



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

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

President John Bennett

JANUARY 2012

Our two Organ Grinders, Andrew Fairbairn and John Webb and their monkey attracting people shopping at Tesco's.



Our annual foray into the Christmas shopping arena took place at three venues Morrisons, Sainsburys and Tescos. The generosity and goodwill shown by the people of Banburyshire was overwhelming. The two stalwarts pictured above worked at all the venues used and they were backed up by the rota of Rotarians throughout the collection period. This years collection was again a record with a total of £4972 being collected. With two street organs playing non stop, the atmosphere created was one of real Christmas cheer.

With half of the collection going to Katharine House the support for this by the local community was obvious. It is proposed that the sum given to Katharine House Hospice should be raised to £2500.

Congratulations to all those involved.



John's Jotting's

President John Bennett

Yuletide – it's been and gone. I hope you all had a good time. I now have many happy memories of a traditional family Christmas, two car loads of rubbish to take to the tip and an appointment to enter into negotiations with the bank manager.

The month of December seems to have gone particularly quickly this year and what a great month it's been for our Rotary Club – both socially and fund raising. My diary reminds me that I've been involved in:

1st December: Nigel Yeadon drove his team to the first **District Darts match** against Witney. After relocating to an alternative hostelry (the booked venue having closed two days before when they found out who we were) we had a very enjoyable evening with our friends from Witney, peppering the wall around the dart board and came dangerously close to winning. David Hitchcox had the only set of darts in our team and I'm afraid they looked very second hand by the end of the night.

4th December: Having received a generous invitation, a fine body of Rotarians accompanied their ladies to the **Inner Wheel Christmas Lunch** at the Wroxton Hotel. An excellent meal was followed by entertainment from a couple of dames, although they were "nothing like a dame" as portrayed in South Pacific.

7th December: Joined the **Foundation Committee** for their meeting to plan the final arrangements for the Christmas concert on Saturday.

10th December: Attended the **Family Christmas Festival of Music** at St Mary's and what a terrific event to start the Christmas festivities. Talented musicians entertained an appreciative audience and it seemed to run like clockwork. Another successful Foundation event and particular thanks must go to Jonathan Meredith & Fred Riches.

11th December: The Service Clubs Carol Service, held at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, was a really enjoyable evening, masterminded by David Sullivan. I'm sure there were more people in attendance this year and it was good to meet and talk to our friends from the other service clubs.

17th December: We borrowed the **Father Christmas Float** from Round Table and spent the evening knocking on doors in Drayton, Wroxton, North Newington and Broughton. Great fun and good camaraderie, even if I didn't realise Richard Watts was Father Christmas till the next day! He looked so real.

17/18th & 23/24th December: Our annual **Street Organ collections** at the town's main supermarkets – and what a generous town we live in. Just a few pounds short of £5000 collected over the four days. My sincere thanks and congratulations to all the members of our club who got involved, but I'm sure you will agree that there are three members who qualify for a special mention. Alan Wolstencroft for organising the float and supervising the collection and banking of street organ funds, John Webb for winding himself up all day, and every day at all the venues and to Andrew Fairbairn, who set up at 7 a.m. each morning and didn't leave until closing time – in fact on the 24th, he opened up at 4 a.m. Thank you gentlemen - but then, "**That's what Rotary is all about**"

23rd December: Including our guests, over 80 people sat down to enjoy our **Christmas Lunch**. An excellent meal provided by Pink Peppercorns and an address from our guest speaker Rev. Canon Tom Moffatt, saw the club depart in good spirits for the Christmas break and a well earned rest.

Thanks for all the fun, fellowship and hard work during my first 6 months and in wishing you and yours a Happy New Year, I really look forward to our ventures in 2012.

President John

2010-11

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The Rotary Club of Banbury

is presented a certificate of appreciation for its financial support of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. Together, we will fulfill our promise to the children of the world and eradicate polio.



David Hitchcox
Chair, The Rotary Foundation Trustees

Ray Klugin Smith
President, Rotary International

This certificate was presented to past President Ron Barnett by District Assistant Governor David Hitchcox in recognition of the Club's achievement in giving \$100 per member to Foundation and the eradication of Polio campaign in the preceding year.

Evolution in the ShelterBox Solution

Not only does ShelterBox strive to respond fast in a disaster to reach affected families in the shortest time possible but the charity also is constantly improving the quality of the ShelterBox aid.

Innovation is a key value for the disaster relief organisation. It enables ShelterBox to deliver the best aid package possible for people made homeless by disasters, providing them with shelter, warmth and dignity. Midi tents, thermal layers and solar lights are this year's new items available as part of the ShelterBox Solution.

Midi tents

Midi tents are a more compact version of the ShelterBox disaster relief tent. They have been designed to offer a solution for varying occupancy levels and disaster conditions.

'The benefits of midi tents are that they are smaller to transport, easier to put up and take up less space,' said ShelterBox Head of Operations John Leach. 'They are therefore ideal for responses where space is at a premium or where temporary shelter is required for a shorter amount of time.'

ShelterBox Response Teams (SRTs) recently distributed 1,000 midi tents in Thailand following the latest floods. They were a quick and effective solution as they are faster to distribute and are designed for families who may need to move their tent regularly. Displaced Thai families are able to use them temporarily until the water levels recede and can also move them easily if the water table shifts.

This new option enables ShelterBox to target aid effectively and to make donors' money go further.

Thermal layer

The ShelterBox's disaster relief tent now has an optional purposefully designed thermal layer for extreme conditions. It can be added between the inner and outer sheets for extra insulation, improving the tent's versatility in varying climates.

The thermal layers were used for the first time during ShelterBox's recent deployment to Turkey following the earthquake that struck on 23 October. Temperatures plummeted below freezing but the added thermal layer made all the difference to the comfort of the displaced families.

Turkey's emergency rescue services, AKUT, helped distribute the tents to the most affected areas. One team were all mountaineers from Istanbul and they slept in a tent with the added thermal layer:

'We loved the tent because it was so warm. We know our mountaineering equipment and the third layer is key to the insulation.'

Solar lights

Nokero solar light bulbs are included as a lifesaving item in the ShelterBox kit providing light to disaster victims. They were also used for the first time in Turkey when millions of people lost power following the earthquake.

"Nokero solar lights were chosen to be part of the elite ShelterBox response kit after rigorous study and research by the ShelterBox team," said John. "This is their first deployment in the field, and so far they are performing admirably."

With little access to candles or torches, affected families received five solar light bulbs as part of each ShelterBox. Every bulb brings hours of light every night for about 18 months before its AA rechargeable battery must be replaced.

The ShelterBox Solution is constantly evolving to provide the best emergency shelter and lifesaving supplies for people affected by disasters, enabling them to live in dignity and safety.

The Annual Carol Service. The Joint Service Clubs Carol Service took place on 11th December at Marlborough Road Methodist Church. This annual event was again well supported with an almost full church enjoying singing the traditional Christmas carols and with the singing of While Shepherds Watched to the tune of Ilkley Moor a particular highlight. Various Club Presidents participated with the Minister Rev. Robert Anning giving the address.

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.

The Christmas Float collection raised a total of £447 of which we retain 60% making a total of £288.20.

The POLAR BEAR DIP at Andrew Fairbairn's will raise in excess of £1000. With a number of people actually diving in to the very cold water, some Goose Pimples were very obvious. The indoor barbecue was much appreciated particularly by those needing warming up, Thanks to Marilyn for organising the kitchen.

Foundation:- The Family Christmas Festival of Music on Saturday 10th December St Mary's Church was again a great success with what appeared to be a larger audience than last year. Brian Doe who organised the collection in lieu of Christmas Cards announced that a sum of £1030 had been raised.

Stephens Steaming is booked for June 17th. 2012.

Sports & Entertainment:- 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. The visit of the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra date has had to be rearranged, details shortly.

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. Tudor Hall School has shown an interest in forming an Interact Club.

SPEAKER REPORTS.

On December 2nd Matthew Tims gave us a talk “All about Alpacas” and we certainly got it “ALL”.

Alpacas, which are related to camels and come from South America, were originally domesticated, as were Llamas, from wild species of the Vicuna and Guanaco. They were selectively bred by the Inca for 6000 years to produce luxury fibre, however these breeding programmes were destroyed by the Spanish Conquistador who killed the Alpacas and Llamas for food and introduced cattle and sheep displacing the native populations to remote mountain regions above 4000 metres. The sophisticated husbandry and breeding programmes were lost together with other facets of Inca culture. The genetics of the Alpacas and Llamas became mixed producing animals of lesser quality.

In the 1950s some South American breeders started a breeding programme to separate off Alpacas from Llamas and improve the herds.

There are about 25000 Alpacas in the UK and they offer a viable alternative agricultural enterprise with an exclusive niche market that commands a premium price. The Alpaca fleece produces a bright, sumptuous fine fleece from 16 microns up. The fleece is warmer and lighter than wool also stronger and more durable. There are 22 officially recognised natural colours from black to white including greys and browns.

The females spend most of their lives pregnant. The gestation period is 11-1/2 months and a fortnight after giving birth they are mated for the next year. Matthew explained this in great detail, if you want to know more I suggest you ask someone who was present! A fortnight later they are reunited with the male, if the mating was successful they will reject him by spitting at him. It's called 'spitting off'!

The babies, called Cria (Spanish for baby) are usually born in the morning and the mother can control the day of birth to get a warm dry day, if possible. The Cria are usually up on their legs in about ¼ hour and feeding within the hour; by the end of their first day they will be running with the rest of the herd.

Matthew has a herd of 75 which he has increased from eight originally. They are relatively easy to keep and feed mainly on grass and hay and a few mineral supplements. They have few medical problems (thank goodness – vets are very expensive) but they do need to have their nails clipped about four times a year as they are not worn down naturally on grass meadow. At about six months they are introduced to head collars and can be walked on a lead – for showing. It was obvious from the way Matthew spoke that he is very enthusiastic about Alpacas.

He also runs a mail order business supplying equipment for other Alpaca breeders and other useful gifts including a very successful cheese making kit. If you want to see more go to www.homesteadfarmssupplies.co.uk and if you would like to know more about the Alpaca herd at Marston then go to www.apolloalpacas.co.uk. .

Stephen Jakeman.

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Mary Maxwell the wife of Rotarian Stewart. Mary had been very supportive of Rotary and particularly in her membership of Inner Wheel over many years. She was President of Inner Wheel in 1976/77 and is remembered by Rotarians for her outstanding performances and writing of some of the scripts for the annual Inner Wheel Christmas entertainment. The Club send the condolences to Stewart and Family.

Most Phenomenal 2 letter word.

I'm sure you will enjoy this. I never knew one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adj, adv, prep. **UP**

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is '**UP**.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand **UP**, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake **UP**?

At a meeting, why does a topic come **UP**? Why do we speak **UP**, and why are the officers **UP** for election and why is it **UP** to the secretary to write **UP** a report?

We call **UP** our friends, brighten **UP** a room, polish **UP** the silver, warm **UP** the leftovers and clean **UP** the kitchen.

We lock **UP** the house and fix **UP** the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir **UP** trouble, line **UP** for tickets, work **UP** an appetite, and think **UP** excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed **UP** is special. If you argue, you can kiss and make **UP**.

And this **UP** is confusing: A drain must be opened **UP** because it is blocked **UP**.

We open **UP** a store in the morning but we close it **UP** at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed **UP** about **UP**!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of **UP**, look **UP** the word **UP** in the dictionary.

In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes **UP** almost 1/4 of the page and can add **UP** to about thirty definitions.

If you are **UP** to it, you might try building **UP** a list of the many ways **UP** is used. It will take **UP** a lot of your time, but if you don't give **UP**, you may wind **UP** with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding **UP**. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing **UP**. When it rains, it soaks **UP** the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry **UP**.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it **UP**, for now . . . my time is **UP**!

Oh . . . one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

U
P!

Did that one crack you **UP**?

Don't screw **UP**.

Now I'll shut **UP**!

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