

Rotarian



Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club

Bulletin

February 2008



Welcome to 2008

Geoff's Jottings

A Happy New year to you all and, of course, your partners. Much handshaking and well-wishing at our first meeting of 2008 and what a splendid turnout. A good omen for the new Rotary year methinks.

I'm about to attend a Zone meeting with other local club Presidents, the main purpose of which is to review our activities over the first six months of this Rotary year – a chance to assess past action against our original objectives as set out at Handover and Club Assembly last July. There is no doubt that the last six months have been an unqualified success and this is down quite simply to all your hard work, which has been quite magnificent. It has been a privilege to head up a club, led by experienced team leaders and supported by enthusiastic members. Your efforts have been outstanding. A copy of my report to the District Governor is included within this bulletin.

So what are we to look forward to in 2008? Well, quite a lot actually and all chairmen reported enthusiastically at our first committee meeting of the New Year. We know that it will take all our energy and commitment to fulfill a busy programme so can we do it? Of course. WILL we achieve our next six month's objectives? Certainly!

Finally, Rotary is, as you know, all about fellowship – and at Bramhall & Woodford we excel at it. On a personal note, however, I should like our club to extend the hand of friendship to other clubs in our district (and perhaps further afield) particularly those which are struggling with membership problems of their own. How great it would be if we could add value to other clubs who perhaps are having difficulties in fulfilling their own objectives. After all, we are all working, in our own ways, towards the same goal. Will you help me in this endeavour?

Geoff.

ROTARY YEAR 2007-08

CLUB SERVICES:

- a] House - an interesting, informative and stimulating programme. We have had an excellent programme of speakers, events and activities as set out in our bulletins. Club meetings are always eventful and generally well-attended, with Q4 2007 giving our highest attendance for several years at 78%.
- b] Membership – at the start of the year we received resignations from three non-active past presidents. We have inducted two new members – one as an honorary member (Mark Hunter MP). We have several other prospective members in the pipeline. In the next Rotary Year, as immediate Past President, my sole responsibility will be for new memberships.
- c] Club Bulletin – to be issued on a two-monthly basis to all members and friends of Rotary. This is now also mailed electronically to all members and to Zone 3 Presidents. Additional paper copies are handed to speakers who might be interested in joining the club.

INTERNATIONAL AND FOUNDATION:

Bicycles for Africa (B4A). This project has been successfully completed with matched funding from Rotary International. A container shipment of 400 bikes has now been delivered to Namibia – 170 of which were donated by local people in Bramhall and Woodford. This has been a major fundraising effort by the whole club and a significant achievement. As a result, other possible projects have not been pursued.

We will be hosting the incoming GSE team for a week in the Spring.

Over 90% of club members continue to support Rotary Foundation on a regular basis.

We visiting other clubs in the District to encourage support for the B4A project and we also hope to have a stand at the 2008 District Conference and at the International lunch in April.

WAYS AND MEANS:

The intention was to raise money in support of the B4A project. However, this has been largely funded by activities involving the whole club in raising sponsorship. One member cycled from Land's End to John O Groats!

Our Christmas collection at Woodford Park Garden Centre raised £3,500 for Beechwood Cancer Care.

Other funds have been raised by:
Members "at home" parties.
Father Christmas at Bramhall Hall.
Support to Poynton Club (Brass & Beatles).

In the Spring, we plan at Fun Run in Bramhall Park, including a Duck Race, for local schoolchildren. Arrangements for this are already in hand.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

We continue with our "Blind Run" service to Walthew House each Tuesday although those taken live well outside our area.

We continue to maintained the Woodford footpath.

We will again cover Stroke Awareness Day in Bramhall.

We will be approaching Bramhall High School to participate in Youth Makes Music and Excitement of Science.

Several club members took a handicapped (wheelchair bound) young man on SV Tenacious for a week's sailing.

The following charitable donations have been made so far this year:

Beechwood Cancer Care	-	£1,000
Eyeline (Walthew House)	-	£ 250
Henshaws	-	£ 250
Dwarf Games	-	£ 20
Bangladesh (via Tower Hamlets)	-	£ 500

We intend to keep a sum of £1,000 in our Charity Account as a contingency reserve. A headline charity for our Spring Fun Run is yet to be decided.

SOCIAL:

We have an active social programme which continues into 2008.
Last year's events included;

- Charter Night Caribbean party,
- Christmas Party,
- Weekend away in Belgium,
- Three "at home" social evenings (also fundraising events),
- Clay Pigeon Shoot,
- Tour of Donnington Racetrack (for the more adventurous!)
- And a Christmas walk.

2008 events include:

- Visit to Chinese restaurant
- Trip to Hyde's Brewery
- St. Georges Day supper,
- President's Drinks
- President's Night
- Garden Party
- President's Summer Barbecue and other events in the pipeline.

All these events will be reported in the Club's bulletins.

P.R.O:

We are fortunate to receive good publicity in the Stockport area newspapers and also the "Inside Bramhall" magazine and the AboutMyAreaSK7" website. This is mainly due to the experience and high profile of our P.R.O.

SUMMARY:

I am confident that 2008 will be a successful year for the club. Attendance is excellent and activity levels are high. We are fortunate that the size of the club enables us to have strong committees led by experienced Rotarians. Although we have had some involvement with other clubs in District 1050 in 2007, I would like to see an increased commitment to supporting other clubs, especially in Zone 3 and improving fellowship between us.

Finally, I would hope we remain on track for a Presidential Citation at the end of the Rotary Year.

Geoff. Hunt, President

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 10-12-07

- We will sponsor Mrs Salt's walk along the Great Wall of China in support of Henshaws for £250
- We will donate £250 to Walthew House.
- Geoff Hunt will be our "membership czar" starting next Rotary year.
- We will donate £500 to Bangladesh via the initiative being organised by Tower Hamlets Rotary club.

From Council Meeting 12-11-07

- President's drinks will be on 27/1/2008
- We will NOT have a club meeting on 2.1.2008 and committees will be on 9.1.2008.

Attendance (New records!)

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!

Q2	2005	69.20%	Q4	2006	74.10%
Q3	2005	69.50%	Q1	2007	71.00%
Q4	2005	76.10%	Q2	2007	67.10%
Q1	2006	73.10%	Q3	2007	71.7%
Q2	2006	62.10%	Q4	2007	77.6%
Q3	2006	67.70%			

The table shows attendance trends over the last few years, and show that the last quarter of 2007 had a record high of nearly 78%. Yesterday, the first meeting of 2008, we had 30 out of 34 members present. Because of Leave of Absences this sets a new club single meeting record over the period of 91%.

Michael 10.1.08

Meeting Reports



Committee meeting and EGM, December 5th 2007

Twenty three members attended and enjoyed yet another tasty meal prepared by Chris and served by her pretty assistants.

Our President set the tone for the evening by declaring that George Bush, having heard that bird-flu was creeping towards the USA was going to bomb the Canary Islands.

Keen walker Dennis Allport announced that the Christmas walk would probably be on the 29th December in Styal Woods. Following this announcement there was a discussion about the whereabouts of the Rotary tabards with congratulations to Chris Monkhouse on the ones he presented to us. A member commented on how easy they were to put on compared with those that had to be dragged over ones head. (Probably the comment came from a rotund member who has not seen his toes for years !).

There then came the Nominations for Office with Tony Burch being unanimously appointed President. Graham Yule likewise was appointed Treasurer and thus relinquished the onerous task of selling badges etc. He invited members to submit their c.v's for this important post. There were no nominations for Vice President and

Bob Stevenson who happened to walk in at that moment was nearly voted into this post.

Michael Lacey had expressed a willingness to continue as Secretary. He was reported to be in France with Pam, scouring the countryside for mis-labeled wine and cheese that could walk back to Bramhall unaided.

Then followed reports about the state of finances and copies of the accounts were distributed. Tony Burch gave an overview of the situation, pointing out that following the end of our main fund raising event at Barton Grange we would have to be circumspect about our expenditure and live within our means. He explained the reasons for the 15 month year – to line up wit the Rotary year. He stressed that we must find more fund-raising events.

Dennis Allport reported that the suggestion of starting our meetings at 7 instead of 7.30 was on hold until the matter could be discussed with the new Club Steward when he started.

David Rabone announced that the appropriate permission had been obtained for Bramhall Precinct this weekend. John Thewlis congratulated the President on the novel way which he adopted for getting donations at the garden centre. Apparently he carried a teddy bear and accosted children and young mothers for donations.

Dennis reported that the Club's programme was full until the end of March and urged members to find new members. Gordon Jackson suggested more events such as the house party, which he had recently. (Rumour has it that he has an ASBO after it – probably untrue, although you never know).

Ron Malabon, about to embark on a Caribbean cruise bombarded us with statistics.

He said the average age of members is 64.6 years compared with 1987 when it was 47.6 years. Members ages ranged from 49 to 81 now (if I resigned the average age would plummet).

John Sykes told us that Mrs Salt had asked if we could help by shaking tins for Henshaw's but he had told he we were fully committed. He told us that Janet Salt is a world class water skiing expert and she and her father intended to walk the Great Wall of China next year and hoped to raise £5000 in sponsorship. It is quite humbling!

John also mentioned the Rotary Young Citizens Award and also the Young Carer's Award.

Henry Barker reported that he had a letter from District suggesting ways to help the poor people of Bangladesh. He suggested the best way was to make a donation via Tower Hamlet's Rotary Club who had connections there and who could direct funds to purchase animals etc.

He said the Bikes for Africa was on going with Tony Burch having considerable difficulty in getting things moving financially due to a lack of response to many e-mails.

Under "any other business", Vida threatened dire consequences to those who had either not paid for the Christmas party or who had not specified their menu preferences.

John Thewlis wished to point out that he had donated a "cash sorter" to the Club and not a "cash machine"- pity!

Ron said that if any members were questioned about their being in the Precinct this weekend, they should say that they had "Rupert's" permission. John Thewlis suggested that they should also say that Rupert Bear's friends would sort them out too!

Gordon reported that the Club had benefited by £283.35 from sales on E-Bay and urged members to donate unwanted Christmas presents for sale also. He reported that he had unsold items and Bob Batty suggested a car-boot sale at some stage.

David Poizer won the raffle and as a good Methodist donated it to Vida for the Christmas raffle.

David Rabone managed to fine all and sundry for the most obscure reasons.

Sid Davies

Amazing ocean facts.....

The oceans cover 71% of the earth's surface.

Committee night 9th January

Had people made New Year resolutions to attend more meetings or was it the lure of their committee? Whatever the reason, there were only three absentees. We had one guest, Bruce Bissell, who had been a founder member of the club but had to resign when his job took him to another part of the world.

There was good news and sad news. Chris was staying on for a least another month as the position of new steward had not been resolved. David Rabone has been elected an assistant District Governor and he provided wine for everyone but sadly he reported that his sister in law had died. Some may remember Fiona from the days of collecting shoeboxes from Bramhall High School.

President Geoff drew the club's attention to the new banner on the lectern. Michael told the background story of a Ugandan lady Rotarian who met them at the Orange Tree. It transpired that their mother club had been the recipient of the surplus schoolwear provided by Chris Monkhouse a couple of years ago.

Treasurer Mike said there was £2799 in the general account after paying the second half of our subs to RIBI. The charity account stood at £5877 but £3500 of this was earmarked for Beechwood Cancer Care. The special projects account (Bikes for Africa)

stood at £4626 and we were still waiting for matching grants and a donation from Canada.

Sales officer Graham claimed to have found a new source of sweat shirts – David Dewhurst's garage. Orders were taken for large sizes, which might indicate excessive eating at Christmas!

David Rabone thanked everyone for their support at Woodford Park, Bramhall Centre and Bramall Park. In addition to the tin collection (£3545) we had made over £300 from the other activities. Looking to the future Bob Stevenson was trying to organise a Fowl Night (apparently like a race night) and it was planned to have the Fun Run in late April or early May.

On behalf of club services Dennis Allport reported that the programme was fairly well filled but reminded members of their duty to find speakers. He made a plea for more articles for the next edition of the Bulletin, which he hoped to publish in a couple of week's time. The next meeting, organised by Graham and Jim, will be an away day at an oriental restaurant in Stockport where for £9.35 you can eat as much as you want (which should appeal to all those who regularly have second helpings at Ladybridge).

John Sykes, who seemed unaware that the January Council meeting had been cancelled, said that £250 had been given to Eyeline and £250 to Henshaws Society for the Blind. A

date for diaries is 26th April Stroke Awareness Day.

David Dewhurst said the container with bikes for Africa had now reached Windhoek where it was being modified before moving up country to its final destination. It was proposed that we should have an exhibition stand at the next District Conference to try to persuade other clubs to support the same charity.

Henry Barker reported that £500 had been sent to the RC Tower Hamlets for their Bangladesh appeal. Apparently not many other clubs had supported them. He promised to have details of the incoming GSE team in the near future as we are committed to home hosting and entertaining during part of their stay in 1050.

Vida expressed surprise that there were still members who did not know that she was collecting plastic waste on behalf of St John Ambulance Brigade. Some soft plastic wrapping from the Secretary was rejected as being unsuitable as it has to be hard plastic, i.e. milk bottles and food trays. (Apparently it goes to China for sorting and reprocessing. Why doesn't the UK have the technology and resources to do this?) She had a list of dates for diaries

13th February Trip to Hyde's Brewery
28th March Formal dinner dance despite Alan Newsome's attempts to change the dress code

23rd April Meeting with a St George's day theme

3rd May Garden party at her home

Secretary Michael then presented two cheques to the treasurer. One for £321 from the cheese and wine evening and the other for £50 from a grateful lady for Michael's efforts to restore her computer to working order.

PRO John said there was an article in SK7.

Under any other business Vida said her Japanese student had now issued a report on her stay in the UK (no details were forthcoming but no doubt Vida will provide some if you ask nicely). Tony Burch made an appeal for everyone to check around their homes to see if they had any of the club's equipment. He also confessed that the "missing" tabards were in his warehouse all the time. Inevitably Sid told one of his jokes. It had to do with meanings lost in translation and featured urinals and water closets.

The raffle was won by Tim but being a teetotaler he suggested a re-draw. The next ticket out belonged to David Poizer who overcame his strong Methodist principles and rapidly took up his prize!

Vice President David Burstow was SAA and he managed to fine just about everyone.

Ron Malabon

A bit of brain exercise

W	F	T	S
M	R	P	W
I	E	O	U
T	N	L	D

Working from top to bottom, take one letter from each row in the square to make as many four-letter words as you can. One letter cannot be used.

Which is it?

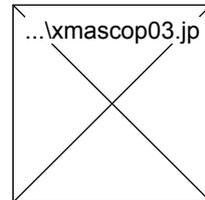
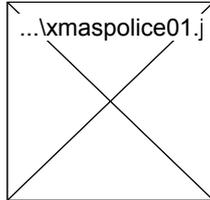
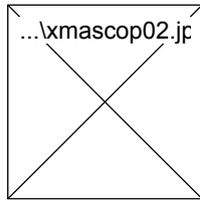
Oxymorons are sayings composed of two words which have opposite meanings. For example: 'definite maybe'. Can you pair the following words into oxymorons?

OPEN FOUND DIFFERENCE NATURALLY
UGLY SORROW SAME ACT
MISSING PRETTY SECRET SWEET

The one word answers to the following clues all end in a small hill:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1. Pilot | 2. Politician | 3. Giver |
| 4. Museum director | 5. Farm vehicle | |
| | 6. Betrayer | |

Answers:
1. T
2. Open secret, Found missing, Act naturally, Sweet sorrow, Same difference, Pretty ugly
3. Aviator, senator, curator, tractor, traitor



What sort of a group are we when the police have to be called to a Christmas party? I blame our President!



This is more like it - innocent fun in the open air on December 29th. Gordon was there as well holding the camera.

.....90% of all volcanic activity occurs in the oceans.

Recommended Tradespeople

(3 January 2008)

This list is provided for the use of members of the Rotary Club of Bramhall and Woodford. Naturally, neither the Club nor any member can be responsible for any problems that may arise. Please send any further recommendations to Dennis Allport.

Decorators:

David S Houghton, 27 Belford Rd., Stretford, M32 0DL. (0161 865 5865) [Dewhurst]

J Ratcliffe & Sons, 465 Buxton Rd, Heavily, Stockport (0161 483 3227) [Hurst & Kennedy]

Electricians:

C & H Electrics, 1st Floor, 198 Wilmslow Rd., Heald Green, SK8 3BH (0161 437 5718) [Batty]

Andrew Thompson, (0161 485 2735) [Death]

Dave McGuinness, (07977 326 942) [Death]

Mike Shanley, (0780 1329 173 and 0161 449 9794) [Allport]

Plumbing:

Ken Davies, (07831 183 018) [Allport]

Building:

Mark Davenport, 12 Ladythorn Crescent, Bramhall. (0161 439 4051)

Also does **Joinery**. [Hill]

Simon Robinson, Tie-Dry, 60 Werneth Rd, Woodley, Stockport, SK6 1HR (0161 494 5285, 07940 010017) [Dewhurst]

Kevin Wright, ACE Guttering & Drainage Services, (491 1789). Handyman, gutter cleaning [Hunt]

Joinery:

Mark Smethurst, 3 Garthland Rd., Hazel Grove, SK7 4PD (0161 483 9690) [Batty]

Andy Dixon, 07715 926741 [Dewhurst]

Flooring:

Stockport Flooring Co., Stanley Green Trading Estate, Cheadle Hulme [Hurst]

Tree Surgeon:

Rod Barnes, Tree Services Poynton, 141 London Rd., Poynton, SK12 1 LG (01625 878 116) [Allport]

S.M. Skopek, Northwest Treeline, Cale Green (0161 476 4131) [Newsome]

Carpet Cleaner:

Rainbow Carpets, Mark Egerton (01663 765445) [Mould]

Refrigerator and cooker repairs:

Mike Clegg, (07773 090876 and 0161 449 7050) [Allport]

TV Aerials:

Teleaerials, 49 St John's St, Lees, Oldham (0161 624 6681) [Allport]

Plastering:

Sean Kelly, 41 Westwood Rd, Heald Green, Cheadle (0787 346 4642) [Dewhurst]

Windows, conservatories, guttering:

Alpha Windows, 30 Town Lane, Denton (0161 335 0129) [Jackson]

BLIND RUN

Mr and Mrs Salt, (possibly also their blind daughter) 40 Glossop Rd, Marple Bridge
Tel: 449 8679 **Pick up at 6.45 so that they are there just after 7.00.**

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

Ring the 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 Bob Batty know if you get stuck. Please swap with someone if you can't do your appointed run.

Mrs Salt is also deaf and does not always hear the phone during the daytime when her husband is out. Because of parking difficulties the Salts use a back entrance from Cote Green Road. Follow A626 to Marple and fork left for Marple Bridge. Remain on A626 towards Glossop swinging right up the hill by the Windsor Arms at the Compstall Road junction. Cote Green Road is about 100 yards up on the left. About 50 yards up on the right there are two gates/doors built into a high wall. The second gate is marked 40 and Windy Haw and leads into their back garden with door facing you. To turn round carry on for another 100yards to junction.

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.

January 29	D Rose	T Sheppard
February 5	B Stevenson	J Sykes
February 12	J Thomas	G Yule
February 19	B Batty	D Burstow
February 26	R Malabon	V Chattington
March 4	S Davies	D Dewhurst
March 11	G Hunt	M Hurst
March 18	G Jackson	J Knowles
March 25	M Lacey	N Loveland
April 1	R Malabon	J Mecus
April 8	C Monkhouse	A Newsome
April 15	D Poizer	M Palmer
April 22	D Rose	D Rabone
April 29	T Sheppard	D Searson
May 6	J Sykes	B Stevenson
May 13	G Yule	J Thomas
May 20	H Barker	D Allport
May 27	D Burstow	B Batty
June 3	S Davies	V Chattington
June 10	G Hunt	D Dewhurst

Job rota

Date	Speaker host	Bulletin	S at A
January 23	M Palmer	D Allport	D Dewhurst
January 30	No meeting - 5th Wednesday		
February 6	Committees	A Newsome	J Meeus
February 13	J Sykes	D Rose	R Taylor
February 20	D Poizer	C Monkhouse	J Knowles
February 27	T Sheppard	T Burch	G Yule
March 5	Committees	V Chattington	J Thomas
March 12	N Loveland	M Hurst	B Stevenson
March 19	D Dev	M Lacey	H Barker
March 26	G Jackson	R Malabon	S Davies
April 2	Committees	D Burstow	J Thewlis
April 9	H Hill	M Palmer	B Batty
April 16	D Dewhurst	J Meeus	A Newsome
April 23	D Rabone	J Sykes	D Rose
April 30	No meeting - 5th Wednesday		
May 7	Committees	D Allport	R Taylor
May 14	J Knowles	D Poizer	C Monkhouse
May 21	T Burch	T Sheppard	G Yule
May 28	V Chattington	J Thomas	N Loveland
June 4	Committees	B Stevenson	M Hurst
June 11	D Dev	M Lacey	H Barker
June 18	G Jackson	S Davies	R Malabon
June 25	D Burstow	J Thewlis	H Hill
July 2	Committees	M Palmer	B Batty
July 9	A Newsome	D Dewhurst	J Meeus
July 16	J Sykes	D Rabone	D Poizer
July 23	R Taylor	D Searson	T Sheppard
July 30	No meeting - 5th Wednesday		
August 6	Committees	J Knowles	V Chattington

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

.....The tallest mountain on Earth is in the Pacific Ocean: Mauna Kea, which from base to peak is over 4,000ft taller than Everest.

Diary

January 23*	Anne Smith, Age Concern. Independence for older folk
January 27	Presidential drinks
January 30	No meeting. 5th Wednesday
February 6	Committees
February 13*	Visit to Hyde Brewery
February 20	Batty/Burch
February 27*	Ian Parker, RC Elland. Rotary Peace Fellows
March 5	Committees
March 12*	Bob Emerson, United Utilities. Keeping the lights on
March 19	Davies/Dev
March 26*	No meeting
March 28	President's Night: Adlington Hall
April 2	Annual General Meeting (to be confirmed)
April 9*	Dewhurst/Hill
April 16	Hurst/Jackson
April 23*	St George's day! Watch this space for details
April 26	Stroke Awareness Day (to be confirmed)
April 30	No meeting: 5th Wednesday
May 7	Committees
May 14*	Knowles/Lacey
May 21	Loveland/Malabon
May 28*	Club Services
June 4	Committees
June 11*	McLeod/Meeus
June 18	Monkhouse/Newsome
June 25*	Club Services
July 2*	Committees
July 9*	Palmer/Poizer
July 16*	Rabone/Rose
July 23*	Club Services
July 30	No meeting: 5th Wednesday
August 6*	Committees
August 13*	Searson/Sheppard
August 20*	Stevenson/Sykes
August 27*	Club Services

* indicates that we have the large function room