



The Banbury Bulletin



The Rotary Club of Banbury
District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

President Ron Barnett

FEBRUARY 2011

ROTARIAN KEN GIBBARD



It was with much regret and some surprise that we heard of the death of Rotarian Ken. Ken had as usual been to the Friday Rotary meeting and had played bridge with friends on the Saturday before he died on the Sunday. It was a great achievement that he had been a member of our Club for over 50 years. During this time he had involved himself in all aspects of Rotary. He had acted as chairmen of all our committees and was President in 1974/75. At a recent talk to mark his 50 years in Banbury Rotary he spoke of the many fundraising and community projects he was involved with, raising funds to supply beds for the Horton Hospital and the building of the Old Peoples club were among the many he mentioned. During this time of course he also had to run his 500 acre farm and yet he found time to be a Magistrate and be on the board of the Trustee Savings Bank and also Chairman of the Oxfordshire National Farmers Union. His Rotary activities also included assisting at several District and R.I.B.I. Conferences.

Having said all this the one abiding memory of Ken for most people was his good humour and ready wit, his friendliness and the way in which he would volunteer for any task, and the knowledge that it would be carried out efficiently. After his talk on his 50 years in Rotary last May, Ken was for a change rendered quite speechless when President Roger Worrall awarded him his Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of his many years of service to Rotary and the Community.

The funeral was held in St Mary's Church Banbury on 25th January with an estimated attendance of over 250 friends and relatives. The address was given by a cousin of the family The Rev. Joe Moffatt, he spoke of the four F's that were important to Ken in his life, Farming, Fellowship, Friends and of course Family.

Ken will be greatly missed by us all sitting as in the picture above, ready to greet us as we attended our weekly Rotary Meeting.

D.H.



FROM THE PRESIDENTS PAD

New Years are always a time of hope and looking forward, and I'm really looking forward to 2011 being an enjoyable and successful year for the Rotary Club of Banbury. It's hard to believe that January has already gone, and the more time seems to fly by, the more we should make sure that we enjoy every day and do something positive to help someone else as often as we can.

4th January Community & Vocation Committee - A very well planned, organised and run committee meeting. All items were given proper and serious consideration, with friendly good humour in between. Excellent to see a Committee taking a long term view of things.

The Rotary Meeting on the 7th. January - A good meeting, everyone seemed full of New Year friendship and optimism. An extremely informative talk by Geoff Scamans about sustainable aluminium and the car industry. He was hosted by Ian Calderbank who gave the vote of thanks.

The 14th January Rotary Meeting - A meeting tinged with some sadness at the loss of Paul Harris Fellow and Past President Ken Gibbard, a member of the Club for over 50 years, he will be missed by us all. A very interesting talk by Francois Gallais about "Platform 51", a national support charity for girls and ladies. Many thanks to Andrew Fairbairn for hosting Francois.

19th January Young Chef Competition - It is absolutely amazing what the young people taking part in this competition can do. Very well done to each and every one of them, and special congratulations to the winner. Many thanks to the Youth Opportunities Committee and Bernard Goodchild in particular for organising such a brilliant event.

21st January Rotary Meeting - An extremely enjoyable meeting with much fun and good humour, and an extremely interesting talk by John Critchlow about Macular Disease. He was hosted by Helen Braisby.

22nd. January Young Musician of the Year Competition Heats - It really is a wonderful experience just to sit and listen to so many talented young people taking part in the heats of this competition. Judging by the standard of performances at the heats the Finals on Saturday 5th March will be an evening of entertainment not to be missed. Congratulations to all the entrants. Many thanks to the Youth Opportunities Committee and Gareth Jeremy in particular for organising such a prestigious event.

25th January Ken Gibbard's Funeral - St. Mary's Church was packed with family and friends of Ken who had all come together to celebrate the life of, and pay tribute to, Ken. The service was a fitting tribute to a lovely man. Past President and Paul Harris Fellow Ken Gibbard, an active and enthusiastic member of the Club for over 50 years, will be sadly missed by us all.

27th January Council Meeting - Can it really be two months since our last meeting! Yet another constructive and friendly meeting. Committee reports show that events are being undertaken in an excellent manner and plans are well in hand for future events.

28th January Rotary Meeting - What a fun meeting, there must be something in the air this year making everyone so happy and friendly. A fascinating and information packed talk by Rod Prowse about developments in the oil/petroleum industry. Many thanks to Malcolm Nutt for hosting Rod.

President Ron.

Rotary Young Chef Competition.

The final of the Rotary Young Chef competition was held at Banbury School, Ruskin Road on Wednesday 19th March. A team of local judges had earlier reviewed many applications and menus submitted by young people between the ages of 14 and 16 attending local schools and selected 8 eight finalists to pit their skills against each other for the title of Banbury Young Chef 2011.

The objective of this national competition is to encourage young people to:

- Develop cookery skills
- Develop food presentation skills
- Consider healthy eating options
- Prove their organisational and planning skills
- Prove their ability to cope in a demanding situation.

The individual finalist were required to prepare, cook and serve a two-course healthy meal (main course and dessert) suitable for two people, to cost no more than £12 within one and a half hours.

As they slaved away over hot stoves a team of 3 judges lead by Jim Eaves, Head Chef at The Banbury House Hotel assessed the individual efforts of them all in terms of planning, range of skills, neatness and hygiene, presentation and finally and most important the taste of their meals.

In announcing the names of the winners Jim highlighted the very high standard achieved by all finalists and commented on the difficulties the judging team had faced in making their final decisions. The overall marking proved to be very close.

Zoë Cunningham who prepared a main course of a pan-fried herbed pork fillet, served with Parisian potatoes, cauliflower in batter with a mild curry sauce garnished with a wacky biscuit and a dessert of meringue mixed with double Chantilly cream and raspberries, garnished with chocolate shapes was chosen as the winner of the competition. Zoë attends the Warriner School in Bloxham and the Oxford & Cherwell Valley College in Broughton Road, Banbury and she received her trophy and certificate from the Town Mayor, Colin Clarke.



Adam Brown a student at Banbury School received the runner up trophy for his meal of fresh cheese ravioli and lemon cheesecake.

As the winner of the local Young Chef competition Zoë will now represent Banbury in the next regional stage of this Rotary National competition that takes place in High Wycombe on Saturday March 5th..
Bernard Goodchild

Speaker Report – 7 January 2011
Geoff Scamans – “Sustainable Aluminium
– Cans to Cars”

We were entertained for our first meeting in 2011 by a Professor of Metallurgy from Brunel University and the Chief Scientific Officer of Innoval Technology Limited, all rolled up in one body, Dr. Geoffrey Scamans. Innoval is an independent technology provider servicing aluminium producers and end users world wide with 27 engineers and materials scientists based in Banbury, most of whom were originally with Alcan Research and Development Laboratories which closed a few years ago.

Geoff's topic “Sustainable Aluminium – Cans to Cars” highlighted a number of issues, economic and environmental, resulting from the continued growth in the use of cars around the world. He pointed out how both fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions are related to vehicle weight, including the hybrid drive vehicles, and the contribution that the use of aluminium and other more exotic (and hence more expensive) lightweight materials were making towards solving the problem. However, when taking into account the cost and some environmental implications of producing “new” or primary aluminium in smelters via the bauxite and alumina route, recycling existing aluminium scrap such as from beverage cans to produce appropriate alloys for use in cars is a much more attractive proposition. Although the alloys used in beverage cans are ideal for recycling simply back into cans, and are so used, there is still a largely untapped source of scrap cans that are not yet being recycled and which would provide a suitable base for alloys used in cars too.

He showed examples of where aluminium had been used in many cars in the past and continue to be so now, for example as in the Jaguar (much to Martin Phillips delight although he did point out later somewhat defensively that his ferrous castings were also a good example of recycling scrap). Geoff also described some of the lightweight concept cars in development.

There is general agreement that the CO₂ emissions from cars needs to be cut by at least 50% to prevent the carbon emissions from the world car fleet rising above 7Bt rather than the more sustainable 4Bt by 2050. The UK is the fourth largest vehicle producer in Europe and is home to some of its most productive vehicle plants. The Government here has set a target of a 60% reduction in transport CO₂ emissions by 2030. The Automotive Council has set a long term (10-20 year) target of 50% vehicle weight reduction in order to achieve this significant and a timely decarbonisation impact. The 50% lighter car has to be on the drawing board as an option before 2020.

Of course, recycling metals can lead to some impurities in the final product unless care is taken but technology is now available to accomplish this more easily using high shear melt conditioning and continuous casting.

In his final remarks Geoff pointed out that recycled aluminium accounted for 37.8Mt (30Mt new and 8Mt of post consumer scrap) in 2007, about the same as primary manufacture (38Mt) but that there is still 4 to 8Mt of aluminium annually buried in landfills or burned in waste incinerators and left in the incinerator ash. This includes more than 1Mt of lost cans in the US and of the order of 0.4Mt in the Europe. Such aluminium should not be lost to landfill or incineration but could be recycled appropriately.

Ian Calderbank.

Platform 51

After 155 years in existence as The Young Women's Christian Association, the YWCA England & Wales was controversially (to some) re-named Platform 51 in December 2010. Why? Step up our speaker Francois Gallais, well known to many of our members through his effective work in the charitable sector, to explain.

1. England & Wales is a multi-cultural community and preaching any single religion can arguably alienate a significant proportion of those most in need. The YWCA reflects the changing nature of society and now, whilst adhering to its values, the Association no longer promotes Christianity.
2. The YWCA is available to support and provide a voice for all women.

3. Consequently, the YWCA is a potential platform for 51% of the population irrespective of age, culture, religion etc. Hence 'Platform 51'.

Controversial though it may be, the change resulted in headline debate in the media and, as they say, all publicity is good publicity.

Issues facing many women include, amongst others, inequality, health and violence, and Francois described the framework in place for the 11,000 women expected to seek help from Platform 51 in the current year. Tailored programmes (both individual and in groups) are run from a portfolio of 15 women only centres in some of the most deprived parts of England and Wales. In addition, the charity communicates with its target audience through outreach work in conjunction with other organisations (schools, community centres, youth clubs and so on) and other marketing of its services is typically via literature in clinics and surgeries as well as through its website and directly from its centres. Finally, it is a mouthpiece to engage government in seeking appropriate legislative and/or regulatory changes.

Francois provided some interesting individual case studies demonstrating the valuable help received, and appreciated, by some of the charity's customers.

Whilst it is sad that there is a need for this type of work, it is comforting to know that help is at hand.

Andrew Fairbairn

John Critchlow gave an interesting and informative talk on January 21st about wet and dry Macular Degeneration Disease. As a sufferer himself he was able to explain - with the help of large print prompt cards and a speaking time clock (a loud mouthed Rotarian!) to tell him how long he had remaining. This disease usually affects older people with no known cure or proven treatment. The wet and dry refer to what eye specialists see not how your eye feels.

The dry form accounts for approx 90% of cases, developing slowly with gradual loss of central vision.

The wet form is more serious and can develop relatively quickly. Blood vessels leak blood or fluid into the eye causing scarring and permanent damage. Smoking can be a contributory factor - not a lot of people know this!

John has formed a group in Banbury which - like most self help groups - struggle with funding.

He was delighted with all the positive, complimentary comments and feedback from fellow Rotarians and extends his thanks.

Helen Braisby

Disaster Aid

As a Club we have recently sent financial support to Aquabox (supported by the Rotary Club of Wirksworth) and are continuing to do so practically through demonstrations and presentations to interested groups. There is an ongoing change of emphasis at this charity as Aquafilter (supported by the Rotary Club of Cleadon and District) has developed significantly higher specification filters based upon micron technology. The two charities are working in harness and the recent newsletter below sets out the latest progress.

the safe water trust

We now have nearly 70 Aquafilter Communities and 30 Aquafilter Families producing safe water, for a total of over 5,000 families.

For both the Aquafilter Community and Aquafilter Family we now have moulded parts. This makes the filters look more professional and quicker to assemble.

At the end of July we showed both filters at the Trade and Aid exhibition at Washington DC where we had a combined stand with Aquabox. The Aquafilters were very well received and confirmed our research that there are no similar filters available.

Thanks to the generous donations and fund-raising efforts of Rotary Clubs and individuals, we have sent 34 Aquafilter Communities to Pakistan and are continuing to send them. When sending aid to disasters it is important to have an NGO in the field to make sure that the Aid is put to the best possible use. In Pakistan we are working with Aquabox, Feed the Children and Humanity First www.aquabox.org

We have also sent 3 Aquafilter Communities to Haiti again working with Aquabox and Humanity First. Initial feedback was enthusiastic, but with all their problems we have had no feedback recently. Aquabox has had a further request for more filters following the outbreak of cholera.

We also continue to send Aquafilter Communities directly via other charities. In many cases a volunteer takes the filter as part of their luggage, thus saving money on transport and customs duty. We have filters in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, India, Rwanda, and Honduras and again, thanks to e-mail, getting positive feedback.

In November we returned to Gambia, where the original Aquafilter Communities are still working well after 3 years (both mechanically and removing bacteria) and the users are happy and continue to report a dramatic reduction in diarrhoea and sickness. On our visit in May we set up our two test sites. Timbuctu villages with 12 Community Filters and Brikama Jidda with a Community filter in the School and 26 Aquafilter Families so that the children get clean water both at school and at home.

We detected our first faulty Aquafilter Community, which unlike the other was kept permanently in the hot (40°C) tropical sun. We exchanged it for the new one we had taken with us and it is now in England for further tests. John has now designed a neat modification to shield the filter from the sun and also incorporate the working and maintenance instructions.

We want numerical as well as verbal evidence on the reduction of water-borne diseases and have arranged, working with Muslim Aid, a volunteer to monitor the filters more formally every month. This was our fourth visit to many of these villages and we were greeted very warmly, returning home to a freezing pre-Christmas England with our determination and energy renewed.

Plans for 2011

Aquabox has set up a volunteer assembly unit at their base in Wirksworth and will build 5000+ Aquafilter Families to replace the carbon filter and chlorine tablets. The cost of both is comparable and of course the filter will provide clean water for over 3 years, unlike the chlorine tablets that run out after 3 months.

Aquabox also predict that they would like over 500 Aquafilter Communities a year to send to disaster areas with their blue Aquaboxes of aid. Our double garage is no longer big enough, so in January we are moving to space in a local factory rent free. Jeff has been doing a fantastic job as our only volunteer assembling filters, and now we will be looking for more.

We are now in talks with Newcastle University to obtain a grant for virus testing both filters. It is generally accepted by WHO and large charities that the removal of bacteria is by far the most important, but as the membrane does remove viruses we would like to have certified evidence.

Andrew Fairbairn

International Committee.

Future events to include Race Night and Aunt Sally evening.

Birmingham Chamber Orchestra 20th. February at Bloxham School.

Contact Weekend 2nd. to 5th. June in France.

Sports and Entertainment.

Club outing to Bristol on 12th. April.

Other events being organised are a Quiz Night, Indoor Bowls or Skittles and Club Darts.

Community and Vocational.

IT's a Knockout 2011. It has been agreed that we will organise and promote this event. The Banbury Show Committee have promised £1,000.00 towards costs. It is hoped to attract 24 teams to take part.

Youth Opportunities.

Young Musician the heats have taken place, preparations now in place for the Final.

Young Chef is again being organised together with the Cherwell Rotary Club a donation of £500 has been received from Banbury Charities. The winner to go on to the district final.

HON SECRETARY – Dr. Ian Rodrick **CLUB WEBSITE** ;- www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk
Silverdale, Weeping Cross, Bodicote, Oxon. OX15 4ED.

E. Mail: ianandliz06@btinternet.com Tel. Work Home 01295 253817 Mobile 07899 997025

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