

PRESIDENTIAL YEAR 1978-79 – Vic Banks

It all began with an election. An election for Vice-President – unheard of! Consternation ensued when the result was a dead heat, but in the subsequent run-off George Kerr was successful and I was elected to be his Vice-President the following year. Such excitement!

July 1978 saw me in the hot seat and participating in a cricket match versus Round Table – an annual event. Tim Brett hit a six through a window of one of St. Edmund's boarding houses – lost ball. Cricket Week soon followed with meetings at the Cricket Tent, shared with the Chamber of Trade.

The cost of Rotary was at the forefront of our minds at this time. Not surprising when you consider that the annual subscription had been increased by a massive £2 to the princely sum of £18.00 and Ray Hallett was installed as the second President of the newly-formed Forest of Blean Rotary Club. Our Club was busy running and encouraging the local Young Enterprise group. We also formed and inaugurated the Canterbury Probus Club.

Harold Dawton (estate agent) achieved fifty years in Rotary and was rewarded with a magnificent illuminated address. He joined two other similarly long-serving members of the Club. Harold, with Jack Barrett, was responsible (in 1947) for starting the St. Quentin Club contact, from which much good has flowed (much of it in liquid form). Alan Denne at that time had the extremely important job of presenting the birthdays.

The biannual visit from St. Quentin Club took place in October and included a visit (with picnic) to Leeds Castle. Farrukh Hussain joined the Club. The District Conference was held in Eastbourne. The Christmas Dinner cost £5.75 per person. In January the annual Port and Cheese Party with Round Table was held in St. Augustines Refectory.

A Victorian Music Hall was staged at Canterbury College for members and guests. In March a day's visit to the Bata shoe factory at East Tilbury was organised.

The Pentangular Week-end was at St. Quentin and included a magnificent Medieval Evening in the imposing Chateau of Pierrefonds (Napoleon III had had it rebuilt with us in mind). Canterbury proposed the setting up of the Mini Group Study Exchange system and also the inauguration of a combined Pentangular donation to an International project.

The final act of this busy year was the commencement of the 100 Club.