

Rotarian



**Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club**

# ***Bulletin***

April 2007



# Gordon's gossip



Together with a bruised and battered Geoff Hunt, I attended the second zone meeting at Bredbury Hall in January. Clubs reported on their fund raising efforts over Christmas and continuing ideas for development. Margaret Hutchinson (who has been re-elected for a further year) chairs these meetings in order to develop a sense of cohesion in the zone and I am certainly now more familiar with the other presidents than I would have been and with their efforts. I gave a glowing report of our many and varied efforts to pursue the goals of Rotary.

Jenny and I also attended the Charter Night of Hazel Grove club, which was held at the Alma Lodge (thus giving it a good coat of looking at for our party). It was worth noting that they did not read their charter but gave a brief history of the club since it was received. This novel approach gave a sense of meaning and history to the night that placed their achievements in perspective. It was also good to meet DG Michael and his wife Daphne again. Their enthusiasm for Rotary is highly infectious.

I was able to present a cheque for over £4000 to Pam Turnbull of Kidscan in February. Her gratitude was evident for all to see and she was truly touched by our efforts and I felt that our money was going somewhere that it can do the maximum good. To be able to raise this amount only shows the commitment of our members at a time when we feared for the worst having lost the Barton Grange grotto.

The bicycle scheme was discussed (argued, fought over, ripped apart and reassembled) at our committee night and it is heartening that so many people felt that they had a contribution to make. There was passion and concern but not a sign of the apathy that plagues many clubs. The night gave David and I food for thought and certainly many of the items raised were points I was unaware of. We acted on your suggestions and this is now our main charity for the coming year. This does not mean that we will be raising money solely for

the scheme but, as in previous years, we will be committing the major part of our efforts to it.

We received some well-deserved publicity in February with an article in the Stockport Times showing the double presentation to Country Fayre and Eyeline. The papers say they do not generally print pictures of cheque presentations as they get so many but this one must have sparked their interest as it was a little bit different. Now all we have to do, is make each one different. Perhaps some of our members could abseil down a building whilst presenting a cheque. No? Oh well, it was worth a try.

President's drinks began with Jenny doing her headless chicken impression stating that we would 'NEVER be ready on time' and 'we don't have enough food' but her fears were groundless and an excellent afternoon of fellowship ensued with nearly 40 people occupying my building site of a house. Note to Geoff – buy more orange juice, less wine and a lot of salmon.

Our Valentine's night social was a great success, particularly as our table won some bottles of Cava by fitting the names of Sinatra hits into a story grid. As no-one answered my blackmail requests, I asked Michael to put the photos on the website (have a look at [www.bwrotary.org.uk](http://www.bwrotary.org.uk)). Another excellent night with good friends.

The talk by Jiles Halling about champagne proved far more interesting than I thought. He was obviously very passionate about his subject and it must be wonderful to work in an industry that you enjoy so much. By the look of the number of people who were crowding round him at the end of the night, he may generate some business from us.

President's night was approached with some trepidation as I had no idea what was to befall me. The evening started well enough with me presenting a richly deserved Paul Harris Fellowship to Henry for all the stupendous work he does in all aspects of the community. The evening continued with an excellent meal, good wine and great company and then I had to make my welcome speech. From here it went decidedly downhill when I was interrupted by very dodgy looking copper and eventually 'operated' on by our own Dr Schleisenfinger and his unable assistants.

All in all, a great night. The band was superb and many, many thanks go to all who put so much effort into it.

The talk by Robbie Phillips on the polio plus campaign left me wondering how we make progress in countries where suspicion and lack of knowledge abound. The aid workers deserve our utmost respect.

I am attending a comedy night on Saturday, a zone meeting on Monday and we have Bob's personal trainer on Wednesday. My life has certainly been full since I joined Rotary.

Gordon



What a way to spend a night out!

# Secretary's Soapbox

## Booklets

I have copies of the RIBI and RI directories (lists of clubs with details of where they meet, who is the President etc).

I also have the RIBI and club constitutions and the "Insurance and the Rotary Club" booklets.

## Recent Council Meeting decisions

From Council Meeting 12-3-07

- Club will meet at L'Ecole on 28th March.

From Council Meeting 12-2-07

- Leave of Absence for 6 months for J Sheard was approved.
- New dates for council meeting in April (23rd) and May (12th) were agreed
- The council unanimously accepted the 7-point Bikes for Africa proposal and will put it to the club for final endorsement.
- Provided the club "team" goes on a RYLA trip and the cost of sending a disabled person is c£600 then we will send one and, if future funds allow, two.

From Council Meeting 8-1-07

- The club does not support the £2 per head supplement on district fees for the summer camp extra places.
- The meeting on 7th March will be a scatter night. (Pres Eve on Saturday 10th)
- We will give £500 to each of Wellbeing and The Mill, and £1,000 to Eycline
- The club will fund the residual purchases for the emergency box..
- The club will not get involved with the prettying up of Bramhall Station.
- From the charity account we will pay the gross amount rounded up to nearest £50 from Woodford Park and the Grotto to Kidscan.

## Attendance

Just a reminder that the club policy is to be totally relaxed when members cannot attend, but to ask that members do attend when they can!

## Emails to [bwrotary@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bwrotary@yahoogroups.com)

Thought you might be interested to see how the "new" email system is going. It is not all Sid!

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar (to 14th)</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
2007	36	48	14									
2006						26	33	26	36	26	54	36

Michael 15.3.07

# Meeting Reports



## **All about champagne on 21 February**

A lower number of members than usual, 22, attended despite the speaker's talk being on the subject of alcohol.

Chris produced a veritable feast consisting of Spicy Chilli Con Carne, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Fish Lasagne and Gammon steaks. The amount of food produced meant everyone could have 2 main courses but room had to be left for a pudding of Chocolate Sponge & Custard.

During the meal Michael Lacey followed up his e-mail of 13 February with an update on Bicycles for Africa and repeated that Council's proposal is to go for the full funding of £10,000 but retain a fall back position. The proposal was approved unanimously.

After coffee David Rose broke with tradition and introduced the speaker, Jiles Halling. David had carried out a great deal of research and gave a lengthy account of Jiles background in and out of the champagne business. Despite having his opening remarks sabotaged by David, Jiles explained

that his knowledge of champagne developed from working for 7 years at Moët & Chandon.

The champagne growing region is situated about 90 miles north east of Paris where the chalky soil and chilly climate combine to give ideal conditions for ripening champagne's three main grape varieties, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. It is the blend of these three grapes which gives champagne its distinctive flavour. The colour can range from Blanc de blanc which is white champagne made from Chardonnay grapes to the much less common Blanc de noir which is white champagne made from only black grapes. The regions chalky terroir is essential and the vines need to be planted in fissured soil where they can put down deep and wide root systems.

Jiles explained that because the climate is so marginal most champagne produced is non-vintage and will be blended with older champagne to give it roundness. Despite the time constraints Jiles talk was excellent and was pitched to cover a range of people's knowledge from the basic to the more expert. The

only negative point was that the corks remained firmly in the sample bottles Jiles brought with him!

The meeting then moved on to reports:-

Secretary – the RIBI Conference in Bournemouth

Treasurer – the charities account has a £5,000 balance but with existing commitments the real balance is £1,000. The general account balance is £2,000.

Sales – nothing to report

Ways & Means – the Club will have a stall at the Grand Easter Festival at Bramhall Hall on 8 April. Fun Run details are to follow.

Club Services – Mike Palmer’s job talk next week and the blind Run

International – nothing to report.

Community Services – The Neuro Muscular Centre.

Social – a trip to RAF Cosforth, information to follow, and President’s night.

PRO - nothing to report.

Any Other business – Chris Monkhouse mentioned Trackday on Bank Holiday Monday at Donnington and agreed to send another e-mail. Michael Lacey mentioned a visit to New New Mills & Marple.

The raffle was won by Tony Burch who, rather tongue in cheek, presented the bottle to the speaker.

Jim Thomas, at only his second time as Sergeant at Arms, settled many old scores by fining all those members who as previous Sergeants at Arms have extracted 50p a week from the Thomas coffers. Jim is clearly a man with a long memory and holds grudges!

Another very enjoyable evening.

Mike Palmer

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## Anagrams

DORMITORY:DIRTY ROOM

PRESBYTERIAN: BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER: MOON STARER

DESPERATION: A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES: THEY SEE

## **Polio Plus Updated**

A goodly attendance turned up on 14<sup>th</sup> March to hear about Polio Plus. Certain reservations were expressed privately that our speaker, Robbie Phillips of RC Stockport Lamplighter, had decided that we were not ready for his talk, as he did not appear until 15 minutes after we had started to eat. All was revealed – he had lost his way from the middle of Cheadle Hulme to the Ladybridge. He is not the first to have difficulty in finding our venue! However, normality was quickly resumed after another excellent meal from Chris – the best in 1050 according to Robbie.

Polio Plus has been going a long time. I can recall involvement in raising funds for this most worthy project early on in my Rotary life. To eradicate polio from the earth by 2000 was the aim. Now, several years later, eradication is far from complete and is not assured. In 2006 there were 1900 confirmed cases, with the inevitability of ‘silent carriers’ many more than these in number.

The remaining ‘pockets’ of polio (enormous in size) include parts of Nigeria and India, despite tremendous efforts to administer vaccine drops to the children. Part of the enormity of the problem is that each child needs up to ten separate vaccinations over a period of time to ensure protection, and this in crowded living situations,

often wretched slums, where many residents believe that the polio drops are actually harmful, possibly carrying the AIDS virus or a hidden contraceptive to reduce population numbers.

In Muslim northern Nigeria male health officials are not allowed to enter a household containing women unless the male head of the family is present. It was clear that sheer logistical nightmares have delayed this project, and will continue to do so. The longer it takes, the less likely it is that it will ever be completed in full.

The costs have been staggering. \$4 billion so far, with \$500 from RI. World health organisations and national health authorities have organised the vaccinations and have provided the staff. What started out as a Rotary inspired initiative has been taken up by governments globally. Rotary is still involved, mainly through volunteers helping with the vaccination programme. Eradication of polio clearly is an uphill struggle, but the target is very much worthwhile achieving to rid the world of this terrible disease.

Henry thanked Robbie on our behalf for his talk. Henry was himself applauded for his award of a Paul Harris Fellowship at the recent President’s Evening at the Alma Lodge. Well done, Henry!

In other matters, we heard that John Holmes hopes to join RC Cambridge, and that our matching grant application for our bikes-for-Africa project has been submitted. Help was requested for an Eycline collection in Bramhall on 23 March. Our meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March will be at L'Ecole in Heaton Moor.

Graham Yule's raffle win and Sid's fining of honest Rotarians for imagined misdemeanours brought a thoughtful evening to an end.

Dennis Allport



Recognise the legs? All from either President's Night or the Valentine's Evening! Correct answers can be found by viewing our website and looking at the full pictures.



### **View from the trenches**

- President Gordon hijacked me to write a few lines so here goes.

#### Blessings in disguise.

Years ago I had a next door neighbour who worked for Metro Vicks in Trafford Park. He went to night-school every winter and became well qualified with AMIMechE and AMIEE after his name. Metro Vick's closed down and made hundreds and hundreds redundant and Alan, my neighbour had a most miserable twelve months looking for work and attending interviews. He became quite disheartened.

Eventually he got an interview at the GCHQ listening centre near Cheltenham and I well remember his relating the day's experience. He described walking up a long drive to an old country mansion and entering a hallway lined in oak panelling and smelling of Brown Windsor soup. He was ushered into a room where an army Major with bristling moustache bade him sit down. Alan expected questions about his speciality at Metro Vicks which was aerals. Not a bit of it. The major asked – “ Done any orienteering, Shackleton – any fell walking ?” and so on - nothing about aerals at all.

He got the job and moved with his family to a pretty rural village near Cheltenham.

For years he would visit Bramhall from time to time, somewhat more rotund and puffing happily at his pipe. He said that redundancy was the best thing that ever happened to him. He said “ I have a cushy number with an inflation- proof pension coming up at 60”

The moral surely is that things that appear to be disasters often turn out to be blessings in disguise.

In the 8am Communion Service at my church the minister gives a very brief address and one which I remember reiterates this. He related a little story about a ship which sank in a storm and only one man survived by hanging on to a plank which eventually was washed up on a remote uninhabited island. He managed to keep going with eating coconut and catching fish and collecting berries. He eventually built himself a shelter from palm fronds and was able to light a fire. After several months he became very downhearted and one morning he lit a fire and went off to look for food. Some time later he noticed smoke rising from the direction of his hut and rushed back to find it ablaze, the wind having shifted and sent the flames on to his meagre shelter. He sat down,

head in hands thinking that God had forsaken him. He lay down and eventually slept.

Suddenly he heard the splashing of oars and looking up saw a boat approaching with a large vessel lying offshore. When the rowers arrived they explained that, sailing by, they noticed the rising smoke and believing the island to be uninhabited decided to investigate.

Hence he was rescued.

The moral again is that we should have faith to accept that there is often a good result from an apparently hopeless situation.

Sis Davies

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A blonde calls her boyfriend and says,

"Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get it started.

Her boyfriend asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?" The blonde says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a tiger." Her boyfriend decides to go over and help with the puzzle.

She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says,

"First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a tiger."

He takes her hand and says, "Second, I want you to relax". "Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then" He sighs.....

"Let's out all the Frosties back in the box."

A new study says there is no connection between breathing recirculated aeroplane air and catching colds. There is, however, a strong connection between breathing aeroplane air and losing your luggage.

## Reminders!

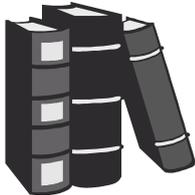
Lest we forget how we all can help a lot with just a little effort on our behalf:



Let's fill Vida's garage with plastic containers! We don't know what happens to them, but they raise funds for St John's Ambulance.



Don't ditch your old mobile phones. Send them (no chargers please) to ShP Solutions, Lancaster, FREEPOST (nothing else needed) and write Royal Society for the Deaf and Communications Disorders on the envelope or inside and their charity number 526091. Include your name and address and make/model of the phone.



We all probably read books. When you have finished with them, get stickers from John Meeus, and leave the books for others to read in surgeries, etc. The stickers advertise Rotary and give contact details for those who want to know more.



Sadly, most of us need spectacles, and we also have to replace them as our sight changes. Don't discard your old specs - give them to Alan Newsome, who will ensure that they are reused in the Third World to help those who cannot afford to buy specs themselves.

## BLIND RUN

**Mrs Joan Goodall**, 3 Poise Brook Drive, Offerton  
Tel: 456 2076 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

Ring the four above 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.

March 27	H Barker	B Batty
April 3	M Hurst	T Burch
April 10	D Burstow	V Chattington
April 17	S Davies	D Dev
April 24	D Dewhurst	G Hunt
May 1	S Kennedy	J Knowles
May 8	M Lacey	N Loveland
May 15	R Malabon	D McKeith
May 22	J Meeus	C Monkhouse
May 29	A Newsome	D Poizer
June 5	D Rabone	D Rose
June 12	B Stevenson	T Sheppard
June 19	J Sykes	J Thomas
June 26	G Vine	G Yule
July 3	B Batty	T Burch
July 10	D Burstow	V Chattington
July 17	S Davies	D Dev
July 24	D Dewhurst	G Hunt
July 31	M Hurst	G Jackson
August	No blind run expected in August	
September 4	D Allport	S Kennedy

## Job rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker host</b>	<b>Bulletin</b>	<b>S at A</b>
March 21	J Mould	R Malabon	J Thewlis
March 28	D Burstow	M Palmer	D McKeith
April 4	Committees	B Batty	H Boyes
April 11	H Hill	D Dewhurst	A Newsome
April 18	J Meeus	D Rabone	J Sykes
April 25	D Rose	R Taylor	J Sheard
May 2	Committees	D Poizer	J Knowles
May 9	C Monkhouse	T Sheppard	T Burch
May 16	S Kennedy	V Chattington	G Yule
May 23	AGM	J Thomas	N Loveland
May 30	No meeting: 5th Wednesday		
June 6	Committees	G Hunt	M Hurst
June 13	G Vine	B Stevenson	M McLeod
June 20	D Dev	M Lacey	H Barker
June 27	Handover	S Davies	R Malabon
July 4	Committees	D Burstow	J Thewlis
July 11	M Palmer	D McKeith	H Hill
July 18	B Batty	A Newsome	D Dewhurst
July 25	D Rabone	J Meeus	J Sykes
August 1	Committees	D Allport	D Rose
August 8	D Poizer	J Knowles	C Monkhouse
August 15	T Sheppard	S Kennedy	T Burch
August 22	V Chattington	N Loveland	G Yule
August 29	No meeting: 5th Wednesday		
September 5	Committees	J Thomas	M Hurst
September 12	B Stevenson	G Vine	D Dev
September 19	M Lacey	D Allport	H Barker
September 26	G Jackson	S Davies	R Malabon
October 3	Committees	D Burstow	J Thewlis

**If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!**

**“That’s the last time *you’ll* attend a meeting on world peace!”**



# Diary

March 21	Claire Monaghan: a personal trainer
March 28*	Fergus Lomas: Stockport Cerebral Palsy Society at L'Ecole
April 4	Committees
April 8	Bramhall Park Fair: our Spin the Wheel (Ron Malabon)
April 11*	Sing along with T's (Taylor and Thewlis)
April 13/15	RIBI Conference, Bournemouth
April 18	Cheque presentations and talks: WellSpring and The Mill
April 25*	Hannah Bowker: Stockport MBC Regeneration
April 28	Stroke Awareness Day
May 2	Committees
May 9*	Dr Ron Butler: At the end of a microscope
May 12	District Assembly
May 13	Fun Run
May 16*	Nick Rushbrooke: Water Aid
May 23*	Annual General Meeting
May 30	No meeting – 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday
June 6*	Committees
June 13*	Burch/Burstow
June 20*	Chattington/Davies
June 27*	Handover and Club Assembly
July 4*	Committees
July 11*	Dev/Dewhurst
July 18*	Hill/Hurst
July 25*	Club Services
August 1*	Committees
August 8*	Jackson/Kennedy
August 15*	Knowles/Lacey
August 22*	Club Services
August 29	No meeting – 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday
September 5	Committees
September 12*	Loveland/Malabon
September 19	McKeith/McLeod
September 26*	Club Services
October 3	Committees
October 10*	Meeus/Monkhouse
October 17	Newsome/Palmer
October 24*	Club Services

\* indicates that we have the large function room



***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](mailto: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.

[dennisallport@waitrose.com](mailto:dennisallport@waitrose.com)