



SERVICE Above Self

## *The Banbury Bulletin*

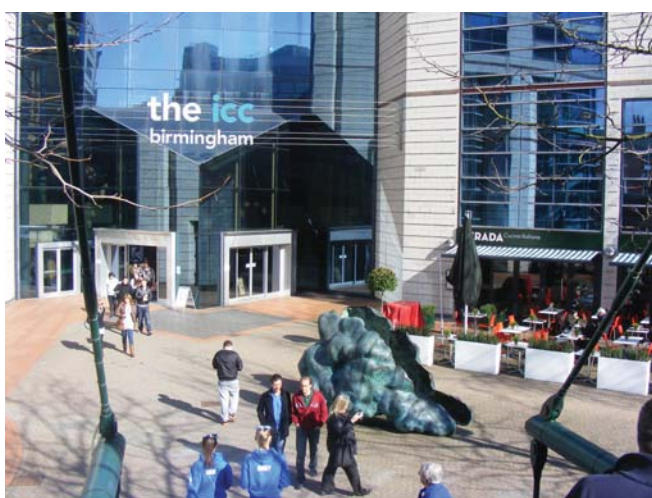
The Rotary Club of Banbury  
District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

**President Ron Barnett**

**APRIL 2011**

### District 1090 Conference Birmingham 18th. to 20th. March 2011.

The big question when the Conference venue was arranged in Birmingham was “Why Birmingham?”.



We now know “Why Birmingham”. A great venue the International Conference Centre with facilities and staff on hand to see that everything runs smoothly. The Hotels, “Jury’s and Crown Plaza” both within easy walking distance only minutes away. The area around the Centre, at the front there is a large square with plenty of space leading to the ICC the Symphony Hall and the Birmingham Indoor Arena, all these venues are in this area. A short walk through the centre with its shops and cafes and you arrive at the renovated canal side with its array of Restaurants, Cafes and Pubs. On the first evening we all ate at the Cafe Rouge in this area.

So now to the Conference itself.

After our arrival at the Crown Plaza Hotel we settled into our rooms and geared ourselves up for the conference events to come. There was the usual Golf tournament although no one from Banbury took part. The first session in the ICC was the Inner Wheel meeting with District

Chairman Rose Stewart and the speaker Barbara Askew. She spoke of her role as a Blue Badge Tourist Guide and her involvement leading walks around the London Olympic Park area.

The First Rotary session commenced at 3.15 with our District Governor Laurie Cunningham opening the proceedings introducing the guests and our first speakers, R.I. representative Howard Caskie and R.I.B.I. Representative David Fowler. The two guest speakers for this session were Professor David Macdonald and Lady Marie Stubbs.

Professor Macdonald proved to be a very energetic speaker who is Director of the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit. His talk, which would have merited a longer time, was interspersed with wonderful slides of animals and their behaviour. The interaction between man and animals was the main thrust of his talk.

Lady Marie Stubbs was the head teacher who took the challenge of taking over at St Georges Roman Catholic School, Maida Vale after the death of the former headmaster Philip Lawrence. When she arrived she found a very disruptive school where both pupils and staff moral was at a very low ebb. Her job was to turn this around and this was accomplished within seventeen months when the school came out of special measures. Lady Stubbs then wrote a book of her experiences “Ahead of the Class” which was made into a documentary starring Julie Walters. This first session set the standard for the speakers which were to follow in the next days sessions.

The evening dinner was taken early and we as a club met at the Cafe Rouge and enjoyed good company and food also a little wine. Back to the I.C.C. for the evenings entertainment. This proved to be something different “String Mania”. The first half had us quietly listening to four elegantly dressed ladies playing a number of popular classics in fine style. So what was the

mania bit in the title? As the second half started we soon found out, the first hint was the lack of chairs and music stands on the stage. Suddenly four scantily clad young ladies appeared carrying their instruments playing a different style of music to backing tracks, a quite different sound to the first half. We found out what the Mania bit was all about, we also noticed the great skill and expertise in both their dancing and musical skills. So ended the first day except for those that found their way to the hotel bar for a night cap.

The second day dawned with a lovely sunny morning, a good breakfast and a pleasant stroll to the Conference centre. Youth and Foundation started this session with presentations on Interact by a new club, with a presentation given by the Interactors themselves. This was followed by the outgoing G.S.E. team to Argentina. A group of people from a school in Lusaka, Zambia gave a sample of the help that Foundation had given their school. Rotarian Tom Sharpe then introduced the Ambassadorial scholars currently in our district. The speaker before the break was Dr Carol Homden who is the Chief Executive for Coram Life Education. She outlined the history of the organisation which is the countries oldest Children's charity. It provides healthcare education to the children of Britain and is overseeing the Life Education classes which is District Governor Laurie's chosen charity this year.

After the break the first speaker was Josh Woodward he was an Ambassadorial scholar who stayed with our Conference organiser John Rathbone during his stay in England. He is now back in America working for Google. He spoke of the benefits he gained from the Ambassadorial scholar programme and the wonderful welcome he had received from Rotarians in this country. The state of Oklahoma was his home and he gave us an outline of life there, a quiet backwater in the United States. The only thing people remembered from the State was the well known musical "OKLAHOMA". This interesting and humorous presentation was a great advert for the Ambassadorial scholar programme.

Someone then said "try to follow that" well someone did, who better than radio presenter Ken Bruce. There followed a witty presentation of his life in the media and some stories from his life. He also spoke of his autistic son and his life with the family he also spoke of the work of the Thomley

Activity Centre in Wормinghall . His Son and many others benefited from the facilities there.

The final speaker for this session was Digby Lord Jones an industrialist who was asked to be Minister of State for U.K. Trade & Investment by Premier Gordon Brown. This was an unusual appointment as Digby Jones was not a politician and did not belong to the Labour party, he had a very forthright manner in dealing with Government and politicians. This came across in his talk, which was full of humour but also had a positive message as to the state of industry in this country and its dealings with government.

I found this session and its three speakers one of the best I have ever attended, Our organising team should be congratulated.

Now lunch some of us going to the great choice of restaurants and the District Governor and his guests having dinner within the I.C.C.

The Saturday afternoon is the Foundation, International and Youth rally. It was an excellent afternoon with the highlight being the musical presentation from the pupils of the Lusaka School Zambia. Their theme was one we should take on board "**Life is easy, If you smile**". This was well attended with extra chairs needed in Hall 11.

The Banbury members had an invitation to Birmingham cathedral and to meet our own first lady Rotarian Janet Chapman who was Vicar of Banbury and is now a Canon at the Cathedral.



It was good to meet with her again and see the work she is now carrying out in Birmingham. The church was not quite what one expects as a cathedral it was built in the 1700's but had a character very similar to St Mary's Banbury. It displayed some beautiful stained glass windows which were installed in the late nineteenth

century. The diocese was only created in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and so it does not have that long history that some of the other well known cathedrals have. A pleasant walk back some of us taking in the Jewellery Quarter others taking a leisurely stroll along the refurbished canal side.

A short break then until drinks with President Ron and Tricia in the bar at our hotel. We all gathered before proceeding to the I.C.C. for the evening. There was a choice of events, either the elegant Dinner and Ball or a quiet Dinner and fellowship in a separate room. A roughly 50/50 split between those who like to boogie and those who couldn't stand the pace. Whichever was chosen it appeared that a good time was had by all.

Sunday dawns, again a beautiful sunny morning, a gentle stroll after breakfast to the I.C.C.

The morning service took a different approach to previous years. We had thought for the day with District Governor Laurie and his wife Catherine both giving us their "Thoughts for the day" an excellent way to start our final day. This was interspersed with some great singing from Stagecoach an organisation which nurtures young people through singing. Their singing was inspirational well known songs such as "You Raise me up" and "World in Union" The choir and the soloists were an inspiration to us all.



This was followed by the annual Presentation of District awards, I am afraid I did not note these down as there was no mention of Banbury. The next speaker at this session was Eleanor Cracknell, District Rotoract Chairman, an accomplished speaker who encouraged us to support Rotoract and to look to extend new clubs in our areas.

Next was Jonathan Aitken someone who needed little introduction, well known for his life in politics. We were again treated to an inspirational talk of how someones life turned around from the heights of cabinet office to a prison cell in Bellmarsh high security prison. The sudden change to prison life was a big change in Jonathan's life, he turned what could have been a disaster into something positive. He found that a surprising number of prisoners were unable to read and write. After a fellow prisoner asked him to read a letter for him and then writing the reply he found his abilities to write as one prisoner said "joined up writing" was a great benefit to those inside. So much so that queues appeared at his cell door, he assisted the prisoners in reading and replying to their letters. Jonathan did say that some of the subjects in the letters were beyond belief and not repeatable. This serious subject was interspersed with anecdotes that had us laughing. Turning disaster into a benefit, Jonathan now among many other activities, seeks to help prisoners to read and improve their lives on leaving prison. Another Coffee Break and onto the final session.

This session was addressed by R.I. Representative Howard Caskie, an Irishman with a good sense of humour and presentation. Then we heard from R.I.B.I. Representative David Fowler who congratulated us on a great conference and the way in which District 1090 excelled.

Incoming District governor Niall Blair then invited us to attend next years conference in Bournemouth in 2012. I said it was Niall but I am not quite sure it was him as there were two people dressed as the presenters of the advert for **118 118** in wigs and running shorts, fortunately these two were kept in order by past District Governor Jean Charmak.

So we came to the final address by District Governor Laurie, he summed up the conference and thanked those who attended and the organising committee under the leadership of John Rathbone. This was greeted with applause from the audience. As I believe that after the initial reservations of coming to Birmingham the Conference has been a resounding success, with delegates going away with many memories of the programme and the wonderful venue at the I.C.C. and the rejuvenated Birmingham scene. Perhaps a future District Governor will consider coming to this venue again.

The final address was given by Jill Fraser who has written a book "More Tea, Less Vicar" about life in an English vicarage not as a vicar but as an ordinary family living in the village.

The Conference was then brought to a close by Sergeant of Arms, Phil Page, who wished us all a safe journey home.

### **HESTER PHILLIPS.**



This of course is only a snapshot of the wonderful fun and fellowship we enjoyed at this great Conference. I am sure on behalf of all our attendees I echo our grateful thanks to those who organised this great event.

David Hitchcox

It was with much sadness that we heard of the death of Paul Harris fellow and long time member of Inner Wheel and supporter of Rotary, Hester Phillips. At a full church many friends and relatives gave thanks for Hester's life. Rotarian Maurice Humphris spoke at the service as follows

Richard and Martin Phillips have given me a daunting task, how can I hope to do justice to the memory of a lady such as Hester, her very full life lived with such energy, joy and dedication. It would have been unkind though to ask any of her contemporaries to stand here and talk to you today, so as the husband of one of Hester's 'younger' friends (Hes started her nursing training, co-incidentally with an aunt of Rita's, the year that I was born). So the responsibility and the privilege have been given to me.

Although I first met her about 40 years ago, I have come to know her much better in recent years, this in spite of the fact that when ever I answered the 'phone to her she always said that she did not want to speak to me but to the boss. This was Hester, full of fun but never hurtful and when I had the pleasure to chauffeur her on various occasions she was always grateful and I have enjoyed several drinks and one very nice Rotary tie as tokens of her appreciation.

I have relied on her family for her history as well as members of Inner Wheel recollections.

Her life has been very fully and generously lived. She was an only child born at Kington in Herefordshire she passed the 11+ and attended Lady Hawkins Grammer School in Kington, even though she had not been able to attend primary school until the age of 9 when she was able to ride the 4 miles to school on her pony. In 1935 she commenced nursing training at Birmingham General Hospital and later became a midwife and sister on the children's ward. She met Aubrey on a blind date during the war and they married when he was on a 48 hour pass, not, I am assured while on the same blind date. It was a perfect match, they complimented each other so well.

In 1947 they came to Banbury where Aubrey founded Swan Foundry and in 1948 Richard was born and 7 years later Martin. They moved to the White House on the Bloxham Road in 1955 where they lived until Aubrey's death and Hester continued to live until a few years ago. An Inner Wheel member suggested to me that it should have been called the Open House such was their hospitality. It was the venue for numerous memorable Inner Wheel and Rotary events over many years. In 1958/59 Hester joined Inner Wheel and this was the beginning of a life long interest and commitment. She was President of Banbury twice, Secretary at least twice and held every other office in the club at least once; she was District Chairman, Secretary and Extension Officer, and served on several Association committees, and in the view of many would have been elected National President had stood for office. She supported Aubrey brilliantly in his Rotary activities attended many overseas events and hosted over 120 foreign students and visitors, the first of these, Abel Tremblay, who stayed in 1957 is here today, he and many others have remained their

friends over the years. I mentioned Aubrey and Hester complimenting each other, this was a perfect example, Aubrey invited people and Hester did all the work. In spite of these wider responsibilities the Banbury Club was always the centre of her interest and commitment in Inner Wheel which none the less took its place behind her devotion to her family.

Not only Inner Wheel though, she served for many years on the Banbury Hospital Management Committee until it was merged with Oxford, she was a Governor of The Frank Wise School and Sycamore House, served meals on wheels until she was older than many of the recipients. For her fund raising and tea making, she became the only lady ever to become a Life Member of Banbury Cricket Club. In recognition of her service to Inner Wheel, Rotary and the wider local community the Rotary Club of Banbury awarded her a Paul Harris Fellowship, this distinction she valued greatly, it was the first to be awarded by the Banbury club to a non-Rotarian and Hester is still the only female recipient.

In Inner Wheel I am told that she always recognised new members and made them welcome, if anyone was unwell she contacted them, and she and was always ready to encourage members to take office and to advise and support them, though never interfering

Hester was loved by all she met, certainly I miss her and her wicked sense of humour, which was always harmless and never caused any hurt, in fact when Martin once related to her how he had made a joke of my lisp, she told him to 'phone me and apologise. Not that it was necessary as I unashamedly play on it. Martin's humour is also without malice and he takes banter as well as giving it out, a trait inherited from his mother maybe. As to Hester's humour, I believe it was Richard who once said to his mother that she should give some thought to funeral plans, to which she responded, "But I haven't got the date yet.

In closing I should like to take up Richard's comment that his mother was a truly Christian person and this I do not doubt, the reading from the Bible by John Phillips very appropriately spoke of love, for I believe that Hester was loved by many because she was so generous with her love and her caring for others, we could well have also had reading from the Letter of James who suggests that faith without works is empty, I believe that Hester expressed her faith through the love and service which she gave.

If I may borrow the Rotary motto for a moment by Hester's 'Service Above Self' she has greatly enriched and enhanced the lives of many whose lives were touched by hers. I am sure that in our memories she will live on.

### **YOUNG MUSICIAN FINAL 2011.**

This year's final was once again a great success, now celebrating 21 years of excellence.

The competitors in the various categories gave us a wonderful evening, celebrating the wealth of talent from our local young people. The audience which included representatives from Cherwell District Council, Banbury Town Council, Sibford School, Rotary District Youth Opportunities, The Inner Wheel Club of Banbury, Banbury Charities and the Banbury Blue Coat Foundation, were enthralled with the skill and expertise of the young musicians. The winners in the various categories were chosen by the judges Marcel Zidani, a previous winner, Paul Harris and Mark Paine. The eventual winner of "The Young Musician of the Year" was for the first time an

intermediate entrant. The honour went to pianist San Rees who was suitably surprised at his win.



He again played his winning entry piece, Tango esta noche by Vincent Lindsay-Clark.

The evening finished with the chairman for the evening Gareth Jeremy inviting us to the Gala Concert to be held in June to celebrate 21 years of "Young Musician".



## FROM THE PRESIDENTS PAD

March 2011

The New Year celebrations seem a long way behind us and the Club seems to keep going from strength to strength. March brings with it two highlights of the Rotary year: the Young Musician of the Year Finals; and District Conference. Then at the end of the month our AGM, time to be making plans for next Rotary year.

**4th March** Rotary Meeting - A meeting full of good fellowship tinged with sadness as we remember with great fondness Paul Harris Fellow Hester Phillips who passed away the previous day.

An extremely stimulating and thought provoking talk by Nick Irvine, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Bloxham School, entitled 'Education – One Size Misfits All'.

Many thanks to Reg McLean for hosting Nick.

**5th March** Young Musician of the Year Finals - A near capacity audience gathered at Sibford School to hear the fantastic performances given by the young competitors. So many young people with so much talent, made the whole evening such a pleasure to be at.

Many congratulations to the winners and all those who took part and many thanks to Gareth and the team for such professional organisation of the event.

**8th March** Practice Interviews BGN School - Again how wonderful to meet so many young people with so much talent. I know that this is supposed to be for the benefit of the young people, and I very much believe that it is, but I find it such a rewarding experience to meet so many lovely young people. Many thanks to the Youth Opportunities Committee and Reg and Nigel in particular for organising this event so professionally.

**11th March** Rotary Fellowship Meeting - Another fellowship meeting and another chance for us all to mingle and chat amongst ourselves. As at our previous fellowship meeting, this was a real treat for me to have the opportunity to chat with so many Club members who I don't get the opportunity to talk to when I'm sitting in the "chair".

Many thanks to everyone present for making it such an enjoyable friendly meeting.

Inner Wheel Club of Banbury Meeting - I was absolutely delighted to be invited to be the guest speaker at the Inner Wheel Club meeting. I was given an extremely warm welcome and looked after very well, I only hope that my talk about my life was of some interest to the ladies.

Carole Humphris had awarded herself an "L" plate as she was deputising for Linda Clarke at the meeting, but she had absolutely no reason to do as she chaired the meeting perfectly.

Many thanks to all the ladies and Liz Rodrick in particular who was the perfect hostess.

**14th March** Hester Phillip's Funeral - Bodicote Church was packed with family and friends of Hester who had all come together to celebrate the life of, and pay tribute to, Hester. The service was a fitting tribute to a lovely lady. Paul Harris Fellow Hester Phillips, who had contributed so much to the Club and given so much love to everybody, will be sadly missed by us all.

**16th March** Disaster Emergency Collection - Following the tragic devastation of so many people's lives in Japan, our Emergency Rapid Response Team organised a display of a Shelterbox and Aquaboxes with a street collection in the town centre. A goodly band of members volunteered to collect throughout the day, and as well as some wonderful fellowship, the magnificent sum of £644 was collected.

Many thanks to Andrew Fairbairn and Alan Wolstencroft for the great organisation, and to all the members to turned out at short notice to help with the collection.

**18th to 20th March** District 1090 Conference Birmingham - Thirty-two Rotarians, partners and friends spent the weekend together at District Conference in Birmingham, and we were joined by another Rotarian and his wife for the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening.

We heard some excellent speakers in the superb setting of the ICC Centre, and it was a delight to spend time in the company of Rotary colleagues and their partners.

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell for a brilliantly organised Conference.

**24th March** Council Meeting - Our eighth Council Meeting and many of this Rotary year's events are successfully behind us, and the Committees and continuing to work well and planning events into next year. We had some excellent reports from Committees and some good recommendations for Trust Fund donations. Yet again very many thanks to every Council member for their invaluable contribution towards ensuring the continued success of the Club.

**25th March** Rotary Meeting - A well attended good hearted meeting, and a great pleasure to welcome so many guests. An excellent talk by Captain Adrian Craddock on the work of a High Risk ATOs (bomb disposal officers), some extremely brave people.

Many thanks to Andrew McHugh for hosting Adrian.

**28th March** Club AGM - a well attended AGM with positive and enthusiastic contributions. It was truly impressive to hear reports on all the magnificent events that the Club members have organised so far this year. Incoming President John's team is now formally in place so they can really get down to planning next year's programme.

Very many thanks to all the Club members for making this yet another extremely successful year.

**30th March** Brodey Cancer Resource Centre Open Evening - it was a great pleasure to be able to represent the Club at this event and to see first hand the excellent new facilities now available at the Horton Hospital. The extension of the Brodey Centre was a project which was supported by the Club, and in my opinion this was a marvellous investment in much needed local cancer treatment facilities. My sincerest thanks to the Horton Hospital team for allowing me to see how wonderfully our donation had been used.

**31st March** District Council Meeting - An extremely well attended meeting, with some excellent presentations of projects being undertaken by Clubs in our District. It felt a little strange to realise that this was the last District Council meeting of the current Rotary year. Many thanks to David Hitchcox for his company and chauffeuring skills.

President Ron

### Speaker Reports.

#### **Speaker Report 11th February 2011 Richard Jones**

##### **“The changing face of the wine trade over 163 years”**

It was good to welcome Richard, the 4th generation of his family to manage Banbury's S.H.Jones wine business. Many Rotary members have historic connections with the Jones family and were pleased to have the opportunity to catch up with him.

One of Banbury's oldest companies, inevitably the business is entwined with their family history. The Jones's were originally from Bristol where Richards Great Great Grandfather was a sea captain. Sydney Herbert Jones was born and raised in Bristol which in those days was a major wine port, he worked for a merchant in Bristol where he learnt about the wine trade. In 1886 he decided to branch out on his own, pooled resources with his widowed mother and bought a wine company in Banbury with its premises in North Bar. The company he purchased was established in 1848 and became S.H.Jones in 1886. With diligence and hard work the company survived as Sydney Herbert Jones built up the retail shop in Banbury and a wholesale trade supplying Hotels, Public Houses and Colleges in the Cotswolds, Stratford upon Avon and Oxford area. In those days he travelled on a pony and trap to call on and deliver to customers spending many nights away from home.

In the early 1900's the North Bar premises were vacated to make way for the building of St.Mary's Church House. The business moved to 62 High Street which was too small and in 1913 Sydney Herbert was able to buy 27 High Street, the attractive Hornton stone building which is still Banbury's Wine Merchant today.

After the 1st World War, Sydney was joined by his two sons Harold and Philip. Happily both had survived the conflict - Harold serving in the army in the middle east and later in the Royal Flying Corps and Philip in East Africa. My grandfather Richard was born in 1929, he was one of triplets with sisters Diana & Barbara and their birth made front page news in Banbury papers. In the early 1930's the company bought a piece of

land on Marlborough Road and built a bottling warehouse and bin storage area. SH Jones also owned the White Lion on High St.

The second World War was the next milestone in the companies history. Supplies soon started to dry up, especially light wine which predominately came from the European Continent. The trade had to exist on pre war stocks and a small amount of Port and Sherry which continued to be shipped under government license. With so little stock to sell it was not practicable to keep the shops open during the war years so instead they concentrated on supplying a fair share to old established customers.

Harold's son Michael joined the business in 1954 after obtaining a Diploma in Brewing at Birmingham. Philips son Derek joined in 1959 after qualifying as an accountant. Between them they managed the business with Michael responsible for buying and internal management, whilst Derek concentrated on sales. The business continued to grow with the opening of a new Wine Warehouse on Riverside and new shops in Bicester and Leamington Spa.

Harold died in 1971 aged 76, whilst Philip lived on till 1994 reaching the grand old age of 92.

Richard has been a director of S H Jones for 12 years and became more heavily involved in the last three after father Michael had a severe stroke. After obtaining an accountancy degree he joined Saccone & Speed, the wine & spirit division of Courage as a graduate trainee. For the last 18 years he has been Managing Director of Reh Kendermann, owners of Black Tower and also the U.K's largest German Wine importers. The trade has changed with Spirits and Sherry sales first moving to table wines, own bottling to importing in bottle and more recently the growth of supermarkets. These are challenging times with wine sales now declining but there are still opportunities for Independent Wine Merchants with their ability to search out individual small producers of high quality wines and to offer expert advice through well trained staff. S H Jones run regular wine tastings for different regions and countries which members of the public are welcome to attend.

Richard finished his talk with a tasting of Kendermanns Leiwener Laurentuslay Beerenauslese 2005, 37.5cl bottle, retail £10. This pudding wine is made from late picked grapes, that have a concentrated flavour, the honeyed sweetness is well balanced with good acidity and it is drinking well now. Only 2000 bottles were made and very few remain so we were lucky to taste such a great wine.

Richard was hosted by Phil Cavill

### **Report of a talk on Friday 25.2.2011**

Michelle Ewing came along from HFT formerly known as Home Farm Trust and was accompanied by Alan Ensor one of the people HFT support. Michelle gave a brief introduction explaining that HFT was founded in 1962 by parents of people with learning disabilities. They felt there was a need to support their children after leaving school, so they bought the first Home Farm Trust property for £7000.

HFT enables people with learning disabilities to develop their potential, to make informed choices and to take responsibility. They provides a national network of user focused services including; supported living, day opportunities, specialist services for those with specific syndromes or complex support needs, supported employment, carer support services, transition workshops, advocacy, short breaks (respite care), research and personal technology and ICT training. The people HFT support are encouraged (through person centred planning) to make choices and develop self-esteem, they operate a key worker system to help them do this. Because of the changing way people with learning disabilities where being supported, moving away from residential care and moving towards supported living, Home Farm Trust felt the need to change their name to HFT as a lot of people thought they were an actual farm.

Michelle explained that donations received are going toward developing the Personalised Technology. Hft is the recognised UK leader in using personalised technology. They work closely with manufacturers to research and develop devices and systems and offer people the most creative solutions to support their independence. Alan was introduced; he lives in one of HFT new flats on the Bloxham Rd. He explained that he lives in his own flat with staff to support him, he loves to cook and he volunteers at the local WRVS. Alan loves horse racing and with support to understand his finance's he independently goes into town and puts his own bet on. With staff support he will be off the Cheltenham and Ladies Day this year.

HFT are introducing lots of new personalised technology, from low tech gadgets that give voice prompts to do things such as reminders to shut the fridge door or phones that use pictures rather than numbers on a speed dial keypad. More hi tech ones include sensors that give you alerts to potentially dangerous situations such as leaving the gas on after cooking. Another example is GPS (Global Positioning System) used to increase security and make sure you know where you are.

As a charity HFT rely on fundraising and donations to continue to support people with learning disabilities and their families. Michelle thanked Banbury Rotary for their continuing support and their donations. The vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Alison Warren

**On the 4<sup>th</sup>. March** we welcomed back Nick Irvine as our guest speaker. Nick is Director of Marketing at Bloxham School and his topic this time was – ‘Education – One-size Misfits All.’ Nick informed the diners that Bloxham School is in excellent heart having just completed 12 months of celebration to mark 150 years of the school.

Nick drew on his long experience of working in schools to highlight some of the deficiencies he sees within the current system. He maintains that while the national curriculum has been constantly tinkered with over many years it is still based on an old framework which is not well suited to Digital Britain as we know it today. He called for a more radical approach to ensure that education was fit for purpose and saw this as a massive challenge and one perhaps not best served by making it into a political football but would prefer a system where education was removed from the

whim of party politics and overseen instead by an a-political public body representing the nations interests.

Too many people ended up in jobs where they were neither happy nor fulfilled – due in part to schools being unable to identify or nurture individual talents in school. Education and the endless race for examination success was having the effect of dislocating pupils from where their own natural talents and interests lay. Headteachers needed more autonomy to lead their schools away from standardisation and the ‘fast food’ approach to education and given the opportunity to innovate and inspire the next leaders of opinion, of industry, of faith and of business.

Nick concluded his talk by re-affirming Bloxham’s generous financial support of the Club for another year. Reg McLean.

**The Annual General Meeting** took place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup>. March. The various committee chairmen gave their reports on the happenings during the last year.

The election for the ordinary members of council was unopposed the Rotarians appointed were:-

Malcolm Douglas, Martin Phillips, Helen Braisby, Nigel Randall, Nigel Yeadon and Alan Wolstencroft.

The Treasurer, Andrew McHugh presented the budget which was accepted, the Annual subscription was agreed at £95.00 for the coming year, with a surcharge of £10.00 for anyone paying after the 31<sup>st</sup>. July.

The Honorary Members were confirmed as Lord Saye and Sele, Past Presidents Jack Friswell, Geoff Wood and Rotarian Derek Repton.

## **Aquabox/Aquafilter**

Club members will be aware of the donations made to Aquabox and that presentations are being made on their behalf (Aquabox and Aquafilter) all over the District by the Rotary Club of Banbury. Consequently, it was felt that members would be interested to read the latest newsletter prepared by John and Gill Griffith from Aquafilter (John is also a member of the Rotary Club of Cleadon) following their visit to Ghana.

## **the safe water trust - Ghana Visit February 2011**

Ghana is classified by the UN as having a low income, earning less than \$1 a day. The main purpose of our visit was to visit the two sites with Aquafilter Communities.

**First Site** East Ghana, near the Volta Lake about 180 Km from Accra.

**Partners** Original Volunteers (an England based charity that sends Volunteers on short and longer placements). Our contacts, Fred, Rebeka and Sam were very supportive and enthusiastic, driving us round and discussing with us the problems of the area.

**Aquafilter Community No 24.** Donated by 2 former volunteers, *Karen Williams and Jo Perks* is in a small village by the Lake called Nkyenenken. It is located in the school and is used to filter water for the children, teachers and local community. The headmaster reported a drop in sickness and diarrhoea and also routine blood tests of the children showed a drop in Bilharzia in the 6 months the filter had been used.

This village illustrated the problems frequently found in trying to get clean water.

- a) In the rainy season rainwater was collected and stored but the plastic container was mouldy inside and impossible to clean.
- b) Two non-working bore –holes
- c) A bore-hole that gave water smelling strongly of hydrogen sulphide.
- d) a small stream that was now dry
- e) the lake – a substantial distance away and contaminated with pathogens and bilharzia( a parasite causing eventual liver and kidney failure).
- f) A well that was no longer used as it caused stomach illness. When tested the water was badly contaminated.

The Aquafilter Community we brought will be used with the well, lake or stream .

**Aquafilter Community no 25** also donated by *Karen and Jo* was in the local clinic and provided clean water to both the staff and patients.

**Aquafilter Community No 41 and 42** donate by *Ponteland Rotary Club and taken by Derbyshire College* is in large very poor village on the edge of the lake. Volunteers are helping to set up a bakery to make and sell bread in the village and later to other villages. The filter is used to provide clean water for both drinking and making bread. I tested the Lake water normally drunk and it was badly contaminated.



**Water Works** we visited the local waterworks, built in the 1970's. It did not have enough water or the capacity to supply the towns and was in need of repair. There was no money for refurbishment in the near future.

**Future Plans.** Fred, Rebecca and Sam are very enthusiastic to become involved in the project and we are looking forward to working with them. We left 2 Aquafilter Communities we had brought over with us.

**No102** donated by *Saxmundham Inner Wheel* and **No104** from our *Fundraising Burns Night*

There is an urgent need for safe water for the many villages using the lake water and also the local towns. We demonstrated the filters to the District Chief Executive and the NCD Party Chairman. Both were interested. We plan to send out more Aquafilter Communities with Volunteers. There has also been an

interest in marketing and selling the Aquafilter Family to people in the middle income group. We will send 10 Aquafilter Families for demonstrations and Fred will look at the potential market in more detail.

### **Second Site**

**Location** Cape Coast area – near the coast 150 Km west from Accra.

**Partners** Global Volunteers, who mainly send out pre-medical and medical students.

**Aquafilter Community No 46** *Donated by Loughborough Beacon Rotary Club* is located at an orphanage in a rural area approx 8 miles from Cape Coast. The orphanage was set up and is now run by donations and volunteers. They have piped water but when this fails they are forced use water from a contaminated well.

**Aquafilter No 48** *Donated by Loughborough Beacon Rotary Club taken by a volunteer Phoebe* is in a small village about 20 Km from Cape Coast. The people farm yams, coconuts; maize etc. for their food and any excess is sold at the local market. Water is obtained from 2 open wells. From my tests I confirmed both are contaminated with pathogenic bacteria. The Aquafilter Community had developed a small leak which John mended. In the new moulded design this cannot occur.

**Aquafilter No 50** *from West Boldon Brownies and Yvonne Cracknel* We took this to a small very poor village on an unbelievably rutted road. The water supply was a very contaminated open well. We taught the villagers how to use the filter. They learnt quickly and did not have a problem using it.



**Future Plans** – Eric knows of two other villages using very contaminated water. We plan to send to further Aquafilter Communities to him with volunteers. We will also send an Aquafilter Family to use in the volunteer house. At the moment small plastic pouches of drinking water are used, and pollution from plastic.

**Accra West Rotary Club** We had visited this club in summer 2007 to mend the original Aquafilters and sort out problems with their Rotary Matching grants. Since then they have built 7 bore holes

We demonstrated the both new Aquafilters and they were very interested.

**The Medical Mission Church** We visited Pastor Derek Amanour in Accra. They are in contact with Aquabox and about to receive 400 Aquaboxes for poor villages in the far north of Ghana. The Pastor would welcome more Aquafilters a major problem in these villages is clean water.

The Safe Water Trust is supported by Cleadon and District Rotary Club, and is a continuation of the good work done by the Rotary District 1030 Aqua Filter Trust, which pioneered membrane filters for developing countries. More information is available on [www.aquabox.org.uk](http://www.aquabox.org.uk) and [www.aquafilter.org.uk](http://www.aquafilter.org.uk).

Andrew Fairbairn will be pleased to answer any questions that you may have including if you wish to help in any way.

**FACEBOOK !!** for those members who are addicted to Facebook there is now a District site. This can be accessed by putting 1090 in the search box. There is information from various District 1090 clubs and you can comment or put information about our Club activities.

### International Committee.



Our Disaster Committee organised two collections to support the Japanese Tsunami Disaster. The first collection was outside Castle Quay with the Shelter Box Tent erected outside.

The second collection was at Tesco's.

The total raised was £1240 which will be used to purchase Shelter Boxes.

A generous amount given by the general public of Banbury.

Pictured, the cold morning did not deter Rotarians and Marilyn Fairbairn from collecting.

### Foundation.



**STEVENS STEAMING!!!!**

Steven Jakeman accompanied by the "Fat Controller" invites us all to a Summer Steaming at Marston St Lawrence.

Steven will be in control of his Garden railway and will be puffing around from Noon on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>. June.

A good social event with proceeds going to Foundation.

### Community and Vocational.

IT's a Knockout 2011. It has been agreed that we will organise and promote this event. The Banbury Show Committee have promised £1,000.00 towards costs. It is hoped to attract 24 teams to take part.

### Youth Opportunities.

Following the young musician Final the next big event is the GALA CONCERT at Sibford School on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June. This concert will involve Young Musician winners over the past 21 years.

**HON SECRETARY** – Dr. Ian Rodrick

**CLUB WEBSITE** ;- [www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)

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[david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:david@hitchcoxbanbury.fsnet.co.uk) **COPY DATE** is the penultimate Friday of the month.