

Subj: **Hello from your host in Oxford!**
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CC: CCHeede@aol.com

Hi Marcelo

I am your host counsellor for Rotary in Oxford. I am the UK equivalent of Conrad! My name is Dorothy Cantrell and my husband is Martin. I am a member of Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club. We live in Hook Norton village which is near to Oxford---Our village has a brewery brewing Hooky beer!

First of all congratulations in being offered a place at Oxford University---you have done very well against stiff worldwide competition. Quite an achievement. Also congratulations on being accepted as a Rotary Scholar --- again an outstanding achievement against stiff competition. I am so pleased that you have finally got through all the paperwork and have had your grant approved. It sounds like you have now had to start battling to get your visa. I am not sure I can help with that but if there is anything specific I could do to help you let me know.

I believe you have done another Rotary project in South America---I would be very interested to hear all about that. It is an achievement to be accepted on a further project---now in Europe!

Do please e-mail me and let me know how I can help you to set things up here in Oxford before your arrival. We will come and meet you at the airport and make sure you are settled into your accomodation. We can help with things like bank accounts etc Just need to get the visa sorted first so that you have a date of arrival to work with.

I would be very interested to know what you will be studying at Oxford University and which College you will be attached to. Conrad mentioned that you would be doing research on child poverty. What was your initial degree in and are your proposed studies a development of this? I would be very interested in hearing about your interest in child poverty as I am a local Magistrate and I sit on cases to do with crime but also family matters too (such as adoption/emergency protection orders etc)

I would be interested to hear all about you and your family---do let me know. I would also be very interested to hear all about where you live and your interests and hobbies. It would be good if you could continue to pursue some of your interests while you are in the UK.---and try some new ones too! Oxford is a very cultural city with lots of theatre and music---but equally is surrounded by beautiful countryside ideal for outdoor pursuits.

I am 61 and recently retired---and loving the freedom! My husband is the same. As I said we live in a stone cottage in Hook Norton which is in the Cotswolds. It is a large friendly village with a lot going on---we have 4 pubs (as you would expect with a brewery!), two shops, a school, library, Doctors, vets, church, football club. brass band, bus service etc I worked for about 24 years teaching economics to A level in secondary schools in Essex where we lived for a long time while the children were growing up. I then took a new direction and went into the Civil Service---the Home Office---going to court for the Secretary of State in cases involving asylum seekers. I did that for ten years. Martin was a solicitor for the Civil Service---Work and Pensions---sorting large scale contracts for the government. We both were working in London and commuting from Essex and then for the last two year from Hook Norton.

My family are grown up---our daughter--Emily---is 34 and married to James. They live nearby in Reading. Emily works in London for the international charity WaterAid. She recently went on a trip to India to oversee some of their projects there. James works for another charity--the National Trust---which looks after a lot of our countryside and coastline aswell as stately homes. Our son Simon is 32 and lives in London with his partner Lisa. Simon is an architect working for a firm in London and Lisa works for the American bank---J P Morgan---in London. You will be able to visit them in Reading and London.

Looking forward to hearing from you---and also meeting you very soon.

Best wishes

Dorothy