



# *The Banbury Bulletin*

**The Rotary Club of Banbury**

District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

**President John Bennett**

**SEPTEMBER 2011**



## **John's Jotting's**

**President John Bennett**

Two months on and I'm starting to feel at home – even the wooden chair I have to sit in on Friday lunchtime is beginning to feel comfortable – except when I lean back.

After a very busy first month in office, August has been much quieter and Shirley has been asking if I shouldn't be out of the house on Rotary business more often. I'm beginning to wonder if there's a hidden message there?

**4th August.** A meeting with Andrew Fairbairn to discuss our proposed return to Broughton Castle for a Dragon Boat extravaganza on 4<sup>th</sup> June next year. We discussed ways in which we could improve the general management of the day and in view of the fact that it is an expensive project to put on, the need to maximise opportunities to raise more funds from the event. Any ideas please?

**18<sup>th</sup> August.** Forty four members and partners enjoyed an evening visit to Charles Swain's abode, to view his wonderful collection of vintage and classic cars and an opportunity to look round the gardens. Foundation Chairman Martin Phillips arranged the bar (who else?) and Helen Braisby organised a raffle on behalf of Com & Voc. It was a really enjoyable social gathering and my thanks to Charles & Pauline for their hospitality.

**24<sup>th</sup> August.** International Chairman Malcolm Douglas arranged another of his ever popular Clay Pigeon Shoots. Rotarians from Banbury Cherwell, and Bicester joined us for an evening of instruction and competition. In the novice category, Owen Kyffin shot most clays and Helen (Flasher) Morris shot most photographs. We then all shot off to the pub for ham, egg & chips. A great evenings entertainment.

**25<sup>th</sup> August.** My second Council meeting at which we again covered a broad spectrum of business. I've asked all Chairmen of Service and House Committees to report relevant council business back to at your regular committee meetings, so hopefully all Rotary members will be kept informed of what is going on – so long as they attend their meetings!

**29<sup>th</sup> August.** With seven other members of our club, I attended the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell's "Family Fun Day" held at the Rugby Club. We pitched in to assist with car parking and general stewarding, whilst several other members were directly involved on charity stalls and Paul Shea caught a pig and ran the pig roast. Banbury Cherwell President, Phil Page, has asked me to thank all Rotary Club of Banbury members, who attended, for their support.

And other than the four regular, jovial Friday meetings, which I thoroughly enjoy, that's all I've done. I do intend to attend some committee meetings in September (if they will have me) so watch out. In the meantime, keep up the fun and fellowship - **because that's what Rotary is all about.**

John Bennett – your current President.

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**It is with regret that we announce the death of Rotarian Richard George after a short illness.**



Richard was President of the Rotary Club of Banbury in 1999/00. He was very active in our club being Chairman

of Community, Foundation, Youth Opportunities, and Fellowship and House. Richard was always keen to be involved with all aspects of club life after joining in 1981, thirty years of service. A recent memory for many club members was Richard serving us at the bar at "Stephens Steaming" which took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. He will be a great loss to our club, and we extend our condolences to Fiona and family at this sad time.

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**AN INVITATION TO SPONSOR  
THE 10th 'CHILDREN SINGING FOR CHILDREN' CONCERTS  
TUESDAY 8th, WEDNESDAY 9th and THURSDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2011  
ST MARY'S CHURCH, BANBURY**

A request to members to look for sponsors for this memorable Rotary event

Banbury Rotary Club will be organising the successful Children Singing for Children concerts again in November and 2011 is a landmark because it's the 10th year and we want to make it special.

The concerts will involve some 21 local primary schools and are held over three evenings. Including participants, up to 600 people attend each evening and provide an excellent opportunity for sponsors to help in giving the children a chance to sing in the beautiful St Mary's Church as a school choir and then also in the massed choir finale of "World in Union", our theme song. Sponsorship assists the club in meeting set-up costs and for providing professional musicians and a conductor.

Sponsors will be given publicity in the programme as well as being able to have some recognition on the evenings and complimentary seats, depending on the extent of their contribution.

As an extra, this year we will be supporting Rotary International's drive to eradicate Polio and in recognition, to plant crocuses on a site in Banbury yet to be confirmed with Banbury Town Council. 90% of the concert surplus will go to the Polio Eradication Fund and 10% to other Rotary Children's Charities. Over the past ten years over £30,000 has been shared amongst the chosen charities as a result of Children Singing for Children Concerts.

If any member has contact with a benefactor, local business or a new business into the Banbury area who might like to sponsor the event or become a sponsor (say £250) or a major sponsor (say £1,000) please let me have their details or preferably approach them yourselves if you have a contact.

I will be pleased to give any more information.

Thank you

Jonathan Meredith

For Youth Opportunities Committee

jandjmeredith@btinternet.com

### **Clay Pigeon Shoot at Greatworth**

Malcolm Douglas organised a Clay Pigeon Shoot event at Greatworth for fellow Rotarians and seventeen turned up from Banbury and Banbury Cherwell Rotary Clubs. About six were regular shooters and the rest were novices. It was a 'Compact' event which means that the targets are nearer but the shots have to be faster. The novices were shown what and where to shoot and it was very enjoyable to do and entertaining to watch. Two of the experienced shooters had a tied score of 20 but the winning prize was for the novice section and this was presented to Richard Moyle, from Banbury Cherwell, as he scored 17, a very

good score for a novice. The weather was quite kind although at one time was very cloudy and threatening and then there was a super sunset. After the event there was a supper at The New Inn in Middleton Cheney for a debrief and enjoyable chatter. Helen Morris



### **SHELTERBOX** a letter received.

The Rotary Club of Banbury

Supporter Reference: 117574

Dear Supporter

Pakistan one year on: how you made a difference

In 2010 Pakistan suffered the worst flooding it had seen for more than 80 years. The floods began in late July after unrelenting monsoon rains and soon around one-fifth of the land was submerged by water. As a member of the ShelterBox team who worked to help those affected by this disaster, I wanted to share a personal story about one family I met during that time.

I came across Abdurazar, his wife Rahmat and their five children struggling to survive with no shelter and little food. They had fled their village, Bash Rangoo, to escape the rising flood water which had completely destroyed their home -they had lost everything. Homeless, Abdurazar felt he needed to stay with his family to keep them safe, but this meant he could not work and earn money to buy food and support them.

Abdurazar was just one of the 11 million people who lost their homes in the flooding and were forced to live in wretched conditions, beside roads, sleeping in the open, with little food or clean water. On that day I was able to give Abdurazar's family their own ShelterBox and this gift meant they now had somewhere they could call their own.

Your ShelterBox, was among the 8,767 delivered to families like Abdurazar's in Pakistan. By October 2010 we had helped over 140,000 people.

My words will not be able to express the gratitude of Abdurazar and his family when they received their ShelterBox. The tent meant they now had a home, Abdurazar was able to go to work and his family could start to rebuild their lives.

Thank you for continuing to support our work.

Yours sincerely Mark Pearson ,      Field Operations Specialist

## **Who is Ray Burman**

### **RIBI President 2011/12**

Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

Ray Burman has been a Rotarian since January 1995 and served Rotary as RI Membership Coordinator, trainer, facilitator and moderator at many Rotary seminars and meetings. He and wife Victoria have been privileged to act as RI President Representative on a number of occasions. Burman, as he prefers to be known, is a Foundation Major Donor, Bequest Society Member and Foundation Benefactor. Burman has received Rotary's Service Above Self Award in 2009. While District Governor in 2003/04, Burman inspired clubs to support and fund Dream Villages in District 3220, Sri Lanka, forging a connection with RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe's concept of a DREAM team. Clubs donated US\$450,000, which has funded 145 low cost shelter houses and two schools in Sri Lanka. During his year as DG, annual giving to The Rotary Foundation doubled. During 2002/03 Burman met with Wilkin & Sons, manufacturer of preserves and negotiated the production of 60,000 jars of marmalade with an RI Spread & Save label as a fund-raising initiative for The Rotary Foundation. At the 2004 RI Institute, RIBI Foundation Chairman Paul Buyers revealed that the amount raised by the Spread & Save marmalade was US\$1 million. Burman has a history of raising money for charity since 1983 - by undertaking endurance events with personal sponsorship – having completed 25 marathons and 158 half marathons. In May 2000 he cycled from Florida to California, covering over 3000 miles, visiting Rotary Clubs promoting and raising funds for The Rotary Foundation. Burman has served his local community by being involved with his local church and was founder chairman and member of The Friends of St. Luke's Parish Church, a member of the Homeless Persons Soup Run group and was founder member of Tiptree Medical Centre Patient's Board. He sat as a board member of the NE Essex PCT Patient & Public Involvement Panel, School Governor, Parish Councillor and village tree warden. He holds a Masters degree in Business Administration and a Diploma in Management Studies. Burman is a member of the Rotary Club of Kelvedon and District.

## **A SOCIAL EVENING AT ROTARIAN CHARLES SWAIN'S HOME.**

On the evening of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011 a total of 44 intrepid Rotarians braved the weather and, by kind invitation, went to the home of Rotarian Charles Swain at Adderbury to attend a pleasant social evening and to view at their leisure Charles' collection of vintage and veteran motor cars.

Rotarian Martin Phillips and his able assistant Nigel Higgs ran a bar in Charles' summer house for the refreshment of all present and there was also the opportunity to view the extensive gardens at the house. It was easy to appreciate the immaculate gardens but this could have been enhanced if the weather had been kinder and warmer.

Also in the summer house there lurked the Chairman of the Community and Vocational Committee namely Rotarian Helen Braisby who did her level best to relieve the assembled Rotarians of as much cash as possible in the purchase of raffle tickets.

The whole event was under the watchful eye of our President John Bennett and he had boosted the number of vehicles on show by bringing his own Austin Healey 3000 which also attracted those attending.

Charles' collection attracted a lot of interest as did his workshop/garage. The cars on display were a very rare 1907 Baby Friswell, I believe the only running example in the world, a 1922 Bullnose Morris, a 1922 Flatnose Morris, a 1922 Phantom 2 Rolls Royce Tourer, a 1934 Morris 10/6 Special Sports, a 1934 Morris Sports Special Coupe, a Morris 8 2 seat tourer, a 1937 Morris 8 2 door saloon, a beautiful Alvis 4.3Van den Plas Tourer and a rare 2001 Rolls Royce Corniche Coupe.

Needless to say he is very proud of his collection and rightly so and our thanks goes to Charles for a very successful evening.

Bob Nurden ( Community & Vocational Secretary)

### **END POLIO BBQ SKITTLES.**

An afternoon of skittles was enjoyed at The Sun Inn Hook Norton on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>. August.

A number of teams fought for the honour of winning, the Banbury Team consisting of Ron Barnett, John Webb and Ann and David Hitchcox, were in the lead until the very last throw when they were pipped by a team from Kingham & Daylesford. So we had to settle for second place. There was a surprise visit from District Governor Niall Blair in his Polio mobile. This very distinctive car decorated in logos for

Polio Eradication is an eye catcher, it even has a registration number POL IO KO.



An excellent convivial afternoon organised by the Kingham & Daylesford Club with the proceeds going to Polio Eradication.

### **Community and Vocational:-**

Dragon Boats at Broughton Castle confirmed 4 June 2012. 54 people assisted at the Brackley Beer Festival and a total of £5000. Was raised for Leonard Cheshire Mini Bus appeal.

**Foundation:-** The Family Christmas Festival of Music to be arranged by Stephen Jakeman on the 10 December. Other items for fund raising include Donations in lieu of Christmas cards, Frugal Lunch and Stephens Steaming 17 June 2012.

**Sports & Entertainment:-** Future events to include District Darts Competition a Theatre Trip. The Club darts to be held at the Cricket club on 27<sup>th</sup> February and the Inter Club Quiz 5<sup>th</sup> March 20102.\_

**International:-** A joint collection with Banbury Cherwell Club raised £1500 for the Save the Children fund for the Horn of Africa. Future events to include a Race Night, Birmingham Chamber Orchestra

Concert, and a speaker on Water Aid. Andrew Fairbairn has obtained 50 sewing machines which are to be donated to the Langley and Iver Rotary Club who have a system for distributing these items. Don't forget Contact Visit 2012 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. May in Italy.

### **Youth Opportunities.**

The RYLA candidate Simon Penhallow has completed the 2011 camp and would shortly be speaking at Club. It is then hoped to recruit for 2012. The other events planned include BYHP interviews, Children Singing for Children, Young Chef, and Young Musician. The Practice Interviews at Warriner School have been completed.

A meeting at Banbury Cherwell Club on the 6<sup>th</sup> September will consider jointly the possibility of forming Interact and Rotaract clubs in our area. A speaker from District will be attending.

### **Classification, Membership & P.R.**

There are a number of possible new members being "pursued", but it is emphasised that members should continually lookout for possible new Rotarians.

**Brodey Bursary:-** There are 3 possible candidates for the Brodey Engineering Bursary this year as we only had 1 last year and the aim is to have two per year.

### **SPEAKER REPORTS.**

**The Evening Meeting** with partners held on 29<sup>th</sup>. July at the Freemasons Hall was exceptional on two counts. Firstly the dinner was excellent and to a high standard and secondly we were treated to an excellent talk by Nicola McHugh. Nicola's subject was Tristan De Cunha where she had worked as an advisor to the nurses there for a 6 week period. The presentation started with an outline of the history of the island and how it came to be populated, and that the founding families descendants still lived on the Island to this day. The Island situated in mid Atlantic is very remote and has great difficulty in landing goods and passengers as there is not a harbour capable of taking larger ships, everything including passengers have to be off loaded onto smaller boats.

Nicola then told of her experiences in attempting to upgrade the knowledge of the nursing staff at the local hospital. This proved to be far harder than expected as the level of expertise was much lower than expected. We were then told of the Sea life which abounded in the local waters which together with some excellent pictures made for a very interesting and fascinating presentation, much enjoyed by all. The final vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Shirley Kershaw.

D.H.

### **5<sup>th</sup>. August. My Job My life:- Rotarian Eric Watson**

A Manchester lad by birth, Eric and wife Wendy hailed from Cheshire. They have been married for over 50 years and have two daughters and five grandchildren. Family members and old friends lived near Culworth and in order to be near them all, Eric and Wendy moved to this area some 13 years ago.

Eric's professional life is in Building Services, starting his career as an Apprentice with G.N.Haden & Sons Ltd. A long established firm of Heating and Ventilation specialists. During this time Eric qualified in Project management in these subjects, attending part time at the National College for Heating, Ventilation and air Conditioning in London.

He then did his National Service with the R.A.F., latterly with a Signals Intelligence unit in Germany.

During his time with Hadens Eric was involved with several large contracts including the new Manchester Airport, Fords Transmission Plant at Hailwood and a science block for Manchester College of Technology & Science. Eventually he was offered the post of Drawing Office manager in Belfast where happy and busy years were marred by the troubles of 1968. He had his share of bomb scares and security checks and actual bombing in and near his office, which suffered structural damage. He experienced these troubles for eight years instead of the original five, moving out in 1975.

He moved to Morpeth as Commercial Manager, and Eric took over as Branch Manger in 1978. An architect friend introduced him to Rotary in Newcastle and Eric has vivid memories of distributing soup and bread to the "down and outs" living under the railway arches.

In 1983 Eric returned to the Manchester office as Regional Manager and Financial Controller for the North East and Midland regions moving later to Knutsford in Cheshire.

Eric retired in 1993 moving to Culworth then commencing his association with this area.

Tom Taylor.

## “The Samaritans”

The speakers on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August were two Banbury Samaritans, Ruth and Maurice.

The organisation was founded in 1953 by the Rev'd Chad Varah following the suicide of a 14 year old girl. They aim to provide confidential emotional support to those with feelings of distress and despair which might lead on to suicide. This is available throughout Britain and Ireland 24 hours per day and the organisation averages a contact every five seconds! These pleas for help traditionally were by telephone but now include Emails, texts and Facebook contacts. In addition Samaritans are to be found in the community, in schools, prisons and a recent “Feet in the Street” campaign. They also have a telephone on every prison wing in Britain and are currently training selected prisoners as Samaritan helpers.

The Banbury Branch was founded in 1974, currently has 68 volunteers and dealt with 480 contacts per week in the last year. Many contacts are made via mobile phone which can be very expensive, and their telephone bill was approximately £18,000.00 last year.

The interest generated by Ruth and Maurice was reflected in the number of questions which were asked by members.

I was impressed by the statistic that there were 205 volunteers for every paid employee of the Samaritans – another example of the value of voluntary effort in our community.

Ian Rodrick.

### **Marketing !!**

1. You see a gorgeous girl at a party. You go up to her and say: "I am very rich. Marry me!" - That's Direct Marketing.
2. You're at a party with a bunch of friends and see a gorgeous girl. One of your friends goes up to her and pointing at you says: "He's very rich. Marry him." -That's Advertising
3. You see a gorgeous girl at a party. You go up to her and get her telephone number. The next day, you call and say: "Hi, I'm very rich. Marry me" - That's Telemarketing
4. You're at a party and see gorgeous girl. You get up and straighten your tie, you walk up to her and pour her a drink, you open the door (of the car) "Marry Me?" - That's Public Relations..."
5. You're at a party and see gorgeous girl. She walks up to you and says "You are very rich! Can you marry me?" - That's Brand Recognition.
6. You see a gorgeous girl at a party. You go up to her and say: "I am very rich. Marry me!" She gives you a nice hard slap on your face. - That's Customer Feedback.
7. You see a gorgeous girl at a party. You go up to her and say: "I am very rich. Marry me!" And she introduces you to her husband. - That's demand and supply gap.
8. You see a gorgeous girl at a party. You go up to her and before you say anything, another person comes and tell her: "I'm rich. Will you marry me?" and she goes with him - That's competition eating into your market share.
9. You see a gorgeous girl at a party. You go up to her and before you say: "I'm rich, Marry me!" your wife arrives. - That's restriction for entering new markets.

### **DIRECTORY CHANGES.**

**Stewart Maxwell, New E.Mail <[s.a.maxwell@btinternet.com](mailto:s.a.maxwell@btinternet.com)**

**Geoff Wood,** Post code should read OX15 4HW

**Stan Crump** new E.Mail <[sandpcrump@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sandpcrump@hotmail.co.uk)

Please delete the following from your directories.

Kieron Mallon , Resigned

Chris Reynolds, Transferred to Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell.

Amin Voghoui , Membership Lapsed.

**HON SECRETARY –David Sullivan**

**CLUB WEBSITE ;-** [www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk)

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