



SMARTIES –SMARTIES – SMARTIES

One of these days at lunch, members may find on their side plates a tube of Smarties!

Have no fear; this is a present to them from Foundation Committee, free, gratis and for nothing!

What they do with the contents – give them to their children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, friends, neighbours, or, even, eat them all themselves – it is a matter entirely for them to choose.

However, we do ask them to save the little hexagonal tubes. As they will readily see, these are ideal for saving all those little hexagonal 20p coins that are cluttering their pockets and dressing tables, and are very much easier to fill than the big Taylors' tea caddies.

As and when the tubes get filled up, could you pass them on to either Bob Dix, or Roger May, but please remember to write your name on the tube so that the Club can claim Gift Aid tax relief.

The target date is next Easter and the first tube filled with 20p coins will entitle the donor to an Easter Egg.



Speaker report - Friday 3 November - Speaker Ian Walkden, Habitat for Humanity

At a recent meeting of the International Committee, a point was raised regarding potential beneficiaries for donations from Rotary as to how we could satisfy ourselves that the recipients were bona fide and unlikely to waste a huge proportion of the donation in excessive administration expenses or in fact not applying the funds for the project intended.

The charity known as Habitat for Humanity was known to one of the committee members and it was felt appropriate to approach this organisation to see if they have any established criteria in order to vet potential beneficiaries in advance of donations being paid to them.

The Chief Executive for Habitat for Humanity is Ian Walkden and he agreed to speak to Rotary about his charity and also to give us some ideas on how they vet potential causes.

Ian explained that Habitat for Humanity was set up some 15 years ago and is now a national charity which provides affordable decent housing for people throughout the world who are unable to afford them in their own environment. Habitat for Humanity believe that poor housing is a major cause of poverty. Where individuals live in poor housing very often their spirit is low. Living in better housing they have seen the whole family uplifted both mentally and physically which has enabled the family to progress in many ways.

Ian produced a video showing the work of Habitat for Humanity in some third world countries. The video started off with an example of shanty town environments in a city in Africa and followed by families being housed in far better accommodation build by Habitat for Humanity.

Families were assessed to see what they could afford with regard to rent/mortgage payments and they had a 95% success rate in families being able to fund the new structures with which they were provided. Families were able to establish themselves as stakeholders in their communities by having decent housing whereas before they would not stand a chance of doing so otherwise. Ian explained that the poor do not like having charity but they need to have the tools to enable them to generate their own wealth. Wealth creation could then be seen to be coming from their own efforts rather than by donations. Houses gave families security which could then be passed on to the next generation. The average cost of a low cost house in the third world is in the region of £1,235.



Ian explained that urbanisation seemed to be the major cause of poor housing and housing poverty. People were attracted into the towns away from the countryside in the hope of achieving a better life but this seemed to be a complete fallacy in that the housing and living conditions experienced in the cities were most likely to be far worse than what they were in the countryside. Open sewers and lack of running water were a far greater problem in the city environment.

Ian then went on to say that when they were vetting potential recipients of aid they would always look to see whether the charity to whom they were passing funds was properly registered and that they had their accounts audited and filed at the Charity Commission. When examining the accounts of charities, they would pay due regard to the level of funding and how the charity was established ie whether it was vulnerable to going out of business. They also had a number of contacts throughout the world where they could ask for third party confirmation that the charity concerned was properly set up and administered.

This seemed very similar to a scheme in which our club was involved when we sent aid to Kabale in Uganda. We had channelled our resources through the local Rotary club who then monitored the expenditure. There appeared to be no substitute for personal contact in the country involved if this could be achieved. If not, then it was important to go along routes of finding out what was on public record. Ian warned against providing donations to organisations where the credentials could not be established or verified.

Richard George



Dates for your diaries – Forthcoming Rotary International Events

Please make a note of the following events in your diaries.....

Gardeners Question Time – 28th March 2007

Charities: Mercy Ships and Children from Chernobyl (both charities are well known to the Club).

Venue: Ball Colegrave at West Adderbury.

Time: 6.30pm for 7pm, finishing at approximately 9.30pm.

Speakers: Peter Seabrook, Daphne Ledward-Hands. Howard Drury.

Only 300 tickets, @ £9.50, to be held within one of Ball Colegrave's impressive marketing greenhouses.

Auction of Favours – 14th April 2007

Charities: Disciples Relief (Christians in Pakistan) and Nyumbani (UK) Ltd (caring for orphans in Kenya).

Venue: Bloxham School (small dining room)

Tickets: Only 60 - £5 each to include meal and BYO drink.

Those wishing to put forward favours please contact Bob Thompson.

60's Dance Night – 2nd June 2007

Charities: Habitat for Humanity GB (building houses in the third world). Rotary Jaipur (new limbs in India).

Venue: Bloxham School (Great Hall)

Tickets: Only 170 - £15 each to include live band, and buffet or BBQ. Approx 10 persons per table so book a table for your friends/family – you won't be charged for seats not sold.

A brief introduction to our new member Nigel Randall from his own pen.....

Nigel was born and raised in Nuneaton, Warwickshire and joined the Royal Air Force straight from school at age 18. Recently retired in the rank of Wing Commander, Nigel spent his first 20 years of Service flying Canberra and Phantom aircraft from various bases in Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Germany.

He qualified very early on as a Weapon Instructor and, in this role, had the unenviable task of trying to teach baby pilots how to fly their aircraft during aerial combat. He was able to walk away from all but one landing but, thanks to his Martin Baker ejection seat, is still around to tell the tale.

For the last 16 years he has undertaken diverse staff appointments ranging from Military Assistant to a 3* NATO General in Rome, and a variety of strategic and contingency planning roles at the Ministry of Defence and operational RAF headquarters.

He completed his RAF Service as a member of the Directing Staff of the Joint Service Command and Staff College at the UK Defence Academy, Watchfield giving post-graduate training to younger officers.

Nigel has lived for the last 10 years in Adderbury with his physiotherapist wife, Gill. They have 4 children: Mark, a Search and Rescue helicopter pilot in the RAF; David, a Firefighter with the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service; Jon, training with Ernst and Young to become an accountant, and Kate, studying Psychology at the Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.

These are quotes from things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place (courtesy of Janet Chapman – more to follow next time....):

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan.

ATTORNEY: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo?

WITNESS: We both do.

ATTORNEY: Voodoo?

WITNESS: We do.

ATTORNEY: You do?

WITNESS: Yes, voodoo.

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: Uh, he's twenty-one...

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

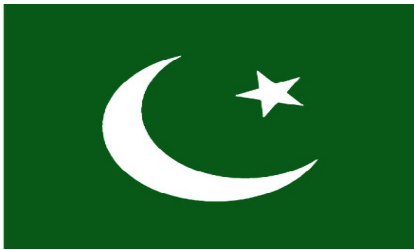
WITNESS: Would you repeat the question?

ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time?

WITNESS: Uh....



Source: Rotary International

Date: 30 Oct 2006

Pakistan honours Rotary's quake relief efforts

The government of Pakistan has announced an award to recognize Rotary's swift response to the plight of survivors of a 7.6-magnitude earthquake, the worst in the country's history.

More than 75,000 people were killed and 3.5 million left homeless by the devastating quake that ripped through the North-West Frontier Province and Pakistani-administered Kashmir in October 2005.

As soon as news of the disaster broke, local and international Rotary clubs rushed emergency relief to hundreds of thousands of affected people. District 3270 (Afghanistan; Pakistan) set up a disaster relief account to accept donations from concerned Rotarians and friends. Food, blankets, medicine, and tents were among the donated items that Rotarians sent and helped distribute to survivors.

RI President Bill Boyd, who was president-elect at the time, travelled to Pakistan in December to comfort survivors and convey the sympathies of the world's Rotarians to the Pakistani people and government. He also aimed to find out first hand how Rotarians could help with long-term rebuilding efforts.

The Rotary world has contributed more than US\$5 million in cash and in-kind donations to assist survivors. More than \$200,000 was directly donated

into sub accounts The Rotary Foundation established in early 2006 to support earthquake disaster recovery efforts in Pakistan, the worst-hit country, and affected parts of India.

"Rotarians in Pakistan feel tremendous pride in receiving this award because this is the first time that the efforts of Rotary in Pakistan have been properly recognized," says Muhammad Faiz Kidwai, immediate past governor of District 3270, who coordinated the relief efforts. "This will positively contribute in improving the image of Rotary in Pakistan."

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf will present the award, officially called Sitara-e-Eisar (the Star Award for Courage and Sacrifices), to Rotary International in February.

Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News

Speaker Report – 27 October 2006-11-28

Contact Clubs – Rtn. John Hansford

The International Committee of the Cub is charged each year with rustling up support from club members to either visit one of our fellow Contact Clubs, or in the fifth year to organise what is to be done during their visit to England. Next year, 2007, sees the 50th anniversary of our Club's involvement with the Rotary Clubs in Biella (Italy) chartered in 1937, Olten (Switzerland) chartered in 1049, Aalen Heidenheim (Germany) chartered in 1952, and Villefranche-sur-Saone (France) chartered in 1948. This twinning with four other Clubs is unique in RIBI and possibly the Rotary world.

The contact started in 1957 when some Banbury Rotarians, returning from Switzerland, decided to pay a visit to a pen pal in Villefranche on their way home. They were invited to attend a Club Charter night in Belleville and the rest is very much history. Over the years many special, long lasting friendships have developed and still continue between families. Many members do not just meet up at Contact Club time at Ascension every year, but are to be found enjoying one another's company at other times of the year for special occasions.

John went on to explain what typically happens during a Contact weekend. He gave us an example of the programme for 2004 when our Club last hosted the event.

Thursday (always Ascension Day) – Members of the other Clubs arrive. They variously arrive by coach, car, train or plane. Some need collecting from airports. After booking in they are introduced to their hosts for the weekend, and either return home with their hosts, or take up accommodation in a local hotel. The evening is variously spent eating with their hosts at the latter's homes, with other hosted visitors, or at local restaurants.

Friday – the morning was taken up with a visit to Warwick Castle. Then on to Stratford upon Avon with a stop for lunch en route. Stratford was viewed on foot and from an open topped bus (shame about the rain!) Dinner was taken in town before coaching back to Banbury and a night's sleep.

Saturday – Stowe School Gardens was the chosen visit with lunch out. In true tradition the afternoon was left free to summon up strength for the dinner dance.

Sunday – morning our visitors departed. However, as usual, some remained to continue their holidays, or stayed on with their hosts.

The weekend cost £30,000 to put on compared to just £500 back in June, 1959, when Banbury hosted its first Contact Club weekend.

Our Contact Club weekends are typical of what has occurred over the last 49 years. It is always difficult to find new venues and attractions to visit, places to eat and entertain our visitors. In recent years Banbury members have sometimes chosen to extend their stays or visit some other location on the return journey – all adding to the enjoyment of what can be truly memorable weekends.

In recent years our visits to France have included a tour of the painted wall murals in Lyon and a visit to Paul Bocuse's world renowned restaurant. In Switzerland a cruise on the lake was enjoyed while the German Contact Club laid on a visit to a Beer Festival. Last year the German Club invited each of the Contact Clubs to send a number of young musicians for a week's course at a local music school. The result had to be heard to be appreciated as they entertained all the Rotarians and guests to a concert on the final night of the Contact visit.

Geoff Todd



I thought we should include a vaguely topical joke, but would, very much, like to take this opportunity to apologise for it in advance.....

A Russian couple was walking down the street in St. Petersburg the other night, when the man felt a drop hit his nose. "I think it's raining," he said to his wife.

"No, that felt more like snow to me," she replied. "No, I'm sure it was just rain, he said." Well, as these things go, they were about to have a major argument about whether it was raining or snowing. Just then they saw a minor communist party official walking toward them. "Let's not fight about it," the man said, "let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's officially raining or snowing."

As the official approached, the man said, "Tell us, Comrade Rudolph, is it officially raining or snowing?"

"It's raining, of course," he answered and walked on. But the woman insisted: "I know that felt like snow!" To which the man quietly replied: "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"