

The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

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

President Ian Rodrick

October 2012

ROTARY RECEIVES A SPECIAL MENTION.

Rotary International has made a new funding commitment of US\$75 million over three years to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Rotary, which has already contributed nearly \$1.2 billion to the GPEI, announced the commitment at a 27 September high-level side event on polio eradication, convened by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The side event -- "Our Commitment to the Next Generation: The Legacy of a Polio-free World" -- brought together leaders of the remaining endemic countries, and representatives of donor governments, development agencies, the GPEI partners, and the media to underscore the urgent need to finish the job of global polio eradication. Although the wild poliovirus is endemic only in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria, other countries are still at risk for re-established transmission of the virus through its "importation" from the endemics.

Ban urged UN member states to ramp up their support for the GPEI, launched in 1988 by Rotary, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The partnership now includes the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Nations Foundation.

"This decisive moment is a matter of health and justice. Every child should have the right to start life with equal protection from this disease. That's why I have made eradicating polio a top priority for my second term as Secretary-General," said Ban Ki-moon.

Roll out the Barrel

ROTB is a simple water carrier which is well known to many caravanners in this country. It has been developed for the use in Africa to allow women and children to fetch clean water from wells and other water sources. This saves them from carrying heavy containers, on their heads and backs, causing injury. The project has been spearheaded by two Rotarians Adrian Brewer and Bill Leslie and they have been gaining support from many clubs in the past year. Further information at www.rolloutthebarrel.org and read Mildred's Story.

Rotarian Alan Wolstencroft initiated these barrel's in his visits to Sierra Leone.!!



On Friday 14th September Rotarian Roy Watkins stood up to thank the Rotary Club members for all their support whilst he has not been well and said how much he and his wife Margaret appreciated it and the friendship from the Club. He then presented a cheque for £500 to the President, Ian Rodrick.

Helen Morris

Speaker Reports.

Report on Rotary Speaker August 31st 2012.

Mr Matthew Jackson travelled from London to join us at our 5th Friday evening meeting with partners, held at the Banbury House Hotel.

Matthew is a member of an organisation called “Korean Spirit and Culture” and is one of their speakers who travel all over Britain talking about the South Korean success story. In his working life he is part of a Business Consultancy Firm operating across the world. Hence his knowledge and interest in South Korea.

His talk, or more rightly I would suggest, presentation was entitled “Working for the common good.”

In it, not only did he speak but we were shown a number of interesting Videos. The whole programme was a well practised and polished performance that held our attention for an hour.

Korea is a place we all know of but know little about. Yes, our older members will remember the Korean War of the early 50’s for its horrific death and destruction. The UN and America was heavily involved, their losses were enormous and seeing those dreadful images in our Papers, it all seemed pointless to me. The country was quite literally laid bare, the infrastructure was totally destroyed.

Apparently experts said it would take 100 years to see the country back on its feet. We are now 50 years on and South Korea has emerged as a very successful Manufacturing Nation, exporting all over the world. The real question is, Why? This was what Matthew’s presentation was all about.

Matthew talked about the ancient culture and peoples. They have a strong tradition in the Arts and Music. Matthew illustrated this by showing us a modern short music video and then a video about the printing of the “Tripitaka”, the Buddhist Holy Book, in the 14th Century. I emphasise the word “print” – believe it or not the Koreans had invented printing hundreds of years before Europe. All that time ago they understood the “science and technology” even if they did not use those words. They painstakingly carved the characters in relief on wooden blocks later to be inked as we would today. They even carefully prepared the timber by burying it for 3 years and then allowing a further 3 years for it to dry out. They knew that this process would alter the hardness and longevity of their printing blocks, and they have been proved right because these blocks are still in use today after nearly 700 years. (History relates they were using moveable metal type in 1377). The original wooden printing blocks were, and still are, stored in a purpose built building at Haeinson Temple. A building carefully designed to allow complete and continuous ventilation. Quite simply they understood the technology. Many thousands of people were involved in the making and printing of the blocks. It seemed that they all did it for the love of their religion. It illustrated how the people put the project before their own needs. In Rotary we say “Service before Self”. We were told all the statistics but the only figure I remember was that if you put all the blocks on top of one another they would stand not far short of the height of Mont Blanc!!

The origins of their civilization are ancient. They are hard working intelligent, educated people. As long

ago as 1446 their King, Sejong the Great, invented a new Alphabet based on the characters looking like the shapes of the face and mouth needed to produce the appropriate sound. His aim was to simplify the Chinese/Japanese type characters so that everyone could easily learn to read and write. Education for the masses.

During the time since the end of the Korean War the population has quite literally pulled together to get the country back on its feet. We were told that in the early days people willingly worked a 16 hour day with little if any time off simply to help their country and government. Hence the title of the talk. Makes you think doesn't it.

We were shown another short film about the establishment of their Ship Building Industry. There had been no previous knowledge or involvement in this work, but lead by clever man they came to Barclays Bank in Britain and borrowed enough to build the factory and infrastructure, let alone the money to build two very large tankers. They clinched the deal by showing the sceptical banker a picture of an Iron boat built in Korea many years before the days of Brunel. Hyundai is now the largest Ship Builder in the world, and of course we know the name for the cars seen all over the UK. It was said that the money was only leant on condition that they fulfilled that first contract on time. The penalty being that they had to forgo the entire contract price. The pressure was on and their attitude and work ethic saw them through.

The next big name we all know is Samsung, and of course it is a Korean Company. They are now extremely large and successful in all things electronic. I believe that they make more Computer and TV screens than any other company in the world.

Visit of the District Governor

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed District Governor Judith Diment to our meeting on 7 September. In her talk she congratulated the Club on its various achievements and had obviously done her homework in being aware of the Club's activities. She pointed out that, as a PR professional herself, she appreciates the importance of being involved in local community events and promoting what we do in order to attract new members and to obtain support for projects. In this context, she told us that the District have been successful in securing a PR grant from RI for the third time both for a newspaper and to support promotional leaflets for each of the 9 Areas in the District. The newspaper that clubs distributed in February and March has already had a major impact, trebling the number of visitors both to the District website and the District Facebook.

Judith then spoke of her own pleasure and honour at being DG during this particular year with the Diamond Jubilee, Olympics and Paralympics taking place. Apparently she is passionate about sport and the opportunities, sense of achievement and team spirit that it can bring to people from all walks of life and all abilities. She has worked on a Rotary Olympics committee for the last two years and is pleased that an Olympics Legacy project has been agreed raising funds for WheelPower to provide specialist wheelchairs and training for future paralympians. Also, Rotary ran a home hospitality programme for visitors during the Olympics and held open house for Rotarians and visitors for the entire Olympic period at York Gate in London. Some clubs have also taken groups of young people to the Olympics.

Their success is now a thorn in the side for Apple, the American giant. No doubt the arguments about copyright will continue but I guess Samsung will survive and grow.

South Korea. A true success story. A dedicated and committed people. Quietly getting on with life and working hard. With the past behind them, part of the UN and working for peace.

Where does that leave us and Europe, struggling with economic problems? Are you thinking like me?

One question that I don't think was quite answered at the end of the meeting. Are the people happy? Yes, I am sure they are basking in their success at the moment. Yes, we were told there are trade unions. Matthew's answer said "Not everything is perfect" and little more.

When the population can earn enough to do whatever they want, when the rich get richer and the poorer think they are not getting as big a bit of the cherry as they believe they are entitled to, what will happen then? A desire to make money is a driving force for progress but when it is at the expense of others, the word Greed comes into the picture.

Matthew asked us all to write our comments and thoughts on a piece of paper for him. I took him to the Railway Station and during the time he had to wait for his train he told me he was going to write his report. That surprised me. What was he going to do with it?

Matthew certainly put on a very polished performance. He certainly got his message over. He certainly made us all think. Are we as Rotarians going to try and change Europe?

Tim Bryce.

She is coupling her theme of “Teamwork” for this year with that of the RI President Sakuji Tanaka of “Peace Through Service”. Judith feels that Sakuji is an inspirational leader and she repeated his words thus:

We hear the word peace every day. We hear it in the news, we use it in conversation, and we talk about it a great deal in Rotary. But most of us spend very little time thinking about what peace is and what peace means. On a basic level, peace can be defined by what it is not. It is a state of no war, no violence, and no fear. It means that you are not in danger of hunger, suffering, or poverty. But we can also define peace by what it is and by what it can be. Peace can mean freedom of thought and freedom of choice. It can mean security and confidence in the future, a life in a stable society. On a more abstract level, peace can mean a sense of happiness, of inner serenity, of calm.

The truth is that peace means different things to different people. No definition is right and no definition is wrong. No matter how we use or understand the word peace, Rotary can help us to achieve it.

When we see the needs of others as more important than our own needs — when we focus our energies on a shared goal — this changes everything. It changes our perceptions. It changes our priorities. And it changes how we understand the idea of peace.

In 2012-13, I ask you to put Peace Through Service at the forefront of your Rotary work. And I ask you to understand that peace, in all of the ways that we can understand it, is a real and a realistic goal for Rotary. Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements by governments or through heroic struggles. It is something we can find and achieve every day, and in many simple ways. And so, I ask you to commit to a Rotary year for Peace Through Service — and a Rotary goal for a more peaceful world.”

Clubs can help to bring about a more peaceful world by working in these areas of focus :

Peace and conflict prevention/resolution, Disease prevention and treatment, Water and sanitation, Maternal and child [health](#), Basic education and literacy, and Economic and community development.

The number one RI priority remains the eradication of polio. We have had some important milestones recently, meeting the Gates \$200 million challenge, India being declared polio free in March, and celebrating 10 years since Europe was declared polio free. The cumulative total to the Challenge from RIBI (zones 17 &18) have reached just under US\$30 million (US\$29.7 million). Polio cases were down to an all time low of 128 cases in just 4 countries this year but because of a new shortfall in funding immunization days are being cancelled. This is very serious as, if polio takes hold again, there could be as many as 200,000 cases in a few months. In May the World Health Assembly declared a Global Polio Emergency and a shortfall in funding of some \$945 million. Clubs in District 1090 have always responded to the challenge and hopefully will do so again. The Banbury Club has always been a great supporter of Foundation and the polio campaign. It is intended to have the next District Newspaper ready for distribution in October with a focus on World Polio Day (24 October) and Judith intends to visit every club in the District that has Rotarians doing something to support the polio campaign on that day.

Regarding membership, the new database Extension is up and running and will be a great resource for the District but only if it is complete and kept up to date. It is very easy to use. There are also new membership packs available. With all the projects we are involved in and can publicise, the best way to get new members is to attract people who are excited by what we do.

Judith then reminded members of the District conference in March 2013, thanked the Banbury Club for all the ongoing work and closed by presenting President Ian with the theme banner “Peace Through Service” Ian Calderbank.

Committee Reports.

Community and Vocational.

Blood Pressure day is to be October 13th. The Christmas Street organ collections were now being organised as usual.

Foundation.

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

Forthcoming events include:-

World Polio Day 24th October, D.G. Judith Diament to attend early morning at Banbury Railway Station to assist with Polio Collection and Promotion.

Christmas Festival of Music 15th December at St Mary's Church.

The Christmas card donations are to be organised again this year.

The annual Frugal Lunch is to be held on Paul Harris day 22nd. February.

Sports & Entertainment.-

Golf competitions, the 4B's competition to be held on 1st. October at Silverstone..

Club Darts evening to be held on 14 January 2013 at the Cricket Club.

We will also be entering the District Darts competition.

A Theatre trip to Phantom of the Opera at Milton Keynes on Wednesday November 21st.

The Club quiz to be held on 11 March 2013 at the Cricket Club.

District Conference. Hotel is booked, 1st.- 3rd. March further details shortly.

Joint Service clubs Carol Service to be held on the 16th. December at Marlborough Road Church..

The Club Outing to be on the 8 April 2013 visiting Birmingham, "Back to Backs Museum and Cadbury World.

International:-

The visit of the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra will take place at Bloxham School on Sunday 21st October.

It is proposed that the Polar Bear Dip will be staged again for those hardy souls on the 1st January 2013.

Youth Opportunities.

The dates have been fixed for Children Singing for Children , 12 -15th. November 2012 because of an excellent response from schools it will require a fourth night, Monday 12th. Charities to be supported are Children in Nepal , Goodwill and Growth in Africa and See-Saw the bereavement charity. Ninety per cent to be divided equally with 10 % for other children's charities.

The Young Musician competition will be held again at Sibford School, the heats on 18 & 19 January and the final on 23 February 2013

Young Chef to be organised again at Oxford College.

Classification & Membership.

It is proposed to have a stall at the Banbury Canal day to promote Rotary and our Club without the need for fundraising together with Banbury Cherwell club and Rotaract.

Let's Hope This Happens To All Of Us!

Toward the end of the Sunday service, the Minister asked,

"How many of you have forgiven your enemies?" 80% held up their hands.

The Minister then repeated his question. All responded this time, except one man, an avid golfer named Walter Barnes, who attended church only when the weather was bad.

"Mr. Barnes, it's obviously not a good morning for golf. It's good to see you here today. Are you not willing to forgive your enemies?"

"I don't have any," he replied gruffly.

"Mr. Barnes, that is very unusual. How old are you?"

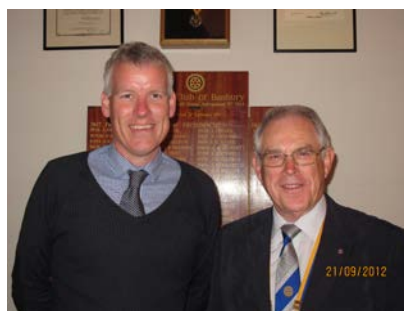
"Ninety-eight," he replied. The congregation stood up and clapped their hands.

"Oh, Mr. Barnes, would you please come down in front & tell us all how a person can live ninety-eight years & not have an enemy in the world?"

The old golfer tottered down the aisle, stopped in front of the pulpit, turned around, faced the congregation, and said simply,

"I have outlived them all."

The Month in Pictures.



District Governor Judith Diment, Matthew Blake Around the world on a Bike, David James Hope and Homes for Children, Attentive Audience on 5th. Friday, Rotarians Going to the Dogs at Oxford, Anthony Munday from the Frank Wise School who brought the R.YL.A Candidates. A good social time enjoyed by all at Stephens Steaming, funds for Rotary Foundation.

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