am sure of the continued enthusiasm of the members of this Committee to achieve the results. This will Engage Rotary and Change Lives.

Last year Ian Anthistle and John Bennett spent some early mornings at the Blessed George Napier School and successfully established an Interact Club which received its Charter in January of this year. Ian informs me that despite a number of the students leaving for work or University there are new members who will be joining and that the Club is going from strength to strength. He has also informed me that he has started to sow the seeds of another Club based at the Warriner School in Bloxham and let's wish him every success and hope that we can Charter another Club during this Rotary year.

Ian in his Valedictory speech last week mentioned the Challenge of Membership and that the average age for our Club had increased from 59 years to the current 70.6 years over the last 30 years. We need to appreciate the magnitude of this issue, if we recruit two new members aged 40 during this year then at the end of the year the average age will have increased to 70.7 years. There is no doubt that this is a huge Challenge but I believe that the presentation that we received a few weeks ago from John Smith and Phil Cavill shows that we are aware of the problem, and I would reiterate the message from that presentation that it is up to all members of the Club and not just the Committee to think about introducing a new member and hopefully one that is well under 70.

I mentioned earlier the fun and fellowship of the Contact weekend and as I hope every member knows it is our turn to host at the end of next May and I do hope that when you are asked to help, and you will be, that you say YES.

I thank you for allowing me to be the President of our Club for the next year, it is a great privilege and honour. Can I also thank everyone who has already said YES and agreed to take Office or to Chair a Committee, I do hope that we can have fun and good fellowship because that will be Engaging Rotary and I am sure that together we will Change Lives.

## **Extracts from Rotary International President Ron Burton's Address to the RI Convention**



This is an incredibly exciting time to be a Rotarian. And I believe the year we are about to begin will be one of the greatest years Rotary has ever experienced, as we come to the end of our fight against polio and the beginning of a new era for our Rotary Foundation.

Twenty-six years ago we were getting ready to tackle the largest fundraising campaign we'd ever had, and the biggest commitment Rotary had ever made: to eradicate polio from the face of the earth. It was truly uncharted territory. We've learned a lot over the years of PolioPlus. We've learned a lot about polio. And we've learned even more about ourselves and what we're capable of, as individuals, as clubs and districts, and together, as Rotary International.

We've learned that the higher we aim in our Rotary service, the more we can achieve. And that is why we're ready to start aiming higher in everything we do — as Rotarians, in our clubs, and through our Foundation, with the new Foundation grant structure we've been calling Future Vision. It's a big transition — a big change from business as usual. The biggest change is learning to think big, and planning for the long term. We'll be talking about sustainability much more than we have in the past, looking at ways to make sure that the good Rotary does keeps on doing good, long after Rotary's involvement ends.

It's time for us to recognize that the real challenge we face isn't just bringing new members into Rotary — it's turning new members into true Rotarians. It's helping new members get engaged in Rotary, helping them realize just what kind of potential Rotary offers them, and how their Rotary service can change lives.

When we realize just what we can achieve in Rotary — when we really engage Rotary — that's when lives change. And, at the end of the day, no matter how many lives you reach out to change, the life that will change the most will be your own.

That's what our theme for 2013-14 is all about: Engage Rotary, Change Lives.



Rotary's had the same number of members for around 15 years now: about 1.2 million. And we talk a lot about how important it is to bring in new members, so that Rotary can grow. But the truth is that we get plenty of new members in Rotary — about 120,000 every year. So why isn't Rotary growing? Because every year, as those 120,000 new members come in the front door, 120,000 members go out the back door. It's like trying to fill up a bathtub without putting in the plug. And it isn't getting us anywhere.

That's why we're committing to see Rotary membership climb to 1.3 million by 2015. That's an absolutely achievable goal — if we can make sure that we don't just bring in new members but also keep the ones we have. We need to make sure that every new member who comes into Rotary engages with Rotary.

And we have to work harder to bring more women, more diversity, and every age group into Rotary — not just attracting them to Rotary, but making sure Rotary works for them in the long term. Whether that means being more flexible with our schedules and locations or bringing families into our service or even welcoming kids at our meetings — we need to look at all the options, with open eyes, to find the answers that work.

Every Rotarian is different. We all came to Rotary for our own reasons. Sometimes, the reason you joined Rotary isn't the reason you stay. But every one of us here has had that experience of finding the thing in Rotary that has helped us make the transition from just being a member of a Rotary club to being a Rotarian.

And whatever it is to you, however you got that feeling that made you a Rotarian for life, that's what I want you to share — what I want you to help other people discover, so that they can find that feeling for themselves. The one thing we can't do is say we aren't willing to change. Because if we don't want Rotary to end with us, we can't act like it already does.

Our goal in 2013-14 is to turn that potential, the potential we've all seen this week, into reality. We're going to do it by engaging our Rotary service, by getting involved, by staying inspired, and by remembering every day just what a gift we have in Rotary.

Now is the time for us to act. Each one of us has a job to do — to get fully engaged in Rotary, to lead by example, and to inspire others to join us. Working together, we will build a stronger Rotary — and a better world.

Together, we will Engage Rotary, Change Lives.

## **Rotary International British Isles President Nan McCreddie**



As the new Rotary year begins, Denis and I send you our very best wishes for a wonderful year of Rotary service.

The Rotary year 2013/14 is our centenary and as we move into a new era, let us communicate that Rotary is about happiness and enjoyment as well as making our communities better places to live. That way we can attract new people to join us who want to put something back into their communities and enjoy that happiness too.

Our best wishes go out to Rotarians for a happy and successful Rotary year. Our thanks to all the RI, RIBI, District and Club Officers for all the time they give to Rotary. We will have a great year. Denis and I look forward to seeing many of you during the year and I will also be keeping everyone up to date during my year through my Facebook page.

## Speaker Reports

**Friday 12 July 2013: Rebekah Sammut - Young Dementia UK**

**Hosted by Rtn Ian Rodrick**

Dementia is a condition which we have all heard of and may have experience of in family members, or neighbours. The term covers a variety of symptoms including memory loss, problems with reasoning and communication, and difficulty in coping with everyday tasks such as washing dressing and cooking.

People who develop this during their working life – generally 30 to 65 years are said to suffer from Young Dementia, and it is estimated that there are 64,000 sufferers in the UK.

This is particularly cruel as these are adults in the prime of their lives who should be looking at career progression, financial stability and a happy family life. It can be a very distressing and socially isolating for both the sufferer and their family.

Young Dementia UK started in Oxfordshire a few years ago and currently provides long term, one to one support for 80 patients in the county, 7 in the Banbury area. This takes the form of regular visits, “get togethers” over coffee or lunch, walks and counselling.

Last year the organisation widened its net to the whole of the UK and is obviously providing a valuable service.

Another example of the excellence of the voluntary sector in our community

**Friday 19 July 2013**

**Johnnie Welford**

**Chimaltenango, a town like Banbury**

**Hosted by Rtn Andrew Fairbairn**



Every picture tells a story – Johnnie Welford’s illustrated and informative presentation on a town in Guatemala the size of Banbury revealed a landscape of young adults permanently living in appalling conditions on the street, their daily shop for provisions comprising foraging through the local dump with no prospect of escaping this lifestyle save through the illusory comfort and release derived from drugs and glue sniffing.

In conjunction with other organisations, the Nicodemus Trust is seeking to provide a route for these youngsters to return to mainstream society through, inter alia:

1. Repatriation with their families or, if that is not possible, the provision of accommodation;
2. Mentoring;
3. Medical aid;
4. Education; and, as a consequence,
5. Access to employment.

To date, the results are demonstrating how a relatively small investment can reap great rewards by reaching out in many directions akin to the strands of a spider’s web. Examples include a young girl who became a gang member bent on revenge when her brother was killed by police who now teaches street children (100 plus) at a church not previously involved in such work – her idea, her initiative, her venture - a wonderful example of youth leading and inspiring the older generation (a format to be copied by other churches). Also, young adults at the Foyer in Banbury, themselves having previously been homeless, recognizing that perhaps their experiences were perhaps not as bad as they had thought, moved to work to help their counterparts across the Atlantic.

So the charity’s aim is not to give a temporary hand out, instead an investment in a sustainable future generating both economic and social/community gains.

## Events

### Help for Heroes Concert

By Rtn John Bennett



Banbury Symphony Orchestra fielded their largest ensemble to date for the “Help for Heroes” concert at St Mary’s on 13<sup>th</sup> July - over 90 musicians. They normally number around 60 for our Family Christmas Festival of Music, so the stage was packed and the volume turned up, particularly for the 1812 Overture - guns and all.

In the end the event attracted an audience of 350, Rotary almost meeting their target to sell 100 plus tickets – 15 members sold 96 tickets. Although the final figure has yet to be established, it looks as though the charity will benefit to the tune of around £2,300 and the Help for Heroes volunteers sold £530 of merchandise on the night.

I’ve received notes of thanks from members of the orchestra for all the hard work and support they received from the Rotary Club of Banbury and I add my thanks for those who sold tickets and for the team who volunteered to attend on the night, to run the box office, sell programmes, act as stewards and generally ensure the evening ran smoothly - and that’s what Rotary is all about.

### The Practice Interview Programme

By Rtn Nigel Randall

Members and colleagues helped to complete the annual Practice Interview Programme (PIP) at the Warriner School during early July. This required some two hundred 15 year old students submitting their CV and a practice letter of application for a job or course of instruction ahead of facing a panel of two interviewers during a 30 minute session. At the outset, interviewers focused on gaining the student’s confidence so that they talked as freely as possible about themselves, their interests, experience, skills and ambitions. Being as positive as possible, students were assessed and provided with appropriate feedback (both verbally and in written form) all with a view to improving the future performance of these young individuals under interview conditions.

There is a competitive element in being interviewed for a job in real life, and we try to replicate this – at the schools’ request – during the PIP by identifying a few outstanding candidates and inviting them to come to a second interview. This leads to the selection of a star interviewee who receives a £50 book token prize. During this process we are always aware that the young people involved are of varying ability, and this is factored into our assessment of them. Consequently a challenged pupil may be judged to have performed better than a talented one even though on an absolute scale their presentation is of a lower standard. The winner of the 2013 Warriner PIP competition was Gemma Newman, although the other six students invited to the second round all produced extremely commendable interviews.

The PIP was introduced to the Banbury Club over 10 years ago by the late Rotarian John Meeres, who imported it from his previous Club ‘up North’. The Blessed George Napier was the first school in Banbury to participate, covering some 180 pupils each year. The scheme was later extended to include a similar annual interview at the Warriner, and recent spin-offs include a small but regular programme of interviews conducted as part of a Banbury Young Homeless Project mentoring scheme for disadvantaged young people, and a couple of individual practice interviews for suitable Frank Wise school 6<sup>th</sup> form students. In the future, consideration may be given to introducing some form of PIP to other schools in the area: to this end, a few Members recently participated on an individual basis in a limited similar scheme run by the North Oxford Academy (Drayton School to you and me) for their 6<sup>th</sup> Form students.

We currently have nearly 60 regular volunteer interviewers on our database, all of whom feel that taking part in the PIP process is an enlightening experience, and a good opportunity to observe how the new generations are coping with current educational, social and employment environments. There are only just enough Club Members and volunteer interviewers to run PIP in its current form, without placing too much commitment on individuals. So, if you are interested in supporting this worthy programme, or know of suitable individuals with business or HR experience that might be interested in taking part, please contact Reg McLean or Nigel Randall.

### **Old Ford Rally 2013** **By Rtn John Bennett**

The picture (right) is of a real old timer  
– a Ford Model A built in 1904.



On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July, four intrepid Banbury Rotarians, Messer's Fairbairn, Hitchcox, Webb and yours truly, loaded up their vehicle and headed for the Gaydon Motor Museum, venue of the Ford Y & C Register Rally - the fourth time we have been invited. The brief is that we have a free hand to raise funds for our charities in whatever way we wish and can set up as many events / side shows as we like.

This year the plot was a two pronged attack. The first was to feature the Shelterbox, with Andrew available to answer questions and John "The Organ Man" serenading the public into submission with a fine selection of tunes. The second featured a 1904 Ford model "A" car, a rail full of Edwardian clothing, David wielding a rather modern looking Box Brownie camera and rattling a cash tin (well he is Treasurer) and me cajoling the punters into having their photos taken on the car in fancy costumes. I don't think I offended many, but it was hard work!!

The footfall seemed to be much lighter this year. For me the "brightest" feature of the day was John Webb, resplendent in Union Flag dress coat and caressing the organ at a steady 60 revs per minutes for hours on end. To try to attract more interest, he offered to take requests – the only request he refused to accept was to stop playing.

The "dullest" feature of the day? A number of ladies were decked out in very attractive Suffragette's costumes to celebrate the cause. It all went well until one of them decided to sing all 8 verses of the suffragette's anthem over the P.A. system. John recons she used most of the notes available to her, but none were in the right order, the result being a mass exodus for the safety of the museum and women nearly lost the vote again.

I've come to the conclusion that my cajoling technique needs an overhaul, because we didn't have a great deal of luck with the photographs, (didn't reach double figures!) but when rides were offered in Model A, N and T Fords, things started to liven up and a few members of the public got a little excited.

Between us, we cleared about £100 for charity. Not a lot, but we wagged the flag for Rotary, had a good day out in the fresh air and I enjoyed the company of three hard working Rotarians, to whom I offer my sincere thanks.

### **Tour de Trigs or Mad Dogs and Englishmen**

**By Rtn David Sullivan**

It seemed a good idea at the time. The Club had assisted in getting the Trigs re-established so why not go a step further and enter a team. Andrew Fairbairn had a similar idea and when he asked me to become a member of a team with him and Alison Warren, I found myself suffering a distinct lack of brain to mouth coordination and saying yes. Then panic set in. it's around twenty years since I did the Trigs before and it

was hard. I haven't done any serious exercise in years. Will I have the time for training? Will my dodgy knees take it?

I'm committed but I find myself in a team with two far fitter than me. Not only that but two who get up at a ridiculously early time. And to put the boot in we start training when the country is having a heat wave!

I thought I should make a gentle start. I'd walk to a Fellowship & House meeting at Maurice Humphris' house from Tesco's. Half an hour should be plenty of time. Heck, half way there and twenty minutes gone. I trot the other half and try to appear cool and calm when arriving despite suffering near exhaustion.

Training proper starts with the Banbury Circular Walk one Saturday with Andrew. This is the chap who had just come back from kayaking around Anglesey. We start at 8am, which is way before I can coordinate thoughts let alone walk. It's already over 20 degrees and getting hotter. Andrew lets me set the pace. I set off at what I consider a brisk pace but Andrew is having a leisurely walk. Three hours later we return and I'm dripping. I'm looking forward to collapsing in the bath. Andrew though is off to Wantage for ShelterBox. Still, at least the knees held up. The only injury is considerable chaffing, which enrolls me in the ministry for silly walks. I must invest in a tub or three of Vaseline – either that or wear a skirt.

The following week I'm greased up and taking care not to slide off the car seat. We meet at 7am. I'm a danger to myself at that time of the morning but Alison has been up hours and done the ironing! We walk the same route and it's even hotter than the week before. Intent on not making the same mistake as last time I hang back and let Alison set the pace. This is the person who I later discover is frequently out walking at 5am and climbs mountains. Hey, wait for me! We walk the route fifteen minutes quicker than the week before and I'm ready to call Maurice. Alison looks cool and doesn't seem to have broken into a sweat.

50 miles is going to be tough, but at least it won't be hot in December. Oh, wait, it's likely to be knee deep in mud! Oh, joy!

## Around the Committees

**Membership** are looking into the options for a scatter to other Clubs. There was a discussion on how best to promote the Club and the committee intend to have more of a presence at Rotary events. The committee also discussed the challenges set by the digital age and the implications for the Bulletin and Website. A key issue is how to make the best use of media such as Facebook and Twitter.

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Council also debated this and decided we need to know more about these media and how they should be used and so are seeking some-one to speak to Club.

**Fellowship and House** had a rare meeting and reviewed the Friday meeting arrangements. There was concern on the poor attendance at 5th Fridays, which Council also discussed. President John is looking to make a few changes and the first is that the 5<sup>th</sup> Friday meeting on 30 August will be at the Wroxton House Hotel. There may not be many 5<sup>th</sup> Friday evening meetings this Rotary year as there will be a President's lunch on 20 October instead and Contact Club will be here for the May occasion.

**Sports and Entertainment** are planning the usual activities and considering ideas for the annual Club Outing and also an evening visit. Rotaract and other service Clubs may be invited to the Quiz Night.

**Community and Vocation** have decided to meet at 6.30pm in future. There will be no Stroke Awareness Day this year as the Committee felt that blood pressure testing was now widely available. Four dates have been requested for the Christmas Street Organ collection at Tesco's and Sainsbury's. No collections are planned at Morrison's.

**Foundation** requested set up costs of £1,250 for the Family Christmas Festival of Music, which is being put to Club. **International** are looking to arrange a fund raising event and **Youth Service**, which operates largely through project groups, have their usual event arrangements in hand.

**Council** agreed that in principle 10% of event surpluses should go to general trust funds. Council learnt that the Inner Wheel Club of Banbury have disbanded their Club Service Committee and so will not be able to assist with catering at events. We hear that the Inner Wheel Club of Chipping Norton may be closing.



Alan Wolstencroft, Banbury Rotarian & Goodwill & Growth for Africa UK Trustee working with & supported by Rotary Clubs in the UK and Africa

**“making a real difference in Sierra Leone”**

Registered Charity 1092028

### Christian Hope School

The staff toilets are now completed and as a result the staff will no longer have to share toilets with the children at the school. There is no running water at the school so the toilets are “long drops” and water for hand washing is stored in a 250 litre plastic drum, however it is another step forward.



The next phase is the conversion of one of the classrooms into a library and staff room area and the money for this was transferred this week.

### A container arrives for Calvary School.



All that needs doing now is to offload it, but with no crane on the lorry in true Sierra Leone style you just get on with it. Health & Safety is a priority as you can see by the high visibility tabard

Quite a crowd gathered to watch but with supervision from Mick, Dickie, Shane & Moses of Westminster Aviation Security Services & Pastor Mark on hand what could possibly go wrong??



It's going well so far, considering everything



Which way up should this container be boss?



That's looking a bit more like it!

These may not seem very exciting pictures to us, but for everyone at Calvary School this means so much. They can now clear the classroom and start using the container to store items. In September they will start using the classroom for education purposes. A really big thank you to everyone at Westminster Group PLC for this fantastic donation which will “make a real difference”.

**Message on Facebook from Andrew Brewer  
following his visit to Club on 19 July 2013**



“Good lunch from an active club and a pleasure to attend. Even more of a surprise was receiving £500 towards the Roll Out the Barrel Sierra Leone project in conjunction with Rtn Alan Wolstencroft. Thank you each and everyone.  
[www.rotb.co.uk](http://www.rotb.co.uk)”

**Editor's piece**

The Bulletin has served Club well for many years. David Hitchcox has done an excellent job over the last six years, as have previous editors before him. So I don't intend to make wholesale changes, but some change is inevitable to keep the Bulletin fresh. I have tweaked it a little, as may be noticed, and I will try out one or two ideas as and when time allows. In line with this electronic age I may also look at linking the Bulletin with the website but that is for another day. I would welcome feedback whether on style or content, as long as it's relevant - which rules out comments about getting my hair cut!

The Bulletin would be very bare without contributions from members. I am grateful to those who have responded to requests and contributed to this issue. Please continue to send through reports on speakers and events and articles promoting forthcoming events. In fact any content to keep the Bulletin interesting.

**Editor:** David Sullivan

**Copy date:** the last Friday of the month.

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**Stephen's Summer Steaming**

**Sunday 11 August 2013  
From 12.30pm**

**The ideal day out for all the family**

**Enjoy train rides round the garden  
Two engines this year**

**Swimming  
Bar-be-cue**

**Please bring chairs**

**Adults £10 family ticket £25  
In aid of Foundation**