



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury



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

President John Bennett

DECEMBER 2011



As I write this message, I've just slipped into December (so have you in case you hadn't noticed) and realised that, at the end of the month, I will have completed half of my year as President of our Rotary club. Where has the time gone?

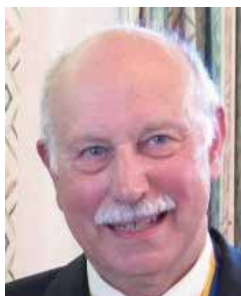
Well, it's been pretty busy really. But looking at the calendar, we are about to enter one of our busiest times of the Rotary year – the run up to Christmas. The Family Christmas Festival of Music (please make sure you sell some tickets), the Service Clubs Carol Service, the Toy collection, Christmas Float, the Christmas Street Organ collections and the Christmas lunch on 23rd December. I really enjoy all these events – they help to put me in the Christmas spirit, give us a wonderful opportunity to raise the profile of Rotary and through raising funds, enable us to make a difference to some of those in need. So please, get involved in as many events as you can to ensure the load doesn't fall on a small number of members. Let's face it – **“It's what Rotary is all about”**.

Christmas is a time for giving - not only material things, but support, comfort, love and friendship. I like to think that through some of the projects we have undertaken over the past twelve months, some Christmas's, somewhere, are a little better than they might have been without our help - I hope so.

At Christmas time particularly, I often reflect on how lucky I am to live in this country, at this time in history and to be comfortable and content in the company of my family and a wide circle of friends.

Thank you for your friendship and fellowship. I wish you, your families and friends a Happy Christmas and a Healthy, Peaceful and Prosperous 2012.

President John Bennett.



John's Jotting's

President John Bennett

I'm thinking of writing to the Town Council – having spent an hour raking up leaves, I'm convinced they blow them all into my garden when I'm not looking. However, with an aching back and a worn out rake, I needed a good excuse to stop, so checking up on what had been happening on the Rotary scene in November seemed a good idea.

8th, 9th, 10th November. One of the highlights of the month must be **Children Singing for Children**. This year, for the first time, I sat in the front row (the expensive seats) and enjoyed all three nights, together with our invited dignitaries - all of whom were very complimentary about the organisation and were really touched by the performance of the choirs.

It really is a win-win event. Parents love it, the schools and staff are enthusiastic, the children enjoy a wonderful experience and it raises our profile in the community. And what a great write up in the Banbury Guardian. Congratulations to all involved, particularly Fred and Jonathan, for another successful production.

13th November. Once again I joined the **Remembrance Day Parade** through the town to St Mary's church and after the service, had the honour to lay a wreath at the war memorial in the Peoples Park on behalf of our Rotary Club. It's very gratifying to see the increasing number of people who turn out to see the parade and join the dedication in the park.

16th November. Along with several other members of our club, Shirley and I attended a dinner organised by our friends at Banbury Cherwell. The event was entitled

"An Evening with....." (and do you know, I can't remember her name!) who spoke to us about her time as a contestant on the TV programme "The Apprentice".

However, the star of the evening was our very own Bob Thompson, who wielded the gavel for an auction of favours. You have to keep your head very still when he's in full flow – at the end of the evening I was amazed to discover I'd bought something.

23rd November. John Webb and I travelled to Benson to attend a District seminar on **Health and Safety and Club Protection**. With all the events we put on, it's essential we cover ourselves, especially when I was reminded that if there is a problem, the buck stops with the President. Gulp!!!

Having attended the meeting, I'm very confident that, through John's experience, we have the right man on the job. Please remember, when organising an event make early contact with John, who will ensure that all eventualities are covered and I'll sleep soundly.

24th November. A good **Council Meeting** at home and I think I just about got away with it again. Drinks cupboard looked a bit sad though.

28th November. Contact Information meeting at the cricket club organised by John Hansford and Martin Phillips ahead of the proposed trip to Italy next year. Also discussed was the possibility of adding an extra few days at a hotel on the banks of Lake Maggiore. It was good to see our newer members so well represented. If you couldn't attend, but would like information, have a word with John.

30th November. We held a **New Members meeting** at home to give everyone a chance to ask those questions about the mysteries of Rotary you keep meaning to ask, but never do and for the new members to give us feedback about their introduction and involvement with the club. An enjoyable and valuable get together.

That's all this for November. I'm off to the gym to do some circuit work in readiness for cranking the barrel...(oops, sorry John).. Street Organ for the Christmas collections. See you there?

John.

CHILDREN SINGING FOR CHILDREN.

This great event was once again a fantastic success. There were 21 schools taking part at St Mary's Church over three nights, with packed audiences each evening. The skill and effort put in by the schools appears to get better every year. This year was no exception with some memorable performances from these primary school children, as ever the finale of a "World in Union" was so uplifting with standing ovations each evening and a demand for an encore. This piece of music composed by Gustav Holst for the Planets suite was then put to words for a number of hymns particularly as Thaxted for "I vow to thee my country". This was then used by Charlie Skarbek for "A World in Union" which has been sung by a number of well known artists including Shirley Bassey, Bryn Terfel, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and recently by Hayley Westenra for the Rugby world cup. This has now almost become a world anthem for peace.

The Schools taking part were Chacombe, Bishop Loveday, Harriers Ground, St Johns R.C., The Grange, Culworth, Great Rollright, Sibford Gower, Kings Sutton, Deddington, Bishop Carpenter, Shennington, Wroxton, St Leonards, Christopher Rawlins, St Josephs, Hanwell Fields, Frank Wise, Queensway, Cropredy and Hardwick. There were also guest musicians each evening from Tudor Hall School.

The majority of the sums raised will be donated to the the End Polio Now Campaign. This should be in excess of £4000.

In attendance on the Thursday evening was District Governor Niall Blair together with the Chairman of Cherwell Distict Council and Banbury Town Mayor. The evenings were compered by Rotarian Alan Wolstencroft whose inimitable style won over both the children and the audience.



POLAR BEAR DIP

An Invitation from Marilyn and Andrew Fairbairn

To join them on Sunday January 1st. from 11am. Onwards. At their home ORCHARD CLARE, OVERTHORPE, OX17 2AF.

Come and cool down after the New Year festivities or simply watch others make fools of themselves!!! Swimming is optional.

Enjoy a hot buffet (Bring your own drinks) and social.

Enter the "Guess the furthest anyone is daft enough to swim competition" (£2.00 a ticket).

Perhaps you can get additional sponsorship for swimming in an unheated pool.

Bring your friends and see what Rotary Fellowship is all about.

Proceeds in aid of charities supported by the Rotary Club of Banbury.

Tickets from Andrew Fairbiarn or Alison Warren.
Adults £10, Children £5, Family £25.

Community and Vocational:- Future events include Christmas Street Organ collections at Tesco, Sainsbury's and Morrisons. The Christmas Charity float has been allocated for the 17th. December. The Mayors Christmas Toy appeal to be supported. The main event next year is Dragon Boats at Broughton Castle and the organising committee under the directorship of Andrew Fairbairn have met. Stroke Awareness day to be held on October 13th. 2012 at Castle Quay next year.

Foundation:- Family Christmas Festival of Music on Saturday 10th December St Mary's Church. Brian Doe will be organising the collection in lieu of Christmas Cards. Stephens Steaming is booked for June 17th. 2012.

Sports & Entertainment:- Applications are now required for District Conference, Bournemouth 15th-18th March 2012. The Club Outing is arranged for the 10th April to H.M.S. Belfast and Lord's Cricket ground.

International:- John Hansford will be arranging details for the Contact visit to Italy on 17th-20th. May 2012. Other event planned is a Race Night on 16th. February. The visit of the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra date has had to be rearranged, details shortly.

Youth Opportunities. A number of events in the pipeline:- BYHP Interviews, Young Chef, Young Musician and RYLA. It is hoped to attract a R.Y.L.A. candidate from the Frank Wise school. Ian Anthistle is liaising with the Cherwell Rotary Club with regard to the possibility of setting up Rotaract or an Interact Club or both. Tudor Hall School has shown an interest in forming an Interact Club. Children Singing for Children now completed with a probable Profit of £4000. Next years date already booked .

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING. Held on Friday 18th. November.

The following people were elected for the year 2012/13

President:- Rotarian Ian Rodrick.

1st Vice President:- Rotarian John Hansford.

2nd. Vice President:- Rotarian Phillip Cavill.

Honorary Secretary:- Rotarian David Sullivan.

Assistant Honorary Secretary:- Paul Gardiner.

Honorary Treasure:- **Volunteer Urgently required for this post.**

Assistant Honorary Treasurer:- Rotarian Alison Warren.

The Club accounts were then presented by Rotarian Andrew McHugh and accepted by the club.

Autumn Golf Tournament 2011.

8 Keen golfers assembled at Wychwood Golf Club on Monday 28th November to play for the Don Meadows Cup, the autumn event. We were dubious about the frost on the ground and slightly more worried about lumps of ice on the fairways left by other players and the machinery of the ground staff, but these small impediments soon disappeared and we had a pleasant, but slightly chilly day. Nothing that an extra layer of clothing could not deal with.

We played in 2 groups and got round without any major mishaps to enjoy a warming meal at the end of the game. John Phillips won the prize for being nearest the flag on the short 6th hole. Sadly only 2 out of the 8 players got on the green anyway. In 3rd place with 30 points was Keith Manning, John Brodey was 2nd with 31 points and Malcolm Nutt the winner with 37 points. All agreed it had been a good event and the cost was very reasonable. We were well looked after by all the staff at the Wychwood Golf Club and the course was in good condition.

The 2 meetings next year were discussed and these will be arranged in the early part of 2012. Likely to be at Feldon Valley, Chipping Norton or Wychwood golf clubs. The details will be circulated to all in due course. If any member not already on the golfers list wants to be included, please contact Malcolm Nutt.

Report by Malcolm Nutt.



**The Following Rotarians
Have made a**



**donation to Foundation in lieu of sending Christmas cards to
fellow members and Wish you and your families a Happy
Christmas and a Peaceful New Year**

Graham & Leueen Anker

Ian & Alison Anthistle

David & Wendy Barlow

Ron & Tricia Barnett

John & Shirley Bennett

Simon & Pamela Bion

David Blakey

Tony & Mavis Brace

Helen Braisby

John & Jane Brodey

Tim & Jill Bryce

Ian & Pat Calderbank

John Cooke

Brian & Jean Cornley

Brian & Hazel Croft

Stan & Pauline Crump

Malcolm & Patricia Dibb

Bryan & Elaine Doe

John & Paula Donaldson

Malcolm & Valerie Douglas

Andrew & Marilyn Fairbairn

Paul Gardiner

Nigel & Janet Halfpenny

John & Gill Hansford

David & Anne Hitchcox

Maurice & Rita Humphris

Trevor & Jan Iles

Tony & Jo Ilott

Stephen & Clare Jakeman

Gareth Jeremy

Shirley Kershaw

Owen & Jacqueline Kyffin

Rupert & Rosalind Kipping

Keith & Sylvia Manning

Stewart & Mary Maxwell

Roger May

Joe & Nora Mc Gloin

Andrew & Nicola McHugh

Reginald & Janice McLean

Jonathan & Jane Meredith

Helen Morris & Joe

Bob & Joan Nurden

Malcolm & Gabbie Nutt

John & Jean Phillips

Martin & Annie Phillips

Geoffrey & Sheila Pollard

Nigel & Gillian Randall

Mark & Karen Recchia

Fred & Sue Riches

Ian & Liz Rodrick

Paul & Karen Shea

John & Gill Smith

David & Shirley Sullivan

Tom & Emma Taylor

Pat Thomas

Bob & Sue Thompson

Fred & Joyce Timms

Alison & Stephen Warren

Eric & Wendy Watson

Richard & Sally Watts

John & Joy Webb

Tony & Val Wiltshire

Alan & Sue Wolstancroft

Geoff Wood

Roger Worrall & Beverley

Nigel & Diane Yeadon



SPEAKER REPORTS.

Rotary Meeting Friday 11 November.

We had three speakers at this meeting. "Miss" Wendy Griffiths Headmistress Tudor Hall and two pupils, Misses Amelia Warr (Grand Daughter of Fred Timms) and Tara Wiggins.

These attractive ladies spoke of their experiences in Bolivia.

A young Lady from Bristol; Annie Syrett had visited Bolivia in 2006 as part of her Degree course, and whilst there worked for a charity named 'Alalay'.

On her return she set up a charity 'Friends of Alalay'

Since finishing her degree she revisited Bolivia on several occasions and spends any money raised helping the children. None of this money goes on Administration.

Annie speaks regularly at Schools and Churches to raise awareness of her Charity and the destitute state of the children who live in Bolivia.

She spoke at Tudor Hall School and students were inspired to join a trip out there.

After an introduction by Wendy, the girls spoke about their trip and their experiences.

Getting to Bolivia was not easy! Travelling for 36 hours sleeping in departure lounges, losing luggage and eating junk food left them quite shattered.

Apprehensive about their reception, they found the children received them well, with happy and intrigued faces

They found that children live in high risk situations, often sleeping on the streets, being abused and bullied and working 12 to 16 hours a day to make enough money to survive. One third live on an income of less than 50 pence a day. They inhale glue and 60% of adolescents drink

heavily. One in ten dies before their 5th Birthday! The girls then went on to tell us their experiences in detail: Although so poor and badly treated they still appeared to be extremely happy children.

The centres help about 1000 children per year and have been involved with about 4000 since the centres were set up one in La Paz and one in Santa Cruz which was where the girls were based.

400 children are presently living in Welcome Centres. The centres were set up twenty years ago by a Bolivian student named Claudia, aged 19.

The trip has so impressed Amelia and Tara that they are determined to continue supporting Alalay to the best of their ability.

Rotarians present were also very impressed and moved by their presentation which was most memorable.

Tony Wiltshire

Nick Posford gave us a presentation about Parkinsons disease on November 25th. It is a progressive and fluctuating neurological condition affecting over 120,000 people in the UK, with approximately 1,200 people in Oxfordshire.

Parkinsons is caused by a loss of nerve cells in the part of the brain that controls movement.

The main symptoms are tremors, muscular rigidity and slowness of movement and can affect any aspect of a person's life, from walking to speaking. It is unpredictable and individual.

1 in 20 people are diagnosed before the age of 40. There is, currently, no cure. Research is ongoing. Parkinsons UK was established in 1969 by Mali Jenkins whose sister had the disease.

A vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Helen Braisby

Please Note CHANGE OF E.MAIL ADDRESS. Rotarian **Mark Recchia** please change to

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