

The Banbury Bulletin



SERVICE Above Self

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President Ron Barnett

September 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENTS PAD



August 2010

Almost two months gone already!
They say that time flies when you're enjoying yourself, and I must confess that I'm having so much fun that it feels like it'll soon be time to be handing over to John and a whole year will have flown by, so I intend to enjoy every second of the next 10 months. The past month has had only one moment of great sadness with July ending on a low note. A sad occasion - with several other Club members I attended Colin Giles funeral, a sad day for us all but even more so for Nikki and her family. Fifth Friday evening meeting - Tricia and I enjoyed an excellent evening at the Banbury House Hotel. Many thanks for such good organisation to Stephen Jakeman. The speaker, Chris Hughes, enthralled us all with his talk about hypnosis. Thanks to John Bennett for hosting him. Next was the 75th Charter Dinner Committee - with only 7 weeks to go time to take stock and finalise the plans, thanks Tony, Ian and Richard for your invaluable support.

On Tuesday 3rd August I attended the Cherwell Club meeting - a most enjoyable evening and fascinating to hear all about the planning which has gone into their annual Beer Festival. It was also an honour to be presented with the first of their Club banners. Many thanks to all members of the Banbury Cherwell Club for their friendship and hospitality.

During the week we held a Succession Planning Meeting - John Bennett, Ian Rodrick and I spent an hour or so discussing various officer and other Club positions for next Rotary year and beyond. It's good to be part of such a supportive team.

At our meeting on Friday 6th August it was a great pleasure for us all to welcome Rotarian Alison Warren as a new member to our Club. Thank you Alison for joining the Club and Alan Wolstencroft for introducing her. Special mention must also go to Ian Calderbank who kindly stood in for our missing speaker at extremely short notice and Maurice Humphris for hosting Ian.

On Wednesday I attended the Foundation Committee Meeting - a well organised Committee with well developed plans for this year's events and fund raising.

The next Meeting on the 13th August we enjoyed two excellent speakers Craig Stephens and Ed Potter from CDC talking a bout

Recycling in Cherwell. Thank you Tony Brace for hosting our speakers.

Thursday 19th August was the Committee Meeting - a wellattended committee with excellent plans for this year's programme.

At our 20th August Friday Meeting - we heard an extremely interesting and stimulating talk by Rotarian Andrew McHugh on the NHS White Paper, proposals that will affect all of us. Rotarian Trevor Iles hosted our speaker.

Our second Council meeting was held on Thursday- some brilliant ideas from Committees and very positive and constructive contributions from Council members.

The 26th August Rotary Meeting - there seemed such a warm friendly atmosphere during the meeting, even more so than usual. Perhaps it was the news that the Club had just won the annual inter-service club Bigwood Golf Trophy for the sixth year running that did it. Congratulations to Malcolm Nutt and the team.

A very interesting talk from Helen Robins about the Banbury Health Centre. She was hosted by Andrew McHugh.

I have no doubt that September will be just as much fun as July and August and I'm really looking forward to what it brings.
President Ron.

THE CLUB CHARTERPRESENTATION.

Does anyone recognise any of the people in the photo?

Another Photo taken 75 years ago.



A New Member was inducted on Friday August 13th by President Ron Barnett.

We welcomed Rotarian Alison Warren as a member of our Rotary Club.

Classification:- Residential Care.



CONGRATULATIONS.

Three of our Honorary Members celebrate significant events during September.

Lord Saye and Sele celebrates his 90th Birthday on the 22nd September. Rotarian

Derek Repton is also 90 years on the 12th September.

Geoff and Beth Wood celebrate 60 years of marriage on the 2nd September. The Club and members extend their warmest greetings to them all.

SPEAKER REPORTS.

Rotarian Shirley Kershaw's "My Life" A Talk given to members on 18th June.

I was born in Manchester - longer ago than I care to remember. My parents were celebrating the birth of a daughter on the funeral day of George V.

After Primary School I went to Boarding School in Cheltenham - didn't achieve a great deal academically, but made lots of friends. School wanted me to read English at university but I wanted to do admin work, so I went to Secretarial College in Liverpool. My father told me to obtain the fastest short/hand and typing speeds I could - which, combined with a very good education, would ensure I always got admin jobs with my own secretary. This turned out to be good advice!

I worked in Liverpool for two years with a Wine Import Firm and learned what a flavoury nose and a full bouquet meant. Then I went to London and worked with the BBC for several years - in the Recording Maintenance Unit in Maida Vale. Great fun - many interesting people - Malcolm Sergeant (a lovely person); Ted Heath's band used to rehearse on a Wednesday. They arrived in a large coach; when the band had their lunch in the canteen Ted Heath used to click his fingers when it was time to finish - they then all filed out like obedient schoolboys! When Gilbert Harding died, we were inundated with wreaths and when Grace Archer had a baby, we were surrounded by baby clothes.

I taught swimming at a school some evenings and ran a Jewish old people's club. I then went back to Liverpool for a while - for family reasons - and worked as an Assistant Buyer with the Littlewoods Chain Stores and Mail Order, in the Fashion Department. A brilliant job! I travelled to Italy; lived in Dusseldorf for six months, buying cloth; visited and inspected stores all over the UK; did checks on competition stores - comparative shopping. I became very skilled at writing their best-selling lines down in a notebook in my coat pocket! I was caught once in M&S's store in Marble Arch and thrown out! My head buyer's advice to avoid further embarrassment was: "You've got shoulders like a boxer - just try it on Shirli!"

I went back to London after a while - then worked as Admin and HR person for CLRP, the largest property company in the City of London. I worked with the Chairman and MD, helped with the design of new offices and the purchase of all new equipment, then moved the entire staff into new premises on Tower Hill. At this time I was responsible for hiring and looking after 1,000 cleaners! - Took them on an outing to Margate every year - fleet of coaches - all drunk by 10am! Drink loaded onto coaches - lunch - then let loose in Margate. Try collecting up 1,000 cleaners for a 5pm departure! The MD used to say, "All in, ready to go now, Shir!?" "Nearly", I'd reply, "Only 56 missing at present"!

Another recollection from that time was the day the window cleaner got stuck outside the 18th floor - and on the same morning one of the cleaners picked up what she thought was water and downed a bottle of bleach! Happy days . .

Ten years later I gave up work to marry (in 1969) John and have two beautiful daughters. Then back to work in a Prep School in Clayate, Surrey, where we then lived. I did all the admin - school sec work, typing, etc. My job was to take on all new pupils, employ kitchen and cleaning staff, organise all school functions. I was responsible for First Aid too. One had to remain calm at all times - for example on the day a child fell from a rope and the message came - "We've moved her - but she is very quiet!" I had a wonderful ten years there - the children were great fun and the staff all very appreciative and friendly.

John died very suddenly in 1989 - when the girls were 17 and 18 years old. The school and the whole community were very supportive.

I "retired" in 1994 and moved to Cropredy. It was a whole new life. I ran a tea and coffee bar for 9 years or so at the Horton Hospital as a volunteer. Also ran the Mill Box Office for six and a half years as a volunteer - met lots of really interesting people. The volunteers were then made redundant - (as you do with volunteers!) - so I joined the CAB almost five years ago as a Reception/General Admin Volunteer. Also work at the Volunteer Bureau on Monday mornings - finding drivers. I've been part of the Harlequins Drama Group for 15 years and have prompted at 39 productions. I'm now involved in Fairport's Cropredy Convention every year - doing B&Bs, breakfasts for campers etc.

And now, Rotary! BRILLIANT!

Our speaker for Friday 6th August was unfortunately held up in traffic and could not make it in time.

The Club speaker finder, Ian Calderbank must have been in the Boy Scouts as "Be Prepared" must have been his motto. At a few minute's notice Ian was able to give us a fascinating talk entitled

Fear, Risk and Numbers

Ian spoke of the way in which politicians manipulate numbers to challenge opponants numbers and prove their own. He gave a few examples as to how numbers are used to influence our thinking by creating fear and doubt in our everyday life. There are many ways in which numbers are manipulated of which Ian gave several examples.

He finished with the quote - It's tough being a politician. Half your reputation is ruined by lies, the other half is ruined by truth! Then politicians are much like ships: noisiest when lost in fog. Why is it that political leaders don't seem to have all the answers, until they write their memoirs? A vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Maurice Humphris.

On Friday 13th August we received a very interesting and informative Presentation by Ed Potter, Head of Environmental Services, and Craig Stephens, Recycling Officer, both of Cherwell District Council. Their subject was the various measures introduced by the Council to deal with the proper disposal of the ever- growing quantities of waste being produced in the District, with particular emphasis on re-cycling. Principally, re-cycling offered the twin economic benefits of reducing the impact on the environment itself and of the re-use of material otherwise lost for good in landfill, thus at the same time mitigating the ever increasing costs of disposal by that method.

Schemes had progressively been introduced, based on the use of differently coloured bins etc., to separate the various types of waste at the point of collection.

Materials suitable for re-cycling were then directed to appropriate places of disposal/treatment.

Items comprising paper, magazines, tins, cardboard, plastics etc. were sent for re-cycling, whilst garden waste, ie. grass cuttings, plants, hedge cuttings (and, more recently, cooked and uncooked food waste), was composted for reuse in food production. Individual householders were also encouraged to use compost bins to process vegetable waste for use in their own gardens.

Re-cycling and composting offers very clear financial benefits in that the former is achieved at £19 per tonne and the latter at £38 per tonne - whereas the balance going to landfill presently costs £75 and is expected to rise to £90 per tonne in 2012.

Judging by the number and nature of the questions afterwards put to Ed and Craig, their Presentation had obviously succeeded in stimulating considerable interest amongst the members. Tony Brace

The speaker at the meeting on 20 August 2010 was one of our own members, Andrew McHugh. Andrew's presentation related to the Government White Paper relating to health entitled "No decision about me without me".

In essence, the proposals are to change fundamentally the method by which health provision in the NHS is funded, by placing the control of the money provided by central Government into the hands of the GPs. They will become the Gatekeepers to secondary care in the community and from 2013 responsible for the

£70 billion budget which is currently looked after by Primary Care Trusts. A principal aim is for the achievement of £20 billion efficiency savings by 2014.

Andrew was keen to indicate that the proposals may not be quite as radical as they sound. The changes would create the largest social enterprise sector in the world by increasing the freedoms of foundation trusts and giving the NHS staff the opportunity to have a greater say in the future of their organisations, including as employee-led social enterprises. All existing NHS trusts will become or be part of the foundation trusts.

An aim is to free up provision of healthcare, so that in most sectors of care any willing provider can provide services, giving patients greater choice and ensuring effective competition stimulus. The proposals would make it simpler for a patient to obtain details of their own medical record in a standard format, even to the extent of being able to download the record on the internet and pass it on to any organisation of their choice.

It is proposed that every patient will have a clear right to choose to register with any GP practice they want with an open list, without being restricted by where they live. This would include the concept of being registered in say two practices, one where the patient is resident and the other where they work.

It is intended to develop a coherent 24/7 emergency care service in every area of England.

It is intended to introduce the role of Monitor. This responsibility is currently undertaken by the independent regulator of foundation trusts, but will develop into an economic regulator from April 2012 with responsibility for all providers of NHS care from April 2013. The Monitor would promote competition, regulate prices and generally support continuity of services.

GP Commissioning Consortia will be established on a statutory basis, in partnership with local

authorities. Every GP practice will be a member of a consortium: practices will have the flexibility within the new framework to form consortia in ways they think will secure the best healthcare for patients. Each consortium will need to have sufficient geographical focus to agree contracts and be of sufficient size to manage financial risk.

Andrew wished to stress what all this would mean for GPs, the main thrust being that GPs will become the "they" they always blamed for not being able to perform a procedure or prescribe a drug and would be in the driving seat for what is commissioned.

Many questions followed from this interesting and thought-provoking presentation to the club.

Trevor Iles

Rotary says thank you to the people of Banbury

The Rotary Club of Banbury wishes to say a very big thank you to the people of Banburyshire who have so generously supported the Club's events enabling it to donate over £42,500 during the past year to help charities and local organisations.

Local charities and organisations that have benefited as a result include:- Katharine House Hospice, The Sunrise Multicultural Project, Headway Oxford, Home Farm Trust, Blessed George Napier School, Tall Ships Project, Hook Norton Brass Band, Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, Banbury United Youth Teams, Hook Norton Pre-School Play Group, 1st Grimsbury Scout Group, Banbury Air Cadets, Warriner School Mock Interviews, BGN Mock Interviews and four Individuals.

Support has also been given to national and international charities including:- Christian Hope School (Sierra Leone), School 4 All in Africa, Shelterbox Trust, A Hand Up 4 Africa, Canine Partners, Sierra Leone Education Project, Future for Nepal, Chernobyl's Children Oxfordshire and South Warwickshire, Cockermouth Disaster Fund, Dogs for the Disabled, Rotary Polio Eradication and other international Rotary Charities.

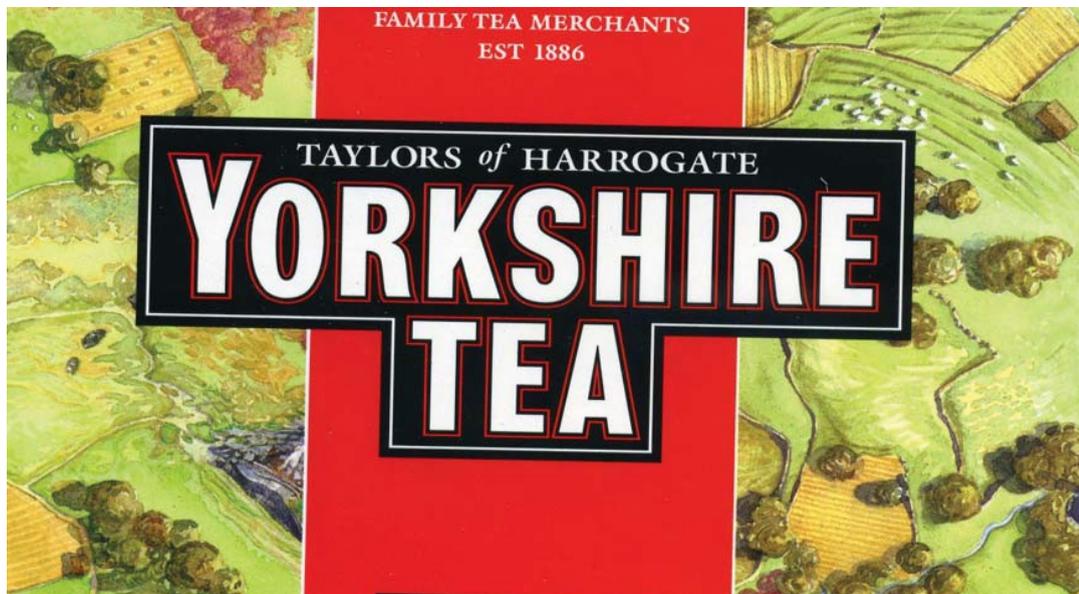
Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Banbury, Roger Worrall said "As Rotarians we try to give as much support as we can to both local and international needy causes, but none of this would be possible without the wonderful generosity of the people of the Banbury area. To everyone who has contributed to our efforts to help support those less fortunate than ourselves I would like to say a very warm and heartfelt thank you".

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on. At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, 'If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon.'

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash.... Twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the motorway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue.
4. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single 'This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation' warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask 'Are you sure?' before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the 'Start' button to turn the engine off!

Calling all Yorkshire Tea drinkers (and prospective drinkers)



For those of you who, like me, have the good fortune to have discovered the pleasure of drinking Yorkshire tea, and for those who do not already drink this nectar it is a chance to give yourselves a treat discovering its stimulating flavour and to all it is the opportunity to help the Wheelchair Foundation.

All we are asked to do is to cut the bar code from our packets of Yorkshire Tea which I will collect and when I have enough for one credit I will send these to Taylors of Harrogate who will then donate £1 to the Wheelchair Foundation. The appeal is already under way and I understand that tokens received from Rotarians have already resulted in 8 wheelchairs being obtained. Amazingly if every Rotarian in RIBI used one 240 bag of Yorkshire tea in a year this could buy 225 wheelchairs.

So why not join in, give yourselves a treat, it really is jolly good tea, and passing the vouchers on to me will cost you nothing, but help towards giving the joy of mobility to someone unfortunate enough not to enjoy the freedom of walking that we take for granted.

I look forward to being swamped with Yorkshire Tea bar codes. Thank you. Maurice Humphris.

Cheque Presentation.

After our meeting on the 20th August, President Ron Barnett accompanied Past President Roger Worrall and Beverly to Dogs for the Disabled. They were taken on a conducted tour of the facility on Middleton Road Banbury. Roger then had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for £900.00 which was from Rogers year as President.



Community and Vocational.

Polly Preedy has received the food vouchers which were gratefully received to help in her food distribution. The possibility of running the party for The Blind on 5th October is being considered. It is proposed to run an "It's a Knockout" at next year's Banbury Show.

Foundation.

It was proposed that a target of £4,000.00 should be raised for Rotary Foundation which would equate to the R.I. target of \$100 per Rotarian. Several future events were considered including Christmas Card donations in lieu of giving cards, Frugal Lunch, The annual Christmas Festival of Music, a Steaming at Stephen Jakeman's new Station! And the purchase of crocus bulbs for the End Polio Campaign.

International.

Events to be considered :- Music Hall type event (Workers Playtime), Birmingham Chamber Orchestra possible date 19th February to coincide with Thanks for Life week. Thanks received for £500 given to Children of Chernobyl.

Youth Opportunities.

The Gala Concert to celebrate our Club's 75th Anniversary and also the 20 years of "Young Musician" it will take place next year at Sibford School on 19th June 2011. All eleven previous winners that have been contacted have agreed to perform, including the very first winner who is now 38 years old. A donation of £50 has been given to Becky Ward who is going to Nepal, she has agreed to speak to the Club on her return. The Banbury Young Homeless Project have requested assistance with interviews, the committee is considering this. President Ron and John Webb attended a Tall Ships Presentation, our donation was appreciated and they have agreed to talk to Club later in the year.

Sports and Entertainment.

The Club Golf team, after initial success, were knocked out of the District Golf Competition, but they have now won the Bigwood Trophy for the sixth year. A survey is to be carried out to assess the events that Club members wish to take place in the coming year.

Council Clippings. There was discussion on the Bob Dix bequest and it is proposed that following Bob's love of dogs we should make a contribution to "Dogs for the Disabled" possibly sponsoring a dog. A new outside Plaque was discussed to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

Chipping Norton Rotary Club.

The 13th annual Chippy Jazz takes place on 26th September from Noon to 11.00 P.M. various venues throughout the day with a final evening concert at The Chipping Norton Theatre featuring Terry Lightfoot and Martin Litton's Rhythm Aces..

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