



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

President Ian Rodrick

December 2012



Rodrick's

Ramblings

They all told me that things would really get busy in November – and so they have!

I was honoured to represent the Club at the Remembrance Day parade on Sunday 11th November. I have to be honest – it was the first Remembrance Parade I have ever been on and I was surprised by the number of participants and the quiet efficiency and sense of dignity of the event. I was particularly impressed by the number of young people taking part. It reflected great credit on our town.

Children Singing for Children – now that was something else! Being in a ringside VIP seat at the front gave Liz and me a totally new perspective on the event. The children taking part clearly had a super time, the audience loved it and so did we. Thanks go to the Youth Opps committee and especially Fred, Jonathan and Alan who must have worked their socks off to ensure its success. I can honestly say that I was proud to stand in front of the audience as your President.

Although I haven't had a full report I am told that this year's Tour de Trigs went well and it was good to see it up and running again and have our Club associated with it.

We are now, of course, gearing up for the Family Festival of Christmas Music, the Service Clubs Carol Service and the street organ collection, so it will be a case of "all hands to the pumps" for the next few weeks.

It would be inappropriate to write this without a tribute to our late friend and colleague Royston Watkins, who died on 24th November. I think we have all been moved by the quiet dignity and determination shown by "Roy", as he coped with the trials of his illness. I never heard him complain, he was always good company and was an example to all of us. Our deepest sympathy goes to Maureen and to Giles.

Finally can I thank you all for your support during the first six months of my Presidency and may I wish you all a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

“making a real difference in Africa”

Westminster Group PLC “Roll out the Barrel”

Westminster have been air freighting goods to Sierra Leone for me, but last week they loaded a 20 foot sea freight container and allowed me to send 45 boxes of assorted goods for my projects. 22 Rotary rollers, portable water containers (pictured), which save children carrying water long distances were donated to me by a Rotary charity called “Roll Out The Barrel” – these will be distributed in the Lunghi community when I visit Sierra Leone in January. Other items included football kit & footballs, school uniform, knitted blankets and items for a Charity called “Enable the Children” that I am also supporting.



Peter Fowler CEO of Westminster Group PLC supervises the loading of the sea freight container!

Ithembalihle, South Africa

St John’s Priory “adopted” Ithembalihle (also known as St John’s Orphanage) as a project in September 2010 and has agreed to continue this support during the school year 2012 – 2013.

For the third year the school held its’ “alternative” Harvest Festival when the children were each given an envelope and asked to decorate it in the Harvest theme and enclose a donation towards “Ithembalihle”. The appeal raised a total of **£380.55** which paid for all the equipment shown in the photograph opposite in the new pre-school which has recently been started at the orphanage - a great step forward for the local community.

Kalaba Town School, Freetown, Sierra Leone

In 2007 I have begun taking/sending red & white gingham dresses to Christian Hope School as if children don’t have a uniform they can’t go to school. Shenington primary school have been donating blue & white gingham dresses for **some time now and I have been distributing them in local communities for the girls to wear as “best”**.



Recently Kalaba Town School have agreed to accept Blue and white gingham as part of their school uniform - the picture above shows girls in their “new” school uniform – thank you to all at Shenington for **“making a real difference”** as otherwise these girls may not be going to school.

It is with regret that we announce the death of Rotarian Roy Watkins.

Roy has been a member of our Club for many years with a short break. He has born his illness for a number of years, but always enduring it with a positive spirit and attending meetings and helping the club in many ways. Roy’s commitment to Rotary (and Newcastle United) never wavered and his upbeat attitude to life and his illness was an example to us all. He will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with Maureen and family at this time.



**The Following Rotarians
have made a
donation to Foundation in lieu of sending Christmas cards to
fellow members and Wish you and your families a Happy
Christmas and a Peaceful New Year**

Graham & Leueen Anker

Andrew & Marilyn Fairbairn

John & Jean Phillips

Ian & Alison Anthistle

Paul & Jenny Gardiner

Martin & Annie Phillips

David & Wendy Barlow

Nigel & Janet Halfpenny

Geoffrey & Sheila Pollard

Ron & Tricia Barnett

John & Gill Hansford

Nigel & Gillian Randall

John & Shirley Bennett

David & Ann Hitchcox

Mark & Karen Recchia

Simon & Pamela Bion

Maurice & Rita Humphris

Fred & Sue Riches

David Blakey

Trevor & Jan Iles

Ian & Liz Rodrick

Tony & Mavis Brace

Tony & Jo Ilott

Paul & Karen Shea

Helen Braisby

Stephen & Clare Jakeman

John & Gill Smith

John & Jane Brodey

Gareth Jeremy

David & Shirley Sullivan

Tim & Jill Bryce

Shirley Kershaw

Pat Thomas

Ian & Pat Calderbank

Owen & Jacqueline Kyffin

Bob & Sue Thompson

Phil & Dianna Cavill

Rupert & Rosalind Kipping

Fred & Joyce Timms

John Cooke

Keith & Sylvia Manning

Alison & Stephen Warren

Brian & Jean Cornley

Stewart Maxwell

Eric & Wendy Watson

Brian & Hazel Croft

Roger May

John & Joy Webb

Stan Crump

Joe & Nora Mc Gloin

Tony & Val Wiltshire

Malcolm & Patricia Dibb

Reginald & Janice McLean

Alan & Sue Wolstencroft

Surinder & Balbir Dhesi

Jonathan & Jane Meredith

Geoff Wood

Bryan & Elaine Doe

Helen Morris

Roger Worrall & Beverley

John & Paula Donaldson

Bob & Joan Nurden

Nigel & Diane Yeadon

Malcolm & Valerie Douglas

Malcolm & Gabbie Nutt

Tom & Emma Taylor

CHILDREN SINGING FOR CHILDREN

The annual event which Banbury Rotarians always look forward to. This year was no exception with the event having to be extended to four evenings instead of the usual two, with extra schools

taking part, 24 in total. Each evening produced an audience filling St Mary's church who enjoyed the singing of the schools involved and ended with a standing ovation and cries of more! more! to which the children responded with an encore.

The total proceeds for the four evenings totalled in excess of £6000.00 which will be divided between "Seesaw", "Goodwill and Growth in Africa", "Children in Nepal" and other Rotary Children's Charities.

There were also guest appearances of several local artistes some winners from the Young Musician Competition. Next years "Children Singing for Children is already booked into the calendar. Once again we will be able to enjoy this great gathering of our local Primary school children.

Tour de Trigs 2012



Muddy Boots Typical of the conditions met by the walkers.

The Tour De Trigs 2012 went ahead successfully after the break of two years. Rotary were pleased to support the event and help to get it going again this year with the support of Banbury Charities. Most of the original organisers were involved thus enabling the event to be carried out with their expertise in running it for many years. Although the numbers were down on previous years it is felt after the success of this year's event it can now build up to higher numbers next year. Having said that it still attracted many intrepid walkers some of whom completed the 50 miles within the 24 hours allowed. The shorter 30 miles route for younger walkers also attracted good support.

Our Club also supported on the night by manning checkpoint 8 which was held in Brailes Sports Pavillion. This meant a rota of Rotarians checking and supplying support and drinks to the walkers from 6.30 in the evening until 4.30 A.M. During this time we had to deal with three walkers dropping out, two of whom needing medical assistance. This brought home to us the severity of this walk 50 miles across country map reading and enduring all weathers and conditions underfoot. The Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell also manned a checkpoint.

Speaker Report.

Yvonne Purcell, 26th October - Voluntary Work in Uganda,

Yvonne is a former midwife and teacher of midwifery and she spoke of her voluntary midwifery work which started seven years ago when, following the death of her husband, she became very interested in voluntary work overseas. She has always worked independently and never been tied in to any UK charity. Initially her concern was with South America of which she had previous knowledge and which was therefore of special interest to her, after a year or two she turned her attention to India where she saw there to be great needs, but this year with some reservations she has been persuaded that her skills could be used better in Uganda, so she went to work in a small town near the capital, Kampala. She worked there for two months on the Uganda Women's Project. While there she lived with local families and during her stay she assisted with training and delivering babies. Seemingly at

Ugandan hospitals the normal birth rate per month is 200 compared with 20 in the UK where we have far better facilities and more staff. Yvonne said that if we were faced with the wait for treatment there we would never again complain about A &E or doctors' appointments systems.

The observations that Yvonne made about her time in Uganda were most interesting and in the often saddening. Corruption appears to be rife and the police and soldiers are not above helping themselves to aid goods. There is a great problem with single mothers as men will not marry unless they receive a dowry and when this is not available they simply live with a woman for a time then when they tire of her they simply desert her and their children. It seems that the women are the ones who really make an effort, buying seed to plant a crop which will feed them and their families and give enough for them to sell so that they can buy seed for the next year. This is one of many schemes designed to help families to rise from poverty and make a future for themselves. Fortunately the climate and the land is such that anything will grow and mushroom growing is another agricultural venture. Some people are making soap for sale, others are setting up businesses, Yvonne obtained 11 sewing machines and 22 ladies were employed on a shift basis making goods for sale. These initiatives seem to be the way forward for many as unemployment is such that about 70% of graduates are unemployed which means that many look for work abroad and the country loses some of it's best brains.

Yvonne saw aid items given from Britain up for sale, looked at through western eyes there is much corruption. Until there is a change of political will she strongly advocates only giving through groups of people we know and can trust.(as is our way) She did not seek a donation from the club but she did suggest a challenge which she has issued to some friends of hers, give up alcohol for a week and donate the money saved.

Yet another person who is prepared to give up the good life for a while to give help where it is needed. A very interesting talk which gave yet another insight into life in Africa and one I believe that was thoroughly approved of by our own ambassador to Africa.

Maurice Humphris

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING:- 16th. November 2012.

The Elected Club Officers for 2013-2014 were:-

PRESIDENT,	Rotarian JOHN HANSFORD
1 ST Vice President,	Rotarian Philip Cavill
2 nd Vice President	Rotarian Ian Calderbank
Honorary Secretary	Rotarian Paul Gardiner
Assistant Honorary Secretary	Rotarian Mark Recchia
Honorary Treasurer	Rotarian David Hitchcox
Assistant Honorary Treasurer	Rotarian Allison Warren

The accounts for 2011/2012 were presented by Rotarian Ron Barnett and were approved.

Committee Reports.

Community and Vocational.

There are five days of supermarket collections between 15th and 24th December. The proceeds to be equally divided between Katharine House Hospice and Rotary charities. Mike Banks is in need of more volunteers to assist at the collections if you have not yet named a slot please contact Mike and volunteer.

Foundation.

Martin and the Club are hosting an Ambassadorial Scholar, Julie Self from Canada.

Forthcoming events include:-

Christmas Festival of Music 15th December at St Mary's Church.

The Christmas card donations are to be organised again this year.

The annual Frugal Lunch is to be held on Paul Harris Day 22nd. February.

Sports & Entertainment.-

Club Darts evening to be held on 14 January 2013 at the Cricket Club.

We will also be entering the District Darts competition.

The Club quiz to be held on 11 March 2013 at the Cricket Club.

District Conference. Hotel is booked, 1st.- 3rd. March.

Joint Service clubs Carol Service to be held on the 16th. December at Marlborough Road Church..

The Club Outing to be on the 8 April 2013 visiting Birmingham, "Back to Backs Museum and Cadbury World.

International:-

The Polar Bear Dip will be staged again for those hardy souls on the 1st January 2013.

Youth Opportunities.

A excellent event with a surplus of around £6000.00 raised for the charities nominated. Charities to be supported are Children in Nepal , Goodwill and Growth in Africa and See-Saw the bereavement charity. Ninety per cent to be divided equally with 10% for other children's charities.

The Young Musician competition will be held again at Sibford School, the heats on 18 & 19 January and the final on 23 February 2013

Young Chef to be organised again at Oxford College, Broughton Road, Banbury. It is hoped to again find a candidate for R.Y.L.A.

Rotaract, Interact.

Rotarians Ian Anthistle and John Bennett have met with the new Interact club at B.G.N. and have successfully held their first meetings. They are very enthusiastic and planning a full programme of activities.

The Rotaract Club is now up and running and is becoming involved in their own projects and showing interest in assisting at some Rotary projects.

Christmas Street Organ Collection Schedule.

Saturday	15TH. December	Tesco's
Friday	21ST. December	Sainsbury's
Saturday	22ND. December	Tesco's
Sunday	23RD. December	Morrisons
Monday	24TH. December	Sainsbury'

CONGRATULATIONS.

Geoff & Sheila Pollard are now blessed with a Grandson TOBY JAMES.

A Message from Ron Barnett.

There is now an app which can be downloaded to your mobile phone from RI enabling you to locate a Rotary Club anywhere in the world giving where and when it meets and linking to Google maps to locate it.

The app can be downloaded from:

<http://www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/SiteTools/ClubLocator/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

HON SECRETARY –David Sullivan **CLUB WEBSITE** :- www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk
Bunkhouse, 8 Chestnut Road, Mollington, Oxon. OX17 1BG.E. Mail: sullyhouse@googlemail.com Tel. Work Home 01295 750460 Mobile 07739 12205

EDITOR –David Hitchcox, 1 Dorchester Grove, Banbury. Tel. 01295 –253733. Copy by preference to e-mail which is david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk **COPY DATE** is the penultimate Friday of the month.