



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

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

President John Bennett

FEBRUARY 2012

District Governor's Visit.

On the 13th. January we once again welcomed our District Governor Niall Blair to our meeting.



He arrived in Banbury in his now famous Polio Mobile which is covered in designs depicting the Polio eradication campaign. Niall spoke at our meeting and congratulated the Club on its various recent activities. Niall had obviously done his homework in being aware of the Club's happenings. He then spoke of the achievements of Rotary and illustrated by showing us an Apple and using A.P.P.L.E. to headline the subjects he spoke of. Unfortunately I did not take notes so am unable to give detail. But the enthusiasm that Niall has for Rotary certainly came across.

He then continued the fruity theme by showing us a Peach. P.E.A.C.H. (Parents for the Early intervention of Autism in Children) is his chosen charity for his year as District Governor. It is a parent led charity, which advances the early intensive behavioural intervention into Autism in young children. Based in Ascot it helps families and the children to release their potential and to as far as possible overcome the problems of Autism. Those who were at District Conference cannot

help but remember the talk given by a parent with an autistic child.

Polio eradication is also close to Niall's heart, hence the Polio car he drives, he gave us some of the statistics and achievements of Rotary over the years, and the fact that the occurrence of Polio throughout the world has now diminished to a very low level. (See article in this Bulletin).

It was also at this meeting that Niall witnessed some of the fun that we as a club sometimes enjoy.

At a previous meeting our President John Bennett stated that if we would sponsor him in excess of £100 he would publicly shave of his moustache. He said he had only had it off three times in the last 30 years. The collection went around and we accumulated no less than £277 for Foundation. So the shaving went ahead in the hands of the "demon barbers" Martin Phillips and Alan Wolstencroft.

With much laughter and the spreading of a lot of



shaving foam the operation was completed. With the new image, our President gave the vote of thanks to Niall and closed the meeting. David Hitchcox.



John's Jotting's

President John Bennett

I did spend some time between Christmas and 31st December considering several New Year resolutions, but not wishing to start 2012 with failed "good intentions", decided to do what I usually do and forget it. Instead, I arose reasonably early, jumped in the car **and.....**

1st January: Attended Andrews & Marilyn Fairbairn's Polar Bear Dip. What a bracing experience it was, watching all those hardy Rotarian's and their friends splash about in near arctic conditions to raise funds for Aquabox. I was tempted to join them, but there never seemed to be room in the pool. A really enjoyable social event to start the new year.

5th January: Along with many other Rotarians, we attended the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mary Maxwell who died on 21st December after a long period of poor health. Nora McGloin delivered a beautiful tribute to celebrate her friends life and we offer our condolences to Stewart and his family.

10th January: Thoroughly enjoyed a lunchtime meeting with Wendy Griffiths, Head Mistress of Tudor Hall School, who, when she and two of the students came to speak to us last year, said she would like to know more about Interact clubs. In the evening I joined the Dragon Boats organising committee for their third planning meeting.

13th January: After our Friday lunchtime meeting, at which we received a presentation from our District Governor Niall Blair, (what a committed Rotarian) I dashed up to the Cricket Club to speak to the ladies of Inner Wheel. I was a little nervous, since it was Friday the 13th and as Shirley was there, I would have to tell the truth. However, they were very forgiving and I don't think I let you down too badly.

18th January: The Honda got through the MOT. Nothing to do with Rotary, but the diary looked a bit thin!!

20th & 21st January: Attended both lots of heats for the Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition. Gareth tells me the adjudicators consider the quality is higher than ever and agonised over who to eliminate. The finals are on 3rd March and if you haven't been before, give yourselves and your friends a treat - come along and give these talented young musicians a worthwhile audience to perform to. They deserve it.

25th January: Resplendent in a hint of tartan, Shirley and I attended the Burns Night Dinner at the Whatley, organised by Inner Wheel and Banbury Cherwell Rotarians. It was a very enjoyable social gathering, which was well supported by members of our club. Graham Anker walked off with first prize in the raffle, a haggis and, sporting a very attractive kilt, David Sullivan deserved first prize for the best knees.

26th January: A very full agenda for our Council Meeting at 97 Broughton Road. As ever, details will be passed on at your committee chairman.

So, into February - see you for nibbles at the Young Chef competition on Tuesday 7th ??
John.

Rotary is at last getting recognition for the part it has played in the Eradication of Polio throughout the World.

Rotary clubs worldwide meet \$200 million fundraising challenge for polio eradication
Gates Foundation announces an additional \$50 million to end polio

SAN DIEGO, California (Jan. 17, 2012) — Despite a sagging global economy, Rotary clubs around the world have succeeded in raising more than US\$200 million in new funding for polio eradication.

The fundraising milestone, announced today at Rotary's annual International Assembly in San Diego, was reached in response to a \$355 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. All funds have been earmarked to support polio immunization activities in affected countries where this vaccine-preventable disease continues to paralyze children.

"We'll celebrate this milestone, but it doesn't mean that we'll stop raising money or spreading the word about polio eradication," Rotary Foundation Trustee John F. Germ told the annual conference of Rotary leaders. "We can't stop until our entire world is certified as polio free."

"In recognition of Rotary's great work, and to inspire Rotarians in the future, the foundation is committing an additional \$50 million to extend our partnership," said Jeff Raikes, Chief Executive Officer of the Gates Foundation. "Rotary started the global fight against polio, and continues to set the tone for private fundraising, grassroots engagement and maintaining polio at the top of the agenda with key policy makers."

Since 1988, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99 percent, from about 350,000 infections annually to fewer than 650 cases reported so far for 2011. The wild poliovirus now remains endemic — meaning its transmission has never been stopped — in only four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. However, India on Jan. 13 marked a full calendar year without a case, paving the way for its imminent removal from the endemic list.

But other countries also remain at risk for polio cases imported from the endemic countries. In Africa in 2011, Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo had significant outbreaks. Also in 2011, a small cluster of polio cases in China, which had been polio-free for a decade, was attributable to a virus from Pakistan.

Rotary members not only reached into their own pockets to support the Gates challenge, they engaged their communities in a variety of creative fundraising projects, such as a fashion show in California that raised \$52,000; benefit film screenings in New Zealand and Australia that netted \$54,000; and a pledge-supported hike through Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, that brought in \$38,000. Many events were planned around October 24, widely observed as World Polio Day.

To date, Rotary club members worldwide have contributed more than \$1 billion toward the eradication of polio, a cause Rotary took on in 1985. In 1988, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention joined Rotary as spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. More recently, the Gates Foundation has become a major supporter. In November 2007, the Gates Foundation gave Rotary a \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication, increasing it to \$355 million in 2009. Rotary agreed to raise \$200 million in matching funds by June 30, 2012.

Reaching children with the oral polio vaccine in the disease's remaining strongholds is labor and resource-intensive due to a host of challenges, including poor infrastructure, geographical isolation, armed conflict and cultural misunderstanding about the eradication campaign.

A Rotary engine

Can a businessmen's club eradicate polio from the world?



Goodbye to all that

IT IS a year since the last case of polio was diagnosed in India. That is not enough to pronounce the country polio-free—three clear years are the conventional period required for that to happen. But it is a good start. And if India really is clear, then what was once a global scourge will now be endemic to a mere three countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. The number of people infected, meanwhile, has dropped from 350,000 in 1988 to 650 last year.

All this is in large part thanks to the efforts of Rotary International. In 1985, after a successful pilot study in the Philippines, this businessmen's club cum global charity announced a plan to eradicate polio by vaccinating every child under five at risk of catching it. The estimate then was that it would cost \$120m. Some \$800m of Rotary money later (plus a lot from other sources), the virus is still out there, but its remaining hidey-holes tell their own story: where civil disorder is rife, medicine is hard.

On January 17th Rotary announced it had raised yet another \$200m. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will contribute a further \$405m, and the pressure will thus be kept up. John Germ, one of Rotary's trustees, thinks that if all goes well 2016 might be the first year when no new cases are reported. That would, though, mean spending more than \$1 billion a year between now and then.

The inspiration for Rotary's campaign against polio came from the eradication of smallpox. Like polio, smallpox was a viral disease for which effective, easily administered vaccines existed. And crucially, like polio, smallpox had only one animal host: *Homo sapiens*. In principle, then, extermination should be possible. The practice, however, has turned out rather different.

First, unlike smallpox, polio viruses can survive for long periods outside a host—for instance in sewage. Second, when the campaign began in earnest there were three main varieties of polio, each of which required a specially tailored vaccine. Focusing effort on one of these strains often led to the resurgence of another. Third, besides the inevitable difficulties of working in places that have poor medical infrastructure, the campaign ran into some specific human problems. The most notorious of these was the rumour, spread in 2003 by certain religious leaders in Nigeria, that the vaccine would sterilise girls and was part of an American plot to rid the world of Muslims. This helps explain why polio persists in Nigeria.

That polio can actually be eradicated is suggested by the elimination, in 1999, of one of the three strains. Whether the resources needed to do so might be better spent elsewhere, though, is a matter of debate. Some would prefer to see a shift to policies that improve overall health, including investing in decent sanitation and clean water.

The response to that is that if you remove the specific pressure on polio it will simply bounce back. Moreover, in practice, a synthesis between the two positions is emerging. According to Mr Germ there is already a debate within Rotary about what to do next. Providing clean water and improving maternal and child health are

popular options. One thing everyone wants to avoid, though, is what happened after smallpox was eliminated. Then, the infrastructure of health workers and clinics that had been created to detect and fight the disease was allowed to evaporate. Had it been used instead to focus on polio, that illness, too, might have been vanquished by now.

Article from The Economist.

Community and Vocational:-... The main event next year is Dragon Boats at Broughton Castle and the organising committee under the directorship of Andrew Fairbairn have met. Stroke Awareness day to be held on October 13th. 2012 at Castle Quay next year.

Foundation:-

There are many Rotarians travelling to India for the National Immunisation Day.

The BBC Medical Correspondent, Fergus Walsh, will be travelling with the team and filming the weekend of the NID. This will then be broadcast on BBC Breakfast news on the 20th of February, live from Delhi. This story will also be featured in the 6 o'clock news and the 10 o'clock news. In addition, the featured broadcast will be available to view on the BBC website permanently which means Rotary clubs can see the broadcast again.

This is as a result of discussions between myself and Fergus over the past year. I am delighted Fergus is going to India as he has covered polio previously and will do an excellent job. He has been keen to cover the story, especially as it is possible that India has enjoyed a year free of polio.

I would like to ask that you share this news with your districts and tune into BBC news on the 20th of February.

Stephens Steaming is booked for June 17th. 2012.

Sports & Entertainment:- Club Quiz 5th. March. Applications are now required for District Conference, Bournemouth 15th -18th March 2012. The Club Outing is arranged for the 10th April to H.M.S. Belfast and lord's Cricket ground.

International:- John Hansford will be arranging details for the Contact visit to Italy on 17th-20th. May 2012. Other event planned is a Race Night on 16th. February. Andrew Fairbairn will be conducting his "The Shelterbox Olympic Challenge" from Porthleven to Weymouth with overnight stops on the way. He is also showing Shelterbox at the District Conference in Bournemouth.

Youth Opportunities. A number of events in the pipeline:- BYHP Interviews, Young Chef, Young Musician and RYLA. It is hoped to attract a R.Y.L.A. candidate from the Frank Wise school. Ian Anthistle is liaising with the Cherwell Rotary Club with regard to the possibility of setting up Rotaract or an Interact Club or both. Treasurer's Talk

Where themoneygoes

During December and January donations have been made to the following:

Children Singing for Children

Family Christmas Festival of Music

LiveArts - £350

Cash (Float) - £100

Ban' Print & Design (Progs) - £232

Young Chef Trophies - £56

Donations

Spurgeons Young Carers - £100

Sunrise Multicultural Play Project - £100

Food Distribution - £100

"Free Funds" currently stand at just over £6,700

Expenses - £16
 Ban' Print & Design (Prog's) - £350
 Banbury Pasties Ltd (Refreshments) - £60
 Ban' Print & Design (Certificates) - £13
 British Red Cross - £108

NEWMEMBER.

Rotarian Surinder Dhesi was inducted by President John Bennett on January 6th. 2012.



SPEAKER REPORTS.

Our Speaker on the 16th. December was Marieanne Howell her subject was School Attendance, the law and the truancy myth. "The law". Currently education is compulsory from the first day of the term following a child's fifth birthday. Once a child is registered in a school regular attendance is a legal requirement. Marieanne then told of the various allowable reasons for absence and those that that were not. The head teacher may grant leave of absence but only in certain circumstances. Unauthorised absence is classed as truancy and parents may be prosecuted. Marieanne then outlined what parents should do to ensure that their children attend school when fit to do so. The published truancy figures include those who have been absent on holiday without permission. This had the effect of inflating recent figures which gave rise to the perception that truancy was rising dramatically. There then followed a number of interesting questions which were answered with an obvious knowledge of this difficult subject.

The vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Pat Thomas.

Friday 30th December.

We were fortunate to have a presentation from Aquafilter designers, Gill and John Griffith (a member of the Rotary Club of Cleadon), who were able to provide an update of the manner in which the equipment is used and distributed as well as providing technical explanations as to its operation .

Aquafilters are distributed both for disaster aid (via Aquabox) and to other areas where there are long standing problems with a lack of potable water. There are other options available but the filters comply with the following:

They are easy to operate;

Treatment is at the point of use;

They provide a medium term solution (filters are currently lasting in excess of 5 years);

There is no need for replacement of parts or other than basic maintenance during that time (back washing features are incorporated into the filters);

They are cost efficient (a Family Aquafilter costs £20 and a Community Aquafilter [for a village, school etc.] is

£250). Both costs include delivery; and they can be provided quickly.

The by-product effects of clean water were made apparent as it reduces the time that both children and their parents are ill, enabling more time at school for the former, more time working for the latter and less money having to be spent on medicine.

It is clear that Gill and John are involved in the project on an almost full-time (voluntary) 'hands on' basis, continually seeking to implement improvements to both the technical specification, the manner in which they can be used (e.g. instructions are now on the outside of the filters and available in different languages), the way in which they can be distributed and securing feedback from the users.

That there was plenty of interest was evident from the amount of questions after the presentation and the number of people who were in deep conversation with Gill and John both beforehand and afterwards.

More details are on www.safewatertrust.com which is a new and informative website.

Andrew Fairbairn.

Simon Bion

On Friday 6th January Simon Bion gave a talk entitled "Life of Simon", Simon was inducted into this club in February 2010.

Simon was born in 1943 in Aylesbury, but brought up in Essex from the age of 2 till he was 19; he has two daughters and one grandson. He was married to Pamela two years ago. He is semi-retired and runs a training consultancy, covering customer service, organisation and management development and senior management coaching.

At school Simon passed a number of 'A' Levels but failed 'O' Level woodwork and later studied for professional qualifications, he enjoyed sport at school in particularly Rugby and was selected to play for the Eastern Counties U19's.

In his gap year he worked as a Bus conductor, followed by travelling around the USA, this was the time of the Cuban crisis and racial segregation. Back home he went to college and became a primary school teacher in the then deprived borough of Battersea, this he said was one of the happiest periods of his life.

Being then newly married money was tight and Simon had aspirations to achieve, 2.4 children, nice home etc, so he changed career paths and spent the next 30 years in training and human resources.

He started as a trainee training advisor to Ceramics I.T.B. in the quarrying, glass, bricks and pottery industries.

He was then head hunted by Ladbrokes to become a management development trainer at their University of the leisure industry based at Lingfield race course, where he progressed to be head of training at Ladbroke Racing at an exciting time when the number of betting shops increased from 600 shops to 1,700 shops. He also took a position in the betting industry in Belgium and Holland.

When Ladbrokes took over Hilton Hotels, Simon was asked to head up their International training centre for the overall operation.

Simon then went to Barclay's Mercantile Credit as the head of training at the time the industry was going through de-regulation, he spent a couple of years there but found it generally sleepy and entrenched and decided to move on.

He was then invited to join Woolworths, then part of the Kingfisher Group as Director of Training; they then employed 15,000 people a mixture of full time and part time. Simon was responsible for all aspects of training from the Directors down to the Saturday girl.

Then he decided to start his own consultancy firm which he ran for 12 years, this specialised in management training and value driven change programmes, typical clients were, Gala, Win Hill, Corals, Associated Leisure, etc. Then at the age of 64 having gone into semi-retirement he was invited by Brighthouse [formerly Radio Rentals) to join them as Head of Human Resources in a full time role. At the time of joining them they had 120 stores which rose to over 200, Simon spent two years in this position. Simon is a former member of Amersham Round Table and the Rotary Club of Amersham and is a member of Banbury

41 Ex Tablers Club. Simons main relaxing past time is now Fly Fishing. Roger Worrall

On 20th January Keith Hainsworth held us all spellbound with his talk on First World War Battlefields. He was interesting informative and amusing. Speaking virtually without notes he dispelled many misconceptions about the supposed incompetence of First World War generals, he gave us some fascinating figures about the strength of the respective armies. At the beginning of the war Germany had an army of 3 million men. The French had an army of 3 million men. We had an army of 0.5 million men. Our much maligned generals had to gather and train raw volunteers and turn them into a fighting army. We lost 750,000 military personnel, the Germans and French rather more. To illustrate what a vast number this is, Keith said that if they marched in columns of three past a general taking a salute, the general would need an especially strong arm, since the march - past would take 35 hours and the line would stretch for 111 miles. He also shattered the myth, with figures I confess I have now forgotten, that only other ranks got killed while the officers and generals protected themselves from some way behind the front line.

He told us that the French army had mutinied and refused to fight unless in defence, or in some cases at all. Since the southern flank was nullified by no resistance, we had had to commit thousands of men to a bloody battle to divert the enemies attention away from our weakened line.

Keith said that the centenary of the start of the war is near at hand. As the date approaches there will be more and more disreputable people and companies seeking to cash in and we should beware. A visit to the First World War battle fields a moving and memorable experience. Keith is a member of a committee which advises the government about how the first World War should be commemorated. At present no money has been allocated since the government is too taken up with the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. Keith said he would, at no charge, assist people who wished to go, or alternatively he would arrange a trip for us. He urged that if anyone wants to do something or organise something, they should do it sooner rather than later.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Rtn. Michael Banks.

HON SECRETARY -David Sullivan CLUB WEBSITE :- www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk

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