



# *The Banbury Bulletin*



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

President Ron Barnett

JANUARY 2011



## FROM THE PRESIDENTS PAD

December 2010, Several past Presidents have told me that the second half of the Presidential year goes much quicker than the first half. If that is true then I'd better not blink or I may miss it, for the first six months have certainly whizzed by. The past six months have been extremely enjoyable and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Club for the tremendous support they have shown to the Club. I very much look forward to the coming six months and wish every one of you a peaceful 2011 full of Rotary fellowship.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December we held our Rotary Meeting and SGM - An extremely friendly and enjoyable meeting full of good humour and banter. The immediate past treasurer presented the last Rotary year's accounts, and apart from a couple of times when he didn't appear to know what year it was, I don't think he made too bad a job of it.

The Inner Wheel Christmas Party was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December- Tricia and I had a most wonderful evening at Party. Some great entertainment by BGN School Choir, some absolutely delicious food, and the most excellent company. Very many thanks to President Linda and all the ladies of Inner Wheel for a truly first class evening.

10<sup>th</sup> December our regular Rotary Meeting - Everyone is very friendly and I think that the Christmas spirit is starting to come to the fore. An excellent talk by Prim Herridge from Blessed George Napier School telling us all about the wonderful experience some of the students had gained on a tall ships project. She was hosted Bernard Goodchild.

On Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> December we held the Family Christmas Festival of Music - A superb concert of Christmas music and carols in St. Mary's Church performed by Banbury Symphony Orchestra and featuring Young Musician of the Year winner Kelly Hampson. Many thanks to the Foundation Committee for planning and running a fantastic event, to all the Rotarians who lent a hand, the ladies of Inner Wheel for the delicious refreshments, and particularly to Banbury Symphony Orchestra and Kelly Hampson.

12<sup>th</sup> December Joint Services Clubs Carol Service - for the tenth year the congregation of Marlborough Road Methodist Church hosted this wonderful annual event. A packed congregation enjoyed a warm and friendly atmosphere as we came together to celebrate Christmas. Many thanks to Ian for assisting to organise the event, and a special thanks to the Congregation of Marlborough Road Methodist Church for inviting us to join them.

13<sup>th</sup> December Dogs for the Disabled presentation - a real delight to be able to represent the Club and present Dogs for the Disabled with sponsorship to purchase and train three puppies and ten year support of a trained dog. The Club made this donation with money left as a bequest by the late Rtn. Bob Dix who would have loved to have seen these wonderful dogs. The puppies are Sonic, Kymba and Major and their volunteer

trainers Fran Brookfield from Fritwell, Tony Gow from Coventry and Clare Bassett from Daventry. The fully trained dog is Max and his "mother" Sue Harvey from Thame.

Our annual Rotary Christmas Lunch was held on the 17<sup>th</sup>. December- A truly festive occasion when we were joined by our partners for our Christmas Lunch. The weather may have been extremely cold and snowing outside but that couldn't dampen the warm festive spirit inside. Our guest speaker, Rev. Bill Sands, had braved the ice and snow to travel from Birmingham to give us a fascinating and stimulating talk about his experiences in Zimbabwe. Very many thanks Bill.

19<sup>th</sup> December Street Organ Collecting - I joined the team collecting at Morrisons, and I don't think I've ever seen Morrisons' car park so empty at any time of year never mind a few days before Christmas. The snow and ice had certainly kept all but the brave at home in the warm, but that hadn't stopped a valiant group of Rotarians spending the day collecting with the street organ. Many thanks to the Com' & Voc' Committee for some brilliant organisation and very well done to everyone who turned out to help over all the days we were out collecting in the lead up to Christmas.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> December we attended Beth Wood's funeral - It's always hard to lose a close loved one, but it somehow seems to be even harder when it happens at this time of year. Our thoughts and prayers are with Geoff and his family at this time of great sadness.

31<sup>st</sup> December, Rotary Fellowship Meeting - it was a pleasure to see so many Club members enjoy a fellowship meeting on New Year's Eve. Many experiences of Christmas were shared and we all took the opportunity to wish each other a happy New Year.

Very many thanks to all our Club members for making 2010 such a wonderfully successful year for the Club.

We have much to look forward to in 2011, which I'm sure will be at least as successful as 2010 has been, thanks to the commitment and dedication of all our members.

President Ron.

**The Banbury Joint service Clubs** carol service was again held in the Marlborough Road Methodist Church. There was an above average attendance this year who enjoyed the singing of traditional carols, there was an especially boisterous rendition of "While Shepherds Watched their flocks" sung to the tune of Ilkley Moor. The service was led by the Rev. Robert Anning with the leaders of the Compton Club, Banbury Tangent, Banbury Rotary Club, Banbury Lions Club, Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club and the Inner wheel club of Banbury all taking part. The event was also attended by Lord and Lady Sale and Sele, The Chairman of Cherwell District Council and Banbury Town mayor.

A collection was taken and most of the proceeds amounting to £320.00 was donated to SKIDS a project enabling young people to learn a trade in Motor repairing.



December the 13<sup>th</sup> was an auspicious day for Dogs For The Disabled.

The President of the Rotary Club of Banbury, Ron Barnett presented a cheque for £4,750.00 to enable the training of three dogs which when trained will assist disabled people in their daily lives also a 10 year programme for the upkeep of a fully trained dog. The money was part of a legacy given in remembrance of the late Rotarian Bob Dix who died in 2009.

Because of his love of dogs and always having one as a pet it was felt by the Rotary club that this would be a fitting tribute to him.

The sponsorship allows the club to receive regular updates of the dogs training and to know and have contact with the eventual owner of these assistance dogs.

The initial training is given by volunteers who have the dogs for the first year of their lives, they then go to full time training at the "Dogs for the Disabled" site on the Middleton Road, Banbury. They are then matched with a disabled person who are also given training together, before taking up their lives in a partnership. The three sponsored puppies in attendance at the presentation were Sonic, Kymba and Major with their volunteer trainers Fran Brookfield from Fritwell, Tony Gow from Coventry and Clare Bassett from Daventry.

A 10 year sponsorship was also financed this is for a fully trained dog Max with his owner Sue Harvey from Thame.

Pictured below Sue Harvey and "Max" Rotary President Ron Barnett and Tony Gow with Kymba.



## Humorous Headlines

Many antiques at senior citizens sale  
Stiff opposition to graveyard plan  
Man denies he committed suicide  
Goldfish is saved from drowning  
Bodies wanted to look after graveyard  
Jury suspects foul play in death of man shot, burned and buried in shallow  
grave  
Thieves steal burglar alarm  
Robber's description: Man, possibly a woman, definitely ugly  
Teacher dies: Board accepts his resignation  
Three ambulances take blast victim to hospital  
Man recovers after fatal accident  
Voluntary workers strike for higher pay  
Hospitals are sued by 7 foot doctors  
Patient at deaths door - doctors pull him through  
Shell found on beach

### SPEAKER REPORT.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup>. December our speaker was Prim Herridge a Modern Languages teacher from Blessed George Napier School, Banbury

Her Subject was The Tall Ships Experience.

In April 2010 the club received a request for financial support from a member of staff at Blessed George Napier School. At that time a decision had been made to invite 22 year 11 students to spend a week as part of an integrated crew on two wind powered sailing ships in the Solent off the South Coast – a wonderful and exciting character building opportunity for the young people.

The overall costs were in excess of £9,000 and the staff team were very keen to offer places to those who matched one of the following criteria:

- Individuals lacking in confidence
- Those who had worked particularly hard in their studies despite a variety of domestic challenges
- Individuals who were known to have a poor home life

As a number of those fitting these criteria were unlikely to be able to cover the full cost of the trip there was a need for the school to raise substantial funds to reduce the expense to the individual.

The Rotary Club of Banbury donated £500 to the costs from Club Trust Funds

### The Trip

Prim proved to be an entertaining and seasoned speaker who brought with her photographs taken of the students taken during the week's exercises.

Initially she outlined details of the tremendous effort made by members of the school staff and the students to raise further funds to ensure that all of those selected were able to join the team whatever their financial\domestic circumstances. These included operating a tuck shop, organising raffles, car washing and other sponsored events the most popular of which was shown in Prim's photograph presentation – dowsing one of the teachers with buckets of water!

Despite the disappointment of finding that two committed commercial sponsors withdrew 'at the last minute' the students and the school were able to raise some 50% of the overall costs from their efforts.

Prim provided a range of photographs of the team enjoying their experience in 'crewing' the sailing ships in the Solent, without incident, during a week of fine weather last July. Awards were made to students

excelling during the trip and these were dedicated to the name of a member of staff who was heavily involved in the planning and arrangements but sadly died before the trip took place.

The main aim was to develop personal skills in a challenging and memorable sail training environment. All of the students involved were able to gain experience of working in a team and taking personal responsibility for important tasks thereby increasing their levels of self esteem, self confidence and self reliance

In thanking the Rotary Club for the financial support provided Prim highlighted the success of the trip for the individual students the determination of the staff team at BGN to provide similar character building opportunities in 2011.

A vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Bernard Goodchild.

#### International Committee.

Future events to include Race Night and Aunt Sally evening.

Birmingham Chamber Orchestra 20<sup>th</sup>. February at Bloxham School.

#### Foundation Committee.

The Family Christmas Festival of Music took place on 11<sup>th</sup>. December at St Mary's Church.

An excellent audience enjoyed the playing of Banbury Symphony Orchestra and the singing of Young Musician winner Kelly Hampson. The church was quite full and the singing of carols by the audience was enjoyed by all those attending. The event has raised a good amount towards Rotary foundation.

#### Sports and Entertainment.

Club outing to Bristol on 12<sup>th</sup>. April.

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

#### Community and Vocational.

Christmas Street Organ collections:-  
Sainsbury's Friday 17<sup>th</sup>. December.  
Tesco's Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>. December.  
Morrison's Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>. December.  
Tesco's Friday 24<sup>th</sup>. December.

Although hampered by the weather a sum of £3187.00 was collected, especial thanks were given by Helen Braisby to Andrew Fairbairn and John Webb for organising and also to all those who took part in the collection.

Collection to be allocated 50% Katherine House Hospice, 10% Britannia Road Family Centre, 40 % Club Charity Funds.

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 Gareth Jeremy is again organising and contacting schools for entrants.

Young Chef is again being organised together with the Cherwell Rotary Club a donation of £500 has been received from Banbury Charities.

Please note Young Chef is taking place at Banbury School on 19<sup>th</sup> January commencing at 5.15. although judging will take place later. Please try to attend.

HON SECRETARY - Dr. Ian Rodrick CLUB WEBSITE :- [www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)  
Silverdale, Weeping Cross, Bodicote, Oxon. OX15 4ED.

E. Mail: [ianandliz06@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk) COPY DATE is the penultimate Friday of the month.