



The Banbury Bulletin



SERVICE Above Self

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

President Ron Barnett

JUNE 2011



FROM THE PRESIDENTS PAD May 2011

I'm not really sure where the last 11 months has gone, it only seems like a few weeks ago that Tricia and I were discussing the Shadow Council Meeting and now we're discussing the final Council meeting of this Rotary year. I suppose it's a classic example of time flying when you're having fun, and it certainly has been fun.

4th May President elect John Bennetts' planning meeting - John's plans for the new Rotary year are well advanced, and he has put a good team together and I'm delighted that as Immediate Past President I'll be able to work with them.

6th May Rotary meeting - a most friendly and enjoyable meeting with everyone seeming to be enjoying the lovely spring weather. An interesting talk by Nigel Deakin informing us all about the Beacon Centre. Many thanks to Helen Braisby for hosting Nigel.

7th May BGN School Prize Giving Evening - one of the most pleasant events of the year, and one from which you come away being really impressed with the young people, the teachers, indeed everyone involved with the school. The school very much appreciates the support that the Club gives with the practice interviews, and the Club is held in high regard by everyone. As well as thanking the school for their extremely warm welcome and hospitality, a big thank you must also go to all those involved with the practice interviews for the excellent support that they give to the young people and the school.

10th May Annual Town Council Meeting and Inauguration of the Town Mayor - It was a great pleasure to represent the Club at this meeting and see the new Town Mayor, Alastair Milne Home, installed as the Town Mayor for the coming year. I thank our new mayor for his hospitality and wish him a very successful and enjoyable year of office.

13th May Rotary Meeting - It may have been Friday 13th but that didn't stop everyone coming along and enjoying a truly warm and friendly fellowship meeting. Many thanks to everyone for making it such an enjoyable meeting.

14th May District Assembly - It was a pleasure to join the three cars full of Club members who went to this year's District Assembly. John has put together a really good team for our Club, the incoming District Governor and his team looked good and the RIBI President elect, Ray Burman, was a delight to listen to. I think that we are all in for a really good new Rotary year.

16th May Club Quiz Night - A goodly gathering of Rotarians and supporters enjoyed a fun evening testing their knowledge of a variety of subjects. An evening very much enjoyed by everyone, including those of us who didn't actually know many of the answers!

Many thanks to our quiz master, Nigel Yeadon, and score keeper, Nigel Randall.

20th May Rotary Meeting - a really good light-hearted meeting and a pleasure to have with us Philip Bobby of the Rotary Club of Oxford Isis and Chairman of the District Membership Committee. A truly Rotary meeting as we also had the pleasure of Alan French, President of the Rotary Club Burnham Beeches talk to us about Micro Credit in Malawi. A stimulating and interesting talk about a really worthwhile Rotary project.

Many thanks to Owen Kiffin for hosting President Alan.

The Rotary Club of Chipping Norton President's Night - Tricia and I had the very great pleasure of attending the Chipping Norton Club President's Night at the Wychwood Golf Club, an excellent venue with first class food. A most enjoyable evening with musical entertainment by Rotarians, and a Rotarian guest speaker. Very many thanks to President Bill and the Rotary Club of Chipping Norton for their warm welcome and an excellent evening.

23rd May Robert May's funeral - a very sad occasion and our thoughts and prayers are with Roger and his family.

Party for the Blind and Partially Sighted - a wonderful event with delicious food provided by the ladies of Inner Wheel, and some first class entertainment. Many thanks to Helen Braisby and her team for organising such a great event.

26th May Meeting - Our tenth Council meeting and thoughts and plans are even more focused on the next Rotary year. Again some excellent Committee reports and some great team working by everyone. Yet again very many thanks to every Council member for their invaluable contribution towards ensuring the continued success of the Club.

27th May Meeting - as well as being a friendly warm-hearted meeting, I had the pleasure of performing one of the nicest things a President gets to do by inducting Tim Bryce as our latest new member. Welcome back to the Rotary family Tim.

An excellent and heart rending talk by Alastair Welford about Toybox, a marvellous charity helping street kids in Latin America. Many thanks to Bernard Goodchild for hosting Alastair.

I do have one more Rotary function this month, the Rotary Club of Bicester President's Night on Tuesday 31st, but the editorial deadline has been brought forward this month to allow our editor to pack his case and set off for our Contact Club meeting in Villefranche. But more of that next month.

President Ron

Goodwill and Growth in Africa
Rotarian Alan Wolstencroft U.K. Trustee
"making a real difference in Africa"

It's been a few weeks since my last Newsletter and I am sure you are ALL dying to hear more information about the work of GAGA – so here it is:

Ithembalihle, Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa – a small orphanage for 18 children (aged 18 months to 17 years) run by a lady called Thandiwe who has built a small house and a church hall in the rural community. All the girls sleep in the house whilst the boys sleep in the church hall – there are no beds they all sleep on mattresses on the floor. GAGA has agreed to underwrite the funding of another building so that the children can have proper rooms to sleep in and hopefully **REAL** beds. In late September myself and 6 others will be going out for 2 weeks to work alongside local tradesmen to construct the building. When we get there the foundations will be complete and **ALL** we have to do is build the walls and get the roof on!!

YOU could be a part of this building programme and help to **"make a real difference" @ Ithembalihle** - why not consider sponsoring a pallet of blocks, a bag of cement, some roof tiles, a bed – for more information & the cost of individual items contact me.

International Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians

Our Rotary district held a Caravan Rally at Adderbury near Banbury in April & invited me to do a presentation to them about my Africa work. I have done 175 talks to groups but this was a first - it was in a small party marquee **AND** I got a free beer!! It was a great evening & I received a cheque for £100 from the group – **MANY THANKS**

Thank you to the following for recent donations: St Peter & St John Ladies Group, Rugby - £65 Clifton On Dunsmore WI & members - £187.50 Tredington Mothers Union & members - £55

Christian Hope School, Kissy, Freetown, Sierra Leone - many of you will know about the 6 classroom extension I funded at the school and after a gap of nearly 2 years I decided to convert the basement at the school to create an open plan meeting room area. This was as a result of receiving a report that all the previous rooms were being well looked after and that there are now 100 secondary age children being taught in the new rooms which is a big step forward and something the community has wanted for ages. The work has been underwritten by GAGA although I am actively fundraising for this project as well as other projects in South Africa. The first batch of money has been sent and today I received these photos.



**I would like to express my personal thanks to 3 local companies for all their ongoing support:
Banbury Print & Design, Storage Base & Sew Sublime.**

MORE NEWS NEXT TIME –

for further information visit – www.gaga-uk.org

A thank you letter received from the winner of the young interviewee competition at Blessed George Napier School.

The Rotary Club of Banbury

Dear Mr Barnett

I'd like to write to thank you and members of the Rotary Club for choosing me to be your winner of the 'Outstanding Interviewee of the year'. I feel honoured to have won such an award.

I would also like to thank you all on behalf of Blessed George Napier School, for taking valuable time out of your busy lives to give us this amazing experience, we appreciate it very much.

One last thank you, for my book voucher it was very generous of you and I will enjoy spending it as reading is my passion!

Yours sincerely

Miss Sofia Hill

Rotary has the bottle to help End Polio Now

"The Rotary year 2011/12 will be the final year when we are asked to meet Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, which we aim to complete by 30 June 2012. The Rotary Tomato Sauce (End Polio Now) initiative was conceived as a way for Rotarians and clubs to raise funds to help meet the challenge.

A number of Rotarians and clubs have asked if they can utilise the Rotary Tomato Sauce initiative to support Rotary Foundation giving or support other charities – the answer is of course yes. This is an excellent way of promoting Rotary and raising funds to save and change lives." Vice President Ray Burman

Here is a 'saucy' new idea to help End Polio Now.

Pick up a bottle of, or donate a pound for, this special tomato ketchup and use it for family events and social activities, such as 'meet the club' days and barbecue fundraisers. When the bottle is empty, just clean it out and fill it with change, Gift Aid it and hand it in.

Over 50,000 bottles of tomato ketchup have been sent around to all Rotary districts in these islands, thanks to the extreme generosity of Wilkin & Sons in Tiptree, Essex, which is partnering, once more, with Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland (RIBI) for another innovative fundraiser. The company previously helped with a marmalade initiative in 2003 when over \$1m was raised for The Rotary Foundation. If every bottle generates a £1 donation and is then filled with £5 of change, you could help raise over £300,000. This could buy over a million doses of the polio vaccine and save children in the four remaining endemic countries from his crippling and painful disease.

It is a really simple way to save hundreds of thousands of young lives and means everyone can support the incredible drive to eradicate polio for good. Since 1985, Rotary clubs all over the world have been committed to eradicating polio. From hundreds of thousands of new cases every year, there are now barely a thousand. There were 125 endemic countries, now there are just four: Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nigeria. President Elect John Bennett will be distributing the bottles soon.

Speaker Reports.

On May 6th Nigel Deakin spoke about The Beacon Centre - how it was formed and the community it serves.

Starting in a portacabin in 1994 it was hit and miss whether it would succeed. As numbers of those in need increased they moved to Woodgreen in 1999, finally now at St Mary's Centre.

The centre is open Monday to Thursday from 10a.m. until midday, welcoming visitors with various problems - ranging from homelessness and isolation through to drink, drugs and mental health issues. Games and other social activities are also provided.

As well as offering practical help from various agencies eg housing, benefits, the clients are able to support each other - giving self help and made to feel valued as a person not someone who is

"labelled". There are a lot of "lost causes" but the centre helps anyone "back on their feet". Any of these problems could happen to any one of us. One client expressed the sentiment that the centre is a haven of peace and tranquillity.

Volunteers are on hand to serve free drinks and snacks to the visitors. Many Rotarians and their wives help in various ways along with BYHP and other agencies.

All these services come at a cost - approx £22,000 a year. Funding is a problem, grants have been received from Cherwell and local churches, but losses have been incurred over the last 2 years.

Members of our club are cordially invited to call in and see for themselves the support that is given to visitors.

Helen Braisby.

Micro Credit in Malawi

Rtn. Alan French – Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches

Alan paid a second visit to our club to talk to us about the initiative they have been supporting for a number of years funding Micro-Credit in Malawi.

Malawi is situated in Southern Africa between Mozambique and South Africa. It is amongst the 20 poorest countries in the world, and is 85% agricultural based, with 65% of its population with no access to banking. The micro-credit project seeks to redress this by making small, relatively short term loans to individuals to allow them to set up their own business enterprises and become self-sufficient. This is now a well proven model and is really effective in empowering people to help themselves rather than giving hand outs. Loans are used to fund a diverse range of business enterprises ranging from tomato growing, through baking to a school.

A typical loan will have a positive impact in helping up to 7 people over a 4 month period, with the maximum loan terms generally being 16 months. When the loan is repaid, it is relent, recycling the benefit and helping another group of people.

The bakery project which Alan detailed to us now employs 42 people so the beneficial impacts are far reaching.

Further the project helps to operate mobile banks giving access to banking services to people in rural areas. There is local Rotary support and a rigorous checking process to ensure the money is going where it should and being applied for its intended purpose.

As stated this is a well proven model and as a result Burnham Beeches have been raising in the region of £20,000 a year to support it.

Alan presented the benefits of the scheme very comprehensively, and we are particularly grateful to him for taking the time to come and speak to us during his Presidential year which must be extremely busy for him.

Owen Kiffin

International Committee.

Following the Talk on Micro Credit in Malawi it was proposed that we give a donation of £1000.00 to this cause.

It was proposed that £500 should be given to the Children of Chernobyl visit to assist in their transport costs. Also that £1000.00 should go to End Polio Plus campaign being some of the profit from the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra concert.

Foundation.



STEVENS STEAMING!!!!

Steven Jakeman accompanied by the “Fat Controller” our Foundation Chairman, 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 onward on Sunday 26th. June.

A good social event with proceeds going to Foundation.

Community and Vocational.

The Party for the Blind took place on 23rd May with a group organised by Fred Riches and friends providing the entertainment. This was a great departure from the usual format with a variety of entertainment from classics to folk. The new Town Mayor, Alistair Milne-Hume attended and chatted with all those attending. The ladies of Inner Wheel provided the teas for about forty people. Their spokesperson gave thanks to all for a very enjoyable time. President Ron thanked Helen Braisby and her committee for organising a successful event.

IT's a Knockout 2011 is to take place on the 12th June. Andrew Fairbairn is arranging and has a good number of teams taking part. There is also to be an event run by us at the show.

Prior announcement for 2012 Olympics, Andrew Fairbairn is Kayaking from Cornwall to Weymouth to coincide with the Olympic events held there. "Watch this space".

Foundation.

Our annual Club donation to the Foundation Fund will be an excellent £4000.00 this year, with another £1000.00 for Polio Eradication.

Sports & Entertainment.

The Club Quiz Night was held on the 16th May at Banbury Cricket Club. We had the two Nigel's (Yeadon and Randall) running the event. Five very competitive teams enjoyed an evening of fun, and questions to test their intellects. The winning team was called the Hopefuls and had a very tight battle with the runners up J30. The Bottles of fine wine won by the first team was appreciated particularly by Ed, although most of the glory must go to a new team member Pam Brion here with Simon Brion and Brian Cornley.



Spring Golf tournament is scheduled for the 23 May., and the Bigwood Trophy is on the 8th September.

Youth Opportunities.

Following the young musician Final the next big event is the GALA CONCERT at Sibford School on Sunday 19th June at 7.00pm. This concert will involve Young Musician winners over the past 21 years.

There is an urgent need to sell tickets for this event.

We must ensure that we sell tickets to ensure the success of this major event. See Alan Wolstencroft or "One Man Band" for tickets.

RYLA Bernard Goodchild has found at least possible candidates to go to this year's RYLA there will be a selection process to whittle these down.

Children Singing for Children will be held on the 8th, 9th, 10th of November at St. Mary's Church.

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