


The Banbury Bulletin



SERVICE Above Self

President Ron Barnett
JULY 2010

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

PRESIDENTIAL HANDOVER
2010

Our Club hand over took place on Friday 2nd July when outgoing President Roger Worrall inducted Rotarian Ron Barnett as President for 2010/11 our 75th anniversary year. Ron then addressed the assembled company comprising local dignitaries and chairmen of the local service clubs.



President Ron Barnett presents badge to Past President Roger Worrall

I've been given three pieces of advice about this speech: There is no set pattern, I can say what I like; All incoming Presidents say roughly the same thing; and Don't worry if people look at their watches – when they start to shake them it's time to shut up and sit down, I apologise therefore; If I don't say something that I should; If I say the same as all my predecessors; and I've absolutely no doubt in my mind that you'll let me know when you've had enough and want me to shut up! I wasn't surprised to be told that all incoming Presidents say almost the same thing, as when you have such an active, vibrant, and successful Club as ours it's not surprising that every President wishes that to continue. Whilst reflecting on what I might say today I asked myself the question 'what is it that makes our Club so successful?', and I didn't have to think about it for long as the answer is blatantly obvious – it's the members. Like every successful organisation it's the people involved that generate the success, and it's the people that are their biggest asset. The lifeblood of our Club is each and every one of our members. A few weeks ago, Past President Ken gave us a fascinating insight into his 50 years as a member of our Club, from which we learned that in order to maintain the life blood of the Club we had on average recruited 5 new members every year for the past 50 years. This is a tradition that I firmly believe we must continue in order to ensure our Club remains active, vibrant and successful. Finding new members is, I believe, the responsibility of every existing member. We all have our lives outside Rotary, we all have our network of contacts outside Rotary and I suspect that we have all at one time thought of someone that we know – 'they would make a good Rotarian'. If we think that they would make a good Rotarian let's do something about it and persuade them to become a Rotarian. We are fortunate in having many members who have served the

Club for a considerable number of years, and it is a great pleasure for me to be able to advise you that Council has made one such member an Honorary Member as of 1st July. Derek Repton who first joined the Club in 1977, and until very recently when his health has prevented him from doing so, he has given 33 years unreserved support and commitment to the Club and all its activities. I'm sure you will all wish to join with me in congratulating Derek and wishing him well. I'm particularly honoured to be the Club President for this our 75th Anniversary year. I wonder if those 16 founding members back in 1935 had any real idea of what they had started, but I suspect they would be very proud of the Club as it is in 2010 and very impressed with the tremendous programme of events that we have organised for this Rotary year. A 75th Anniversary, and 75 years of success and "Service above Self", is something to be celebrated. We have our 75th Charter Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 25th September at Gaydon and I hope that as many of you as possible will come along to help celebrate all that this Club has achieved over those 75 years. I also hope that we will treat all our events this year as a celebration of our Club and make them all even more successful and more enjoyable than ever. Anniversaries like this are times to look back with pride and to acknowledge all that has been successful in the past, and to use that knowledge to build for the future. I'm particularly pleased and excited about our Youth Opportunities Committee initiative for this year to establish an Interact Club (12 – 18 year olds), and Rota Kids Clubs (primary age schoolchildren), and recruit 75 young people into them as a celebration of 75 years of the Rotary Club of Banbury. During the past year through our work particularly with Primary Schools we have seen how switched on these young people are to the world around them, and how capable they are at organising

themselves to help those in need. It is these young people who will become the future of the Rotary Club of Banbury and help ensure that in 75 years time an incoming President will be saying at their hand over meeting that they just want the Club to continue to be as active, vibrant and successful as it has been for the previous 150 years.

Fellow Rotarians I thank you for the great honour you have done me in electing me your President, I will do my very best to live up to your expectations, I will do my very best to represent the Club in and around Banbury as you would wish it to be represented, and I will continue to use what little talents I may have to help and support all the Club's activities.

May we all have a year where every one of us gets a great deal of fun from putting "Service above Self".

Our Past President Roger Worrall also spoke to present the Club's achievements in the past year. He also thanked the various committee chairmen and club members for their support during his year as President. The Club, in various ways raised a staggering £47,000. in the last year. There have been 26 shelter boxes presented following the Haiti disaster with £12,700 being raised to finance these.

Many local and international charities were helped during this year including, £10,400 to Leonard Cheshire "Hands up Africa" raised through Andrew Fairbairn's epic journey from the Scillies to the Shetlands. Other local charities received various sums they were:- Local Brass Band, Oxfordshire Assn. For the Blind, Cockermouth Disaster, Katherine House Hospice, Hook Norton Pre School Group, Banbury United Youth Group, Brodey Bursary Awards for those taking Engineering Degree Course, in Sierra Leone, The Christian Hope School and a Sierra Leone Education Project.

There were also many other events carried out for the benefit of the local community

especially children, including Young Musician, of the Year, Children Singing for Children and Young Chef. He then commended President Ron Barnett to the club.

DRAGON BOATS.

Our biannual Dragon Boats day was blessed this year with wonderful weather. The event started on the evening before when a number of local dignitaries gathered to see the Shelter Box tent and equipment, the idea was for them to sleep over in it but unfortunately they all declined. Those visiting included Tony Baldry M.P. and Lord and Lady Saye and Sele.

The Dragon Boat day commenced with many Rotarians organising and erecting the various stands and attractions. It was very exciting to watch around 15 Rotarians trying to erect a tent which two Scouts were able to do in minutes. There were twenty one teams drawn from various business's, charities and teams who were there just for the fun of competing. The people of the area were by then arriving and through the day it is estimated that about 1500 people attended. They were entertained with the various stands and side shows and of course by the Dragon Boat racing which took place throughout the day. The eventual winners after heats and knockout stages, a little like the World Cup, were Wykham Park Argonauts with Hawii 5 Row second and Whitley Stimpson third this team proved that not all accountants are boring. The Rotary Club of Banbury would like to thank Lord Saye and Sele for allowing us to use the moat with the beautiful back drop of Broughton Castle. The Chairman of Community and Vocational committee Andrew Fairbairn and his team deserve especial thanks for the hard work and dedication on organising this great event. The sum of over £2000.00 was raised and will be donated to various local charities.

CONTACT 2010.

Aalen-Heidenheim was the venue for this year's Contact visit on the 13-16th. May. There were 20 Rotarians and partners from our Banbury club who joined with our German hosts and the other Rotary clubs from Italy, France and Switzerland. Most of the guests arrived on the Thursday and were welcomed by their hosts and settled into the Schlosshotel or taken to the homes of our hosts. Thursday evening was spent with our hosts in separate gatherings in homes or restaurants for a time of fellowship and getting to know our hosts or renewing old friendships.

Friday morning bright and early an 8.30 start to get to Stuttgart for a around the Daimler Museum. This fantastic museum which contained the history of Mercedes Benz from its very early days, was housed in a modern building which allowed everyone to walk around the building on sloping walkways without the need of stairs to the various levels. From the very earliest models to the latest vehicles built for the road and for motor sport the displays contained items of fantastic value from their past. Lunch was then taken at the Theaterhaus Stuttgart. We were then taken on a guided tour of the new Art Museum, least said about this the better, if anyone wants the details then approach one of those who visited it. We were then free to wander around the older part of the city with our hosts. The evening was to be held in an old factory building which had been converted into a brewery and a restaurant, were we were treated to a Swabian Buffet and of course some of the locally brewed beer. And then a return to Heidenheim for a well earned rest.

Then Saturday dawned with an earlier star at 8.00 am. The ancient city of Ulm was our destination for a day of taking in the various

aspects of this lovely city. The tour commenced with a reception a presentation by the Mayor. He spoke of how the city was modernising and controlling traffic flows but still trying to retain the old character of the city. We found in our tour of the city that in most cases this had been successfully carried out. The pedestrian had right of way in the old city area and the cars stopped to allow walkers to traverse its streets. We were then taken on a guided tour of the City and the ancient cathedral.

Our guide was excellent with a very witty and interesting presentation which we all appreciated especially the men, as she was a very attractive lady. We then walked along the banks of the Danube and crossed over to the Edwin-Scharff-Haus for lunch overlooking the River and a wonderful view of Ulm and its cathedral. We then left for the return to Heidenheim to prepare for the evening at the Congress Centrum in Heidenheim. This was to be the highlight of the visit with a fine dinner in the modern surroundings of this excellent building. Which contained Theatre, Concert hall and fine reception areas. Our area was situated at the bottom of a grand staircase where we were entertained by a choir from a local school. Their singing, which covered many different styles, was quite wonderful the abilities of the choir and the various soloists was fantastic. Classics to the Beatles kept us asking for more. There were short presentations from each of the Presidents who gave their thanks to Aalen-Heideheim for their excellent weekend and the friendship and welcome they had given us. The French President, Bernard Large welcomed us to Villefranche En Beaujolais next year on the 2-5th. June where he assured us that there would be a very enjoyable programme awaiting us. It was then time to leave and make some of our farewells in the hope of meeting again next year.

Sunday morning we said goodbye to our hosts and 16 of us departed by coach to Lake Constance for a few more days of rest and relaxation. Our hotel was the Schachen Schlose situated overlooking the lake with lovely views of the Lake and the mountains of Austria. At this end of the lake we are close to both Austria and Switzerland. Near the Hotel was the Island of Lindau which is connected to the mainland by two bridges. It was an easy walk onto the medieval island town with its old buildings completely unspoilt by modern intervention. With many shops and restaurants it was a joy to walk around and look at the old German styles of architecture with the occasional stop for refreshment. The Island of Mainau was the destination of some of us it was situated at the top of the lake which the Germans call Bodensee. This meant a long boat trip or an exciting trip by Taxi, Bus Train and Ferry and then in reverse order to return. The trip was well worth it the Island which is the home of descendants of the Swedish Royal family, is beautifully maintained with spectacular gardens and an historic main house and chapel. A visit across the Lake to Bregenz in Austria was another treat. On arriving there it was short walk to the cable car which took us to top of the mountain which gave spectacular views of Lake Constance and the surrounding mountains. As a group we found various things to do some going more than others, and some taking a well earned rest. The evenings were equally enjoyable with various groups eating at the various hostelrys in the area. The return on Thursday was via Stuttgart with our flight on time and our arrival at Heathrow on schedule.

A most enjoyable week with the contact weekend and the fun and fellowship at the Lake hotel.

The organisation was not without its problems, and our thanks go to Martin Phillips who must have had a few sleepless

nights dreaming about the failures of Ryan Air, British Airways strikes and volcanic ash. As it happened the timings and the hotel

booking went without a hitch thanks to his great organising abilities.
David Hitchcox

ROTARIAN JOHN MEERES



It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden death of John. He had transferred to the Banbury club from The Rotary Club of Thornaby and Yarm in 2001. He immediately became active in our club bringing great enthusiasm and expertise to the projects he became involved with. He was particularly involved with our Schools mock interview programme. He brought expertise to the way this was carried out and was able to generate the necessary numbers of interviewers. He was particularly remembered by the staff and pupils of the Blessed George Napier School, who quite unusually placed an appreciation of his work in the Banbury Guardian.

His funeral service was held at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, where he was a member, was held on the 29th.June. It was well attended with many Rotarians and members of the Inner Wheel Club together with Family members and friends. John's love of jazz was echoed with the retiring rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In".

Speaker Reports.

Charles Swain gave a presentation on The Dambuster's Raid to Club on Friday 28th May 2010.

The Dambusters have been immortalised in [World War Two](#) folklore as a result of their attack on the dams of the Ruhr as part of the Allies [bombing campaign](#) against Germany. However, the raid would not have been possible without the ingenuity and engineering design brilliance of Barnes Wallis, an employee of the Vickers Aircraft Company who believed that Germany's industrial heart could be destroyed – literally drowned – if the huge dams in the Ruhr were destroyed unleashing vast quantities of water into the Ruhr industrial sector. These dams were 130 feet high, 25 foot thick at the top and 112 feet thick at their base, making them formidable targets to destroy.

The first idea Wallis had was to attack the dams with a series of very large bombs in a conventional manner. He quickly dropped this idea as calculations showed that the weapon would need 14 thousand pounds of explosive power and would need to land within 50 feet of the dam's wall for it to be effective. The accuracy required for such an aerial attack was simply not possible at that time. Wallis was not easily put off though and was keen on the idea of getting an explosive charge as near to the wall of the dam as was possible: he believed that if this could be done on the lakeside of the dam, the vast back-pressure applied to that side of the damaged wall would be enough to destroy the dam itself.

A torpedo type bomb was out of the question as the Germans had already thought of that as a way of attacking the dam and anti-torpedo nets had been deployed to prohibit this option. Wallis came up with an idea using a bouncing bomb that would clear the protective nets, smash into the dam wall, stay intact and then sink to a depth of 30 feet before exploding using a hydrostatic fuse (similar to the ones found in depth charges). To ensure that the bomb went down the dam wall, Wallis planned for the bomb to spin forwards after it had hit the wall – despite the fact that it would be dropped by a bomber spinning backwards.

Wallis received permission to develop the bomb, which was 50 inches in diameter, 60 inches long and weighed 9250 lbs. Of this weight, 6,600 lbs was powerful RDX explosive. The bomb was designed to be mounted across the bomb bay of a Lancaster bomber and was spun to 500rpm using a small motor and fan belt system.

The bomb was not easy to deliver and the elite of [Bomber Command](#) joined a brand new squadron called 617 in March [1943](#), lead by Wing Commander Guy Gibson. Gibson was ordered by 'Bomber' [Harris](#), head of [Bomber Command](#), to pick men who had survived near enough 60 bombing raids as these men would have the necessary experience needed for the attack. 617 Squadron started extensive sessions of low flying, but none of the crews knew the target they were practising for – this they were only told at the last minute.

The crews had to release the bomb while flying at exactly 220 mph and at a height of exactly 60 feet above the water. Precision flying at its best was needed just to get the bomb in motion. To add to the difficulties, the crew had to drop the bomb at exactly 425 yards from the dam wall, the attack was scheduled to be carried out at night, and the target area was heavily defended by German anti-aircraft guns. In order to achieve this level of accuracy novel visual systems were developed for accurate height measurement (using overlapping beams of light) and range finding (using a handheld wooden tripod held at arms length using 2 nail marker pins that corresponded to the correct drop distance from the 2 towers on the dam walls).

On the night of 16th May [1943](#), nineteen Lancaster bombers took off from RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire. They had three primary targets: the Möhne, Eder and Sorpe dams and two secondary ones, the Lister and the Eneppe dams. Gibson led the first attack.

Of these nineteen aircraft and 133 crew members, one Lancaster had to turn back as it had hit the sea on the journey to mainland Europe and lost its bomb, and eight planes and 56 crewmen were lost (three of these men survived to become prisoners-of-war). Gibson was awarded the [Victoria Cross](#), for bringing round his Lancaster to give covering fire to the Lancasters that were following up his attack on the Möhne Dam, and 33 other members of 617 Squadron were also decorated.

The attack had enormous propaganda value and made Gibson a national hero. Severe flooding, some industrial damage and over a thousand people were killed when the Möhne and Eder Dams were breached. The damage done by 617 Squadron was fairly quickly repaired, but the most important impact of the raid was that 20,000 men working on the Atlantic Wall had been moved to the Ruhr to carry out repairs to the damaged and breached dams. How much impact the Dambusters raid had is still debated,

but what cannot be denied as is the bravery of the men involved in the raid and the unique contribution made by [Dr. Barnes Wallis](#).

The Foundation Committee have asked that the club be informed as to the roll of Foundation.

The District Foundation Committee has produced a simplified guide. This covers about four pages the last of which is produced here. Members might wish to save this page and add it to the pages which have appeared in the previous bulletins.

Group Study Exchange.

This programme covers the sending of a team of 5 to another country to study their equivalent vocations, become aware of the customs of the people living there and an opportunity to see some of the local country terrain. It is also an opportunity for the team to make links to develop partnerships to be involved in humanitarian programmes.

.As it is an Exchange, the receiving District will also send a Team to our District. There will be a Rotary Leader and 4 Members (not Rotarians) all of whom have been selected by the District sending the Team. The destination is decided by the "sending District", usually by the Incoming Governor making contact with the Incoming District Governor of the chosen District and usually a year before the exchange will take place.

The Visiting Teams are normally hosted by Rotarians in the receiving District (although not always). Whilst on their Exchange Visit, they will stay with Clubs that have volunteered to host them. The costs of a GSE do not come from the DDF. Their Air Fares are paid for by the Rotary Foundation who also contribute \$500 to the District Conference of the District visited, provided that they appear in the Programme.

All other costs such as training, uniforms, gifts, weekend break for visiting Team, etc are paid for from the District Expenses Budget and are included when the District Annual Capitation Fee (cost/member) is calculated.

***Your District contact on these issues is Linda York,
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World Peace Fellows

In April 1999 a plan was approved to establish centres in leading universities worldwide for studies in peace and conflict resolution. At the current time there are six such centres: Duke with North Carolina University and the University of California in the USA, International Christian University in Japan, Universidad del Salvador in Argentina, University of Queensland in Australia and University of Bradford in England.

Candidates are put forward by clubs to their District, who must approve the application. If approved, it is then Forwarded to RI who will then select up to 60 people world wide to participate in the programme each year.

Applicants undertake a Masters Degree Course and must show a commitment to the promotion of peace, goodwill, resolution of issues of conflict and world understanding.

In February 2005 a further programme was approved for a shorter course at the Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. Twice each year up to 30 participants are enrolled to undertake the three month professional development certificate in peace and conflict studies. This course is of a more practical rather than academic nature, with participants coming from occupations that are closely related to fields where the study of conflict resolution would be particularly useful.

The Rotary Foundation funds the costs of these Fellowships, so that there is no cost to the District, To date over 400 fellows have taken part in the Masters programme from over 75 countries and 70 fellows from 29 different countries in the newer shorter programme

***Your District contact on these issues is Philip Bobby Tel: 01865 874372
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Matching Grants.

The District Foundation Committee has a Sub Committee of very well informed Rotarians who receive applications from Clubs wishing to apply for a Grant from the Rotary Foundation. It should be understood that the involvement and commitment of a Club in the area of the country where the money is to be spent, must be committed to support the application.

The Sub Committee has the authority to accept/reject applications and, when an application is accepted, can donate a matching sum up to that which the Club, submitting the application, has raised.

The Sub Committee will then assist in applying for a Matching Grant from the Rotary Foundation, which, if successful would result in a sum being available for the Project. An example might be:

Club raises	\$4,000
District DDF matches up to	\$3,000

The World Fund of The Rotary Foundation will then support the project with a Grant based on the following basis:

Rotary Foundation matches DDF	\$3,000
Rotary Foundation donates 50% of Club amount	\$2,000
<i>(This is the minimum Grant from the Rotary Foundation = \$5,000)</i>	
Total value of Project- Club/District and Foundation =	\$12,000

The minimum grant is \$5,000

Your District contact on these issues is Peter Ballard Tel: 01895 424406

e-mail

distgrants@gregorys.co.uk

District Simplified Grants (DSG)

Another use of DDF funds for projects is by a District Simplified Grants (DSG).

This money is available to Clubs to help fund usually local projects here in UK. To receive a DSG grant, the Club must commit to get fully involved in the work being carried out (not just donate). The District can allocate 20% of the DDF for such projects and grants can be up to a maximum of £1,000.

No other Rotary Club has to be involved.

Your District contact on these issues is Peter Ballard Tel: 01895 424406

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HON SECRETARY – Dr. Ian Rodrick

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