

Rotarian

**Rotary Club
of Bramhall and Woodford**



BULLETIN

February 2004



Striding out to 2004!

Presidential pearls

The Festive season has passed and New Year resolutions have been made and no doubt some already broken. Thinking of age and the passing of years please don't forget 1234 on 1204. I know some of the younger members are still wondering what it means. I naturally assume they can't believe the Old xxxxxx is that old. But enough of self-flattery.

The Club is in excellent form at the turn of the year with no less than five new members in the past couple of months. Welcome to Harry Hill, Norman Hogben, David Rose, John Holme and Graham Vine. Except for Graham, who had been in Round Table (say no more), they all trod the threshold of the Club warily. Possibly anticipating the image of Rotary, as the general public perceives. However, I am pleased to say, they were agreeably surprised when they encountered the dry wit of our Welsh Bard, the humorous reports of the Ironman, the 'out of chaos comes order' of our only DG salesmen and the jokes of our only Tottenham supporter (well somebody's got to be up here). They are still wondering about our Insurance Broker!!!

The work of the Club excelled itself over Christmas and your Council is

pleased to report that no less than £8000.00 was raised from donations tin rattling and Christmas Grotto. Well done one and all especially for the Grotto which always receives considerable acclaim from and gives so much pleasure to all the visitors. Many thanks to Barton Grange for making it all possible.

Finally a few points to mention. If you have an idea for the club to commemorate Rotary Centennial Year speak up. Your council is already working on some schemes but more the better. Please tell Tony (House) Burch if you have earned an attendance record by performing another Rotary duty especially when you have missed a meeting. It is all part of **ATTENDANCE**. If you know of any good speakers or good ideas for an alternative Rotary Night **COMMUNICATE**. **Please Please check on the programme for forthcoming events.**

Look forward to seeing you all on the first of Feb and a Happy 348 shopping days to Christmas!!!

President John

Meeting Reports

Boyes – but not ours!

This meeting should have been a red-letter meeting with the visit of DG Chris Boyes on November 19th.

Unfortunately it was one of our lowest attendances for some time, but Chris did not take it personally – even though Secretary David Rabone was in the Chair!!

DG Chris gave a very enthusiastic and informative talk with 4 main themes – Lend a Hand, Family of Rotary, Promote Rotary and Childrens' Hospices. He spoke for some time about communication and difficulty in some geographical areas, but thought our District was successful in this aspect, and that Clubs were fully informed of all topics and events.

He also spoke about fuddy duddy and formal meetings and seemed to think that we were not guilty!! How right he was. He also asked us to give more feedback to District on any subject at

all and spelt out to us that he wanted his Clubs to feel involved.

He concluded with a question and answer session and the obvious topic was raised – the reserves in RIBI Accounts. Malcolm Hurst should have been there because he suggested we should ask RIBI to consider a donation of £250000 – yes, a quarter of a million – to a worthwhile Charity or recipient, providing we could propose a meaningful one.

So come on guys – put your thinking caps on !!

Mac gave a vote of thanks and SAA squeezed limited funds out of the few present.

It was a great pity that more members were not there – it was so refreshing to have a visit from District and feel enthused about our organization and the work it does.

Kelvin

Normal service will be resumed.....

on the machinations of Council and on District matters once our Secretary has finished sunning himself in far off places!

Education, education, education

We don't induct two new members on many evenings, so November 26th was a special occasion! A warm welcome to Graham Vine, and to John Holme. Graham is new to Rotary, whilst John is a veteran of four clubs and one Presidency! All this was witnessed by four visitors from RC Alderley Edge, out scattering for the evening.

standards and approved qualifications. It seems that the whole world will be speaking English in the not too distant future, and many will be beating a course to our shores for further education. What a chance to display our way of life and culture. Malcolm Hurst thanked Graham for his persistence in speaking once again!

Our own Graham Yule gave us his third talk on his job – keeps changing jobs, and he doesn't charge anything! Education of overseas students wishing to come to UK and other universities not in their home country is a thriving business. Graham facilitates this by offering audited

Not a lot else to report really. The DGs newsletter is on the Internet, Michael Lacey donated his raffle prize to the Christmas raffle, and Kelvin adroitly relieved all of half a pound!

Rotide

The USA post 9-11

December 3rd was in one way a 'first'. Our Chairman for the evening was Michael Lacey, and his role in introducing the speaker was made redundant by David Rose, who gave a brilliant CV for his friend Dr Robert Garson. Bob is an academic, who has

taught at several international universities, and who has written three books. His field is the political scene in the USA and the role of that country on the international stage. So we were treated to a knowledgeable and fascinating overview of President Bush, the US psyche and changes since the terrible events of 9-11-03.

In a simple and elegant analysis, we were told that the attacks on the USA, being the first on their home territory, have resulted in a loss of their sense of safety. This, in turn, has produced an upswing in nationalism and pride in being American. Church attendance in stronger and Americans are more positive about the values they stand for.

G W Bush is not a fool, and he listens carefully to his electorate. On the international stage, the US comes first. Whilst it is great to have others who think the same way about US values and the actions that follow from them, Bush is quite prepared to go it alone if he gets no international backers.

The US economy is on the mend, their birth rate is maintaining their population's size (unlike many European countries where the populations will decline significantly due to low birth rates), and the sheer power of the US economy will ensure that the US is predominant for many years to come. The US can feel confident about its future.

The conflicts that the US is involved in are ones of belief systems in Bob's

view, not essentially ones of territory or of resources. There are many challenges ahead – the growth of India and China as world players, and the clash of Western values with those of Islam. Much to ponder on! The questions showed what an important and interesting topic this was, and I think that we could have gone on for quite a long time longer. Sid thanked Bob in his own inimitable way.

There was not too much business. Most matters will have been resolved by the time you read this! We liked the idea of a Velodrome visit next year, probably on a Saturday. The club was saddened to hear of the illness of Judith Sheppard and we wish her a speedy and full recovery. Paul Ridgway was feeling better thankfully, even up to receiving visitors in the near future. We look forward to his return to the club.

Henry briefly owned a bottle of wine before it became a Christmas raffle prize and David Rabone developed his mean streak as S of A.

Dennis A

Headlines!

Include your children when baking cookies
Drunks get 9 months in violin case

Committee meeting, 10 December 2003

Committee Night!!!! Yippee!!

President John called us all to order....we were having far too many laughs. This was soon put to an end by VP Michael recounting a story that had probably been hilarious when its last teller, the absent in Comberbach Tony Burch, had passed it on to the very apologetic Michael (so apologetic that his disclaimed all responsibility..a wise move..).

Settled in the Grand Under-Seat Heated Bar Area, the Council Officers' Election for 2004/5 took place.

Thankfully, there was a real man amongst us. John Thewlis had volunteered to act as VP to incoming President Michael. Well done John!! As we all know, 1 volunteer is worth 10 pressed men.

John, who is well known for his professional military appraisal of the Gulf War 1 & 2, had stepped forward where many other members had feared to venture. For such a lively and energetic club it is a sad indictment (so we were all advised at the previous meeting) that there had not been a stream of candidates for the position. But who am I to talk?

The other officers for next year were Treasurer, Henry; and Secretary, David R.

David R immediately set out to show what standards he expects... by bollocking the Grotto Team for the Tuesday evening for not showing up for their shift. This was done with great gusto and yet anonymously. It was only when the hard pressed hero of the Ways & Means team, John Sykes, apologised that the rest of us had any idea of what had gone wrong.

The theme continued with members being brought up short over how few 'shoeboxes' had been handed in so far. Half of Rumania would be without Christmas presents at this rate, although we could still deliver the boxes to Ron by mid January....

David Dewhurst raised the tone by appealing to our artistic sensibilities and promoting the concept of an evening at a lap dancing club. The juxtaposition of this idea and the delicate feminine delivery of our dinner by the club's eye-candy waitresses was too much for some of the more senior members...

Either that or the under-seat heating was too efficient...there was soon a stirring in the ranks...broken up by President John announcing that we were all to break into our committee groupings.

Our Social Committee, masters of planning in advance, settled the details in outline for the Christmas Dinner which was scheduled for the next week. In common with the approach of the Beau Jolly evening where European Cultural Sensitivities were carefully observed, it was announced that the Club tribute to Rabbin Burns (the Hebrew Minister at Hamilton, Scotland) would take place on 31 January as a 'safari supper'. (No wildlife needed).

The fact that this was a full week after the Baird's actual birthday of 25 January was entirely down to the Speakers' Club, which had booked the real date for their Burns Night.

That and the fact that we have to braise our backsides in the Grand Bar Area due to the Speakers Club having priority caused the start of mumbling in the ranks again. For example, let's get them to join our club...

It was all too much for Kelvin, who, reverting to true type, started to tell a

story...immediately stopped to disclaim all responsibility...and then explained how Prince Charles has eschewed bookmarks preferring his pages bent over...

Editor Dennis was rightly praised fully by President John for his work in producing the Bulletin.

To universal protests from the more mature members, newest member John Holme won the raffled wine (only 1 bottle these days), thus demonstrating that the club welcome to new members is never disingenuous.

Sergeant At Arms Alan Newsome fined all for something. In keeping with the Club's sensitivities for European Culture referred to above, he fined Johan Meeus for an offence, which lacked a coherent case for the prosecution.

Malcolm Hurst

A man was at home, sitting in a chair in his lounge, when his wife came up behind him and hit him on the head with a frying pan. 'Why did you do that?', he asked. 'I have just read a note in your jacket pocket with the name *Mary Ellen* on it', she replied. 'But that's the name of a horse I backed', he replied.

A few days later, she hit him on the head again with even more force. 'What's wrong now?' the man asked. 'When you were out, you had a phone call from your horse', was the reply.

Committee night, 7th January 2004

Have you noticed how many members get withdrawal symptoms when they are denied attendance at meetings over Christmas? A fantastic 29 (27 members and 2 guests) attended our most recent committee night. It was a memorable evening – Jonathan Sheard rejoined the fold after a year's absence only to find that we have had so many new members that he had to be introduced anew! Our latest recruit, Harry Hill, was inducted by VP Michael, sitting in for President John who was indisposed.

There was more good news. Paul Ridway was feeling much better and hoped to rejoin us soon. Sam had recovered from his fall from grace (a ladder actually) and it no longer hurt when he laughed. By the time you read this, we may have yet another member, Norman Hogben. Norman is an experienced Rotarian, who has attended several meetings, and has not been put off by what he has experienced!

In fact, we now have 36 members (an all time high, I think), not counting Norman. I will soon have to re-jig my lists to accommodate all the membership information! Problems, problems!

The committees met amid much chatter. Pertinent outcomes included:

- we saw over 2000 children at the Grotto over Christmas. Fantastic!
- please return beards, after a thorough washing!
- attendance at meetings has been miserable overall (63% last quarter). Please let Tony Burch know whenever you take part in a community service event, or in some other qualifying attendance (there are lots!)
- also let Tony know when you have fixed your allocated club meeting in the new rota. Preferably two months in advance.
- the Rotary Memorial Garden in Bramhall Park has been approved and tree and bush planting will start soon. Sharpen your spades!
- over £300 was collected for SightSavers from our donations in lieu of Christmas cards, and this was generously topped up to £500 by two anonymous members.
- Alan Newsome collected 620 pairs of spectacles from opticians in the last 12 months. Well done, Alan – they should keep you from buying a new pair for years to come.
- Social Sam had arranged a safari supper cum Burns Night on 31st January at our regular weekly venue. What will he dream up next? Treasure Hunt cum tree planting? Casino Night cum auction? Masked Ball cum barbecue? PRO Henry wants a cheque presenting celeb. Any offers?
- Graham the sales went into presentational mode with a box of

dates (empty?) for his favourite Vice President.

- the Edenbridge Club is to curtain off the section that we use for meals when we cannot get the function room. We should be nice and private but roasting!
- any ideas for a new letterhead to celebrate Rotary's 100 year anniversary in 2005? Ideas to David the sec.

Kelvin the S @ A went about prising unwarranted 50p's from reluctant victims and Henry went home with two bottles of wine (again).

I went home with Alan, John and Geoff.!

Dennis

Walking my socks off

What better after an excess of food and drink than a stroll around Teggs Nose and Macclesfield Forest? Twelve good persons and true helped to guide three dogs around a hilly 4.5 miles on December 30th. Noel's boots were more highly polished than my best shoes, David and Kate Dewhurst were in training for skiing, and Kelvin revelled in the fantastic scenery. One of the ladies was heard to remark, 'If this is one of your easy walks, I don't want to come on a difficult one!' We were lucky to get good weather, and the few muddy bits were frozen which helped a lot. The pace was leisurely with plenty of stops for refreshments, photo opportunities (John Mould put his new digital camera to excellent use – see cover pic) and muscle relaxation. Lunch was at the Leather Smithy Arms, where the Batty's and Sue Handley joined us. Sue reputedly would have joined us on the walk itself, had it not been for the night before! All in all, a splendid morning in beautiful scenery. Why not join us next time?



Rehydration time!

More headlines

Prostitutes appeal to Pope
Plane too close to ground, crash probe told

Santa's reflections

Well, it's all over for another year. Don't know about you, but I really enjoyed the Barton Grange Grotto, and seeing all those kids with their bright eyes. Some kids so shy they wanted to get away as soon as possible (after receiving their present, of course), and others who wanted to stay a bit longer and pass the time of day with their intelligent conversation.

Kids say the funniest things sometimes. One four year old, when asked what he would leave Santa for a drink, thought carefully and said "Gravy". One youngster said he would leave me a roast dinner – nice thought, but I had a sledge to run! A girl wanted a pair of boxing gloves and a punch bag! What's wrong with her brother, I wonder – won't he do? Another six year old wanted a laptop and a pony – her mum didn't grimace, so I guess that they are not short of cash!

I sometimes wonder if we are not just encouraging youngsters to want more

and more each Christmas, but then..... we raise a lot for charity, the children certainly seem to like coming to see us, their parents appreciate the time we spend with their kids judging by their comments when leaving, and just once in a while I have no doubts.

This year it was when the next child was announced as Jack, who was seventeen years old. Jack was severely mentally retarded. He was so excited to see me, called me "Sir" when he came in (now that's something I don't hear very often nowadays) and tried so hard to let me know what he wanted. He had written me a very neat list of requests, mostly CDs, and I read through his list item by item with him. He got a pack of crayons and a badge, and went away a very happy person. It brought home to me our blessings and what I am thankful for, and the impact for good that Rotary can have on those around us. Thanks for coming to see me, Jack!

What were we doing ?

15 years ago - January 1989

Editor Don produced 13 pages including an advert for his family's snooker table and news that the future "Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells" had become a grandfather (but at this stage had not found the editor's address).

President David urged everybody to enjoy the year's planned activities -particularly the skiing trip, a report on which would feature in next months Lancet. Christmas dinner had been at The Windmill ably organised by Ron Malabon.

Noel had entertained a Club meeting with a review of the Smethurst family. Mac in appreciation said "Noel appears to attract colourful characters. Perhaps they recognise one in him just as we do".

Ron Martin's Christmas Quiz had been a success with the Ladies who had taken first 4 places, Mike Barker being Fifth. Visits had been paid to elderly patients in Davenport Nursing Home who had outlived their relatives and friends.

There had been a joke session. Don recorded key words from some as follows ;-

Various degrees of ski-runs for different races. Motor dealers/gifts to wives. Mundane manager /Alligator skin shoes/hat. Tell 'em again Kelvin.

10 years ago - February 1994

On 12th January we presented a cheque for £1500 to St Ann's Hospice, the result of a competition where one had to guess the exact duration of a flight across the Atlantic. The prize was two tickets donated by American Airlines. (Could we run a similar competition based on the exact take-off time now ?).

Bill Middlehurst spent an evening trying to trace the history of members surnames but had difficulty with Malabon (apparently he is from an illustrious line of Huguenots !).

Dorothy Birch was the only listed passenger for Walthew House.

Other parts of the bulletin were gobble-do-gook which editor Doug said he couldn't understand.



Beau-jollying along in 2003!



Diary

January 21	Alli Cordes: Connect Plus
January 24	Burns Night safari supper
January 28	Swiss Consul: our ladies are invited to this meeting
January 31	Safari-Burns evening: guests welcome
February 1	President's drinks: noon - 3pm, Ladybridge Club
February 2	Committee night
February 9	Council meeting
February 11	Jan Kenworthy: Lip reading
February 18	Amy Wilson: MacMillan - new cancer resource
February 25	David Rabone: Focus on District
February 27	President's Night: Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall
March 3	Committee Night
April 3-4	Stroke awareness weekend
April 7	Committee night
May 5	Bob Bischof
July 7	End of year barbecue

For all other meetings, see the rota below. If you cannot arrange a meeting, please find a replacement. Please advise Tony Burch as soon as

March 10	Dewhurst/Hurst
March 17	Club Services
March 24	Lacey/Kennedy
March 31	5 th Wednesday
April 14	Malabon/McLeod
April 21	Club Services
April 28	Mould/Newsome (CHECK!)
May 5	Poizer/Rabone (changed date) (CHECK!)
May 12	Committee night (changed date)
May 19	Club Services
May 26	Ridgway/Sheppard
June 2	Committee night
June 9	Smith/Smethurst
June 16	Club Services
June 23	Stevenson/Sykes
June 30	5th Wednesday - Handover?

Job rota

Date	Speaker host	Bulletin	S at A
January 28	M Wolverson	H Barker	G Yule
February 4	Committees	S Davies	T Burch
February 11	K Death	S Day	G Hunt
February 18	D Dewhurst	M Hurst	M Lacey
February 25	S Kennedy	R Malabon	M McLeod
March 3	Committees	A Newsome	D Poizer
March 10	D Rabone	D Rose	S Smith
March 17	T Sheppard	B Stevenson	N Smethurst
March 24	R Taylor	J Sykes	J Thewlis
March 31	5th Wed	G Yule	5th Wed
April 7	Committees	H Boyes	B Batty
April 14	T Burch	S Day	S Davies
April 21	D Allport	K Death	D Dewhurst
April 28	J Holme	G Hunt	H Hill
May 5	Committees	J Mould	H Barker
May 12	H Boyes	S Kennedy	M Hurst
May 19	N Hogben	M Lacey	R Malabon
May 26	M McLeod	D Poizer	A Newsome
June 2	Committees	D Rabone	P Ridgway

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

Weeweechu

One beautiful December evening Huan Cho and his girlfriend Jung Lee were sitting by the side of the ocean. It was a romantic full moon, when Huan Cho said "Hey baby, let's play Weeweechu."

"Oh no, not now, lets look at the moon" said Jung Lee.

"Oh, c'mon baby, let's you and I play Weeweechu. I love you and it's the perfect time," Huan Cho begged.

"But I rather just hold your hand and watch the moon."

"Please Jung Lee, just once play Weeweechu with me."

Jung Lee looked at Huan Cho and said, "OK, we'll play Weeweechu."

Huan Cho grabbed his guitar and they both sang.....

"Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year."

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.

January 20	S Smith	N Smethurst
January 27	B Stevenson	J Sykes
February 3	M Wolverson	G Yule
February 10	H Barker	B Batty
February 17	D Allport	H Boyes
February 24	T Burch	S Davies
March 2	S Day	K Death
March 9	D Dewhurst	M Hurst
March 16	S Kennedy	M Lacey
March 23	R Malabon	J Meeus
March 30	J Mould	A Newsome
April 6	D Poizer	D Rabone
April 13	P Ridgway	D Rose
April 20	T Sheppard	S Smith
April 27	N Smethurst	B Stevenson
May 4	J Sykes	G Vine
May 11	M Wolverson	G Yule
May 18	H Barker	B Batty



'LEND A HAND'

Involvement and communication

Meal Apologies

Don't forget that all meal apologies must be made either

by phoning 07005 964 624

or

emailing to

Apologies@bramhall-woodford-rotary.org.uk

before midday on Tuesday

**We meet at the the Ladybridge Park Resident's Club,
Edenbridge Road, Cheadle Hulme.**

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

dennis-allport@supanet.com