



President Richard Watts

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The Annual Club Outing

They say the "sun shines on the righteous," this was certainly the case as nearly 30 Rotarians and friends gathered to board a coach on Tuesday April 28th. for the annual Club outing.

The venue for the day's enjoyment was to be Brooklands Museum and what an excellent choice it turned out to be. An easy trip which appeared to take no time at all, as those on board chatted with each other.

On arrival our "organiser" Rotarian Ron Sharpe presented us with a map of the site which was certainly needed as the extent of this Museum became apparent. First stop was in the original clubhouse which was built in 1907 for the opening of the original race track. A cup of coffee served by cheerful staff set us up for the start of the tour. There was much to see various original buildings housed many exhibits including famous Brooklands racing cars. Such names as Campbell and Seagrave brought forth memories of an era when motor racing was very much "Seat of the Pants" driving with very few safety features. The early cars certainly gave the impression of low budget enthusiasts enjoying weekend racing in cars adapted in their own garages. Then as the time went on we were able to see the development of more sophisticated design and some exceptional engineering going into very fast cars.



We were a little worried to see our Treasurer Ron Barnett eyeing up this very expensive motor. There are also a number of modern racing cars on show which gave us a view of the development from the early days to the standard of our present formula one cars. Many of the various outbuildings have been kept in their original state, racing finished here in 1939 and some of the workshops have been restored to that era. I wonder if the Bernie Ecclestone of that era would have criticised the facilities here.

We soon realised that there was more to see than Motor Racing and that Brooklands was an important airfield and moving on we found many aircraft on show including Vickers built aircraft including Wellington, Viking, Varsity, Viscount Vanguard VC10 and also Concorde. Vickers Armstrong were on the site for many years.

Behind the aircraft display was a part of the original banking which rose to a height of 29 feet and almost gave the impression of a "Wall of Death."

The massive Stratosphere chamber built in 1947 for Barnes Wallis and Vickers was able to test equipment at low temperatures, pressures and altitudes as well as acting as a wind tunnel. Many of the Vickers aircraft were built at Brooklands after 1945. Two unusual items caught the imagination one was the first flight ticket office built in 1911 for the Kieth Prowse agency, garden shed comes to mind when looking at it. The other posed a bit of a conundrum what appeared to be a jet engine placed on the back of a jerry built lorry cab with two outlets at the front. After much deliberation and eventually succumbing to reading the literature we found that it had been used as a snow clearing apparatus. During this time most of us had lunch in the old clubhouse, served by cheerful staff and what felt like a home cooked environment.

During our journey to Brooklands our "Organiser" Ron informed us that he had obtained a track drive at the second part of our day which was to be at the adjacent Mercedes World.

As there were 30 of us and only one ride he had a dilemma so it was agreed to have a raffle and the proceeds to go to Andrew Fairbairn's challenge over £100 was raised. The eventual winner was Rotarian Tony Brace.

Mercedes World was an impressive building which cost many millions to build and houses a history of Mercedes who were at the first Brooklands race in 1907. It is also a showroom for all the present Mercedes models from the basic ranges up to an area loosely named the "Footballer's" area with cars at around £250.

We were welcomed by a number of attractive ladies who explained the building and that we were free to view everything and that we would not be approached by salesmen, it was purely for our enjoyment. From the viewing gallery we could watch drivers on the extensive test track which had long straights, watered skid pans, handling circuits and off road areas. These were displayed by professional drivers but on certain courses the general public were also allowed to drive. We were looking forward to watching our own member being subjected to the experience.



Tony was duly seated and was taken off on to the circuit by his driver. He experienced the skid pan, high speed acceleration and various manoeuvres carried out by his driver. We expected to see him disembark a little white faced but he appeared to have taken it in his stride and had a broad smile as he exited from the car.

After this very interesting and full day we again boarded our coach and proceeded to our evening venue which was to be the Coach and Horses at Chislehampton.

We had found this venue by accident last year when looking for a watering hole and finding the landlord very helpful and Hooky on draft it was decided to have our evening meal here this year.

We were not to be disappointed with an excellent three course meal well cooked and cheerful service, everyone agreed that it had been a good choice .



One of our members tucking in to the largest pudding on the menu.

On the return we had a collection for the driver and it was quietly suggested that he purchase a map or Sat.Nav. with the proceeds, only those on the trip will realise the significance of this.

Ron Sharpe has to be congratulated on this great day out, his own interest in Motor Sport I am sure helped in the selection of these two attractions.

David Hitchcox

Shelter reaches Earthquake-hit Italy



ShelterBox, the emergency box scheme founded and supported by Rotary clubs, has been providing essential aid to the thousands of people left homeless and destitute by last week's earthquake in central Italy.

As soon as reports came through of the tragic earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale, striking central Italy as residents slept in the early hours of 6 April, UK disaster relief charity ShelterBox mobilised its volunteers and staff to get aid to the devastated region.

At least 90 people are believed to have been killed in the earthquake 95km (60 miles) north-east of Rome. As many as 50,000 people are feared to have been made homeless in the area epicentre L'Aquila.

With initial reports indicating that more than 17,000 people have been left homeless, ShelterBox responded quickly and within 12 hours of the earthquake striking the charity had a representative on the ground in Italy. Volunteer ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) members Nicola Jones and Andrew Biss arrived in the village of Assergi, 15km from the epicentre of the earthquake L'Aquila, with enough shelter for 400 people.

As the team arrived, there was thick frost on the ground and at first they couldn't see any of the villagers. It was only as people started stirring they realised that the 200 inhabitants of the village were all sleeping in their cars. Aid is slow to reach these outlying villages as the major efforts are focussed on L'Aquila itself and when the ShelterBox team arrived no support had reached the village at all.

The team have been working alongside the villagers to clear areas of rubble so that tents could be pitched to protect villagers from the sub zero temperatures that come at nightfall. The younger men and women of the village help with the heavy lifting while the elders provide food and hot drinks for the community and look after the younger children.

As well as setting up the camp, some tents were taken directly to people's houses to accommodate those who were too frail to get to the camp area. At one house an 84 year old man, who was bedridden, had slept out under a makeshift shelter in his garden since the earthquake struck.

Nicola Jones, ShelterBox Response Team member, said: "The community are working together to support each other but there is an underlying tension as the risk of the aftershocks hangs over people. It could still be some time before the residents are able to safely return to their homes. As yet no assessors have reached the village and it may be some weeks before anyone can confirm that their homes are safe; until then they will be sleeping in ShelterBox tents.

"I spoke to one lady who had tears in her eyes when she found out that we had driven all the way from Britain – like most of the residents she had a mixture of emotion and determination to cope with the situation in which they have found themselves."

Shelter for a further 2,000 people is currently being sent out to affected areas. Each ShelterBox contains a 10-person tent, blankets, water purification and cooking equipment, basic tools, a stove and other essential equipment.

Every ShelterBox is individually numbered and can be tracked by donors. The Rotary Club of Gainsborough was one of the clubs who funded a box which is going to provide critical aid to the displaced in Italy. Club Secretary Andrew Macdonald said that he was really pleased that the club's donations had gone to support those left homeless by the disaster.

ShelterBox spokesperson Lasse Patterson said: "It is only with the support of Rotary clubs in the UK and around the globe that we have been able to respond so quickly to this disaster. We are grateful for your ongoing support and hope that you will pass our thanks on to your club members."

Project 65

Project 65 has been created to honour D-Day Veterans in particular the men who took part in the "Coup de Main" operation to capture the bridges over the Caen Canal and River Orne in the first combat operation of D-Day 65 years ago. The bridges are nowadays known as Pegasus and Horsa Bridges.

A team of over 200 sponsored runners will leave Tarrant Rushton Airfield on June 4th 2009 and run 65 miles to arrive at Pegasus Bridge to celebrate and commemorate the 65th Anniversary of D-Day on June 6th 2009. This ultra-run is titled the 'RUN TO PEGASUS'

A new military charity, Project 65 aims to raise £500,000 a small proportion of which will be used to erect a simple but lasting memorial to the men of the Coup de Main force and those directly associated with the operation 65 years ago. The memorial will be erected directly in front of the original bridge within the grounds of the Memorial Pegasus Museum. The remainder of the money raised will be split between service charities.

We heard about this project from Past President Reg Charles, whose son-in-law is taking part in the run, and Reg, who says he will "do" the last 2 miles, has asked the Club for sponsorship. Council agreed to contribute £50 from our funds which has delighted Reg and he has written a lovely letter of thanks, and tells me that he hopes to have lunch with us on 8th May. I'm sure we will all be delighted to see him.

I.W.R.

We have received an invitation from Banbury Cherwell.

We are delighted to advise that Dr Scilla Elworthy has agreed to speak at our club on Tuesday 9th June 2009. Dr Scilla was one of the main speakers at the Rotary Peace Conference at Oxford last autumn.

We unfortunately had to cancel the original date in February due to the snow.

Dr Scilla Elworthy founded the Oxford Research Group in 1982 to develop effective dialogue between nuclear weapons policy-makers world wide and their critics. In 2003 she founded Peace Direct which funds and promotes peace-builders in conflict areas all over the world.

Since 2005 she has been an advisor to The Elders initiative and in 2007 was appointed a member of the World Future Council and also the International Task Force on Preventative Diplomacy. Scilla has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize and was awarded the Niwano Peace Prize in 2003.

Date: Tuesday 9th June 2009 Time: 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

Talk: From the Bottom Up - The Effective Resolution of Conflicts with Peaceful Measures

Venue: The Pavilion, The Glebe Recreation Ground (formerly known as Banbury Cricket Club), White Post Road, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4BN. Cost: £8.00 including buffet style meal

If you or your members would like to attend please let me know the number of attendees:

My contact details:

Old Manor Barn, Hornton Hollow, Bloxham, Oxon OX15 4QP. Tel: 01295 720174 (Home): Mobile: 077470 31480: E mail: sandy.williams@tiscali.co.uk

Kind regards Sandy Williams

The 2010 District Conference

Is being held at the Grand Hotel, Eastbourne on 19th -21st March 2010.

Nigel Randall has managed to secure 12 twin or double bedded rooms at the New Wilmington Hotel, one of the highest rated AA 3-star hotels in Eastbourne and ideally situated close to the conference hotel, town centre, and seafront.

He has negotiated what he hopes you will agree is a very competitive package price of £110.25 per person for three nights bed and breakfast (arrive Thursday, depart Sunday) and including dinner on the Thursday and Friday nights (the Conference will hold its own function on the Saturday night), based on two people sharing a room.

The New Wilmington Hotel

Has 40 comfortable bedrooms, all non-smoking, en-suite and furnished to a high standard.

An elegant restaurant that seats up to 80 guests and has a dance floor.

A bar that is a focal point for guests to enjoy pre-dinner drinks and after-dinner entertainment.

A private lounge - just the place to unwind after a long day.

Internet access and complimentary 'Wi-Fi' access.

For more details look on the internet at: www.new-wilmington-hotel.co.uk

Contact Rotarian Nigel Randall to show interest, a number of members have already booked.

How The Tax System Works

Suppose that every day, ten men go out for beer and the bill for all ten comes to £100.

If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this:

The first four men (the poorest) would pay nothing.

The fifth would pay £1.

The sixth would pay £3.

The seventh would pay £7.

The eighth would pay £12.

The ninth would pay £18.

The tenth man (the richest) would pay £59.

So, that's what they decided to do. The ten men drank in the bar every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement, until one day, the owner threw them a curve. 'Since you are all such good customers,' he said, 'I'm going to reduce the cost of your daily beer by £20.' Drinks for the ten now cost just £80.

The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes so the first four men were unaffected. They would still drink for free. But what about the other six men - the paying customers? How could they divide the £20 windfall so that everyone would get his 'fair share?' They realized that £20 divided by six is £3.33. But if they subtracted that from everyone's share, then the fifth man and the sixth man would each end up being paid to drink his beer. So, the bar owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each man's bill by roughly the same amount, and he proceeded to work out the amounts each should pay. And so:

The fifth man, like the first four, now paid nothing (100% savings).

The sixth now paid £2 instead of £3 (33% savings).

The seventh now pay £5 instead of £7 (28% savings).

The eighth now paid £9 instead of £12 (25% savings).

The ninth now paid £14 instead of £18 (22% savings).

The tenth now paid £49 instead of £59 (16% savings).

Each of the six was better off than before. And the first four continued to drink for free. But once outside the restaurant, the men began to compare their savings.

'I only got a pound out of the £20,' declared the sixth man. He pointed to the tenth man, 'but he got £10!'

'Yes, that's right,' exclaimed the fifth man. 'I only saved a pound, too. It's unfair that he got ten times more than I did'

'That's true!!' shouted the seventh man. 'Why should he get £10 back when I got only two? The wealthy get all the breaks'

'Wait a minute,' yelled the first four men in unison. 'We didn't get anything at all. The system exploits the poor'

The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up. The next night the tenth man didn't show up for drinks, so the nine sat down and had beers without him. But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered something important. They didn't have enough money between all of them for even half of the bill.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, journalists and college professors, is how our tax system works. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy, and they just may not show up anymore. In fact, they might start drinking overseas where the atmosphere is somewhat friendlier.

David R. Kamerschen, Ph.D. Professor of Economics For those who understand, no explanation is needed. For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible.

Sports and Entertainment.

The Inter Club Quiz took place at the Masonic Hall on the 16th. March. A good turnout with a lot of competition between the teams, the eventual winners were our own Rotary Club with team members Tony Wiltshire, Bob Dix, Mike Budd and Chris Reynolds bringing home the Trophy.

Inter Club darts has also taken place between Banbury and Banbury Cherwell Rotary club's everyone arrived with good intentions for a night of darts but after three rounds the eating and drinking took over and no more darts were played. It became an excellent social occasion with everyone enjoying the fellowship. By the way Cherwell Club did win 2 to 1 of the little darts played.

International. Contact is almost upon us and John Hansford and his team are busy making the final arrangements for what promises to be an excellent weekend. With visits to Windsor, The Thames, Oxford and the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon. Approximateley 85 visitors are expected.

Youth Opportunities.

The Mock Interviews at Blessed George Napier School have been completed the joint winners were Hannah Mansfield and Tamsin Smith who will receive books as prizes. The next interviews at Warriner School are confirmed for the 7th, 9th, & 14th July. A number of new interviewers are required and Rotarians are requested to recruit from friends and associates. (P.s. This is s a good way of introducing prospective members to Rotary).

Children Singing for Children is to be held at St Mary's Church on 10th, 11th, & 12th. November. The charities involved will be Schools for All in Africa and the Multicultural Play Project.

Community Service.

Stroke awareness day was carried out on 18th. April organised by Rotarian Helen Braseby. Over 130 people were tested with some advised to have immediate referral. Although not a fund raising exercise £38.00 was donated.

Treasurer's Talk

Where the money goes During March donations have been made to the following:

Christian Hope School - £3,000

Young Musician Costs - £633

Young Chef Costs - £60

The level of 'free' funds stands at just over £6,700

Change of Date

CLUB ASSEMBLY Please Note Club Assembly is now to take place on 12th June
Not 19th as previously notified.

HON SECRETARY – Rtn. Dr. Ian Rodrick CLUB WEBSITE :- www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk
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COPY DATE is the penultimate Friday of the month.