



From the V.P's. Jottings

Our first meeting in February consisted of a presentation by our treasurer Ron Barnett to show members how our club finances are arranged. Our club funds are the subscriptions used to pay capitations and our normal club expenses. The trust fund is our charity fund and holds the monies raised for charitable donations. Ron gave a very clear presentation of how our funds are arranged.



The annual club darts contest took place on Monday the 6th. The usual high standard of throwing was maintained with most darts thrown actually hitting the board. The “contest” was won by 2nd. Vice Martin Phillips whose expertise as barman far exceeded his prowess at darts. The runner up was Tony Brace, David Blakey and David Sullivan shared the beers as runners up. The evening was completed by an excellent “Fish and Chip supper”. Thanks were given to David Barlow who organized the evening.

Thursday evening was the annual quiz, again held at the Cricket club. There were 12 teams representing Inner Wheel, Cherwell Rotary club and our own committees. The winners in a very hard fought contest, which ended with a tiebreak, were Cherwell Challengers, from the Cherwell Rotary club. Second were the “Young Ones” there was some dispute as to whether this title properly described the team. A great fun evening with question master Bob Dix and M.C.

Tony Brace trying to keep us all in order. The other question setter, Mike Budd, was unable to attend.

Our Friday meeting on the 10th February had as its speaker Steve Godfrey from SKIDZ, an organization providing skills training for young people, mainly in the motor repair sector. He was hosted by Stewart Maxwell.

The International Committee held an Auction of favours and supper on Saturday evening. This event was held at Bloxham School who gave the venue and the supper, Thanks to the bursar Nigel Halfpenny. The auction was hosted in his own inimitable style by Bob Thompson. The auction was conducted in a fun atmosphere with a lot of back chat which needed the patience and skills of Bob to keep order. The amount raised was in excess of £4500.00 which will be donated to the Pakistan earth quake appeal.

The Rotary meeting on the 17th February was the visit of an Ambassadorial Scholar, Ted Bosequez a law student from the U.S.A. He was hosted by Ron Sharpe.

The final meeting of the month on Friday the 24th. February had as its speaker Maurice O’Conner of the Banbury Cheshire Home. He outlined the plans for the new building in Banbury. He was hosted by Geoff Todd.

A date for your diaries.....

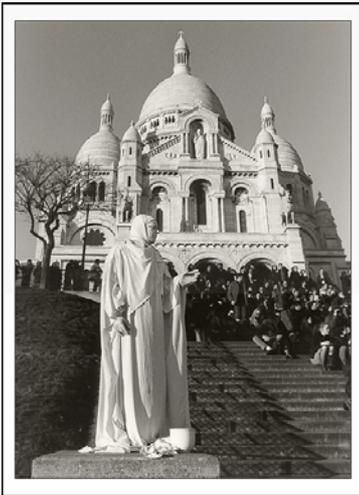
‘A night at the dogs’!

Tuesday 18th April at the Oxford Stadium circa 7.0 p.m. Free car parking.

Cost £10 – includes entrance fee, race card & programme, £5 fast food voucher, £5 betting voucher, £6 voucher for 2 drinks

What a bargain!!

Paris Trip



Depart Sunday 28th May & return Thursday 1st June 2006 (4 nights, 5 days)

This trip is by coach departing Banbury and crossing the channel by ferry (Dover-Calais) with onward travel to Paris where we will stay at the **Libertel Terminus Est** hotel on a *bed and buffet breakfast* basis. The hotel forms part of the historic landscape around the Gare De l'Est and is of 3 star quality. It was built in 1912 and was completely renovated in December 2000. It now has 180 rooms + 20 suites with all the facilities you expect from a modern hotel to include a fitness centre. It is fully air conditioned. Outside the main entrance is a Metro station which gives easy access to all sight locations and it is a few minutes walk to the Grand Boulevards where the main department stores etc. are situated.

The holiday cost of **£323** (single supplement of £40) covers the return coach travel, the short sea crossing, 4 nights b&b with accommodation in en suite rooms, 3 excursions (visit locations yet to be agreed), insurance during the holiday period plus VAT. Cancellation insurance is not included but can be covered for an additional £10 per person if required but payable with the deposit.

It is intended that those that are going to the Contact weekend and wish to join the Banbury party in Paris can do so, thus benefiting from the accommodation, trips and return transport. However there is no reduction in the overall cost per person.

Further details can be obtained from Richard Watts who has one brochure for the hotel.

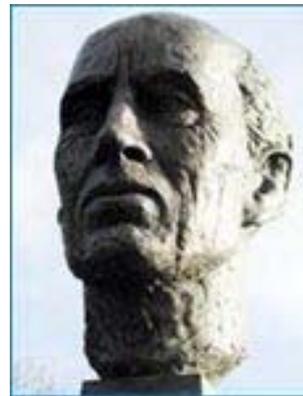
Please indicate your interest as soon as possible. A deposit of £30 per person has to be paid by 31 March with full payment due 8 weeks before departure (virtually the same time). The holiday has been put together by Airedale Tours with whom we have travelled to Chester, York, Bristol, Vienna and Rome. I believe those that have travelled before will vouch for the good value and whilst we normally fly to the European destinations, the short trip to Paris by coach is intended to keep the costs down thus making the holiday attractive to everyone.

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN COOKE

I would just like to thank all the Rotarians and Inner Wheelers (who read the Bulletin) for the kind thoughts expressed by cards, letters, phone, calls and visits in my recent loss of Margaret. The past year has been a difficult one for my family but the support we have received has been a great help and has made a lot of difference.

J. G. C.

All Change at Cheshire Homes – Speaker report 24 February 2006



Maurice O'Connor, the Fundraising Manager at the Oxfordshire Cheshire Home, Adderbury, was our speaker on 24 February 2006. He described Leonard Cheshire's early life in Oxfordshire between the wars and how, while he was at Merton College in Oxford, he came to fly. At the onset of WW2 he joined the Royal Air Force and was, at one time, in charge of the famous 617 squadron – the "Dambusters." He was also chosen by the then P.M, Winston Churchill, to be the British observer of the Nagasaki atomic bomb.

After the war he used an aunt's large house in Hampshire to aid ex-servicemen, but this proved costly. However, things were to change after the matron of a local hospital contacted him saying that

she had an Arthur Dykes in her charge, who was ill with cancer, and who knew him from the RAF. Leonard Cheshire took Dykes into his home for the last three months of his life. This had a profound effect on Cheshire, and he started caring for disabled people.

Today there are 21,000 disabled people, throughout the UK, offered a range of services by the organisation now bearing his name.

Leonard Cheshire (LC) is also a campaigning organisation on behalf of disabled people.

Locally the Oxfordshire Cheshire Home is at Twyford, Adderbury, and is set in 5 acres surrounded by a further 15 purchased in 1969. It has 17 bedrooms, and 8 on-suite bedrooms. Residents' conditions include Spina Bifida, Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, stroke related conditions, and acquired brain injuries. There is also a day centre offering respite care.

Following a review of all its homes, LC took the strategic decision to ensure that all its homes exceed the Government's minimum standards for care homes, and current changes locally are part of its 10 year programme of refurbishment and new build. This will provide:

- clear separation between public and private places
- large on-suite bedrooms and smaller group living
- positioning of new homes closer to local amenities

The one acre in Warwick Road (opposite the police station) will provide 12 supported units managed by a housing association, 20 on suite bedrooms for disabled residents, and 3 respite care units.

There will be no Day Care Centre on site, and alternative arrangements are being planned. Planning permission was granted in December 2005, and work is due to commence this April. The project cost is £3.6M, and sale of the present site, grants, etc will raise £2.85M, leaving a shortfall of £0.75M which needs to be raised by Summer next year.

Maurice has quite a challenge on his hands! It's the biggest single appeal that Leonard Cheshire has ever launched. Sir Frank Davies is the appeal Chairman.

Geoff Todd

TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED

To all kids who survived the 1930's 40's 50's 60's 70's and early 80's.

First we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us. They ate blue cheese, took aspirin, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then, after that trauma, our baby cribs were covered with bright coloured lead based paints. We had no child-proof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, no to mention the risks we took hitch-hiking.

As children we would ride in cars without seatbelts or airbags.

We drank water from the hose rather than a bottle. We shared one soft drink between four friends, from one bottle, and no-body died from this. We ate cupcakes, white bread and butter, and soft drinks with sugar in them, but we weren't overweight because WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were home by the time the streetlights came on. No one could reach us all day, AND WE WERE OK.

We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then ride them down the hill, only to find we had forgotten the breaks. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve this problem. We did not have X-boxes, video games, no 99 channels on cable, no DVDs, no surround sound, no mobile 'phones, no PCs, no internet or chatrooms..... WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside to find them!

We fell out of trees, got cuts, broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. We ate worms and mud pies made of dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given cowboy guns for our tenth birthday, made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and although we were told it would happen, we did not poke out many eyes.

We rode bikes, or walked to a friend's and knocked on the door, or just walked in and talked to them!

The town football club had trials for a junior team, and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't learnt to cope with the disappointment. Imagine that!

The idea of parents bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

This generation has produced some of the best risk takers, problem solvers, and inventors ever!

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failures, success and responsibilities, and we learned how to deal with it all! And you are one of them, so congratulations!

Above is a contribution for an old, middle aged, or young Rotarian (depending upon your perspective) who thought you might find it amusing!

Bookseller magazine gave the award on Friday to a self-help book on being haunted entitled "People Who Don't Know They're Dead: How They Attach Themselves to Unsuspecting Bystanders and What to Do About It."

In a close fight, the runner-up was "Rhino Horn Stockpile Management - Minimum Standards and Best Practices from East and Southern Africa."

Previous winners have been "Bombproof Your Horse" and "Greek Rural Postmen and their Cancellation Numbers."



Alan Wolstencroft leaves for Sierra Leone in May, and he has let me have the following update on the work of Mercy Ships and the Aberdeen Clinic:

ABERDEEN CLINIC & FISTULA CENTRE

The current facility comprises an operating theatre, with 2 operating tables, 3 wards, day clinic, offices, laundry, kitchen, seamstress room and associated storage areas.

The building of the 35 bed hostel will mean that patients who need a second operation will be able to stay in the hostel, whereas currently they are discharged in the hope that they will return at a later date for follow up surgery and often this does not happen.

The building work is well under way thanks to the efforts of 3 Rotary teams, comprising a total of 37 volunteers, who worked alongside local Sierra Leonian builders in October & November 2005.

As well as helping on the project the Rotarians raised funds which were spent directly on the building programme.

In December 2005 the concrete floor was poured and currently building of the second storey is taking place and the ground floor is about to be plastered. There are a further 6 Rotary teams going out to work on the project between February 20th and June 3rd and it is anticipated that completion will take place in June.

The Fistula Centre only began full time operations in April 2005 but up to the end of January 2006 surgeons performed 403 surgical procedures with an 85% success rate allowing most women to go home "dry".

The co-located Aberdeen Clinic which cares for under 12's performed 4,205 health clinic treatments (including 492 vaccinations), put 2,297 patients and community members through health education courses and conducted 6,460 counselling sessions.



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IYE SOWODIE'S STORY

40 year old Iye is typical of ACFC patients – she has given birth to 5 children (2 of whom have since died). Since the birth of her youngest son 17 years ago Iye has suffered from extreme incontinence and her husband abandoned her because of the terrible smell and because she could not bear him any more children.

She was captured by rebel soldiers during the civil war, beaten when they did not like the meals she prepared for them and was left destitute and survived for a time by scrounging whatever she could in the jungle.

I've heard about the Mercy Ships Fistula Centre in Freetown and was told that doctors could "make her dry" and that the treatment was free. Her surgery was successful and after 2 weeks recovery she left the clinic in December "dry".

VISITING SURGEONS TACKLE DIFFICULT VVF CASES

Resident Doctors Jerry Putnam & Josette Hunter occasionally have to tell a VVF patient that her fistula is inoperable or too difficult for them to repair, however they have kept track of patients that they have had to turn away.

At the start of January 46 women were invited back to the clinic to be examined by Dr Biruk Tafesse from the world famous Fistula Hospital in Addis Abba, Ethiopia.

After thorough examinations Dr Tafesse decided to operate on 25 of the 46 women. ACFC staff counselled the remaining patients who had to be turned away for a second time. During a gruelling 10 days of surgery Dr's Tafesse, Putnam & Hunter operated side by side – most of the women are still in recovery and it will be March before the final success of the surgeries will be determined.

AQUAROLLS WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

One of the lasting impressions from my visit to Sierra Leone last November was that of youngsters carrying large containers of water. This girl is 11 and twice a day she carries this container, weighing approximately 25 kilos, a mile.

I decided to try and make a difference and when I return in May I am hoping to take a small consignment of Aquarolls with me which I can distribute into areas of need. If this works I aim to develop the programme further, with the aid of local Mercy Ships staff, and/or encourage the production of a similar product within the country.

With the sponsorship of "Go Outdoors" in Coventry I have negotiated a special rate for the Aquarolls (normal RRP £45) and am looking to local individuals, organisations or companies to sponsor an Aquaroll at a cost of £30.



If YOU are able to help please contact me.

EVERY LITTLE HELPS

I am leaving for Sierra Leone on May 22nd for 11 days to help complete the building of the 35 bed hostel at the Aberdeen Clinic & Fistula Centre. Day to day items can make such a difference to Sierra Leonians who have so little – if you want to help me make a difference contact me for further information – £1 goes a long way in Sierra Leone.

NEW STEPS CENTRE, WATERLOOVILLE

The New Steps facility, run by Mercy Ships, was a project I visited during my trip in November 2005. The Centre improves mobility and independence through physiotherapy, occupational therapy, the provision of prosthetic limbs, orthoses (braces), crutches, walking frames and wheelchairs.

During a decade of civil war the polio vaccination programme broke down and a large number of young people became partially paralysed as a result of the disease.

One of the other aids provided by Mercy Ships to give improved mobility to polio victims is PETS – a Personal Energy Transport System. This is basically a wooden all terrain invalid carriage, of a very simple but effective design, which is driven by hand cranking the front wheel by means of a heavy duty chain. It may sound bizarre BUT having seen several of these in

operation in the outskirts of Freetown I can assure you they make a REAL difference to those suffering from impaired mobility.

From January 2005 – January 2006 (inclusive) over 3,500 medical treatment sessions were undertaken, 3,990 people received health education talks, 1,800 rehabilitation consultations took place and 980 mobility and assistive devices were distributed.

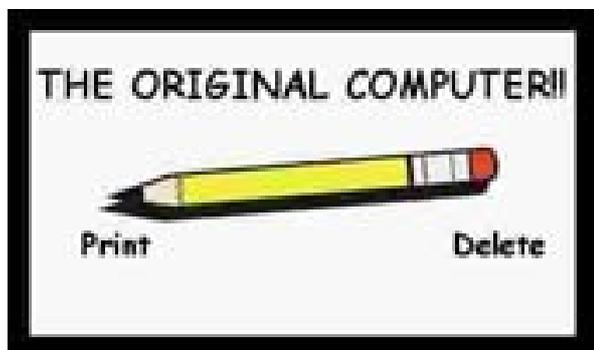
New Steps is also heavily involved in a School Reintegration Programme for mobility impaired students which aims to “mainstream” children with a disability into regular classes. This includes providing mobility aids for students, training for school staff & parents, construction of access ramps, wider doors and toilet facilities.

280 NEW WHEELCHAIRS AT NEW STEPS

The Wheelchair Foundation & The Rotary Club of Greenport, New York donated 280 wheelchairs to Mercy Ships’ New Steps Centre in January 2006.

A thorough evaluation of potential recipients will take place to see where the chairs are most needed.

Rtn. Alan Wolstencroft.



Who Needs a Man?

If you want someone who will do anything to please you, get a dog.

If you want someone who will bring you the newspaper without tearing through it first for the sports page, get a dog.

If you want someone who'll make a total fool of himself because he's so glad to see you, get a dog.

If you want someone who eats whatever you put in front of him and never says his mother made it better, get a dog.

If you want someone who's always eager to go out any time you ask and anywhere you want to go, get a dog.

If you want someone who can scare away burglars without waving a lethal weapon around, endangering you and all the neighbours, get a dog.

If you want someone who never touches the remote, couldn't care less about Monday Night Football, and watches dramatic movies with you as long as you want, get a dog.

If you want someone who'll be content just to snuggle up and keep you warm in bed, and who you can kick out of bed if he slobbers and snores, get a dog.

If you want someone who never criticizes anything you do, doesn't care how good or bad you look, acts as though every word you say is worth hearing, never complains, and loves you unconditionally all the time, get a dog!

On the other hand...

If you want someone who never comes when you call him, totally ignores you when you walk in the room, leaves hair all over the place, walks all over you, prowls around all night and come home only to eat and sleep all day, and acts as though you are there only to see that He's happy...get a cat!!

What's going CHEAP CHEAP.....



Just to remind you that the Rotary Club website has a section for sponsors where your company name can appear together with a direct link to your company website.

All this for the ridiculously cheap sum of £10 per annum - bet you can't find a cheaper advertising offer anywhere else!

All you have to do is send Ron Barnett your website address and agree to pay the £10.00 - He'll do the rest.