

Rotarian



Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club

Bulletin

October 2005



Wanna drink?

Presidential prattle



So far it has been a pretty quiet start to the Rotary year. We have had some excellent meetings, culminating in Ron getting needles stuck into his neck, which may not have done much for him but amused everyone else who was there, whilst on the fundraising side, the concert that Henry so ably organised produced around £700 for Hope and Homes in Africa. Well done Henry and all who manoeuvred chairs, hassocks, etc.

So far, so good... but this has really been just the calm before the storm. Yes... the Grotto looms... bigger and better than even last year's efforts!! Therefore, I would ask you all to start gearing up now for this, our major fundraising effort. We will need all the help we can get and so, please, start to cajole spouses, offspring, friends and anyone else you can think of into coming along and helping out.

Who said Christmas starts earlier each year?

Finally, I would offer the Club's continuing support to Kelvin and Barbara and to Sid and Sally and fervently hope that we will see them back before too long.

President John

Council capers



August

Money: £2499 in the General Account, £1110 in the Charity Account. However, £800 in subs were still due. Contribution to the Guide Hut to be confirmed.

Club Services: Charter evening format confirmed. DG visit to be confirmed. Ladies recruitment evening under consideration.

International & Foundation: Sept. 11 concert reviewed. DG has

suggested a new format International Evening possibly arranged by our club. Tea Project coming!

Ways & Means: Grotto and Fun Run status reviewed. Possible car boot sale to be considered.

Community Service: David Lewis Centre need a therapy pool. Footpath clearance being set up. Excitement of Science possibility at Manchester. Coffee day in Bramhall to be planned. Concern expressed about funding for small local charities.

September

Money: £2266 in General Account, £1030 in Charity Account. Four subs still owing (tut-tut). Guide hut contribution to be confirmed.

Club Services: Programme to end year fixed. Recruitment planned with 1-2 prospects. Ladies recruitment evening to be confirmed for 2006.

Social: Possible games evening at Rainow, clay pigeon shoot. End of Grotto party on 21 December.

International & Foundation: September 11 concert. Tea for sale! GSE farewell dinner planned.

Ways & Means: Grotto arrangements now advanced. Fun Run on 21 May, 2006. ANO event under consideration.

Community Service: Footpath maintenance arranged. MacMillan nurses collection on 14/15 October. Coffee day on 30 September in Bramhall. Donation for Beacon agreed.

PRO: Replacement required.

Meeting Reports



Money for Some, Perhaps.

Graham Vine set about educating us all on 10 August about A-Day..... the new pensions legislation which comes into effect on 6th April 2006. If ever there was a mis-named concept, it is pensions simplification. The changes are complex and Graham did his very best to reduce a 4000 page manual to provide an informative talk on the impact of the new Government pensions provisions. For most members of the club it was akin to knitting fog however, and a look around the room identified innumerable nodding heads and bemused stares.

At the start, Graham informed us that anyone of us who are already drawing our pensions might as well repair directly to the bar and that he was not there to advise but merely inform – as he particularly didn't want to be sued! However, he did make the important point that anyone concerned about the new pensions legislation should take professional advice – and should ignore what they read in the newspapers! Sound advice in itself.

His talk was wide-ranging and covered most of the important

changes which we can expect to see next year. The important point is that time is running out for A-Day pension planning, with less than 12 months to go to the new regime. For the bloated plutocrats among us, vital action is needed to make the most of planning opportunities, many of which will be gone for ever when A-Day arrives.

Tony Burch gave Graham a vote of thanks for addressing the club on such a complex “baffling” subject and then as Treasurer used threats and menaces to extract subs from the remaining recalcitrant members.

Henry gave further details about the proposed concert at St. Michael's church on Sept 11th. Sponsored by our club, we are seeking to raise funds in aid of Rotary's Africa Hope (through Hope and Homes for Children) – a worthy cause indeed. Let's hope it will be a sell-out.

David Rose reported that he had cleared 100 metres of the footpath single-handedly (rounds of applause) and hoped to get a team together to finish the job in September – when the jungle is likely to have re-formed completely.

David Dewhurst reported on the members' visit to the Edinburgh Tattoo – and the mini wine lake they consumed together. A great success and a wonderful show.

Michael Lacey won the raffle, to popular acclaim. Less so, however, when he fined all and sundry as Sgt. At Arms for the most trivial of non-offences.

And finally, here's a real scary thought. The minimum wage today for

a 17 yr old is £3 an hour. A standard 35 hour week produces an income of £105 pw. At the opposite end of the scale, a man retiring today at 65, having saved nothing for retirement, will receive a basic state pension of £79.60pw which, topped up by pension credit will rise to £105pw. How many 65 yr olds fancy going back to living on the same money as a 17yr old? And where was Graham Vine when we needed him most?

Geoff. Hunt

Birds in Cheshire - 17th August

The meeting opened on a poignant note when President John announced that Stephen Day would soon be leaving us to go to live in Northern Cyprus. Stephen gave a farewell speech saying that he had really enjoyed his time with us and would visit as and when possible on his returns to the UK. He explained that he had been offered a job as an International Consultant, and that since this could be done from anywhere he and Judith had decided on a complete change. President John, echoed by the members present, wished Stephen every success in his new job and home.

Henry made a strong sales pitch for the vast quantity of Yorkshire tea in the room which members were

encouraged to buy to support something!

The speaker was Malcolm Calvert, a work colleague of Geoff Hunt, and the subject was "birds in Cheshire". Malcolm gave many interesting examples of changing patterns (e.g. cormorants now nesting at Rostherne Mere, Bee-eaters moving in from the Mediterranean, and Siskins from Scotland). Apparently buzzards are becoming quite common, and collared doves did not exist here in 1955.

Malcolm's main area of interest has been the reed warbler. English Nature has just published his account of Reed Warblers at Rostherne Mere in Cheshire, based on 32 years of study. The report is in A5 paperback format, with photographs, and is available from English Nature,

Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, SY4 4TW, at £10, including p & p

One bird that he ringed as a nestling he caught again 11 years later (each year the bird migrated to Africa!). Incidentally he finds hundreds of golf balls from Mere golf club, as they drift to the reed beds, via several culverts, from Mere's lake based practise range!

There were lots of questions, mostly on topic, which were all well answered. Alan Newsome gave the vote of thanks during which he let slip

that when wrens were nesting there were more wrens in the UK than people.

There was virtually no formal business (one Tony Burch joke and one from Geoff) and David McKeith won the raffle (to cries of "he's only been in the club 5 minutes").

SatA Sam fined many people in his usual humorous way and President John closed the meeting (early!).

Michael Lacey

Committee Night – 7th September 2005.

With monotonous regularity Committee Night rolls round again and, in a moment of weakness, I volunteer to be bulletin reporter! Actually, I'm always impressed with the attendance on Committee nights. Clearly, members place significant importance on carrying out the activities of the club – and England lost to Northern Ireland – so it would have been a waste of time staying home and watching telly ... except for Herb of course!

We all gracefully accepted drinks at the bar from Neil Loveland who has recently become a granddad. Congrats, Neil. We also had wine on

the table, courtesy of John Sykes celebrating his daughter's marriage in August. Relief to have passed her on no doubt. (Only kidding, John)

We were given about an hour in committees – probably because President John needed a smoke – and we all reassembled after coffee and a very nice buffet meal.

Secretary David had little of substance to report (he was saving it all for his turn as Sgt at Arms) and Treasurer Tony had nothing to report – except to challenge members to test him on the accounts (nobody dared).

Malcolm Hurst (Ways and Means) is giving an update on the Christmas Grotto in October. The date of next

year's Fun Run has been changed to 21 May to enable us to have the use of Bramhall Village Club.

On behalf of Club Services, I reported a full calendar of events in the lead up to Christmas, a great Charter Night party to look forward to – and some concern over future membership. Everyone to dig deep with contacts please.

Henry encouraged everyone to take up more Yorkshire Teabags on behalf of Rotary Foundation and kept a wise counsel on everything else until the next Council meeting. Shows waffle can get you anywhere!

David Rose has organised the footpath clearance for 18th Sept. All hands to the tiller please. He has also been racing around Bramhall village on behalf of the World Coffee morning, hoping to get various restaurants to make a “coffee” donation to Rotary charities. Mixed success I gather.

Harry Hill reported on behalf of the Social committee that there were several knees-ups in prospect. Nothing to do with the use of stirrups

we were assured. He has suggested a New Year's dinner rather than a Christmas dinner – something to debate between now and the year end. He also mentioned the possibility of a games evening (the Robin Hood in Rainow as in previous years) a clay pigeon shoot, a visit to Sale Sharks with dinner, and a canal boat trip with dinner beforehand – a very ambitious programme. We will hold you to account Harry!

There being no other business, we proceeded to the raffle – which I won again. Nothing for over ten years then twice in a month... a bit like London buses. Good wine and very drinkable. Sorry for you lot!

Finally, David Rabone, as Sgt at Arms, came into his own and took great pleasure in fining all and sundry for the most miniscule of contrivances. It's going to be hard work spending a whole weekend in his company at the District Conference in the Isle of Man at the month end.

Reluctantly. Geoff Hunt.

A bicycle cannot stand on its own because it is two tired.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

Beacon on 21 September

As it was a joint meeting with New Mills, introductions were in order: Noel Pollard, President of New Mills, David Ackroyd, speaker, and Chris Monkhouse. The Citizen Man, Roger Rowbottom, was introduced as the left handed golfer! Other members of New Mills were also introduced. The three waitresses who assisted this evening were Hayley Bowyer, Hannah Jones and Pippa Pugh (now no excuse for not knowing their names!). Dev advised although he was the last to arrive, (not true – Jonathan beat him by 2 minutes!) he was going to leave before 10 pm as he had postponed a 7 pm visit to see 30 patients and he would be completing his visit 3 hours later following a good meal and two glasses of red wine at the emergency ward at Stepping Hill Hospital.

John Thewlis opened the second half of the meeting and introduced Chris Monkhouse to us. Herb advised that Mac visited Chris Monkhouse, as they were aware Chris had three quarters of a ton of clothing, brand new, all wanting a home. Chris preferred it if we could do something for charity rather than sell it on to a rag and bone man and make some money for himself. It was decided to send the clothing to Uganda Rotary for use by the poorest of the poor. Unfortunately the freight cost to Uganda was £4,300, but it appears

that the men at the airport chipped in all their allowances and this cost was then reduced to £500. Two clubs shared this £500, Bramhall & Woodford and New Mills, and having delivered the clothing on Friday, it was being delivered to the people of Uganda on Monday. In the circumstances, due to the generosity of Chris Monkhouse, a Humanitarian Award was presented to him. Chris Monkhouse then advised us of his association with Rotary over the years and his family history with it - loud applause followed. Chris offered to continue with his donations as and when he could, and this was greatly appreciated. John Thewlis then stood up and advised that with the full support of the members present, Rotary wished to induct Chris Monkhouse as an Honorary Member, and invited him to attend as many meetings and events as he could. This was appreciated and accepted by Chris.

John Thewlis then introduced David Ackroyd from Beacon Counselling. David introduced his talk with the words of Johnathan Smith: "May you live all the days of your life" - to live positively in all aspects. David was speaking as the manager of a team. Beacon Counselling counsel individuals and they also work with secondary schools. At the moment they have 208 adults they are counselling and 108 young people. There are 60 people on their waiting

list. There are 24 counsellors in Bramhall and others in the Reddish, Heaton Moor and Hazel Grove areas. They provide a very professional service, and all are volunteers apart from those who work in schools. Funds are raised from a number of sources, Friends paying £5 per annum. They are always looking for volunteers and friends. A Business Plan came into operation in November 2004. This was to provide:

1. Professional Counselling services to those who live in Stockport
2. Approve 19 objectives by November 2006 – these include owning their own premises (at the moment they use the village surgery in Moss Lane).
3. They wish to increase the counselling hours.
4. They also wish to work in more schools (where they do not have a counselling service). A grant is obtained for working in schools. They are looking at working in groups - Anger Management.
5. Looking at service help for people who are housebound. The problem is people have to wait a long time before the initial session is given (they are not an emergency service like the Samaritans).

Some of the things they look at - talking to the bereaved, people with lack of self esteem.

Sources of finance:

1. From clients £25 per hour (£10 to £25 in accordance with what they can afford). Equal opportunities are provided even if payment cannot be made.
2. School Counselling work - funds provided (Counselling for Schools paid for).
3. Grant from Primary Care Trust - crucial where people only pay very little.
4. Friends - last year £700 paid - they complete sponsored walks and churches have made donations, as have Rotary.

They are not an organisation set up for fund raising, although Olive Hunt, Geoff's wife, has been very helpful. Lloyds TSB provided £5,000 for IT last year, this helped in setting up the Young People Project. Gordon asked with a waiting list of 60 people, how can they deal with someone in a desperate state, David said they are not a crisis service, the wait is normally about 3 months, but they can improve the time scale if they can see someone in the day time. They are looking to provide a service whereby they see someone within two weeks. John Thewlis asked about the number of sessions and David replied it is

normally about six. Supervisor involved checking that clear guidelines are in place whilst sessions are carried out. They leave it to the client counsellor, and supervisor to decide the number of sessions. There are always two people on the premises, the counsellor and a receptionist, just in case there are any problems. They have personal attack alarms, and they are very careful how they deal with people. School work is completed at 9 schools. Unfortunately, every school has a long waiting list for counselling

services. (Relate is connected with relationship problems).

Raffle Prize - Ron Malabon won one of the raffle prizes and passed it to the speaker to help with Beacon. Sergeant at Arms Tony Burch had a wonderful time with this job and fined without mercy! Tony finished the evening by stating although the speaker had given up his "bridge evening; he had turned up to build bridges."

Bob Stevenson

Henry's knees, or how to make a killing!

VP Gordon had trawled NHS experts to find someone who could give Henry a new pair of knees, and the writer a new body following his argument with marble and concrete steps in Greece.

Then what? He stuck a needle into Ron's neck - Ron's head fell off, rolled on the floor, with its eyes looking at me demanding another glass of red. After slurping the lot, the head re-set itself on Ron's body. Ron had no pain. (Ed: poetic licence is one thing, but ...).

So on September 14 Dr Allardi explained the dark arts of 'Acupuncture'. Did you notice that Harry and David R brought their tool kits with them (bottle openers/ corkscrews/ mobile phones)? Dr A. took us through aspects of the art we had never thought of before. Henry had his cheque book poised. I on the other hand hid behind Poizer and Malabon. If he had played his cards right he could have stuck needles into nearly 20 blokes in need! At £100 a time, what a killing it could have been.

Meanwhile, Henry had slid his cheque book back in his pocket, not sure of the effect on his knees, if they had fallen off, who would have put them back on the right knees.

It was a good night, but Gordon should set a replay, produce tickets at a very high price. We will all buy one, hoping for a needle to be stuck somewhere, and a cure found.

David Rabone

To merge or not to merge?

A variety of Clubs with elderly, and/or declining membership are giving serious consideration to merging with Clubs having similar declining membership problems. Is such merging a way out of decline and eventual closure? Could such merging, however, be just another nail in the coffin of such struggling Clubs?

These notes are offered so that any Rotarian with views on 'merging' and on membership development can comment and share views as we look at this aspect of Rotary life.

Clubs considering merging: such clubs are generally male or male-dominated. The members are generally elderly and such clubs are small in membership, usually in the low teens of numbers. The Club struggles to maintain a worthwhile weekly programme, and the venue is usually not of the best. However, often these Clubs might well be involved in quality charity works.

The perceived (hoped for) advantages of merging are making two weak Clubs into one strong Club

numerically, thereby heightening the capacity for Rotary Fellowship. The quality of weekly meetings would improve and new members would be more likely to join a strong Club.

But there are disadvantages. Merging two weak clubs does not produce one strong Club. Indeed, often what is produced is just another weak club. Older members do not transfer to the new merged Club. Two 14's do not produce 28 members in the new Club. What venue do you choose? The death throes of two clubs now becomes a longer, slower death of the one merged Club.

Is there any alternative? Why not allow the dying Clubs to die? Why not consider 'Extension' in the area of the dying Clubs? Consider forming a new, younger, definitely dual gender Club with a different style, weekly (why weekly?), with a different format. One Club dies gracefully, but a new birth occurs. Good continuity is maintained.

What do you think?

David Rabone

Caribbean evening

When is a Charter Anniversary not a Charter Night? Answer: when it's a Caribbean evening Bramhall and Woodford style! We have had formal Charter Nights all our existence and the Club was ready for a change this year. After all, a Charter Anniversary is a birthday celebration, and who among us puts on formal attire on his birthday?



So Club Services under the leadership of Geoff Hunt, decided to try a Caribbean evening on 23 September. And a great success it was too! Forty five members and spouses gathered at the Ladybridge Park Residents Club dressed in Caribbean dress. It was a great pleasure to welcome Linda Brisbane and Sue Handley as well - they had to earn their keep by deciding who had the most vulgar and outrageous costume! The outright winner was David Rose, complete with socks and sandals (ugh!). He got a bottle of rum for his efforts and a slot on the cover of the Bulletin.

On arrival all were offered a fruit or a rum punch, and the ladies got leis to add to their costumes. Chris provided a sumptuous buffet of tropical delights and all this to a background of steel band music. Olive Hunt had done some super flower decorations on the tables, which were later raffled off with some bottles to swell the coffers. Mac had provided lots of travel posters for the walls - the ambience was terrific!

The only formalities for this 'regular' Club meeting was the confident reading of our Charter by a surprised Jim Thomas (he hadn't appreciated he was the newest recruit!), and a toast to the Club. No boring speeches, just great fellowship with friends. Let's do it again, I hear you say!



Diary

*September 23	Friday social to celebrate our Charter
September 28	No meeting - social on 23rd replaces
October 5	Committees
*October 12	No meeting - October 11 replaces
October 19	Neil Loveland - My Job
*October 26	Christmas Grotto - Malcolm Hurst
November 2	Committees
*November 9	Kennedy/Jackson
November 16	Poizer/Rabone
*November 23	Malabon/McKeith
November 30	5th Wednesday - no meeting
December 7	Committees and EGM
*December 14	Rose/Sheard
December 21	Proposed end of Grotto Party

Please note that the programme above is subject to change. Please keep Geoff Hunt informed of intended speakers or visits.

*** indicates that we will have the function room.**

Wine - the buffalo theory

It's like this... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. When the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. However, naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of wine eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine!

That's why you feel smarter after a few wines.

Job rota

Date	Speaker host	Bulletin	S at A
September 21	T Sheppard	B Stevenson	R Taylor
September 28	Replaced by Sep 23 'Charter' social evening		
October 5	Committees	G Yule	S Day
October 12	N Loveland	J Thomas	M Hurst
October 19	G Vine	G Hunt	B Stevenson
October 26	M Lacey	D Dev	M McLeod
November 2	Committees	G Jackson	H Barker
November 9	D Allport	S Davies	J Mould
November 16	R Malabon	K Death	H Hill
November 23	D McKeith	B Batty	H Boyes
November 30	T Burch	D Dewhurst	A Newsome
December 7	Committees	D Rabone	J Meeus
December 14	R Taylor	D Rose	J Sykes
December 21	Party		

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

BLIND RUN

Bernard Sharp, 6 Woodbury Rd., Birdhall Lane, Cheadle Hulme

Tel: 428 6506 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

Wyn and Harold Lawson, 170 Ben Davies Court, Romiley

Tel: 406 9213 Pick up at 7.00 pm

Mrs Dorothy Birch, 53 Mill Lane, Woodley

Tel: 355 3252 Pick up 7.10 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. To reach the Lawsons from Stockport go under the railway bridge by Romily railway station. The first on the left is Guywood Lane. Go up and take the second left. There is a passage leading to Ben Davies Court; they live in the downstairs flat.

September 26	S Davies	D Dewhurst
October 4	D Dev	H Hill
October 11	G Hunt	M Hurst
October 18	G Jackson	S Kennedy
October 25	M Lacey	N Loveland
November 1	R Malabon	D Mckeith
November 8	J Meeus	J Mould
November 15	A Newsome	D Poizer
November 22	D Rabone	D Rose
November 29	J Sheard	B Stevenson
December 6	J Sykes	R Taylor
December 13	J Thomas	G Vine
December 20	G Yule	D Allport
2006		
January 3	H Barker	B Batty
January 10	H Boyes	T Burch
January 17	S Davies	D Dev
January 24	D Dewhurst	H Hill



SERVICE Above Self

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 an attachment to an e-mail **in Rich Text Format (not Word)** - more resistant to virus attack.

dennis-allport@supanet.com