

Rotarian



Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club

Bulletin

June 2008



Congratulations to our two new
Paul Harris Fellows!

Geoff's Jottings

Every year I'm always determined to really enjoy an English spring – and every year I seem to miss it as I'm out of the country! This year was no exception as Olive and I were on our half-yearly trek to visit number 1 son in Maryland USA and many colleagues took great delight in informing us that spring had sprung while we were away.

And so it has been with my year as Rotary President. Time has passed so quickly it's hard to believe that these are my valedictory jottings and that Tony Burch is soon to take over the lead role for Bramhall & Woodford. I hope he has as an enjoyable and fulfilling year as I have had and I know he will have our continuing support. Indeed, one of the endearing features of our club is the way everyone – members, partners and friends – gets involved in everything we do.

This was most recently exemplified by the Fun Run and Duck Race we organised in Bramhall Park to raise funds for Stockport Young Carers and other Rotary charities. Although we have had a couple of previous successful Fun Runs in Bramhall, this was our first attempt at a Fun Run in the Park and a lot of work went into organising the twin events. Despite a limited number of runners, John Thewlis (organiser) has termed it a “moderate success”, with the Duck Race proving surprisingly popular. John reports that, as usual, everyone pulled their weight on the day but Tony, Malcolm, Gordon, Bruce, Chris, John M and David Searson are worth special mention for the effort they put in.

What a great President's Night as well – and what a surprise for this policeman from Bermuda to be asked to help James Bond (John Meeus) and Miss Money Penny (who else but Vida), search for the stolen Bermuda triangle. Tony made an appropriate villain complete with black cloak and eyepatch. The Hunting Lodge at Adlington Hall made a great venue and I was thrilled to have my family and friends with me on such a memorable occasion. Certainly District Governor Mike Payne and his wife Beryl had an enjoyable and relaxed evening without having to make his usual speech, as did David Brailsford (President of Stockport Club) who confided that we are a “very lively bunch”. Olive and I were able to return the favour (albeit jet lagged) by attending his President's Night last weekend. David and I are both extremely keen to build closer relationships with all the local clubs in the future and perhaps Tony can develop this theme.

I was also delighted to present well-deserved Paul Harris Fellowships to David Dewhurst and Michael Lacey. Both have given great service to our club over many years and are among the first to lend their support to all our ventures. This year's Bikes for Africa Campaign is merely the latest example of this. Well done chaps. PHF's are in the gift of those members of the club who are already Paul Harris Fellows..... an accolade indeed.

A special thank you from all of us to Chris O'Dwyer, our Honorary Lady Member who is now retiring from active culinary service. Chris has always added value to our evenings at the Ladybridge Club, not to say our waistlines, and we all wish her a happy retirement.

I am also grateful to those members and partners who have taken the time to host our in-coming Group Study Exchange Team from Dallas, Texas in May, with plans to take them on visits to the Concorde at Manchester Airport and also a trip to the Lake District. The GSE Farewell Dinner is usually well attended by members of our club.

Our annual commitment to Stroke Awareness Day continues. At the end of April we sweet-talked over 100 members of the Bramhall public to have their blood pressure checked. Result – almost one in four were referred to their GP. We might just have made a huge difference here. Thanks to our “medical team” and, of course the nurses who helped us out again.

We continue to have a varied and interesting programme thanks to our Club Services Committee, and Dennis Allport in particular. Our musical evening at the Five Ways Pub, our International Evening at Stockport College (including Gordon Jackson's B4A dropsy presentation) and our St. George's Dinner demonstrate the fun and fellowship which makes membership of Bramhall & Woodford so special.

Finally, we are now approaching Club Assembly & Handover, followed by the President's Barbecue at the end of June and then I can fold my tent and steal quietly into the night! Actually, I think not – as I am charged with increasing the club's membership in the coming year. I already have some news on this and expect Tony's year to get off to a good start – watch this space – and the very best of luck to Tony, his committees and all of you for the coming year.

Olive and I have really enjoyed our 12 months in the limelight and will always cherish the memories.

Geoff

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 6-5-08

- We will donate £50 to the Jaipur limbs project.

From Council Meeting 7-4-08

- President's end of year barbecue will be on Sunday June 29th

From Council Meeting 10-3-08

- We will pledge £500 towards the special chair needed by a local person suffering curvature of the spine.
- We will move our club night on 9th April and attend the international evening at Stockport College (subject to feasibility checks)
- The club will be represented by several members of council at the opening of the Fiona Robinson Pastoral Centre at Bramhall High School on Wednesday 12th March at 17:30

Attendance

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

Recent membership changes (I know it is the same as last bulletin!!)

20.7.05	NEW	JIM THOMAS	37
24.8.05	LEFT	STEPHEN DAY	36
16.11.05	LEFT	KELVIN DEATH	35
8.2.06	NEW	CHRIS MONKHOUSE	36
15.2.06	NEW	JOHN KNOWLES	37
10.5.06	NEW	DAVID BURSTOW	38
12.7.06	NEW	VIDA CHATTINGTON	39
4.12.06	LEFT	HERB BOYES	38
30.6.07	LEFT	JOHN MOULD	37
	LEFT	JOHN HOLME	36
	LEFT	JOHNATHAN SHEARD	35
11.7.07	NEW	DAVID SEARSON	36
20.7.07	LEFT	SAM KENNEDY	35
	LEFT	GRAHAM VINE	34
27.2.08	NEW	BRUCE BISSELL	35

Michael 19.5.08

Meeting Reports



Committees – March 5th

First surprise of the evening was the appearance of our Treasurer - a rare event! Some concern was expressed that John Meeus was not there. Happily he turned up as we were partaking of our delicious Thai Chicken Curry followed by lemon meringue pie.. John immediately made his presence felt by reporting on an International Lunch he had attended with the Italian consul speaking and he then tried to sell us a water purification tube for a mere \$15; there were no takers!

Secretary's report was brief and to the point - nothing interesting!

Treasurer's report - we were happy to note that our funds were pretty healthy - the General Account had some £2887, the Charity Account was around £2000, while the special fund for the bicycles was about £500. John Thewlis asked for £500 towards the expenses for the Fun Run.. Tony reported that money had to be paid out for the Bikes for Africa and there was probably a shortfall of some £1000 which would be borrowed from the General Account. Gift Aid will cover this amount when it becomes available at the end of the tax year

Ways and Means - David Rabone had sent a list round asking for volunteers to help 'Spin the Wheel' at the Bramhall Festival and these had been found.

John Thewlis reported on the progress being made towards the Fun Run on May 11th and schools were being contacted and hopefully some Sponsors would be found; three types - small, medium and large (amounts of money not size of sponsors!) He will be asking for volunteers to go into schools nearer the time to explain the finer points of the run to them. Duck Race to be held the same day as Fun Run. David will contact Sue Shore for all the lowdown of how to run one.

Club Services - Dennis reported that the programme was under control. Chris is to retire from her culinary activities at the end of April but a new lady is coming on March 23rd to learn the ropes.

Community Services - John Sykes reported on the progress to find collectors for the Henshaw appeal on Easter Saturday. His committee are considering two appeals for money - one is for a special chair for a lady.

International - David Dewhurst reported that the bikes still hadn't arrived at their final destination. The

Group Study Exchange arrangements are well in hand. We will consider an appeal to supply electricity to a village in Africa (no details at the moment).

Social - Vida again reminded members to come with their friends and relations to the President's Night at Adlington Hall on March 28th. We need many prizes for a raffle in order to defray some of the expenses incurred in running the evening. We will hold a special night on April 23rd to honour St George and William Shakespeare to which partners are invited.

Publicity - John Meeus passed round a newspaper article showing presentation of cheque to Beechwood House.

Any Other Business- John Meeus said that next week he will bring some CDs and other items from his brother-in-law's flat to sell to us. Raffle won by John Sykes, Sergeant at Arms was Jim Thomas who managed to fine everybody even if they are not guilty of any crime whatsoever! The meeting finished early much everyone's astonishment and delight as much beauty sleep is needed.

Vida Chattington

An electric meeting with eclectic experiences...or.....Fun and Fellowship...!

Wednesday 12th March....as the saying goes....'life's rich tapestry unfolded in front of us'....did you see it?

'Delight' is the word best to describe my responsibilities at the meeting... 'Bulletin Reporter' is what it is officially described as....why delight...because paying attention to the details often hidden by the general cacophony reveals what a richness there is in our small (and of course dynamic) group of Rotarians...

I was fresh from escorting 3 fun loving octogenarians with impaired sight (doing the blind run) to their weekly reunion and learning first hand from one of them of having tea with the

Stockport tennis legend and Wimbledon champion (yes it was Fred Perry) who had accompanied his Methodist lay preacher father to a meeting in Derby... and hearing from the other two how they courted for 6 years by post in WW2....and I was back from several weeks of absence due to business and other reasons....so being fresh and back into Rotary means the minutiae attains a significance....

Like....'this lasagna tastes almost as good as me' (culinary description by Chef Chris)....like...'how exactly do you want to die' (greeting from Vida after I confessed I could not make the President's Evening)...like...the drama of who exactly has responsibility for the Lacey household chequebook...like reluctant raffle winner Bob Batty who stated he did not really approve of raffles...then donated the wine to Vida

for the Presidents Evening raffle...like Tim fining John Thewlis for being asleep in his own report...and then fining David Poizier for snoring in the speaker's presentation....

And what a presentation it was....Bob Emerson from United Utilities on 'how we keep the power on in the storms'.....actually, we were treated to an enthusiastic run through how electricity is created and a reminder of points of detail that I now realise I had missed in my O Level Physics studies...and which had faded over time in the quest for a professional education that assumed that the lights worked...and paid no attention to the movement of molecules that is still the fundamental point about electricity generation....and perhaps mine was the only science education that was so underinvested...as President Geoff brought our speaking dynamo to a conclusion amongst nodding heads and

drooping eyelids...the magic for me of Bob's presentation was that I felt charged by his enthusiasm...which had been cultivated in him by his father...a Lancastrian who had survived WW2 and showed his son how to make things....a bolt from the past linked me up immediately.... 'The Boy's Book of Things to Do and Make'....inspiration for hours spent as a boy in my dad's shed and garage...fiddling about with stuff....making things work....the sheer power of connecting thoughts....

And thoughts were connected by David Burstow's presentation of a speaker's certificate (or was it a Health and Safety certificate) to speaker Bob Emerson....and Sid's recollection that Faraday had stayed with his grandfather in Penmamaewer sometime before Sid's grandfather passed away in 1910.....Magical times....

Malcolm

Big Band Night at Fiveways Hotel on March 19th

The Indian Restaurant at Fiveways was the choice of the majority for the pre band meal. John Sykes and myself were in splendid isolation in the Chinese Restaurant until Dev and his Father in Law came to join us. The food was enjoyed by all before we made our way over to the Fiveways Hotel.

A function room attached to the hotel

was the venue for the musical part of evening. More Rotarians joined us and migrated to the bar, out of necessity rather than habit, as seating was very limited. In fact the band lived up to its name ' Big Band' as they occupied nearly half of the room. My thanks to Henry for saving me a front row seat.

The Big BandJazz, as they are called, consists of mainly mature, ex members of several bands, including the Halle. One saxophonist is a current member of a BBC Orchestra.

The conductor went straight into action without any introduction.....talk about 76 trombones! Wow, no dozing off that night!

There were four trombonists, three trumpeters, four saxophanists plus keyboard and guitarists all playing their hearts out!

The decibel level rendered hearing aids unnecessary.

The youngest trumpeter Chris gave an excellent solo performance which involved some tricky triple tonguing.

A selection of Oldies but Goldies filled the first half, including a competent rendition of 'Mack the Knife' by vocalist, Steve.

At the interval the majority of Rotarians left the room, either because the bar service was too slow or they were protecting their hearing!

The second half produced an interesting tune called Rebecca which gave an opportunity for a couple of solo performances from the lead Saxophanist and Trombonist. Following this an arrangement by the conductor of a piece called 'Tadpole' gave each section of the band a chance to shine. The pace then slowed with a vocal rendition of 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square.'

This particularly appealed to the aging female groupies in the audience.

I can repeat the conductor's joke about Viagra, on request, but not in public!

Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable evening even though Henry and I failed to win a raffle prize. Thanks to Sid Davies for organising the evening.

Neil Loveland

District International Night at Stockport College, 9th April 2008

The Club decided to attend this event as our meeting as David was to give a presentation on Bikes 4 Africa. Some 25 members and wives were present out of a total of 120.

District International Chairman Tom Protheroe (Crewe) welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport who stayed all evening. It is clear that the Mayor is very interested in Rotary and appreciates what the Clubs in Stockport do for the community.

The first speaker, P.Laycock (Marple & Goyt), spoke about their twinning with the Dutch Club Emelo since 1992. The annual visits with home hosting had led to much fellowship and long term friendships. More recently a German and a French Club had joined the group. Whilst excellent for international relationship this growth brought problems of language and future visits would have to be hotel based.

David was due to be the second speaker but unfortunately had lost his voice. Gordon Jackson manfully took over at short notice and explained our very

successful Bikes4Africa project including fund raising, Mike's cycle ride in the rain, traumas of obtaining a matching grant, collecting and sending 140 bikes to Colchester (excellent for local publicity) and their subsequent delivery with others in a container/workshop to Namibia where the local people are being taught to ride and maintain them.

I Johnson (Hazel Grove) described their joint project with Kavala RC (North Greece) and Belgrade-Met RC to provide medical equipment for the Belgrade Hospital intensive care unit. This required co-operation between the three clubs culminating in a joint visit to Belgrade. Despite the scars of the 1995 NATO bombing members were well received and entertained.

The meeting then broke up to enjoy a choice of Chinese, Indian or Mexican food, a long term attraction of the International Night.

I. MacLellan (Crewe & Nantwich) then spoke about the M'Zamowethu project in S. Africa. This was set up as a pre-school group for orphans from the Aids epidemic in a one room shack. It has now been expanded to a permanent building with three class rooms and is rated one of the best of its type. They receive no state help except one teacher's salary and are looking for a further £5000 to extend their work with the most vulnerable young children as the need grows.

D.Brailsford (Stockport) and two other speakers described the Sri Lankan Eye Project. Poor diet leads to diabetes and subsequent blindness for many Sri

Lankans. In conjunction with Krunegala RC, and an Australian doctor, they are trying to raise £20,000 for laser eye equipment for the hospital, Stockport RC's share being £8000.

S.Perris (Denton & Audenshaw) reviewed the development of the District 1050 Emergency Box from a wooden box of donated contents in the 1980s through to its present form as a pre-filled plastic Life Box which can be "purchased" for £250. Many are still needed. The box now contains Filter Straws which enable recipients to purify any water to drinking standard, an essential for life after a disaster. A speaker from Cheadle RC explained how she encouraged children at local schools to donate money towards boxes by persuading the Head Teachers to drink through the Filter Straws !.

The final speaker was W. Goldthorpe (Denton & Audenshaw). He outlined the memorial fund to Abu Kiwnuka, a surgeon who worked in Tameside but died whilst still young. The memorial is a clinic in Marake, Uganda which carries out operations on women who become incontinent through childbirth or other problems and as a result are ostracised by the community and rarely live beyond 40 .Operations cost about £170 and 80 patients can be treated at one time.

District Governor Mike Payne rapidly thanked the Mayor, the speakers, the college and everyone for their attendance, apologising for the late finish. Profits from the evening would go to The Wheelchair Foundation. A container load of chairs is on its way the

Georgia.

Altogether an interesting evening illustrating many ways clubs can work together on projects and obtain extra funding through matching grants. This latter can be a frustrating process but help is available from Tom Protheroe. Perhaps it is over-optimistic to programme eight presentations as it leaves no time for questions. The power-point presentations were good

(even if some were too graphic!) and a lectern for the speakers would have been appreciated by some.

Bob Batty

PS. How did Roy Banks manage get a matching grant and overseas development aid for a water project back in 1989?

Meeting on 23rd April – St Georges Night

We were promised a super meal from Chris and an easy to enter quiz from Vida. Chris certainly provided an excellent meal. The quiz from Vida well, as with any quiz, it is easy if you know the answers. Our team didn't and were well down the results list. So what! It was entertaining.

As befits St Georges night most people had sorted out something red. Some had even visited local charity shops to get the right hat or other accessory. The room had also been decorated with suitable pictures by Vida and her team.

President Geoff reported a recent sighting of Steven Day in Cyprus and a photograph was circulated of Steven and his wife enjoying glorious sun and a glass of wine, local wine I assume.

Surprise announcement of the evening was the award of two Paul Harris Fellows – to Michael Lacy and David Dewhurst for their efforts. Many congratulations to both recipients.

Michael proposed a toast to Shakespeare and highlighted that many phrases we use today were created by the Bard.

David Burstow proposed the toast to England and St George with a further quote from the Bard – Richard II Act II as I recall.

An evening cannot be complete without the Sergeant at Arms, Dr David Rose. He fined the Welsh-who were not present, he fined the Europeans – who were not present; then he fined the English who were present and therefore had to cough-up their 50p.

An enjoyable evening.

John Sykes

Committees on May 7th

Not quite your normal Committee Night! Really the final preparation for the Fun Run on May 11. It all started in the conventional way – a splendid buffet from Chris. This was her penultimate catering extravaganza for us. We were pleased that our lovely waitresses would continue to be with us when Chris retires. The catering will in future be done by Lorraine, the new manager at the Ladybridge, and we are promised ‘service as usual’.

The meeting continued under the chairmanship of Tony Burch (Geoff Hunt still being Stateside). Geoff nevertheless had emailed a warm message to us all prior to the Fun Run, which Michael read out. Very brief committee meetings, and even briefer committee reports followed, all to allow the maximum time for details of the Fun Run to be clarified and minor problems to be resolved. If effort in planning is anything to go by, a massively successful event was promised. All we needed was good weather (forecast excellent), plenty of runners (an imponderable until the day itself) and duck minders who could keep their feet in the Ladybrook whilst freeing duck jams, and snaring all those that made it to the end of the course!

Sales of ducks had been excellent and virtually all the 2000 available had been sold. Such success had brought its own problems. You can’t just plonk 2000 plastic ducks in the river and expect

them to float tidily downstream. So two races were to be held, and even these could cause duck jams. Life was to get very interesting – if this is what excites you on a sunny Sunday in May.

We were all to be kitted out in new tabards, and a brand new megaphone had been purchased at the cost of £20! No expenses had obviously been spared, which was quite right and proper.

A few more normal matters were broached as well. Vida’s garden party on May 31 is open to all – friends, neighbours and partners. Cost £5, with plants on sale, dug up there and then apparently, so they couldn’t be fresher. Weeds (if you could possibly find any in Vida’s garden) will be free, but please dig them up yourself. £50 will be donated to the Jaipur Limb Project – a worthy cause indeed. There was to be a Scatter Night on May 21st instead of our normal meeting.. VP Tony wanted every last scrap of Rotary property returned to him for safe keeping – a number of Christmas beards for example were still wandering around homeless. A busy evening was brought to a peaceful end by Tim Sheppard (a non-drinker) winning the raffle and donating the wine as a prize for the forthcoming Spin-a-Wheel on May 11 at the Fun Run, and Michael Lacey penalising far too many for far too little. I escaped, so I guess he wasn’t too bad really.

Dennis

14th May 2008 Visit from the GSE Team from District 5810 (North Texas, USA)

The meeting was presided over by David Burstow in the absence of President Geoff, and he welcomed the Group Study Exchange Team, five ladies from Texas. Perhaps in recognition of this, David chose a 'Ladies First' dash for the excellent buffet, sadly the last prepared by Chris.

Following meal and coffee, we were treated to an insight into Texas life, when each of the GSE Team gave a short presentation with slides, of their State, local area, family, friends and careers.

First off was Team Leader **Linda Elliott**, a Rotarian herself and a representative in chemical sales / ink industry. Linda told us that Texas politics was a popular spectator sport and gave us some of the costing's - if you are a Dallas Cowboy football fan in their vastly expensive new stadium. I would have gathered all these figures, but I think that I must have frozen when the cost of \$1 billion dollars was mentioned at one point! A football stadium with a retractable roof – well it is Texas I suppose ! Their NASCAR race track attracts crowds of 200,000!

Then **Ann Abernethy**, and she gained a BSc in Journalism at the University of Kansas and is currently working in downtown Dallas in Public Relations on the Federal Reserve Bank account. We all knew that Texas was an oil state, but we were told that there are still 374,169 active oil and gas well in the State – some going down 6,000 ft.

Dallas is also home to many well known international companies – Exxon Mobil, JCPenny, Dr Pepper, American Airlines to name just a few. Texas is also a leading wind power State, with 2,000 wind turbines.

Jane White spoke next. Jane comes from Plano, Tx. and is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker and is very active in charity work, a recent project being the installation of smoke alarms. Jane gave us some interesting statistics – the average income in the Dallas/Fort Worth area is \$60,000. The average house price is \$150,000 and Jane was interested to know our comparative figure - “rather more” was the conservative reply !! Jane showed us slides of various house style in her area.

Fourth to address us was **Abby Foster**. Abby hails from Arlington, Tx. – a suburb of Dallas and took the very bold step at the tender age of 21 of going to work in an orphanage in Romania. Abby now works for the Nexus

Recovery Centre, which has helped 1,800 women and 394 children with substance abuse problems. They are funded with a \$5 million budget and this is supplemented with a further \$1 million raised in the community. Abbey perhaps surprised us with some statistics regarding poverty in Dallas County. 21% of children have no health insurance, 160,000 children below the poverty line and a 47% school drop-out rate amongst the minority groups.

The final speaker was **Tiffany Kellerman** who has a degree's in Theatre and Psychology from the University of North Texas. Tiffany is a Theatre Business Manager/ Director/ Actor/ Writer/ Producer and Designer with Collin College Theatre. She loves travelling and has visited 42 of the 50 States. Tiffany showed us slides of some famous Texas sites and people, including South Fork Ranch (remember that, Dallas fans!), Deeley Plaza, Niemen Marcus department store, Willie Nelson, Dixie Chicks, Buddy Holly, Lyle Lovett and Janice Joplin.

John Thewlis (Fun Run Supremo) and David Rabone (Duckmeister) gave the Club a report on last weekend's event. It was described as a moderate success with 40 senior runners, but with a disappointing response from the local

schools, with only 20 or so junior runners. The weather was perfect, but John told us of one rather alarming fact – everything went without a hitch ! Overall then, a good day out, good for the organisation and the basis for future growth.

David R. told us of launching 2000 ducks into the Ladybrook and these have now been returned to Stockport Lamplighter. Gordon told us of one little girl, who asked if she could hold her duck before it raced lovely!!

David D. told us that whilst he was selling tickets, one man asked what the odds were of winning – “oh, infinitesimal” replied David – “fine” said the man, “give me five”!! David R told us that a little prize was also given to the owner of a little duck that came in last ... sweet !

David Rabone filled the role of Sgt. at Arms, fining everybody in sight – David D. for a winning duck, Gordon and David Rose for fighting in the river (denied), John M. -for wanting a job where he could sit in the sun and drink beer, John Knowles for not being able to walk on the water and so it went on, bringing to an end a particularly enjoyable and good natured evening.

Chris Monkhouse

District Assembly 10th May 2008

With impeccable timing, District managed to arrange that Assembly would be the day before the Bramhall & Woodford Fun Run; consequently many committee members were committed to preparations for the Fun Run and not able to go the Assembly. David Rabone and your reporter represented the Club at this event and I will highlight some of the items from the general part of the meeting.

“Make Dreams Real” is the theme for this year.

Ken Boylett reported that Life Boxes were already in Burma to provide help to the earthquake victims. As a result Clubs are asked to provide support for new boxes. The boxes had been taken in by the Red Cross.

Ken outlined the RI Presidential Emphasis for the coming year.

- Clean water and sanitation
- Freedom from hunger
- Literacy and right to education
- Reduce child poverty
- Youth programmes – Rotaract Clubs; Interact Clubs, RYLA
- Elimination of Polio – support the Gates Challenge.
- Consider a personal donation to Rotary Foundation of £5 per month

At the end of May, RIBI will have a new Secretary and CEO and Ken introduced the lady concerned, Annemarie Harte. She told us that after the second of three interviews she was told that there were three “problems” – one, she was a woman, two, she was young and three, she was foreign [what happened to Political Correctness?] Her reply was that there as nothing she could do regarding the first two problems and as far as that third was concerned she was born in Dublin and that RIBI covers England and Ireland (the whole) therefore she was not a foreigner. Hope that gives some idea that we have a plain speaker and a breath of fresh air in the organisation. Her determined aim is to improve the service we members get from RIBI at lesser cost.

The International Director of Leonard Cheshire Disability gave a presentation on the newly formed partnership between that organisation and RIBI to support ‘School4All in Africa’. This charity is to assist disabled children to gain education in mains stream schools, and a need has been identified in Uganda. A staggering 90% of disabled children in Africa do not go to school. There are a number of reasons; physical barriers, teacher attitudes, other children, fear of shame. LCD have 10 years experience of this work in the region. On average it costs £5000 to make a school accessible to the disabled, £100 purchases the educational materials for one disabled child. The aim is to raise £500,000 over the next two years to benefit 20 schools and 1000 children. Club information packs will be available at the June District Council.

John Sykes

Fun Run Sunday

The 11th May dawned clear and sunny. In Bramhall Park, the usual unpleasant rush hour sounds and smells were replaced by the twitter of birdsong and the fragrance of blossoms as a few men gathered on the dew-soaked grassy bit by the roundabout. Pulling various things from their vehicles, they set to work with the efficiency of a well-oiled machine and soon a veritable tented city, complete with castle, rose up on the afore-mentioned grassy bit. Other men, and some women, joined them; some donning lurid yellow vests and disappearing into the woods whilst others sat behind tables or operated a Spin-the-Wheel sideshow. On the other side of the Ladybrook, the main sponsor, Waitrose, erected a gazebo stocked with water and fruit, whilst the representatives of Total Fitness, another sponsor, waited with baited breath.



Yes... Fun Run Sunday was under way!

All we needed were the runners, and some did actually turn up. Not as many as we would have hoped for, but enough to avoid embarrassment. Sharp on 2 o'clock, to the blast of an air horn wielded by local MP and honorary member



Mark Hunter, the senior runners set off on their two lap course around the park whilst Mark made his way over to judge the junior fancy dress competition, with the able assistance of Mary Meeus and Pam Lacey. Judging complete, the juniors were then dispatched on their run.

Meanwhile, back at the finishing line, the first runners were coming home to the riotous cheering of the crowd. Soon, all were safely gathered in and Mark, definitely earning his money, awarded the prizes. (No surprise when the girls

dressed as bumble bees (I think!) were awarded the “Most *Interesting* Team” prize.) Pippa, our waitress from the club, got a consolation prize for wearing shorts.

Meanwhile, back on the grassy bit, Dennis Allport and Graham Yule were raking in the punters with the Spin-the-Wheel and the bouncy castle, whilst the car park attendants (the Thewlis Boys) had made over £50 offering to ‘look after’ visitors’ cars.

Meanwhile, back at the Ladybrook, the excitement continued as the first Duck



Race got under way. A thousand plastic ducks, bobbing and weaving their merry way downstream, closely followed by another thousand as Race 2 started. One of the winning ducks was heard making a whirring noise, not unreminiscent of the sound made by a small electric motor driving a propeller, but the owner, a Mr Dewhurst, assured us that no fowl play was involved.

And then, there were no more ‘meanwhile’s. All that was left was to pack up and head into the sunset, leaving the grassy bit to the tender mercies of the dog-walkers and their dogs once again. Fun Run Sunday was over – at least for this year.

A tour bus driver is driving with a bus load of seniors down a highway when he is tapped on his shoulder by a little old lady. She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up.

After about 15 minutes, she taps him on his shoulder again and she hands him another handful of peanuts. She repeats this gesture about five more times.

When she is about to hand him another batch again he asks the little old lady, 'Why don't you eat the peanuts yourself?'

'We can't chew them because we've no teeth', she replied.

The puzzled driver asks, 'Why do you buy them then?' The old lady replied, 'We just love the chocolate around them.'

Job rota

Date	Speaker host	Bulletin	S at A
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
August 13	G Yule	N Loveland	J Thomas
August 20	M Hurst	G Hunt	D Dev
August 27	B Stevenson	M Lacey	H Barker
September 3	Committees	D Allport	G Jackson
September 10	S Davies	D Burstow	J Thewlis
September 17	R Malabon	M Palmer	H Hill
September 24	B Batty	A Newsome	D Dewhurst
October 1	Committees	J Meeus	D Rabone
October 8	D Rose	R Taylor	J Sykes
October 15	B Bissell	D Poizer	J Knowles
October 22	T Sheppard	V Chattington	G Yule
October 29	No meeting - 5th Wednesday		
November 5	Committees	M Hurst	J Thomas
November 12	N Loveland	B Stevenson	G Hunt
November 19	D Dev	D Allport	M Lacey
November 26	H Barker	G Jackson	D Searson
December 3	Committees	R Malabon	S Davies
December 10	J Thewlis	D Burstow	M Palmer

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

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.

The Salts use a back entrance from Cote Green Road. Follow A626 to 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 100 yards 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.

Please be at Walthew House by 9.25 for return trips. If possible drivers should have their mobiles and other driver's number in case of any delays.

May 27	D Burstow	B Batty
June 3	S Davies	D Allport
June 10	G Hunt	D Dewhurst
June 17	M Hurst	G Jackson
June 24	J Knowles	M Lacey
July 1	N Loveland	R Malabon
July 8	J Meeus	C Monkhouse
July 15	A Newsome	D Poizer
July 22	D Rabone	D Rose
July 29	T Sheppard	B Stevenson
August	No Blind Run expected	
September 2	J Sykes	J Thomas
September 9	G Yule	D Allport
September 16	B Batty	B Bissell
September 23	D Burstow	V Chattington
September 23	S Davies	D Dewhurst
September 30	G Hunt	M Hurst
October 7	G Jackson	J Knowles
October 14	M Lacey	N Loveland
October 21	R Malabon	J Meeus
October 28	C Monkhouse	A Newsome
November 4	D Poizer	D Rabone
November 11	D Rose	T Sheppard
November 18	B Stevenson	J Sykes
November 25	J Thomas	G Yule

Diary

June 4	Committees
June 11*	John Peckham, Bramhall High School
June 18	Visit to Beechwood Cancer Care
June 25*	Club Assembly and Handover
June 29	President's barbeque
July 2*	Committees
July 9*	Club discussion: Plan A or Plan B?
July 16*	DG to visit the club
July 23*	Palmer/Poizer
July 30	No meeting: 5th Wednesday
August 6*	Committees
August 13*	David Burstow: 'My job'
August 20*	Stevenson/Sykes
August 27*	Maura McGibbon: 'Helping families in breakdown situations'
September 3	Committees
September 10*	Taylor/Thewlis
September 17	Recruitment discussion led by PDG Michael Barker
September 24*	Club Services
October 1	Committees
October 8*	Allport/Barker
October 15	Batty/Bissell
October 22*	Club Services
October 29	No meeting: 5th Wednesday
November 5	Committees
November 12*	Burstow/Chattington
November 19	Davies/Dev
November 26*	Club Services
December 3	Committees
December 10*	Dewhurst/Hill
December 17	Hunt/Hurst
December 24	No meeting
December 31	No meeting

2009

January 7	Committees
January 14*	Jackson/Knowles

* indicates that we have the large function room

Chris O'Dwyer, as everyone knows, has retired from catering at the Ladybridge Club. On her last evening, May 14th, she was presented with some well deserved farewell gifts. She has sent us this message:



*Sincere thanks to all Rotary Members for their friendship, support and custom during my time at Ladybridge. It has given me great pleasure to help in some very small way, your wonderful organisation. Thanks to all for the lovely gifts and good wishes. I will not be a stranger and hope to become more involved in the future. Love to all.
Chris x*

NEW ELEMENT FINALLY TRACKED DOWN

The heaviest element known to science, tentatively named “administratium” was discovered by a physicist at a district Hospital. It has no protons or electrons and thus an atomic no. of 0. It has one neutron, 125 assistant neutrons, 75 vice-neutrons and 11 assistant vice-neutrons, having a total atomic mass no.of 312. These 312 particles are held together in a nucleus by a force that involves the continuous exchange of paper-like particles called “forms”. Since it has no electrons “administratium” is inert. It, however, can be detected chemically as it impedes every reaction it comes into contact with. A minute amount of “administratium” caused a reaction, which normally takes a second, to take 4 days to complete.

“Administratium” has a normal half life over about 3 years, at which time it doesn’t decay, but instead, undergoes a reorganisation in which the particles change places in the nucleus and new forces are produced. Studies indicate that the amount of forces actually increases with each reorganisation. Research at other sites indicates that “administratium” occurs naturally in the atmosphere. It tends to become concentrated at certain points eg. Government agencies, large corporations and top shelves.

Scientists point out that “administratium” is toxic at any level of concentration and can easily destroy any productive reactions where it is allowed to accumulate. Attempts are being made to control “administratium” so that irreversible damage is not sustained, but results to date are not promising!

(Copied anonymously and unashamedly from an unknown source by David Rose)