

The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

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

President Ian Rodrick

March 2013

Rotary Young Musician of the Year 2013.

Sibford School was again the venue for the 23 rd. Banbury Young Musician of the Year competition. The format had to be changed a little this year owing to the heats being postponed because of the earlier bad weather. The whole competition, including the heats being carried out in one day. The heats and the Junior competition was conducted in the afternoon and then the seniors in the evening. Both events encouraged a good attendance and splitting the finals into two sessions appeared to work well. This saved the juniors having to wait until late evening for their results. The judges, Jason Walsh, Andrew Harper and Mark Paine had a long day listening and judging the many competitors. Their task was certainly made difficult because of the high standard of most competitors. The Junior winner was pianist Benjamin Thompson from Shipston on Stour and the overall winner, Young Musician of the Year was another pianist Lucinda Bourne Swinton-Hunter.

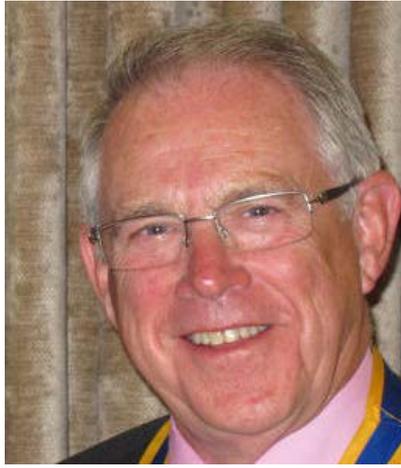


Benjamin Thompson presented with the Humphris trophy by Rotarian Martin Humphris

Three of the contestants have been invited to compete in the Rotary district final, they are Lucinda Bourne Swinton-Hunter, Rebecca Babage and Tavia Lewis. During an interval last year's winner of Young Musician, singer Serena Holbech entertained us with a few numbers from her repertoire. She has sung for us on a number of occasions during the year. Also in attendance were the Chairman of Cherwell District Council Colin Clarke, Banbury Town mayor Tony Ilott and Rotary 1090 District Governor Judith Diment, Gareth Jeremy and his team are to be congratulated for again organising this prestigious event in our calendar.



Lucinda receiving the Alcan trophy from Rotarian John Phillips.



Rodrick's

Ramblings

Rodrick's Ramblings

February has been another busy and hugely enjoyable month.

My activities started with my visit to the Inner Wheel Club in response to Annie's kind invitation to speak at their meeting. I hope I did not bore them too much, but I have to say that I enjoyed the occasion immensely and was hugely impressed by their welcome and the friendly atmosphere at the Cricket Club. President Annie – you are doing a great job!

The Young Musician competition this year threatened to be a test of endurance because the cancellation of the heats due to snow resulted in the whole event being held on the one day. While it must have been a marathon for the judges and Gareth's committee, the event seemed to run without a hitch. District governor Judith asked me to pass on her congratulations on "an event which we should be proud of". Thank you to all involved and to Inner Wheel for organising refreshments.

I have just returned from the Bournemouth Conference and I think the Banbury contingent all enjoyed the weekend of true fellowship. The highlight of the weekend was, of course, the well deserved presentation of a "Service Above Self" Award to Alan Wolstencroft. In making the presentation, RI Director Alan Jagger, the RI President's representative, explained that this was the highest award the RI could present for outstanding service and that a maximum of 150 were given each year. A DVD about Alan, made by Rtms Ron Barnett and John Bennett, was shown to the Audience and there was hardly a dry eye in the Banbury group! It was just unforgettable and we all congratulate Alan on his achievement.

I feel a bit breathless after all that – perhaps I should have a lie down!

"IT'S A KNOCKOUT"

BANBURY SHOW SPICEBAL PARK 9TH. JUNE 2013.

BANBURY ROTARY CLUB ARE SUPPORTING THE BANBURY SHOW WITH "IT'S A KNOCKOUT."

Rotarian Andrew Fairbairn is organising our part of the event.

He will need assistance on the day.

But more urgent at the moment is for Rotarians to recommend company's or people who would like to take part. It is imperative that we have a good number of teams taking part on the day. Please let Andrew know of any ideas you any have.

ROTARY FOUNDATION.

On the occasion of Paul Harris day, Rotarian Ian Calderbank gave an excellent talk on the life of Paul Harris and the beginnings of Rotary, he also updated us as to the effects of the changes to Future Vision. This is the first part of his talk, there will be more on Future Vision in the next bulletin.

On 23 February we celebrated 108 years since **Paul Harris** initiated the first meeting of what has become Rotary International. At our meeting the day before, following our Frugal Lunch, we remembered that event and the charitable trust called Foundation.

Paul, our founder, was born on 19 April 1868 in a small town in Wisconsin. His parents struggled to make a living and when he was three years old he and his brother were sent to his grandparents for their upbringing. Being brought up by an elderly couple, although they tried hard, did not do a lot for Paul's sense of discipline and he was a bit of a lad it seems. He was expelled from two of his schools and again from his first University, Vermont, in his second year. Paul later said that, although he had not been personally guilty of the offence for which he had been expelled, his behaviour had been generally so bad that the University action was probably justified anyway. Two years later though, Paul's grandfather died and it is claimed that his grandmother told Paul to get his act together for the sake of his grandfather's memory.

Paul tried his hands at various jobs but managed to settle in the legal profession and eventually graduated from the University of Iowa with a law degree in 1891. Five years later he moved to Chicago and set up his own practice. It is interesting to note that it was much later in 1919, coinciding with the first Rotary International Assembly, that the University of Vermont recanted and awarded him an honorary BA and an apology.

One day, when going around a small town with one of his clients, Paul was impressed to note how much fellowship this man had with his own customers and the proprietors of other businesses. Paul wished to emulate this in Chicago and after talking it over with some of his business associates there, he called a meeting and four people (Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram Shorey, and Paul) attended what has since been recognised as the first Rotary meeting. They decided to call it Rotary because the intention was to rotate the meetings between their various offices, the first one having taken place in that of Gustavus Loehr. In the early days they set up rules that you had to be re elected each year as a member and if somebody had poor attendance the others would not elect him. They also issued fines for late arrival or for not turning up without apologising first. These fines covered their expenses in the early years.

Interestingly, Paul was not the first Club President – that was Silvester Schiele's honour, being elected at the third meeting which by then had attracted a much greater attendance. Their first act of community service came two years later when they prevailed upon the local authorities in Chicago to install public toilets. In 1908 Paul Harris took over as Club President and, in spite of reservations by other members concerning potential financial liability, he set out to extend the movement starting a second club in San Francisco. During the next ten years or so, things began to move quite rapidly but, following a period as National President, Paul resigned in 1912 citing "ill health", "husbandly duties" (he had recently married) and work pressures. However, he was immediately elected as Life President Emeritus and remained involved, initially to a lesser extent, but then increasingly so again in the 1920s.

Paul had various periods when he was less active but one of his final appearances was at a Rotary Convention in 1944 shortly after the "Four Way Test" had been adopted (is it the truth, fair, etc). At this Convention in Chicago he was presented with the Heraldic Order of Cristobal Colon by the Dominican Republic. Sadly, three years later Paul died. A Memorial Fund was started then and the money raised for Academic Fellowships was a precursor to the Ambassadorial Scholar scheme. Paul received many honours and awards during his life and he also features in a number of sculptures, such as one to be found in Madrid.

Since Paul's death, Rotary has not stood still but continued to evolve and to introduce new initiatives such as the motto "Service above Self"(1950), Interact(1962), GSE(1965), Rotaract (1968), RYLA (1971), and Polioplus (1985). Also, starting in this next Rotary year, 2013 – 14, a new **Future Vision.**

Speaker Reports.

JANUARY 4TH. A TALK BY A LONG SERVING ROTARIAN. Rotarian Keith Manning.

You may have worked out that after Jack Friswell, I am the longest serving member and former President – I find that a bit scary.

I was born in Bloxham into a continuous male line traceable back always in Bloxham to a date of 1645, and no doubt before that, into a family always concerned with building and plastering.

From the Bloxham village C of E school to Banbury Grammar School that I left in 1951, and I continued living in Bloxham until 1970. Mine was a case of Bloxham boy meets Sibford girl Sylvia, he brings her to live in Bloxham for

12 years, we build a house in Sibford and live there for 41 years, and eventually move to Banbury some 18 months ago. We have two daughters who both live in Hook Norton with their families, they having given us five grandchildren.

My professional career started as an articled pupil to a local quantity surveyor. After qualification and the retirement of my employer I entered into partnership with a Northampton practise, we having bought out the Banbury office, forming the practise of Hadland Manning Bullock & Partners, with offices in Banbury, Northampton, Wellingborough and Daventry. This practise still successfully continues, but now only in Banbury.

As a professional practise, our work extended not only to private and local government construction projects, but to central government and commercial commissions throughout the country. Perhaps some of the more recent interesting works were those for H M Prison Services, where over a period of eight years we were working on building and maintenance projects within high security prisons in the UK. These were at prisons such as Long Lartin, Belmarsh, Wakefield, Gloucester and others.

Another particularly interesting period for me was while I was responsible for commissions within the Houses of Parliament (Palace of Westminster) over a period of some sixteen years for building maintenance. The interests of the Palace of Westminster include not only the building you see containing the Houses of Commons and Lords, but many adjacent buildings in the area.

My leisure interests have generally revolved around sporting activities. School gave me a very good grounding in rugby, athletics and cricket. However after leaving school, rugby became the principal sport playing mostly for Banbury and representative games for the County and a short period with Northampton.

Horse riding became a fairly intense interest later on, and between the ages of 30 and 50 I became fascinated with the challenge of this new activity, right from learning to keep attached to the animal (something that one never entirely achieves) to progressing to hunting and Cross-country Team Chasing. I did have a horse that won two Point-to-Points, but I hasten to say that I was not the jockey on those occasions. Horse riding became for me one of the most exhilarating activities, but one needing a lot of dedication. I am very happy to say that I continue to maintain an interest in horses through my daughter and grand-daughter.

Golf has been a continuing challenge and frustration over the years since the age of 27, and one that I hope to battle with for quite a bit longer.

ROTARY:- has been a continuous pleasure over the years. It was Jack Friswell that proposed me into Rotary, for which I am entirely grateful.

I joined in 1968 at the age of 33, on the same day as John Smith and Bob Collisson, who I am sure many of you will remember. Then Rotary met at Wincotts Café in South Bar. The major project for that first year of my membership was to raise money for more user friendly hospital beds, and this was achieved by organising a huge jumble sale in the town hall, and a Donkey Derby held in fields in the Bloxham road area. Thousands flocked to this novel entertainment, which was enormously successful.

In my year as President in 1979/80, Rotary International celebrated its 75th anniversary, which we were pleased to do so with an event at Broughton Castle, at the kind invitation of Lord Saye and Sele. The visiting Group Study Exchange team was from Japan, and we raised income from various projects including a 20 mile sponsored walk, which continued to take place for several years after .

Thank you fellow Rotarians for bearing with me on this journey of memories of an old Rotarian. However, there are a few older members lining up behind me – so beware old comrades –Speaker finder Helen is coming to get you as well !

Friday 1st February. Guildford Rotary Eye Project, presentation by Rotarian John Miles.

John Miles is a member of the Rotary Club of Leatherhead but he and his wife have embraced this major project by the neighbouring Rotary Club of Guildford with great enthusiasm and dedication and John spoke about it with great feeling.

In 1998 a Guildford Rotarian, Doctor Sam Das, an eye surgeon and consultant ophthalmic surgeon when visiting Kolkata (Calcutta) in India was moved start a project to restore the sight of at least a million of the estimated 40,000,000 people suffering from avoidable blindness in under developed and developing countries which could be reversed by simple operations. The causes are many, lack of vitamin A, poor education and living standards and inter-breeding. He started work in Kolkata with the backing of his Rotary Club back in Guildford, and on the spot Rotarians who go out to remote villages to carry out assessments. These Indian Rotary members are inevitably drawn from professional and monied classes and they embrace the opportunity to serve their poorer fellows with enthusiasm. Aided by Matching and Foundation Grants and GSE teams carrying out training programmes the project has gone from strength to strength and now about 40,000 operations are carried out every year with the hope that this will soon rise to 100,000 per annum.

Besides assessing needs local Rotarians arrange for buses to bring patients in from remote areas for operations when patients usually have one night stay but return for two follow up examinations. All are supplied with dark glasses. The uniqueness of the Guildford Project is that they do not simply move on, the treatment centres that are set up are maintained as is the service and the aim is that each of these should become self-sufficient by taking in private patients able to pay, to cover administrative costs. The project is constantly expanding and now moving into Africa where John and his wife have recently visited to assess the situation. John said that here they will be faced with different and possibly greater challenges than in India.

John and his wife are very hands on, roll up your sleeves folk who reminded me very much of one of our own members. His enthusiasm, concern for his less fortunate fellows and drive were apparent and he was an excellent ambassador for this exceptionally worthwhile project which has earned its founder Sam Das an MBE.

Further information can be found on the Guildford Eye Project website.

Maurice Humphris.

On Friday 8th February we were privileged to have a talk by Sue Lane – Head of Fund Raising at Katharine House Hospice. If we think our fund raising efforts are difficult – and sometimes reasonably successful – what Sue had to tell us put it all in perspective.

To operate all their services for a year requires £2.5 million. Of that they hope to get about 40% - £1 million from the Government, which is more than a lot of hospices get. They have a surplus of about £400,000 from their six shops. Strangely enough the downturn in the economy has resulted in some very good trading figures for the shops. This leaves about £1.1 million – or nearly £100,000 per month to be raised by the Fund Raising Dept. Some of this is covered by the good work of Rotarian Tony Brace who is responsible for making all their Gift Aid claims which bring in £40,000 per year.

Sue spoke specifically about the Midnight Walk. When it was planned they had hoped for perhaps 100 or 200 walkers. Never in their wildest dreams did they think that 600 people would sign up and pay in advance for the privilege of walking through the streets of Banbury in the middle of the

night and that they would raise £70,000 with their first one. Their first six walks have raised a total of £526,000 for Nursing care.

President Ian then presented Sue with a cheque for £3,500 – the Katharine House half share of the takings of the supermarket Street Organ collection.



Sue expressed her grateful thanks, not only for the cheque but also for the support which the Club have given over the years.

Michael Banks

15th. February - Rotarian John Cooke My Life

Born in the 1920's John told us of his early memories. His family had been in the Manchester Cotton Trade for several generations. At the age of 12 years, at the outbreak of war, he was living in a new semi-detached house recently purchased for the enormous sum of £750. John became a Boy Scout messenger for the Home Guard.

He spent the next 8 years at school, obtained his School Certificate, and started his agricultural interests, A National Diploma led to a post at Leeds University in the Agricultural Economics Department. After a year he moved to London to work in the Ministry of Agriculture.

After the war John looked for pastures new and moved to Shropshire and obtained a post to start up a new Agricultural College (growing a moustache in order to look older!) After a short period in Shropshire there followed a key period in his life with 30 years at the North Oxon Technical College, where he started up a new Department of Agriculture which eventually had 10 staff and up to 100 students.

He now moved to a new phase in his life, obtaining a post as Senior Agricultural Development Officer in Northern Nigeria in 1983.

John and Margaret both took early retirement (Margaret was Head of Infants at Bloxham Primary School).

After an interesting period in Nigeria they had to return to the UK due to a Military Coup!. On his return he obtained part-time work lecturing and examining before getting a post at his old Agricultural College. John had maintained his interest in Africa and in 1986 was asked to help the setting up of a new organisation called "Farm Africa", which was concerned with helping poor African farming families. He still supports this Charity.

In 1994 he decided to retire for the 2nd time, 2005/6 was a difficult time for John as he lost his only son and his wife Margaret.

John has obviously enjoyed Rotary. He joined the Club in 1973, was President in 1989/90 and has chaired all the major committees, was involved with the schools debating competitions and enjoyed Contact Club visits, making many friends, particularly in Villfranche and Heidenheim.

John recalled a notable achievement when he had a hand in the early days of the Club Bulletin being put on to the Internet, when trying to circulate the document, he succeeded in crashing the Computers of the majority of the members. He is still a very popular member 111.

Bryan Doe.

Committee Reports.

Fellowship and House.

It has come to our attention that a few members have been contacting Pink Peppercorns direct with late apologies, after the Wednesday evening deadline. This is not fair to the caterers and causes confusion leading to unnecessary problems for the Fellowship and House committee.

Members are reminded that we have an agreed system which works well, is fair to all parties and should be adhered to. Accordingly, brown envelopes will be issued to those not using the correct Email address/telephone number and apologising for attendance by the 5.00pm deadline on Wednesdays.

Community and Vocational.

The "Help for Hero's" concert with Banbury Symphony Orchestra will be held on 13th. July at St Mary's church.

Foundation.

Chairman Martin informed Committee Chairmen that they should come up with projects that can be used in the new "Future Vision" Foundation Organisation.

Martin and the Club are hosting an Ambassadorial Scholar, Julie Self from Canada.

Sports & Entertainment.-

There will be a new date for the Club Quiz.

The Spring Golf competition is to be held on 22nd April at the Feldon Valley Course.

The Bigwood Trophy will be on 27th August.

The Club Outing to be on Tuesday 9 April 2013 visiting Birmingham, "Back to Backs Museum and Cadbury World.

International:-

This year's Contact Meeting is with Olten Switzerland on May 9-12th with the option of staying on for a further three days at the Hotel Kusunacht on Lake Zurich, a hotel at which we had stayed at previously. John Hansford has arranged this and the flight. Contact John for details.

The Banbury Show "It's a Knockout" Competition will be run again this year, it is hoped to have 24 teams taking part. Andrew Fairbairn would like suggestions for teams he can contact to take part.

Youth Opportunities.

Young Chef has been successfully organised again at Oxford College, Banbury. The winner Megan Coy has gone forward to the District final and now proceeds to a regional final in Maidstone.

A Youth Exchange student has been selected, she is Judith Allen and she will be going to Belgium.

Rotaract, Interact.

The Interact Charter is now here and it is proposed that they hold an event at the Masonic Hall and that the Charter will be presented at that occasion.

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