

Rotarian

Rotary Club
of Bramhall and Woodford



BULLETIN

April 2003



Presidential pearls

We have now entered the final third of the rotary year, but there is still plenty of activity to occupy us!!

First and foremost is the thorny problem of our venue to be decided. There will be two further visits before we make a decision on committee night in April.

As I write (12 March) I am looking forward to President's Night and our annual jamboree at Adlington Hall, and I hope to see most of our members there. Numbers to date are encouraging, and it should be an excellent evening.

Then in April, the Blues evening should make some more money for our Community Service account. We have already provided a further bed for the Neuromuscular Centre near Winsford and will soon be sending our final contribution to the Polio Eradication appeal.

Lastly, let me emphasise again our need for new members. Please let Tony Burch have the names of anyone you feel may be suitable.

Continue enjoying Rotary – and a Happy Easter to you all!

Henry



President Henry at the presentation of the cheque to the Neuromuscular centre on Saturday 15th March.

Council Capers in February

1. The possibility of joining the Bramhall Village partnership is being considered, as this may lead to new opportunities for local service.
2. The General account held £1700 and the Charity Account £1300, with £2500 expected from Barton Grange.
3. Tony Burch will be the new chairman of the Club Services committee.
4. Geoff Hunt is producing a full programme for the rest of the Rotary year.
5. The next '*test the venue*' evening will be at the Deanwater.
6. Committees will be allowed to meet for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour on committee nights, with major issues to go to Council for initial discussion.
7. Committees will be asked to sit together for their meals on committee nights.
8. The revised Club Services committee will be Tony, Geoff, Dennis and John Thewlis.
9. There will be a *Membership Night* soon.
10. President's Night will cost £25 per person.
11. Completing our Emergency Boxes will cost £180 to £200.
12. There will be changes to our activities at Barton Grange next Christmas – possibly more shifts and no tin collection.
13. Bramhall High will be approached about participation in Youth Speaks and Youth Makes Music.
14. There may be a further display weekend in another empty shop in Bramhall.
15. The President's Honorarium will be increased from £200 to £400.
16. Charter Night will be held in September at Bramhall Park Golf Club.

...and more Capers in March

1. The polio eradication appeal will receive £1500 from us.
2. There was £1700 in the General Account and £1300 in the Charity Account.
3. President's BBQ will be on 6 July.
4. The Emergency Boxes are nearing completion. The Pedley Wheel and Filtered Water projects (see the report on the International Rally) are to be investigated with the aim of possible support.
5. A 'Farmers' Market' is being investigated, as well as a possible BBQ on 28 June for Ways and Means.
6. Planning for Stroke Awareness day is well advanced.
7. Barton Grange want to see our insurance policy before the next grotto season.
8. Henry will enquire further into the memorial for Doug and John.

Rotating around the District

(David R going in circles)

A few notes as I have journeyed through the Rotary District in recent days.

The last District Council meeting at Flixton included a number of interesting items, indeed RC Bramhall & Woodford was mentioned by name as an example of a club that has acted pragmatically against the outmoded RIBI membership bye-laws (Bye-laws incidentally contrary to RI rules).

RC Gatley endeavouring to follow Bramhall proposed that the Bye-law of RIBI should be amended to read: *'membership of the club is by invitation at the discretion of the members or by application'*. The usual District hesitancy ensued, the top Rotarians being quite out of depth as to what to do. A vote was taken, which overwhelmingly supported the proposal being put it RIBI. The sad thing for me was that the District Secretary and his assistant voted against it.

It was good to see a new club has been formed at Sandbach, named Sandbach Crosses. Perhaps we can arrange a scatter visit in the summer.

Membership Services Committee monthly meeting was also interesting, even challenging. A number of clubs are struggling with membership numbers under 20 in total. Herb has been analysing the District figures, and as you can appreciate the Committee is quite concerned at small numbers, numbers static, and numbers reducing. I know there is antipathy about membership, but it still remains the most vital area in Club life.

I have been able to visit at least four of these struggling clubs and pass on the experiences of our own club. The reaction has been quite positive, three of the clubs are taking action to try and increase their membership. The fourth club is unfortunately riddled with 'we have tried all this before', and with at least two PDGs in the club not at all interested. So very sad.

District Membership Committee is reforming, and the members of the committee from Bramhall and Woodford are hoping for great things from it next Rotary year.

Perhaps the more energetic can join the cycle ride along Middlewood Way on 18th May to support Polio Eradication – get your bikes oiled and join me if you can.

Hope this is of interest – will hopefully have more for you next month.

1050 International Rally: 27th February

It was a happy accident that the Armoury was not available because it was full of Green Goddesses that the 1050 International Rally had to be relocated to Stockport College at the last moment. The College proved to be an excellent venue – a large tiered lecture theatre and a nearby refectory, albeit one with fixed chairs that demanded a degree of flexibility to get into! Six of our members went, with Wendy Sykes there also to keep us in order. The evening consisted of three excellent, thought provoking talks and plenty of Chinese and Indian food to fill the emptiest stomach.

Dr David Baxter gave a rounded picture of polio in the context of Rotary's efforts to eradicate the disease by 2050. David knew little of Rotary or its work until he did his homework for his lecture. So, we have one more let into the secret world of Rotary and its achievements! In 1985 there were 350,000 cases of polio – in 2001 just 483. Mass vaccination is the best way forward, and even when the disease is apparently eradicated it will be necessary to continue vaccination for some time. This is because children will otherwise have no immunity, and any lingering virus (and there will be some) will be able to sweep through a population. At the moment most people have some immunity to polio and only a small proportion of those infected actually develop symptoms of the disease.

Paul Bromley talked about the Pedley Wheel. This is essentially a big water wheel brought up to date by a robust gear wheel train, an axle-mounted generator of AC electricity and an electronic whizzmo which controls the output to a steady output. Paul and helpers near Poynton developed all this. Five devices have so far been installed in Sri Lankan villages previously without power. Each home is allowed 100 watts each and even this small amount of power has transformed lives. The most important advance is reliable lighting after dark. The second village priority is TV, as much for education as for entertainment. Local committees control the wheels and their maintenance. The wheels are built locally and cost about £6000 each – a lot of money for poor people. So cash really has to come from outside to start the improvements off. Paul and helpers have done all this themselves – a shining example of what determined volunteers can do. (The name Pedley by the way comes from Pedley Wood near Poynton where the prototype wheel was built).

The final talk was by Andy Bunch of United Utilities who spoke about his company's work on behalf of WaterAid. He showed some moving and explicit slides of Tanzanians having to carry all their water several miles every day just

to survive. The water obtained with so much toil was usually polluted and dirty. Tanzania suffers droughts making a difficult situation almost impossible. WaterAid has sunk many tube wells which allows underground water to be tapped and these can be sunk locally to villages, saving all the unproductive labour previously needed to survive. The installation of tube wells is accompanied by education on sanitation and simple hygiene, all leading to much improved quality of life for those concerned.

Those who haven't yet been to one of these International Rallies really should go and see what Rotary is doing in the world outside Stockport – you will feel proud to belong to such a movement.

Exercise

A lady of my acquaintance has passed on this wisdom for your amusement.

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now she's 97 years old and we don't know where the hell she is.

The only reason I would take up exercising again is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I joined a health club last year – spent £400. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to show up.

I exercise early in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

I like long walks, especially when people who annoy me take them.

I have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

I don't exercise because it makes the ice jump right out of my glass.

Venue exploration on 29th January

An alternative to Millington Hall is unfortunately likely to be required sometime this year. It is planned to visit at least three possible alternatives, all of which have offered us accommodation for our meetings. On this occasion we visited the Cheadle Hulme pub, just down the road from Millington Hall. Nineteen sat down to a good meal of home made chicken soup, steak and ale pie and ice cream cake for the price of £7.50 (plus a tip). Service was friendly, we had a room to ourselves (though we sat at one long table making our usual banter more difficult!) and the Holts beer was cheap.

Vice President John led this meeting in Henry's absence. It was decided to have a discussion about Iraq and possible conflict. Tony Burch introduced the topic and most members aired their views in commendably ordered fashion. Tony summarised by asking us to vote on three propositions:

Do we give unqualified support for a war with Iraq based on current information?

Result: a resounding NO.

Would we support a war if it received UN backing?

Result: a resounding YES.

Should the UK dissociate itself completely from any military action over Iraq?

Result: a resounding NO.

So there you have it. We seem to be similar in our views to the rest of the UK population. So we are normal and representative after all!

There was not much business. Tim reminded all of the District International evening on 27th February – several are going. Tickets for President's evening will be £25 per person – money asap please to Ron or Michael. Our recent efforts on shoeboxes had been the subject of two press reports. We may have a 'shop window' soon to advertise Rotary – this time it will be manned to encourage people to come in and talk to us. Those present supported the idea (presumably implying that all will make themselves available to help!). Herb believes that the Presidential honorarium is too small and wants the President's annual subscription be waived during his year of office. To his credit, Herb did not even hint that this should be backdated! Council will consider the matter.

John Sykes scooped the raffle and Richard showed that he had lost none of his cruel and despotic penchant for fining innocents under the guise of being the evening's custodian of good practice and Rotarianship – but he did it with humour, so we almost forgave him.

Bulletin - 5 Feb 2003 John Thewlis reporting

After the previous week's foray to *The Cheadle Hulme*, we found ourselves back in the safe and familiar surroundings of *Millington Hall* and ready for a talk by **Steven Rowley**, the local Baptist minister, on how to "Kick Typhoid with a Filter".

The talk centred around a family sized clean water project in Kenya, with which Steven and his family had been heavily involved as a result of his friendship with Ayungi, a Kenyan minister, who, by co-incidence, was also an old friend of David Rabone. Ayungi lives in Kisumu, a small rural town in a beautiful part of Kenya, which Steven described as "Paradise... But with a big problem... Water borne disease."

Families in the Kosumu region draw their water from the Sondu River, which is rife with what the locals call "Bad Duh Duhs", or bugs that cause diarrhoea and typhoid. Because of their lifestyle, these bugs get cycled from the river, through families and then back to the river to re-infect others, a vicious circle that can only be broken by effective water treatment. In an area with no gas or electricity, and where £50 is a good monthly wage, providing such effective treatment is a problem.

Enter the Bio Sand Filter, with the wonderful Schmutzdecke ('Dirty Layer' in English). This is, essentially, a concrete tube filled with sand. River water is poured in at the top and filters down to the bottom, where it can be drawn off. Life is not quite that simple, however. Apparently the river water contains not only Bad Duh Duhs, but also Good Duh Duhs, and the good ones, given enough time, will eat up the bad ones. The sand filter has to be prepared, therefore, by pouring water through it for about a month. This allows the Good Duh Duhs to build up a layer - the Schmutzdecke - on top of the sand, which can reduce the bacterial count to around zero.

Since Steven and his family became involved in the project, setting up a local filter production facility, over 200 have been sold. Approximately 25% of the local populations now have filters and there has been a 30% drop in water borne diseases, a result that holds out great hope for the future.

The talk was supported by a Power Point presentation, efficiently organised by Tim. After a short business session, the meeting dispersed with much mumbling about Bad Doo Doos.

**"Homewatch" - Wednesday Feb.12th.
Ex-treasurer Bob**

16 members were joined by our speaker, Nichola Oldham and a guest of Geoff Hunt, on a cold and frosty evening. Only our hot-bloodied Secretary accepted the President's offer to de-robe.

Nichola works for Greater Manchester Police as a Homewatch co-ordinator and gave an interesting talk about the local Homewatch schemes which are essentially about being good observant neighbours. She also reminded us of the many ways we can make life harder for the opportunist burglar. Mid-afternoon when Mother is collecting the kids from school is the peak time for break-ins. Don't leave your car or door keys on the hall table where they can be extracted through the letter box with a piece of wire! Garden sheds are also a target as they contain tools useful to a burglar - cover the window so that they can't see what is on offer. Another give away that a house is empty is the empty wheelie bin left at the front gate. Wheelie bins also provide a useful leg-up onto a flat roof extension.

Our own former "Mr.Plod" queried whether it was a good idea to park your car tight up against the garage door when away or did it signal an empty house. In reply Nichola doubted whether a burglar was intelligent enough to notice it (Ed. Why not put your car in the garage?).

Nichola then talked about the advantages of marking your property with post code so that it can be read under ultra -violet light. She gave out pens, which were eagerly grabbed by all present.

After a vote of thanks there were a few announcements, before PP/VP John reported on a recent meeting at Barton Grange. They are not permitting any more entrance collections but instead will give us a greater proportion of the Grotto takings, the opening hours of which will be extended. It was explained to Sid why you can not have two FCs at one time.

Two Sergeants - at - Arms stood up and the writer was told to sit down again - wait until next week Henry! Another drink and home to bed.

Davenport Park Hotel 26th February 2003. Kelvin held the pen

Sometimes it is difficult to find something to report about on a Committee night – but a new venue is a good start.

Owned and run by a Rotarian, the Davenport Park Hotel was the second possible new venue to be tried and we will wait and see what the members, views were, but they did have the football on TV in the bar !!!

On to more important matters and the evening was enjoyed by 21 members – good turnout for Committee night.

Reports:

Secretary David	Nothing to Report ??
Treasurer Ron to be identified	We have loads of money – suitable recipients
Tony Burch	Suggested Committee members sit together for the meal on Committee nights-whatever next. Members will be communicating with each other !! The Club was encouraged to feed in new ideas re new membership.
Bob Stevenson	Did we really want to hear that he was born on 29 th February?
Ways & Means	Considering holding a Farmers Market. June 28 th -Blues Night at Stockport Rugby Club – we will be doing the BBQ April 11 th – Blues Night at Cheadle Hulme Conservative Club. Members must sell tickets to make the evening a success
Marc Wolverson	The footpath needs some tender loving care-arranged a working Community Service party for 15 th March.

Stroke Awareness Day is 5th April – VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED 6 per shift. Please forward your name to Marc.

Tim Sheppard
International & Foundation

Polio Plus donation has been agreed

Michael Lacey
Social

Presidents Night 21st March
April 9th – visit to Robinsons Brewery
May 16th Ceilidh at Woodford Community Centre-joint with other Clubs.
June – possible Ship Canal trip and visit to Imperial War Museum North
July 6th Presidents BBQ at Michael's
August-possible visit to Edinburgh Festival

John Meeus

Neuro Muscular Cheque presentation will be held in March

PRO

AOB

Sam Kennedy presented a pennant from Rotary Club of Corshamin, South Africa

SAA

David Dewhurst told more fibs than is good for an architect ,but did manage to extract money from most present.

An entertaining evening with the Committees having full discussions and presenting quality reports -who said Committee Nights are boring.

Here's a word to weave into your everyday conversation:

arachibutyrophobia

morbid fear of peanut butter
sticking to the roof of your mouth

Rotary Wives Meeting: Wednesday 26th February

Nine Rotarian's wives and two friends turned up at Stockport Grand Central cinema to see Chicago. Three of us dined at the Pizza Hut first and enjoyed a surprisingly tasty meal with wine for Pat and me and coffee for the teetotaler.

I must have had a senior moment when I arranged the time as we were about 15 minutes too early. We did, however, have unlimited choice of seats. After the usual advertisements and trailers the main feature started at about 9.0pm!!!! Could have had another wine.

It was a fast and lively performance and I think most people enjoyed it. I personally kept dozing off - it was either the wine or my long day. Noel will tell anyone who will listen that I have a habit of dozing off in front of the television. The fact that cinema soundtracks are too loud for even me didn't seem to matter. I have to admit it wasn't really my cup of tea, perhaps my expectations were too high as I'd read some good write ups about it.

Thanks to everyone who came and to Pat for helping organise it and to Margaret who made parking my car easy.

THE SEEDS OF LOVE

Our poetic correspondent tells me that he used to sing this at school, and suggested that we should note it as it is a reflection of this year's Rotary motto. He even offered to come and sing it to us – an offer that I politely refused bearing in mind that we have several members who are fond of music.

I sowed the seeds of love,
I sowed them in the spring,
I gathered them up in the morning so
soon,
While small birds did sweetly sing,
While small birds did sweetly sing.

The gardener standing by,
I asked him to choose of these,

He chose me the Violet, the Lily or
the Pink,
But these I refused all three,
But these I refused all three.

In June is our Red Rose,
And that is the flower for me,
I pluck it and think that no Lily nor
Pink,
Can match with the bud on that tree,
Can match with the bud on that tree.

Club Diary

March 21	President's Evening
March 26	Committee night. Deanwater (to be confirmed)
April 2	Michael Lacey. Antartica
April 5	Stroke day (Community Service project)
April 9	Robinsons' brewery visit
April 12	Blues evening (Ways & Means)
April 16	Sue Griffiths. Soweto
April 23	Committee night. Venue revue
April 25	Inaugural meeting, RC Sandbach Crosses
April 30	Scatter night
May 7	Annual General Meeting
May 14	Terry Robinson. The Grand National
May 16	Ceilidh, with Poynton, Hazel Grove, Wythenshawe May 21 Committee night
May 28	Peter Atkinson. Life Education Centres
June 4	John Meeus. On being a consul.
June 11	Karting (for some); something else for the rest!
June 18	Committee night
June 28	Barbecue: Stockport Rugby Club (Ways & Means)
July 2	Club Assembly and Handover
July 6	President's barbecue at the home of Michael Lacey



Danger - strimmer at work!

What better way of spending a sunny Saturday morning than strimming a local foot-path? Thanks to David P. for organising and all the others who helped clear *our* foot-paths on 15th March.

Job Rota

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker host</i>	<i>Bulletin</i>	<i>S at A</i>
March 19	D Poizer	D Rabone	P Ridgway
March 26	T Sheppard	S Smith	N Smethurst
April 2	B Stevenson	J Sykes	R Taylor
April 9	J Thewlis	M Wolverson	G Yule
April 16	H Boyes	S Davies	T Burch
April 23	D Dewhurst	S Day	K Death
April 30	G Hunt	M Hurst	S Kennedy
May 7	AGM	M McLeod	M Lacey
May 14	J Mould	J Meeus	D Poizer
May 21	A Newsome	P Ridgway	D Rabone
May 28	J Sheard	T Sheppard	S Smith
June 4	N Smethurst	B Stevenson	J Sykes
June 11	R Taylor	J Thewlis	M Wolverson
June 18	committee	G Yule	D Allport
June 25	B Batty	H Boyes	T Burch
July 2	Assembly	R Malabon	S Davies
July 9	K Death	D Dewhurst	S Day
July 16	M Hurst	G Hunt	S Kennedy
July 23	M Lacey	M McLeod	H Barker

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

We are survivors (if you were born before 1940)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball-point pens ... and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought that fast food was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

We must be natural survivors, the adjustments we have had to make!

BLIND RUN

Mrs Joan Kuroski, 13 Hulme Hall Cres., Cheadle Hulme
Tel: 485 6729 Pick up 7.00 pm
Mrs Phyllis Bell, Flat 19B, York Close, Cheadle Hulme
Tel: 428 8008 Pick up 7.15 pm
Bernard Sharp, 6 Woodbury Rd., Birdhall Lane, Cheadle Hulme
Tel: 428 6506 Pick up 7.20 pm

Mrs Dorothy Birch, 53 Mill Lane, Woodley
Tel: 355 3252 Pick up 7.00 pm
Mrs Joan Goodall, 3 Poise Brook Drive, Offerton
Tel: 456 2076 Pick up 7.15 pm
Mrs Edith Fidler, 18 Old Hall Drive, Offerton
Tel: 483 2286 Pick up 7.15 pm

Make sure that you know where to find them. Ring up Sunday or Monday to check that your passengers still need a lift. If you can't get through, go round anyway at the appointed time. Let Geoff Hunt know if you get stuck. Please swap with someone if you can't do your appointed run. During holiday periods, Walthew House may be closed. Cancellations will be announced at club meetings.

March 18	M Wolverson	G Yule
March 25	D Allport	H Barker
April 1	B Batty	H Boyes
April 8	T Burch	S Davies
April 15	S Day	K Death
April 22	D Dewhurst	G Hunt
April 29	S Kennedy	R Malabon
May 6	M Lacey	J Meeus
May 13	J Mould	A Newsome
May 20	D Poizer	D Rabone
May 27	T Sheppard	P Ridgway
June 3	S Smith	N Smethurst
June 9	B Stevenson	J Sykes
June 23	J THewlis	M Wolverson
June 30	G Yule	H Barker
July 1	B Batty	H Boyes
July 8	T Burch	S Davies
July 15	D Allport	S Day



***' SOW THE SEEDS OF
LOVE'***

Please send all copy for the bulletin to Dennis Allport, preferably
as a Word attachment to an e-mail

dennis-allport@supanet.com