



The Banbury Bulletin



SERVICE Above Self

President Roger Worrall

JUNE 2010

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Bloxham School Hall was the venue for the concert given by the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra.

This event took place on Saturday the 29th. May to an almost capacity audience. The International Committee organised it under the leadership of Chairman Rotarian Owen Kyffin. The proceeds of the evening which amounted to £ 575.00 with a little more to come, are destined to go to the **End Polio Now** campaign.

The Birmingham Chamber Orchestra under the conductor ship of Martin Leigh and with our own President elect Ron Barnett playing trumpet, gave us an excellent evening of entertainment.

The highlight of the evening being the soloist Richard Jenkins who played the Cello Concerto no. 1 op.33 by Camille Saint-Sains. Other items included Beethoven's Symphony No.2 op. 26. The 33 members of the Orchestra showed great skill and expertise in their renditions of the programme.

An interval was enjoyed with a bar and canapés supplied by Rotarian Malcolm Dibb. An introduction was given by President Roger Worrall and thanks by Rotarian Owen Kyffin.

The End Polio Now campaign was instituted over 20 years ago with a commitment to immunise the worlds children against Polio, together with the World Health Organisation and UNICEF.

Rotary's responsibility was to be fundraising and volunteer recruitment. To date Rotary has contributed more than \$800 million to the Polio eradication effort. Rotary clubs also provide "sweat equity" on the ground in Polio affected communities, which help to ensure that leaders at all levels remain focused on the eradication goal. Over the years, Rotary club members have volunteered their time and personal resources to reach more than two billion children in 122 countries with the oral polio vaccine. Thanks to Rotary and its partners, the number of Polio cases has been slashed by more than 999 percent, preventing five million instances of childhood paralysis and 250.000 deaths. When Rotary began its eradication work, polio infected more than 350.000 children annually. In 2008, fewer than 2,000 cases were reported worldwide.



Council Clippings

The following donations were considered for club approval.

Brodey Bursary £1200.00

Chernobyll Children £500.00

Hands Up Africa £500.00

B.G.N. Tall Ships Visit. £500.00

The reports for Contact Visit and Dragon Boats will be in Next Months Bulletin.

ROTARY MISSION CHALLENGE “making a real difference in Sierra Leone ”

May 2010

CHRISTIAN HOPE SCHOOL, KISSY, FREETOWN

I am pleased to report that all the refurbishment of the original classrooms is now complete. I have just received the revised quotation for the conversion of the basement and I am now considering my options for further work at the school – to be advised.

St Mary the Virgin, Broughton & North Newington

In my last Newsletter I mentioned the support from the Church from their Christmas service collections BUT forgot to mention the donation was for £400!!

A really big thank you to all those who contributed.

KEVIN MCPHILLIPS TRAVEL - universally recognised as the world’s only Sierra Leone flight specialist company. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Sue Ray and all the staff at Kevin McPhillips for all their help and support enabling me to take essential equipment out to Sierra Leone and supporting the ongoing projects. The McPhillips Foundation supports 3 Rural Education Schools in Sierra Leone through it’s staff & a network of supporters. **THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP.**

CALVARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL, LUNGHI



The first picture is the school as shown in my November edition and below is the latest photo that I have just received. The progress is great, I recently sent £1,000 to the project and they have now started to plaster the inside and I am awaiting the costings for all the doors & windows & classroom furniture.



ABERDEEN WOMEN’S CENTRE, FREETOWN

This was previously known as the Aberdeen West Africa Fistula Clinic run by Mercy Ships but is now under the control of Ann Gloag’s Freedom from Fistula Foundation. On 29th April the Hostel of Hope which had been built and funded by Rotarians in 2005-2006 was officially re-opened as the Maternity Unit at the Centre and it is anticipated that approx 100 births per month will take place at the Unit. It is also being used as a training centre for midwives with the aim of reducing the incidence of Fistula’s.

Thank you to the following for recent donations:

**The Friendly Club, Banbury, Regent WI & members
Hornton WI & members, Whichford & Ascott WI &
members**

**Dunchurch & Thurlaston WI & members, Middleton
Cheney WI & members**

**Tredington Mothers Union & members, Brailes WI &
members**

**Helen Smith from Stonehaven Rotary Club who recently
took 2 laptops, school uniform and some goodies to
Freetown for me – “did you pack everything yourself
madam”?? Banbury Print & Design for their continued
support**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME TO
“make a real difference”.**

Rotarian, Alan Wolstencroft

The Community & Vocational

committee arranged for Banbury United to host a party of around sixty children from the Sunrise Multicultural Playgroup on 24th April for a theme day promoting the removal of racism from sport. Many of the children had not previously been to a football match. They were treated to a summary of the history of the club from the Chairman, and had the



opportunity to talk to some of the players, received souvenirs from the gift shop and they watched the last home game of the season. Welcomed on the day, the feedback from the children was very enthusiastic. A donation of £100 was made by the Rotary Club of Banbury to the Banbury United Youth Teams.

Andrew Fairbairn.



Speaker Reports.

Fifth Friday – 30th April 2010.

Speaker Kevin Crook, hosted by Richard Watts.

For this evening meeting, we were pleased to welcome back Kevin Crook, a Volunteers Manager from Mission Aviation Fellowship. Kevin previously spoke to the club at a lunchtime meeting in May 2009 but your immediate past President felt that he was cut off in his prime so suggested he would be an ideal speaker for an evening meeting.

Mission Aviation Fellowship is a Christian Charity that was set up in London in 1945 following an idea by Murray Kendon. Murray, a New Zealander, had a particular concern for impoverished peoples who lived in isolated places and was convinced that more could be done to reach them. It was whilst flying with RAF Coastal Command during World War 2 and with time to think whilst on patrol over the Atlantic, that Murray concluded why should planes not be used to reach these people.

Murray knew of the work of the Mildmay Movement which was based in Islington, London. The Movement had been founded by Dr Thomas Cochrane who was encouraging fresh initiatives in Christian outreach throughout the world so Murray decided to visit Dr Cochrane and put his idea forward. This was immediately accepted and Murray was invited to start work with the Movement. After being demobilised and getting married, Murray and his wife later moved to the Mildmay Centre and commenced work. The new organisation became known as Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Later Murray and his wife were joined by Stuart King and Jack Hemming, both ex RAF following invitations/information from the Mildmay Movement.

At an early stage, the Mildmay Movement set up a temporary Advisory Council for MAF which consisted of 20 Christian leaders and mission heads together with Christian ex service pilots. The first meeting was chaired by John Laing (of construction company fame) and having a great interest in

Murray's proposal, he suggested that the idea of an exploratory trip to Africa using an aircraft be adopted and thus funding was agreed. The order for a suitable aircraft, a Miles Gemini twin engine 4 seat plane was placed in September 1946 and twelve months later a service of dedication was held at which the plane was named the Mildmay Pathfinder. Following a UK tour to gain interest and support for MAF, the small plane finally left Croydon airport on 13th January 1948 in the hands of Stuart King and Jack Hemming to undertake an intensive air and ground survey across a vast tract of central Africa. Hence the initial idea was borne.

Over the years, and despite some setbacks, MAF has gone from strength to strength. They now operate 130 light aircraft throughout the world providing support to in excess of 300 mission relief and aid agencies. They fly to more than 2,500 destinations and have a plane landing or taking off every 3 minutes of every day. Our speaker gave us examples of how MAF have provided vital healthcare and medical assistance, particularly for the young son of a Bishop who was attending a conference in the UK. Unfortunately, his son fell into an open fire and received potential life threatening burns to his arm. The young boy was airlifted to a hospital from his remote region and following the medical treatment survived his ordeal and was later flown back home to his family. Most recently, disaster food and medical relief was provided following the Haitian earthquake but such relief was also vital following the tsunami in 2004. Relief is also provided in areas of conflict or political unrest, either providing medical and development relief, evacuating staff or moving aid agency staff and supplies. Local people also depend on MAF flights for water projects, animal husbandry, delivering agricultural supplies, economic conservation work and delivering education and literacy materials. They also provide fast, safe, efficient transport for specialist staff to provide training and ongoing support to communities. Another example of their work is the transportation of baskets woven by women in northern Kenya which fill spaces in planes returning to Nairobi. These baskets are then sold, enabling the impoverished women to give their families a daily hot meal. The aircraft also play a key role in helping those who are undertaking evangelistic work in isolated communities. There were many questions asked of Kevin which was indicative of the way he had captivated those present. This was a very interesting and sometimes moving talk by from a representative of an organisation that few people have heard of and yet without MAF, many other charities and aid agencies would have great difficulty in operating, particularly in the more remote areas of the world. Your speaker host purchased three books from Kevin, one of which sets out the life story of MAF and I am happy to loan it to anyone who wishes to read it. I also have a number of **collection boxes** and it would be great if Rotarians and/or friends would **fill these with small change** for the Charity. Should you want a box, please let me know. They should be returned to me by Friday 30th July so that I can arrange for them to be given to Kevin Crook. A very enjoyable 5th Friday evening.
Richard Watts

Our speaker on the May 7th 2010 was Mark Seymore Headmaster of Winchester House School Brackley

His subject was "Who shot JFK"

Mark has been fascinated with the circumstances surrounding the death of John F Kennedy when he was shot in Dallas in 1963 whilst taking part in a motor cavalcade. He has carried out extensive research into the shooting and has often given talks to organisations and to his own school pupils where lively debates have taken place.

There is a huge amount of material available on the subject from journals ,internet and many other sources. In fact there are numerous individuals who are as keen on the subject as Mark throughout the world.

Mark set the scene in the US at the time of the shooting. JFK had been elected president in 1960. At the time Francis Powers , the pilot of the U2 had been shot down over Russia. At this time Lee Harvey Oswald had defected to Russia.

JFK was campaigning to be re-elected president in 1964. In 1963 he had scaled down US involvement in Vietnam. He had gone to Dallas as part of his efforts to fire up support for his re-election. The route he

was due to take had been mapped out but the US secret service had expressed misgivings over it as they had to compromise over their preferred route.

Many windows along the route remained open when they should have been shut. As the cavalcade reached the Texas School Book Depository 3 shots rang out.

One shot missed, the second hit JFK in the neck, left his throat and ended up in John Connolly's thigh. Connolly was in the car with JFK and his wife. The 3rd shot hit the rear of the head and JFK's head exploded. The car accelerated and went to Parkland Memorial Hospital where JFK was pronounced dead. Lee Harvey Oswald was tracked down and arrested. He was held in jail. As he was being moved from the original jail, Jack Ruby stepped forward and shot him in full view of the TV cameras.

The Warren Commission was set up to try the dead man, Oswald. The FBI provided the evidence and Oswald was found guilty. Other evidence has come to light which has cast doubt on the verdict.

A tailor had taken a 22 second film of the event. This seems to show a time lag between JFK being hit and John Connolly being hit. There is a further query over the second bullet in that the wound in JFK's neck was an entry wound whereas the official version was that it was an exit wound. This suggested that the bullet which hit Connolly was not the one which came out of JFK's neck. A further conclusion is there must have been more than one gun.

A further bullet often called the "magic bullet" had been found on the floor of the car and not been damaged.

A further mystery is that there have been 18 separate witness reports since the dreaded day all concerning a grass bank near the site confirming that a second gun was seen at the bank pointing at the car whereas Oswald had fired from a window overlooking the road. All 18 of these witnesses have since died, many from unusual or untimely deaths.

Mark suspects the mystery will continue for many years to come.

Richard George

On 14th May we were privileged to have Terry Davis as our guest speaker, his subject being "The Best Kept Secret in Europe". Terry has recently retired as Secretary General of the Council of Europe. To most of us the Council of Europe and the European Council are the same thing, but Terry rapidly disillusioned us.

The Council of Europe was set up in 1949 – long before the European Union was even conceived. It is a political intergovernmental organisation with a headquarters in Strasbourg representing 47 European democracies. Its aims are :

- to protect human rights and the rule of law
- to consolidate democratic stability in Europe
- To seek solutions to social problems such as discrimination, terrorism, people trafficking, organised crime and violence against women and children.
- To promote and develop European cultural identity
- To promote social cohesion and social rights.

All the main democracies of Europe are represented except Belarus who have applied for membership but who have not yet been admitted because their record on democracy and human rights does not yet measure up to the Council's required standards.

The Council is made up of the Committee of Ministers, the decision making body which is made up of the Foreign Ministers of each member state; the Parliamentary Assembly, which is the deliberative body, comprising voting members from each member state (the votes being according to size. France and UK have 36 votes each, Liechtenstein have 4); and the European Court of Human Rights. The official languages are English and French but German, Italian and Russian are also in common use. It carries out its major activities through a number of conventions and commissions such as the European Convention of Human Rights, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human beings.

It was unfortunate that there was insufficient time for questions; the interest Terry's talk engendered was apparent from the number of rotarians who approached Terry at the end with individual questions of their own.

The vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Michael Banks who told us of Terry's long and distinguished parliamentary career and his new career as the Queen's grasscutter!

The Business of Keeping Fit

Ricky Hogan, the Fitness Manager from the Bannatyne's Health Club, caused some anxiety among the less agile members of our club when he turned up on 21 May, hinting as he arrived that he planned to lead a 15 minute workout for all of us as his contribution after lunch. Remarkably there were not too many early leavers but those that did depart to miss the pain also missed an interesting discourse on important aspects of running a health and fitness club. Various statistics were quoted regarding the typical membership profiles, age, background, etc.

There are a number of such clubs in Banbury, some specialising in particular activities, but only Spiceball and Bannatyne's offer a wide range including the availability of a full size swimming pool. Membership at Bannatyne's in Banbury is presently 3400, with three basic categories – off peak, premier off peak and full. Some levels of membership also entitle the member to use other Bannatyne's facilities around the UK. Efforts have to be made continually though to recruit new members mainly because of people moving from the area. When the new Spiceball was opened recently numbers at Bannatyne's declined for a while as some members moved across but most of those who did move now appear to have returned. Average age of membership is between 50 and 60 and there tends to be a loyal core of members, some of whom are Rotarians and were present for Ricky's talk. During the question time they were keen to air the benefits of their membership but as others pointed out they are not necessarily a good advertisement.

Bannatyne's was opened in Banbury six years ago on 1 June offering not only the gym and pool for individual use but also providing over 80 classes per week covering many activities including Yoga, Spinning, Pilates, etc., in the studios and Aqua in the pool. New members are given a health check on joining and, following a few exercises on the machines, they are offered a recommended programme of exercises depending on their ability and their personal objectives. Also, for the keen regulars different gym challenges are issued from time to time to maintain motivation, sometimes with rewards to be gained.

The latest improvement to the Banbury Bannatyne's Health Club is a Spa scheduled to be finished by mid September and which will provide various beautifying and "pamper" treatments. This, however, will be run on slightly different lines from the existing club with "non members" having access to the Spa facilities only and Health Club members enjoying a discount when using them.

At the end of the talk and question time most Rotarians were relieved that they had not been called upon to flex other than their jaw muscles but were much more enlightened as to the benefits of well planned exercise! The vote of thanks was then given by Ian Calderbank

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 first of which was produced in the previous bulletin here you will find part two. Members might wish to save this page and add it to the future pages which will appear in the Bulletin.

Polio Plus Funds.

Money donated in the name of "Polio Eradication" is used solely for the purpose of eradicating polio and is in addition to the donations sent to the Annual Fund. Donations are received ranging from individuals, clubs, major philanthropists as well as very large sums donated by outside bodies (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Google Foundation, etc) *Governments to do not give to The Rotary Foundation but to UNicef, WHO*

The elimination of Polio worldwide, Rotary's most sustained international project is approaching the end of its 25 year effort. In 1985 it was endemic in 125 countries with 300,000 plus annual cases. Rotary has been at the centre of organising and funding the intensive immunisation process, that by 2008 brought Polio to be endemic in only four countries and 1,659 cases worldwide.

To help fund the final stage, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has put up \$355M on the basis of Rotary match funding \$200M. We must work to eliminate Polio, for we cannot afford to let it loose on the world again.

Your District Contact on donations to the Polio Eradication Fund is Colin Richards Tel:01494 481307 e-mail: colin@treecottage.plus.com

District Designated Fund (DDF).

The District receives back a sum equal to 50% of the money donated by the District to the Annual Fund, the spending of which is at the discretion of the District as decided by the District Foundation Committee. There are basic rules which have to be followed which include a limit of 20% of the DDF being available for more local projects (see District Simplified Grants below).

Your District Contact on these issues is Peter Ballard Tel: 01895 424406 e-mail distgrants@gregorys.co.uk

Ambassadorial Scholarships.

The current cost of a Rotary Grant for an Ambassadorial Scholar is \$24,000 (2009-10) which goes to scholars with a Bachelor's degree to study for a Masters Degree and covers one academic year.

It is important to understand that payment is made from the District Designated Fund (DDF) **of the District SENDING the Scholar.** **There is no payment taken from the District receiving the Scholar.**

It is a common misconception that we are paying for the Scholars who come to Oxford or Reading. Indeed, an Ambassadorial Scholar currently studying at Oxford or Reading will have to find close on a further £8,000/10,000 to complete their Course.

Whether the District chooses to SEND an Outgoing Scholar is decided by the District Foundation Committee when considering all demands on the DDF funds available. It is also possible for a District to donate a Scholarship (\$25,000 in 2010—11) to a District which does not have funds to send a suitable student. Another option would be for the District to donate to a "Low Income Country" fund in the Rotary Foundation for the Trust to use in financing a scholar from a poor country.

Only Ambassadorial Scholarships have been discussed here but it should be noted that there are other scholarships of varying duration which the District can consider when awarding DDF sums.

Your District contact on these issues is Tom Scharff, Tel: 01628 666218

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YOUNG MUSICIANS OF THE YEAR. The two finalists in our Young Musician of the Year competition attended the R.I.B.I. National finals held at Brentwood Cathedral Essex. Rotarians Gareth Jeremy and John Meeres accompanied Catriona Bourne Swinton Hunter and Kelly Hempson. Catriona was in the Instrumentalist class but was not in the final three. **Kelly Hempson** who was in the Singing class came an excellent third, in a competition with an exceptionally high standard.

Our Golf team have won their first round in the District Golf competition by beating Thatcham. I believe that this is the first time that the club have competed in this competition.

There are two Happy events to announce this month.

Derek and Barbara Repton are celebrating 60 years of marriage on 12th. June.

And not quite as many, David and Ann Hitchcox celebrate 50 years on the 4th. June