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E Newsletter

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Foreword from President Ryan

It's been another busy and enjoyable Quarter. Refreshed after the Christmas break we came back in the New Year to hear Peter Medley's account of his career so far in the hospitality business and a good plug for the Skene Group, thus preparing the ground for his boss's visit a week later to tell us about the career of Grace Kelly.

The Burns Supper this year was once again a resounding success, with a full complement of guests, excellent speakers and entertainers, a good meal and the auction of a plaque depicting the bard, kindly donated by Ranald. Thanks for organising the evening go to Bill Burr and his worthy team.

At the beginning of February we heard the wonderful news that India had had a full twelve-month period without any new polio victims. It's heart-warming to note that our contribution to this massive international cause is producing such positive results. But there's still quite a way to go.

Events in February included the beginning of the Young Musicians competition, for which eighteen vocalists and instrumentalists from Banchory Academy entered. One from each category went on to the District Final in Perth in March and one of those even qualified for the Regional Final before being eliminated. We have some very talented young people in our midst.

Jim Thomson organised a Malaysian Food Evening which raised over £1,000 shared between the funding of two young people going out to the Ikelenge School for the Deaf in Zambia and Malaria No More. Well done, Jim.

We inducted new member Harry McNab in March. Welcome to Rotary, Harry. It's great to have you among us and we look forward to meeting Lynn in due course too.

Looking forward, the Banchory St Ternan's Committee requested the club to take charge of a beacon to be lit on 4th June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We were delighted to accept this duty and preparations are now in hand by Sigrid's Community Services Committee towards this exciting event. We plan to celebrate 20 years since the club's refurbishment of the Scolty Tower at the same time. Tree planting by the club towards the end of 2012 to commemorate the Jubilee is also being planned.

The Crathes Car Rally committee are busy preparing for this annual event at the end of May and entries have started rolling in (sorry!). Pray for fine weather and a good outcome for this year's main charity, UCAN.

By the time this Newsletter is out we will have had our AGM when a full review of all that's happened over the year so far will be presented by our convenors and appointments of convenors and council members for the year ahead are confirmed. . But the Rotary year is by no means over yet. We have another busy Quarter to look forward to. By the way, we have already been informed that we will be awarded a Zone Literacy Award for the year.

Finally, if you haven't visited the club website lately I commend you to do so. Chris has given it a number of tweaks. It gets better and better. Thanks, Chris.

Rotary Cheque for Childline Champion Esther



Popular Journalist and Television Presenter, Esther Rantzen was presented with a windfall cheque for £1600 for the charity Childline by Ryan Bond, President of the Rotary Club of Banchory-Ternan on Monday 12th March at the Childline premises in Aberdeen. Ms Rantzen founded the children's charity in 1986. The presentation was attended by a number of Banchory Rotarians whose efforts helped raise the funds and also Mr George Berstan the Past District Governor of Rotary District 1010, North Scotland.

Following the cheque presentation, Ms Rantzen spoke about the important work carried out by Childline, she said, "For many children, for a variety of reasons, we are the only people left that they feel they can talk to." The charity celebrated its 25 anniversary in 2011 and Ms Rantzen wrote a book entitled Running Out of Tears: Twenty Five Years of Childline. The book contains details of landmark events in the quarter of a century of the charity's existence.

Message from Muriel from Mumbai

Dear Members of Rotary Club of Banchory-Ternan

I've just returned from my annual visit to the St. Joseph's Centre, Chennai, India. All is well there and the children are fine. The Centre is now under the supervision of Sister Jayaseeli and things are running much the same as when Sister Bakkiam was alive.

I've enclosed some recent photographs of Vijay and his younger brother Madhan who you are supporting for their hostel care needs at the St. Joseph Centre. Vijay is continuing to do well at the Tamil school and is second in his class and getting very high marks for all his subjects. Madhan has started at the English speaking Montfort school as one of the children we have on the English Education Programme. He has settled in well in his lower kindergarten year and his teacher is very pleased with him. Their younger sister Shini will join Madhan at Montfort school when the school year starts in June.

The Sponsors Day party that I ran this year was a great success. We made party hats and paper chains to decorate the hall in the morning. The children then received their cards, letters and greetings from their sponsors then we had a special feast at lunch time. In the afternoon we played party games then in the evening the children put on a performance of singing and dancing. A great time was had by all.

You will receive my Annual Newsletter in the post in due course along with a thank you letter from Vijay.

Once again I would like to thank you for your support as Sponsors for Vijay and Madhan's hostel care.

Kind Regards

Muriel



Vijay younger brother Madhan, Muriel, younger sister Shini and Mum Lalita (who Works as a cook in the Centre)

Capacity Crowd attend Young Musicians Heat



Pictured at the end of the exciting local Young Musicians heat, are (front) Alistair Sealy and Amber Massie, (rear) Rosie Herrington and Natasha Cutler

It was a “full house” at Hill of Banchory School recently when 140 parents, friends and Rotarians gathered to enjoy the performances of the best of Banchory Academy, at the local round of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year annual competition.

Twenty young musicians participated in the local heat from which the judges had to select a winner and runner up in each of two categories – Instrumental and Vocalist.

The Instrumentalist winner was Trombonist Alistair Sealy for his excellent performance of Fantasy for Trombone, with the Runner-up going to Saxophonist Rosie Herrington who played the jazz number East Coast Main Line. From the Vocalists the winner was Amber Massie who sang The Greatest Love of All with great style and presence, and the runner-up prize went to Natasha Cutler whose performance of I Will Always Love You was very much in the style of Whitney Houston.

The winners of the Instrumentalist and Vocalists groups moved forward to the North of Scotland District Heat, which took place in St. Leonard’s-in-the-Fields Church in Perth on Sunday 18th March. Owing to other commitments, Alistair was unable to attend the Perth heat and his place was taken by Rosie, who won through to the Scottish regional final, but unfortunately did not progress from there.

Congratulations to all who took part and provided the audience with a very high standard of performance.

Big Band Jazz Night at Harlaw

Five Club members and partners enjoyed a great evening of Big Band Jazz in Harlaw Academy in March. The Jazz Concert presented by the Rotary Club of Aberdeen, in aid of local charities, involved four different bands.

As the audience, armed with food and BoB baskets arrived and took their tables, they were welcomed by the sound of the Duhalt Saxophone Quartet, a group of friends who regularly play together. The Quartet made a big sound for only four players, the audience enjoying a selection played on baritone, tenor, alto and soprano saxophones.

The Aberdeenshire Saxophone Orchestra was next on the bill and was conducted by well-known saxophonist, Richard Ingham, who has broadcast and recorded many items of the solo saxophone repertoire, and given recitals in the UK, Europe and North America.

It was then the turn of one of Harlaw Academy's many extracurricular groups, the Senior Jazz Band to take the stage. The band which has 18 members is made up of school pupils from S3 – S6, with a school technician thrown in! The pupils, conducted by teacher Pauline Black, gave a very fine performance, including some very fine and much applauded solos. The highlight for the Harlaw Academy Jazz Band last June was to play venues in Paris. Following lots of hard work and a successful audition they were invited to play in Paris Disney.

The final session of the evening was played by the South Aberdeenshire Music Centre (SAMC) Big Band. The band is part of the music centre network run by Aberdeenshire Council Instrumental Service. SAMC, conducted by Fabrizio Oddo, is made up of school pupils and "adult learners" and the Band regularly undertakes external engagements, including performances at the Aberdeenshire Jazz Week in June. SAMC was the "real deal" in Big Band sound and at the end of a thoroughly enjoyable evening; the members of the Banchory group were unanimous in expressing their enjoyment for the high quality of all the participating bands. Thanks to President Ryan for organising a really cool night out!



Members of the Banchory group who enjoyed a great evening of Big Band Jazz at Harlaw Academy



Curling Report



Here we are at the end of this year's curling season and it has been a good one, though at times somewhat frustrating, as several games which we should have won easily were lost through momentary lack of concentration half way through the game. A bit like Scotland's Rugby team this year.

At the last game on Tuesday past, the team had a very convincing win against the League leaders Deeside, to retain our position in third place.

In December we played in the Interleague Competition but our team ran out of luck as we lost badly to Ellon and Aberdeen (both first division teams) in the first 2 games of the Round Robin. We did however have convincingly wins in the remaining 3 games and finished up equal in second place with Ellon, but alas failed to qualify for the Knockout section as we had won less ends. Ironically the two teams to go through to the final were Aberdeen and Ellon.

We missed our skip Leonard in the team up until the New Year but, after a shaky start on his return, he soon got back into the swing of things and his experience gave us a boost and we managed to creep up the league table with some confidence.

Colin, Raymond and Ryan all upped their game this season and Chris, who had to miss out on several 4pm games, maintained his usual reliable standard. Dave Edmonds, who joined the team this year, also missed out on several games due to his off-shore commitments but is showing promise and with further practice will be a valuable addition to our pool of players. Ian P played his usual hit or miss game throughout the season with fortunately more hits than misses.

Now we must look to next season and if we can improve the concentration aspect of our game I am sure that we will win that elusive promotion next year.

Ian P



Dates for your Diaries



Message from Gavel Challenge Coordinator George

The gavel is going in the right direction; we are now into the quarter final with a match against Ellon to be played before the 15/4. I think it is sometime since we have progressed this far and it would be nice to continue along this path.

It would be good for the club if there was more interest from the members, as I usually rely on the same stalwarts and without them there would be no gavel involvement within the Banchory club at all.

We are now entering the stages where we can be drawn away from home, as with our match with Ellon which is in Ellon.

The Quarter-Final draw is as follows:-

TURRIFF v WICK
AUCHTERARDER v KIRRIEMUIR
DUNFERMLINE v KIRKCALDY
BANCHORY v ELLON

As you see a lot of travelling involved, and this is when it is helpful if we can have as big a pool of Gavel enthusiasts as possible. The Gavel is all about playing for the Club, taking part and Fellowship – so if you have not yet taken part in the competition, why not come along as a player or supporter, it really is good fun.

George R



Rotary Kids Out – Wednesday 13th June

Peter Rattenbury is still looking for volunteers for this most worthwhile project. If you're free on **13th June** why not join in, helping to give local kids a really exciting **FUN DAY OUT**.

Find out more about **Rotary Kids Out** from the District website, or talk to **Peter**



Hi Guys

Below I have listed the dates for Rotary's fishing slots for 2012 so that you can put them in your diaries.

This Year we have been more than fortunate to get a week's fishing (courtesy of Lawrence Ross) on the Little Blackhall beat. This is a new beat for us so could be a bit of a challenge and I hope you will take advantage of this great offer.

Little Blackhall 18 to 23 June (3 rods)
Crathes Castle Water 6 and 7 July (4 rods)
Lairds Cast 23 to 28 July (2 rods)

Banchory Fishings

Rotary has again been given Banchory Fishings (4 rods) from 9 to 11 August to raise money for our Rotary Charity Funds. There are still 2 rods available so if you would like to fish this beat or know of anyone who would, please let me know.

The rods on this beat are being let on a day basis, cost £130 per rod per day. Tight lines.

Ian P



**Crathes Vintage Car and Motorcycle Rally
Sunday 27th 2012**

If you have a friend or acquaintance who has a Vintage or Classic Car or Motorcycle and who has never entered our Rally, why not persuade them to join us for the 2012 Rally in the Milton Field.

**Online booking available on www.crathes.com
or**

Encourage your friends to enjoy a Fun Day at the Rally as spectators

You can Help the Rally, Help Rotary and Help this year's main Rally Charity



**Young Speechmakers Final
and Musical Interlude
Wednesday 6th June**

This annual Partners' Evening is always very entertaining. A strong attendance of Rotarians and partners is always most welcome.

Make sure **you** have **6th June** in your diary - you will not be disappointed.



Happy Easter to All