

ROTARY CLUB OF BRAMHALL AND WOODFORD

BULLETIN

Number 10

January, 1988

Editorial

Welcome to the first of the year and I hope it is a happy and prosperous year for you all.

This is the time of reminiscence and nostalgia, looking at our past achievements and mistakes as well as being a time of forward planning when with loins a-girded we determine to do even better in the coming year. There is one area where we could all probably improve. You know how at Christmas there is a certain Bonhommie created where we are even nicer with our families and friends, cordial with those we dislike, bite back the telling remark, hold back the recriminations, do those things we dislike with a willingness we are far from feeling and earn the gratitude we don't deserve, fail to kick the dog or sling the cat? Well, how about trying to make it Christmas all year long? I'm going to try.

For instance I will try not to be annoyed with those who promise to contribute and then fail to do so.

And forgive Mike Drew when he messes up the programme.

Like I said - lets make it a happy New Year!!

Henry



The Presidential Message

I have devised that the main reason Henry insists on us producing copy for the bulletin by December the 30th, is to keep us all on our toes regarding Rotary affairs !!! during the Festive Season - to make sure that the excesses of the Christmas Fayre - the succulent turkey, the expansive plum pudding, the rich sweetness of the mince pie and Christmas cake - the oppulance of the champagne before and cognac after the full Dickensian over indulgence of Christmas Day, not to mention the repeat performances on Boxing Day and the several days after until the last vestiges of the turkey have become no more than a bowl of watery soup. - By this time our readers will have decided that our President was either stoned out of his mind when composing this months copy - or it has all become too much for him - at his age - or he has not got anything more to say other than - a very Happy New Year to one and all.

President John

P.S. Beware the palm reader is amongst us - only a few can escape the truth - past, present and future - those who have received the news interpreted from the lines of their senestral extremitata will easily be recognised at our next meeting by the facial expressions - either resembling the "cat that has just had the cream" or similarly but the cream was sour!!!

LAST MONTH IN BRAMHALL

Once again your intrepid reporters have been on hand to report every breath, every nuance of the months meetings:

November 25th - Special A.G.M. & Committee Night

The meeting opened with the induction of Malcolm Harris. Details later in the Bulletin.

Secretary Geoff conducted the Special A.G.M. business which consisted of the following being elected unopposed, to serve in 1988/89:

President	:	David Dewhurst		
V. President	:	Doug Murphy	Proposer	: Alan Knight
			Secunder	: Noel Smethurst
Secretary	:	Henry Barker	Proposer	: Alan Knight
			Secunder	: Noel Smethurst
Treasurer	:	Ken Chadwick	Proposer	: William Coburn
			Secunder	: Geoff Brown

Geoff requested that there be some competition for the election to Council when that event is held.

Geoff also reported on a letter from the Probation Service requesting financial assistance for a Womens Group.

President John read a letter from the District Govenor asking for volunteers as Magistrate candidates.

House Chairman Ron gave details of December meetings and reminded members that January meetings would be held at Millington Hall.

Social Chairman, Mike Drew, surfaced briefly to report on his problems in organising suitable dates for the District Quiz Nights.

Community Service Chairman, Noel, reported that the Stockport Messenger will organise the "Miss Bramhall Festival" with a fashion and jewellery show. He also reported on the Santa Flight and the Special Outing for local physically handicapped.

President John brought greetings from Poynton's Presidents Night.

Jonathan Sheard spoke feelingly about the lack of communication and interaction on the organisation of the Bramhall Festival. A general discussion followed and concluded that there was a need for more committee meetings either on dedicated nights or before/after normal club nights.

Noel reported that there is a district "Rose Bowl" competition for the best Community Service project. The Bramhall Festival could be a runner.

Vice President, David Dewhurst, proved that he had been entirely disinterested in the nights proceedings by announcing anagrams of Rotarian names viz:

Michael Drew - Weird Camel
Alan Knight - Thinking Nag

Sergant at Arms, John Handley, fined everyone and donated the proceeds to the Probation Service appeal.

Bruce Bissell obviously using some obscure and previously unknown Scottish alphabet came up with another anagram:

David Dewhurst - Stewed Turd

Your correspondent also noted Jonathan arriving to the meeting still getting dressed. President John found a caterpillar in his meal and tried to get another one on the strength of it - Vice President David was heard to remark that architect fees were only £12,000 per hotel bedroom - Simon made the profound statement that an uplift of £18 from £8 was an increase of over 100% - Ron Malaban claimed two helpings of congealed rice pudding on the basis that his first helping covered less than 50% of his bowl.

December 2nd

Saw us back at the Deanwater with Captain Peter Margesson, one time master of the Atlantic Conveyor the ship which achieved fame during the Falklands War. Peter was her master in more peaceful times and gave us a graphic talk on her operations as a container ship between Europe and the Americas until operating costs forced her into premature retirement. She was laid up for two years before her rapid refit and dash to the South Atlantic.

December 10th

Was our joint meeting with Poynton and Hazel Grove for Youth Speaks. At the Davenport Hotel where we descended into the bowls of the earth to hear the erudite teams from our local schools.

The meeting was opened by Bryn Owen, President of Poynton, who welcomed us all but more especially the waitress who brought his drink. President John made a speech about something or t'other and we heard some business from Poynton including the startling news that their Christmas meal was only to be £7.00 each. Ron Malaban was asked to note!

The competition was between 2 teams from Poynton and 1 each from Bramhall and Hazel Grove the other Bramhall team having withdrawn due to illness. A trophy was competed for this being won by one of the Poynton teams with Bramhall bringing up the rear. Entertainment during the judges deliberations was provided by two talented young ladies from Poynton who played duets for violin and guitar.

The standard of debate was high, even if the delivery was a little strident at times, and it was clear that the teams had researched their subjects in depth making the judges task somewhat difficult. The judges consisted of one member from each club plus an independant Chairman, Ted Hughes from Macclesfield. At one point it was thought that the Poynton judge had developed nerves and gone home, but it transpired that he was merely fetching beer.

Altogether an enlightening evening with a tolerable meal.

December 16th - The Christmas Party

Also our last meeting at the Deanwater and there was a consensus of thankfulness after the hotel had done their worst with the meal.

A certain amount of business preceded the lighter stage of the evening, during which Doug announced that the Theatre Evening would be on January 21st, tickets at £2.50 each, four per member. Doug and Mac then proceeded to creep about distributing tickets and as was remarked, they were both obviously used to creeping. Ron's membership and house report was marked by some severe heckling from Two Loose Women so the gist was lost apart from his startling suggestion that the aforementioned Women should be invited into membership. This caused some consternation until it was realised that he was joking/being sarcastic or both. Ron Martin read a letter about Aids - Sid Davies trilled with some instrument - and later claimed Lloyd George knew his father - Ken Chadwick got up to make some announcement and regressed to his childhood in Buckley - District Round Table - meanwhile the Two Loose Women were still heckling Ron who was beginning to think that free liquors were a mistake - Bruce Bissell meanwhile went round collecting his beer money.

We then came to the Drew Song Contest. Having divided us into teams, we were invited to sing to the accompaniment of a tape which was being reproduced on a piece of equipment which could apparently produce no other sound than that which was heard by missionaries long ago when the natives were training their apprentices in the art of sending messages by drum.

A case of the incomprehensible being interpreted by the uncaring uncomprehendibles.

When the song contest had run its course, Noel Smethurst was introduced in effectively, effusive fashion by Alan Knight who could sit still no longer and was heckled by the Two Loose Women but quelled them with a stare. Well you know how masterful he is. Noel's recitation of the 3 days of Christmas was well recieved and the evening ended with Councils rendition of the 12 days of Christmas assisted by the entire company and orchestrated and conducted by President John.

And so ended 1987.

Bulletin's Review of the Year

Well everyone else does it so we thought we'd have a bash.

January saw us heavily involved in what was our first major money making event when International Committee organised a travel evening. This provided money for a contribution to Water Aid.

Our night to remember in February was on the 21st when we had our first Presidents Night. This well attended and pleasant evening set the scene for those to follow.

Speakers provided the mainstay of our meetings and provide us with information and entertainment whilst also on occasions being thought provoking. No review of the year could be complete without mention of Dr. Shirley Rimmer and her fascinating illustrated talk on Ultrasound and those slides which showed life in the womb. Medical matters were high on the Rotary agenda in March since it was on the 31st that President John and Community Service Chairman, Noel, visited Stepping Hill to hand over £400 to Dr. Lavy for Aproea Alarms.

April brought the first edition of Bulletin and also a visit from Foundation Fellow, Joanna Marsha Lowe from New Brunswick, Canada. At the end of that month the first of our away days was held with a visit to Styal Mill. Members also attended the District Assembly Meeting at Bramhall High.

May saw members resplendent in DJ's for our first A.G.M. Bulletin that month also carried the first salvo in the Polio Plus project which was to exercise our thoughts over the summer together with early planning for the Bramhall Festival.

June's highlite was our club assembly held in the presence of District Vice Chairman, Geoff Taylor, and a busy programme of events was envisaged. First of these occurred on 27th June when the Cheadle Royal Fete was supported whilst the Bar B Q on that evening left some of our members needing support. Mercifully it was a rare fine night in an extremely damp summer.

July brought the night of the great debate with a suffragette type demo outside the meeting and a parade of M. Thatcher look alikes inside. Both were equally frightening to our members.

Also in July our second away day took us to the Golden Pheasant at Plumley for Bar games which turned out to be a night to savour.

August was the cricketing month when both the six a side competition and the game against Poynton was played despite the continuing monsoon. Both were enjoyed to the full. Also in August Dennis Allport spoke to us in somewhat chilling terms "of mice and men".

September saw us Polio Plussing with a vengeance having organised Bramhall High in distributing envelopes, weary Rotarian feet were plodging through the rain collecting hopefully full envelopes. In our meetings David Torens talked to us about his Group Study exchange trip to Australia. The highlight, however, was our 1st Anniversary Charter celebration - attended in some force by visiting Rotarians. It was also the month of the disappearing quiz.

October had us counting money - over £4,000 raised between Hazel Grove and ourselves. Nearly half the club attended District Conference at Llandudno and came back full of stories of weird happenings.

It was also in October that the Deanwater decided that they did not need us - we have since discovered that we do not need them. The most important October event was our Handover Night when the club finally became of age.

And the rest as they say is history.

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Welcome

Bulletin extends a welcome to our newest member, Malcolm Harris. We hope your association with the club will be a long and happy one Malcolm.

Malcolm's details are:

Home - 4 Brabant Road, Cheadle Hulme.

Telephone - 485 4218

Business No. 0706 625124

Wife's name - Dorothy

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More Nostalgia

How did you spend your Christmas? How do you remember your childhood Christmas? Here is how one lady remembers:

CHRISTMAS EVE IN AUSTRIA

by

Rosa Shaw

I grew up in a tiny village called Reith - 40 kilometres south west of Salzburg and hidden away in the mountains. As there was always deep snow in winter it was the perfect setting for Christmas.

The farmhouse where I lived was home for ten of us - six children, my parents and my grandparents. Months before Christmas I remember seeing the little oil lamp burning in my father's workshop, and when I asked my mother what he was doing so late at night, she replied - "he is helping Christkind" - (literally, Christ's child, but really the fairy who brought presents to all of us on Christmas Eve).

In fact he was making a sledge for the girls, a most beautiful rocking-horse for my little brother and for my older brother, my grandfather made a pair of skis. And the same in the sitting room my grandmother was busy spinning wool for my mother to knit some gloves, hats and jumpers to keep us warm, for the winters were extremely cold. You see, in my childhood days everything was home-made, and everyone in the household could turn their hand to something.

Looking at my father working with the wood reminded me of the stories of Joseph the carpenter and brought home the true meaning of Christmas.

The whole month of December was full of excitement for us. On the first Sunday we lit the first candle on our "adventskranz" which told us that there were only three more Sundays to Christmas Eve. On that day we always had to say a rosary. Afterwards we sat listening to our grandmother reading from the Bible (a Bible which had been given to her by her great-grandmother).

As it got nearer to the 6th of December I was scared out of my wits for I knew I had not been as good as I should have been. On this day St. Nicholas came with his assistant the "Krampus"; he knew all about our sins and threatened to take us away in his basket if we didn't behave in future. I used to wonder how he knew so much about me!

Every Thursday before Christmas we used to go Carol singing. All the children from the village dressed as Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and also the innkeepers. It used to take us an hour to walk through the woods in thick snow to the next village with only a few lanterns to show us the way. I remember one particular year when I was about nine and dressed as Mary, sliding down an icy slope, covered in cuts and bruises, crying and saying that I would never be Mary again because Joseph didn't help me up from the snow.

Now at last, Christmas Eve, the most memorable and one of the happiest days of the year was here.

The excitement was almost too much to bear. In the morning we were all busy doing jobs round the house, cleaning the wooden floor, carrying in firewood for the stove and seeing that everything was spick and span in the stable. Then we children were sent off sledging after lunch whilst our parents were busy getting the Christmas Tree ready, this having been locked away in a bedroom as it was one of our Christmas surprises and was not to be seen until the evening.

Now we were all gathered in the Stube (sitting room) kneeling down, saying the rosary, except for my father who was going through each of the rooms with a pan of incense, and with him was one of the children whose turn it was to carry the Holy Water, blessing the whole of the house. More than once, when I accompanied my father, in my childish mind I half expected to find the infant Jesus in the stable.

After this the children waited in another room until we heard Christkind's bell ring which meant we could then go in to see the presents. But as we looked in to the Stube the biggest surprise was the beautiful pine tree, lit with candles in the otherwise darkened room.

Even now the beauty of the night was only beginning; soon we were ready for the hour long walk to Church for Midnight Mass. The night was cold, there was a crust on the snow and it was so dry that it crunched and squeaked beneath our heavy boots. From far away we could hear the Church bells on the clear night air and the stars had never seemed brighter.

Inside the Church the atmosphere is overwhelming with flickering candles lighting the beautifully carved figures in the Nativity scenes, the choir singing our lovely Austrian carol "Silent Night". After, the band plays from the Church tower and the music rings out triumphantly as we leave to make our way homewards on Christmas morning, back across the moonlit snow.

Next Month

All meetings at Millington Hall.

6th January	-	Brian Millard - China
13th January	-	Colin Fuller - Overseas Students
20th January	-	Visit of Overseas Students
27th January	-	Committee Night

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Through The Bottom of a Dark Glass

Or how the ladies got it together.

The Rotary Wives have now got it all together - after many months of "toing and froing".

Our first effort was meeting up in Langdales to air our views, did we want a social group, or did we need to be charitable, or even form an Inner Wheel.

Next thing we were all dashing up to Dorchester to listen to words of wisdom from some Lady from North Manchester, who incidently had lost her voice, which overall didn't do much for the rest of us re. being one of her organisation.

Several good meals were enjoyed at selective venues, then it was decided we had to go one way or the other, as we couldn't let the same poor souls do all the organising every time.

A chosen few met at Bramhall Lane South, and it was decided with relief all round - that two different ladies would organise and arrange every month a different evening for the rest of the "Rotary Wives".

Our first event was held on Tuesday, November 24th, prepared and executed by Josie and Marilyn. The Bullocks Coach was outside Woolworths at 6.30, our two organisers, I was tickled to note, were the last to arrive, and hardly had time to sit down let alone take a head count before we moved off smartly.

The play at the Palace - "Double Double" with Denis Waterman and his Rula was excellent and really enjoyed by all - unfortunately the ending was very difficult to sort out and after great discussion on the return trip, we were still no wiser (if anyone has seen the light on this point, please put your views down for the next copy).

Josie was shouting all over Oxford Street, "I'm so glad our turn is over", the rest of us are now in a tizz, wondering if we can possibly top their night.

HILDA McLEOD

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Next Ladies Meeting

Tuesday, January 12th, at Kath Battey's home.

Our Intrepid Reporter

Fatima Sidebottom - Ffyte has gone missing. Last seen she was disappearing through the portals of a doubtful Stockport hotel with two characters of definite Mafia extraction wearing a wide smile, red eyes and matching bikini pants. She has not been sighted since.

Next Month

We hope to have more tales of daring do and peculiar goings on in the never ending, ever changing scene in Bramhall.

But please ladies and gentlemen

Can some of you write some of it.

I would be ever so ever so grateful.....

Henry.

Copy by January 27th please.