

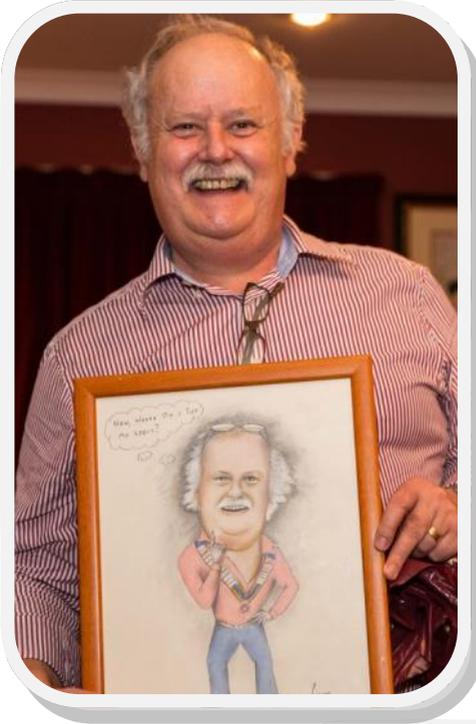
Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



Charity No. 1025767
District 1050
Chartered 24/9/1986

Feb/Mar 2015

Bulletin



Harry gets his caricature at President's Drinks

Our youngest ever visitor to Santa, Casper (6 days old) with his sister Ariana (2)





The brilliant addition of the Santa tracker to our website this year has really taken us into a new dimension. Well done Michael.



Santa, on a visit to Barclays in Bramhall, met up with some birds of prey.

Harry's Homily

Those who were at last Wednesday's meeting, or who have read Trevor's account of it, will know that John Sykes presented me with a certificate celebrating the fact that we as a club have given over \$1,500 to End Polio Now. This is something which is dear to my heart: not only does my medical hat still fit, but Michael, Pam, Maggie and I went to India six years ago to see the immunisation process at first hand and we were able to provide valuable local publicity for it, as well as giving hands on help.

The club has been very successful again over the Christmas period in collecting several thousand pounds which will benefit local good causes as well as Prostate Cancer UK. But I still feel that the essence of Rotary is in hands on projects, and I think we should all be looking out for opportunities to get involved in the Bramhall and Woodford area. We now have a regular date at Walthew House to stuff envelopes, and we have ferried people to and from there for over twenty years. Both of these tasks can be done by almost everyone in the club, and I would like to see us doing more in the same vein. So thinking caps on!

Everyone admitted she was a great housekeeper.
Divorced three husbands and kept the house each time.

PROSCRASTINATION is the thief of time, especially if you
can't spell it.

Sending emails to bwrotary

I would like to clarify a few items regarding emails from members that are sent to the club.

1. If you need to reply to an email, it is more efficient to use the 'Reply' button to send an email just to them rather than 'Reply All' which means everyone in the club gets a copy. There may be times when you need to say 'I am dealing with this' and hence use Reply All but it can clutter up our inboxes with spurious mails resulting in people not reading any of their emails and hence missing something important.
2. Forwarding an email is often done in the humour group but sometimes these contain a stack of old email addresses showing their origin. Not only is this like advertising someone else's address but it also gives Spammers a load of new addresses to target. Please remove all other addresses from forwarded emails. If you do want to include others in the forward, then use the BCC box (Blind Carbon Copy) so that their address is not copied to anyone else. Please also remove any spurious attachments as these may contain a virus.
3. Please don't use email to express anger to everyone as new members may feel intimidated or form a poor impression of us. It's so easy to hit 'Reply All' when we get annoyed but a couple of hours reflection may help and issues should be dealt with face to face. In the early days of the Internet, running arguments (often over a perceived misinterpretation) were known as Flame Wars. We don't need them.

Gordon

3rd Dec - EGM to discuss proposed change to our meeting structure

During tonight's meal, Bob P informed us that the float will be housed overnight at Moor End Driving Range (not the tennis club) and keys etc. will be at Harry's (not Michael's).

After the break, Harry opened the main event with a substantial amount of bell bashing. It turned out very well however as the members came to order and behaved in a surprisingly mature, well behaved and erudite way throughout the subsequent debate. Well done, well controlled, Harry!

To set the scene, Harry described the huge amount of time Council have devoted to this topic. Indeed the writer here has spent much time preparing background papers, gathering statistics, communicating with RIBI etc. Skipping most of the details, Harry then described the options from doing nothing, through changing just the "fill-to-12" social meeting, to describing the actual Proposal as arrived at.

Geoff started comments from the floor with an impassioned and eloquent speech of support. As ADG he saw nearly half the clubs in his zone either close, or in terminal decline because they failed to attract new younger members. He referred to the huge recruitment exercise Tony did around 2008. This had clearly identified "commitment" as the primary obstacle to recruitment. Indeed he thinks practically every Rotarian can quote this "commitment is the barrier" mantra – however they subsequently do nothing about it. He very much hopes we take the opportunity before us now.

Dennis then also spoke in support. Referring to his time in Round Table, he noted that although only having fortnightly formal meetings, things still got done. That was because the 'Tabler's met between times, as and when was necessary'. He had asked a friend in Poynton Rotary what was the key to their success. The answer was a) fortnightly meetings b) low subs c) music in the park as a lead generator.

[Bucking the trend Geoff referred to, in the NW, only Poynton are currently seen as having a successful recruitment policy].

Michael then pointed out the concurrent work Council has done looking at how to substantially reduce our subs. Depending on various factors, mainly the outcome of this debate, our subs can probably be halved.

John M made a fervent speech against the proposal. One of the ways Poynton keep their subs so low is cross-subsidy from social events run at a profit. John thought this was dreadful and expressed the view that inviting friends to do's so they can subsidise the Rotarian's subs is reprehensible. He also thinks the "informal" meeting will just become a clique of 7 or 8 members. As the discussion so far had described the changes as in practice far less than they looked as written, John thought the whole thing was just a way to get it round RI / RIBI blocking the change.

Brian then pointed out that RI/RIBI approval had been part of Council's discussions from the very start. There is a scheme allowing precisely this sort of change, or even more radical if we wanted to. It requires just two things: a 2/3 vote in favour and a report sent to the DG to explain what is happening. Brian said that throughout the Council discussions, the aim had been to somehow arrive at a situation where the current membership saw minimal change in practice, but nevertheless allowed us to say the sort of things which appear necessary to recruit younger (50's, working age) members.

David Rose would like the informal meetings to take place in a private room. Also thought we could try a lunch meeting as Winchester do. A suggestion of recruitment at the Duck race resulted in a broad discussion of why that won't work (wrong audience).

Sue, whilst agreeing something needed to be done, did not think this proposal is it. She does think cost is a key barrier. She stated that nearly all recruitment is via people being introduced by current members.

Gill then pointed out that she had brought along 3 potential new members. But none had joined. All quoting the weekly meetings commitment and 2 mentioning the cost.

Pat thought the fees are not a barrier. Discussion then centred on the difference between the perception Rotary is too expensive, and the (less important) reality that it is not vs all the other things we spend our money on.

John T had sent via email the thought that we are far too pushy with potential new members. They should be treated as Guests, at least for a few months, before any joining Rotary talk starts.

Jan & Vida, accepting the Duck Race point, think as a priority we should organise some event which does attract our target audience.

There then followed a more general discussion of: the societal change with low commitment to anything outside one's own family, that all Rotary clubs are in the same position, how far Rotary has moved already from the men-only extremely formal past, on advertising e.g. via I-Love-Bramhall, and then back round several of the topics described above.

At 22:15 Harry announced it was time we put it to a vote. A straight Yes or No written vote, i.e. a secret ballot. Michael proposed the Proposition be Implemented, Brian Seconded it. Gill then collected and counted the papers. The result was:

Yes – 27 votes

No – 1 vote.

Thus not only far exceeding the 2/3 requirement, but even exceeding 2/3 of all our 36 members eligible to vote.

Back to a normal meeting, Gordon reminded everyone how expensive the printer ink is. He has produced some very attractive badges to help at Woodford. Brian asked all to get their Xmas Do choices in, their £25's paid and that the time is the usual 7:30 for 8:00 (7:00 for 8:00 if extra beer required). Ian spoke about the sweeties packing, Bob S about collecting stuff for Abi's rucksack thing. Lastly Michael suggested dropping the free-meal raffle, and bringing back Sergeant at Arms. After a very well behaved debate earlier, this was asking too much. Matter left in abeyance !!!

Brian

Harry's comments on the meeting

I would like to place on record that I thought last night's meeting was first rate. It's not that the club agreed with Council over the proposed changes, it was the way everyone concentrated on the matter in hand and listened to the opinions of others before making a decision. I was very impressed!

We have given ourselves twelve months to test the ideas put forward. I think the main challenge is to ensure that the second Wednesday meeting is sufficiently varied, both in content and place, to encourage all members to come along on most occasions, and ideally bring a friend or two to meet Rotarians in an informal setting. We have given ourselves a good deal of flexibility by agreeing this plan, but please don't forget that John Knowles needs to know what is planned!

Not everyone is comfortable with change, and not everybody was in favour of the proposal. Nonetheless we need to make sure that younger people are able to join us and with any luck this will help. Before I joined the club a far more momentous and far-reaching decision was made to allow ladies to join. That has been a complete success, providing the club with new members and a huge amount of enthusiasm. If this change does half as much good it will be well worth it.

So give yourselves a pat on the back, and I look forward to a more normal meeting next week!

Harry

John Meeus on the meeting

I am reported as making a fervent speech against the proposal, that was not the case by the fact there was only one negative vote, at what was ostensibly a secret ballot, which, I do not mind admitting, was not mine. However I did comment, humorously and not disrespectfully I hope, that the document was obviously not written by a Doctor because it set out the proposals in clear and precise manner which could be understood.

I did most certainly state that I would not condone subsidizing the 'Members account' from functions where guests would be attending. However this was an adjunct to the proposal of the debate and was not a matter for consideration at ballot.

Referring to the 'informal' meeting, I did not use the word "clique", which infers the same people every time, which of course it could very well turn out to be, but to only relatively small numbers that may attend. This has been seen in the past on such occasions as 'scatter nights' and for another example amongst others, the games nights we used to have at the Highwayman. Regarding the fourth night, which it is proposed, at present, to be taken up by additional 'Social' events, it would be necessary to add at least another four or five events to make the four meetings a month acceptable. We have difficulty enough in 'selling tickets' or inviting guests to the various functions we have at present. To add to it is going to stretch the relationship with our friends even further. Finally I would take issue with the word 'Scam'. The point I was making was, and I quote verbatim, "let's us stop pussy footing about with this", why don't we make application to National and International through District for two formal meetings a month. Secretary Trevor picked up on this and said that a Club in North Manchester was already making this approach. We are one of the largest Clubs in the District and, like Poynton who have and continue to expand their membership, which they attribute to their reduction in meetings, that we would like to follow that example. Geoff has already stated that District is fully aware that four meetings a month and the size of the subscriptions are contributory factors in the difficulty of recruiting new members. Let us, with other Clubs which I am sure would be interested, champion that as a formal proposal all the way to the top. Meanwhile, I like the majority of the members, as demonstrated last week, support the new proposals and would go along with representations for two formal and fixed meetings a month.

We can still have our informal meetings some of which may produce better attendance at committee meetings of each faculty in the Club as well as visits to the local hostelry. Furthermore there would not be a need to create another four or five 'Social' evenings for the sake of making up a fourth meeting.

I look forward to receiving any further printable comment on this subject. However, for the record, I would appreciate if my comments above be included in the next Bulletin, if for nothing more than future reference, that the Founder President, along with several other members of all age groups were willing to follow any proposal that would contribute to the future growth and continued success of one of the most forward looking Clubs in the District.

John Meeus

Committees 10th December

It is generally accepted that ladies can multitask and gentlemen can't. For some reason, when the official chronicler of the evening failed to arrive (yes Jan, I'm looking at you!) the mood of the meeting was that your President should take notes for the bulletin too. As a gentleman, I must apologise in advance therefore if there are errors and omissions in the following!

It was a fairly select group that assembled to enjoy the last meeting of the year. Jackie's food was very good and plentiful and the ambiance was relaxed.

VP Gill led the reports with an update on her plans for the "Silverthon Triple Challenge". Fundamentally this is a fundraiser for Age UK. The day consists of a 5 mile hike, a 20 mile cycle ride, and a series of mental challenges. It will take place in Poynton on July 25th and involves the Boar's Head, so there

will clearly be some solace for those taking part. There will be a limit of 30 teams, each comprising four members, and it will cost £100 per team to enter, with a promise of at least the same amount in sponsorship. Gill is working very hard to make this a sparkling event.

The remaining reports were much less substantial. Secretary Trevor was absent on the eve of his departure to Oman (and I thought these Middle East countries were fussy about who they let in). Unsurprisingly he had nothing to report. Ron was also absent due to the current respiratory bug, but Sue stepped in to suggest that we should approach local schools to offer to take an assembly wherein we could give a brief overview of Rotary. This sounds very teachery to me but is clearly a good way to interest youngsters in what we do.

Treasurer Michael gave his customary report - we have about £3k in the charity account and about £2k in the business account. Bob (W+M) was able to resolve issues with the float rota and the Woodford collection. He had enough energy (just) to think about the Duck Race. He suggested we use Woodford Park and Handforth Dean as duck selling venues, and forget Asda in Cheadle Hulme. Sales there this year were poor and the organisation was worse. We are still waiting for news on the space available to us in the Park: we hope to have the croquet lawn but there is no guarantee, and I think it will be a good while before we have any details.

Harry

Why there are no lawyers in our club

When the man in the street says: "If it isn't broke, don't fix it," the lawyer writes:

"Insofar as manifestations of functional deficiencies are agreed by any and all concerned parties to be imperceptible, and are so stipulated, it is incumbent upon said heretofore mentioned parties to exercise the deferment of otherwise pertinent maintenance procedures."

But the engineer will say it doesn't have enough facilities.

Staying safe on line – 4

Scammers use many tricks to get at your money and increasingly, these may be by a telephone or email contact pretending to be your bank. After convincing you that they are genuine, they ask you to carry out various plausible-sounding actions that will result in your account being raided.



Here are eight things that fraudsters might ask you to do – but your bank never will.

1. Call or email to ask you for your full Pin or any online banking passwords

If your bank does contact you, perhaps to check that a transaction was really made by you, it would not ask for more than three digits from your Pin to confirm your identity, and would never ask for online passwords.

Related Articles

2. Send someone to your home to collect cash, bank cards or anything else

Having posed on the telephone as a bank employee to extract key security information such as your full Pin, the criminals may say they are sending an official courier to your home to collect the corresponding card. These couriers will have bogus “official” identification.

3. Ask you to authorise the transfer of funds to a new account or hand over cash

Often criminals, posing as a bank, will instruct you that your account is under threat – usually from a “corrupt employee” or “cyber criminals”. You will be instructed to make an online transfer of money into a new “safe account” – actually the fraudster’s – or hand cash to a bogus employee.

4. Ask you to carry out a ‘test transaction’ online

Criminals pretending to be from a bank sometimes email customers asking them to perform a “test” transaction online,

perhaps because of a “technical problem” on their account.

5. Send an email with a link to a website that asks you to enter your online banking details

This is the well-known “phishing” scam.

6. Ask you to email or text personal or banking information

Even if the email address appears to belong to the bank.

7. Provide banking services through any mobile apps other than the bank’s official apps

To download your bank’s mobile banking app, follow the link from its official website.

8. Call to advise you to buy diamonds, land or other commodities

Reputable investment firms do not cold-call. Fraudulent “boiler rooms” can be very persistent and persuasive, so just put the phone down.

Update to a previous security problem.

A particularly nasty piece of work called Ransomware is becoming more prevalent. You may download what appears to be a benign program but it then encrypts the contents of your hard drive and demands a large amount of money to release them. My daughter fell foul of this and it took me two days to get rid of it and even then, some files were lost. I was fortunate that it had not, by the time I got to it, damaged all her photo files.

The program causing the problem is called Cryptolocker and can be immunised against by downloading a program from web site www.snipca.com/14913 and switching the ‘immunize’ button to On. This will run alongside your existing antivirus software.

Gordon

Committees 7th January

What a way to start a new year! **Mr President** rang the bell at 8.05 (Yes 8.05 or 20.05 i.e. late) and wished everyone present a Happy New Year.

Mr Knowles offered a very humorous grace which had all 26 members present giggling.

8.07 Food. Table right, top table then table left.

Mrs Chattington rose on her pegs at 8.32 to offer apologies, no guests and to chat about bulb sales. **Mr Davies** asked "Screw or Bayonet" to which the answer was given "Screw" but the writer bets that he did not hear the rest of the sentence!

The new Almoner, **Mr Hunt**, gave a brief report.

8.38 Pudding (or perhaps Sweet) Tables rose in reverse order.

8.53 Bell to order when **Mr President** posed a conundrum regarding next week. To meet or not to meet? That was the question.

8.57 Loyal Toast. Committees to return at 9.25. Yeah, yeah!

9.42 (!!!!) Float Quiz discussion. Net result:- to be held at Ladybridge Club on Wednesday 21st Jan with a cost of £6 to include a buffet. **Mr Preece** to email various charities who will each receive £375.

9.55 Committee reports:-

Vice & Membership:- Ms Critchley appealed in more ways than one. Bags of Love were being made and filled to be sent to The Gambia by the end of February. Silverthon Triple Challenge organisation was well under way with AGE UK wanting to be totally involved. NTR on Membership.

Secretary:- Absent NTR

Treasurer:- Mr Lacey stated that General Account was OK and that The Charity Account was quite busy at the moment.

Woodford netted around £2,600 so a suggestion is to be made to make it up to £3k for Prostate Cancer UK. The float grossed ten p short of £7,000. Cards £485. Balance around £4,400 for use.

Ways & Means:- Mr Preece Briefly mentioned the Duck Race

(Yes, it is on it's way again) and that 5 selling sessions had already been arranged at retail outlets. A further fashion show event is being discussed..

Community Service:- Mr Malabon mentioned an upcoming collection at B&Q for the Cheshire Regiment. Mooted that the Dragons' Den event should be held every two years and were considering Duck Race beneficiaries.

International :- Mr Thewlis NTR

Communications:- Mr Dobson NTR

Club Services:- Mr Knowles Expressed the need for good speakers given the new format. Apologies are only required for 1st and 3rd meetings. (Normally!)

Social:- Mr Dougal thanked all for attending the Christmas party. CHADS seats still available – see webpage. Presidents night to be on March 13th and a booking page will be available on the website shortly.

AOB;- Mr Sykes brought 'best wishes' from Mike Palmer to those who remember him.

The Conundrum – No meeting next week.

Raffle/ Draw was won by **Mr Saville** – Aaaaah!

Council and Blind run confirmed

Meeting Closed at 10.40

Note. There was some discussion regarding the new format of two 'formal' meetings in January. So, to clarify:- There are four Wednesdays in January. This meeting is the first formal meet. Next week will be the fifth Wednesday with no meeting. Presidents drinks on Friday 9th and the visit to CHADS on 23rd are two 'other' meetings. But it means that we have had two meetings this week. The night on 21st was to be free because of CHADS but will now have the Float Quiz as well. And we have the really interesting speaker subject of HS2 on 28th which will be the fourth Wednesday but counted as the third for Apologies. OK?

Ian

GRANDPARENT'S ANSWER PHONE MESSAGE

Good morning. At present we are not at home but please leave your message after you hear the beep.

If you are one of our children, dial 1 and then press 1 to 4 in order of "arrival" so we know who it is

If you need us to stay with the grandchildren, press 2

If you want to borrow the car, press 3

If you want us to wash your clothes and do your ironing, press 4

If you want the grandchildren to sleep here tonight, press 5

If you want us to pick the kids up from school, press 6

If you want us to prepare a meal for Sunday or to have it delivered to your house, press 7

If you want to eat here, press 8

If you need money, press 9

If you are inviting us to dinner—start talking—We are listening.

What is Celibacy?

Celibacy can be a choice in life or a condition imposed by circumstances.

While attending a Marriage Weekend, my wife and I listened to the instructor declare, 'It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other'

He then addressed the men, 'Can you name and describe your wife's favourite flower?'

I leaned over, touched my wife's hand gently, and whispered, 'Self-raising, isn't it?'
And thus began my life of celibacy.

Great news from the bus company who ran the duck bus last year.

Richard Tapper
Belle Vue Manchester Ltd
The Travel Centre, Discovery Park, Crossley Road, Stockport.
Cheshire. SK4

Hi Abida

Are you having any meeting regarding the duck race that you might want us to attend with ideas or to discuss plans please let me know.

Update on our duck—he is now the company mascot and has been to Norway and Orlando and several other places he has his own Twitter page @bellevueduck and a face book page he has just been repainted ready to have his new design and a relaunch.

So we are hoping to have a new duck and a new design that will hopefully win the race this time.

So what stemmed for a bit of fun is now a full time mascot

Regards

Richard Tapper

Belle Vue Manchester Ltd
The Travel Centre, Discovery Park, Crossley Road, Stockport.
Cheshire. SK4 5DZ.

For some quite decent free programs, try
www.giveawayoftheday.com

A Fond Fairwell

It is two months since my last B & W meeting and I am officially still a B & W member, albeit my transfer to Whitchurch is imminent. I must say Whitchurch appears to be a good, friendly and active club, but from my relatively few meetings thus far attended I must say I miss the energy, enthusiasm and atmosphere of your great club. I made a few leaving remarks on my last meeting with you and I said goodbye individually to most in attendance that evening, but missed a few and those not in attendance. I would like to rectify that now by expressing to you my heartfelt thanks for the great fellowship I have enjoyed in my twenty years plus in the club. It's a strange word – "fellowship"! In my mind I define it as friendship amongst a "band of brothers" (both genders included), all with similar guiding principles, standards and objectives for good. I have relished the company of old friends, some going back over thirty years, friendships restored and great new friends made. In addition to club our wide ranging club activities, I have enjoyed so many other things outside of the activity of Rotary, but Rotary was the introducing medium for which I am ever grateful.

I have undertaken a wide range of roles and tasks within the club and I will not bore you with an interminable list but please indulge me for a few moments. When I joined the club in 1994 I was placed on W & M with Bob Batty as Chairman and he immediately gave me the responsibility for setting up and running our very first "Christmas Grotto" at Woodford garden centre, which gave me my "baptism of fire"! I will always remember what I consider to be one of our greatest charity ventures "Bikes for Africa" under the leadership of David Dewhurst and I relished playing my role in that project. Similarly I marvelled at the instant response of our club to undertake a

major fund raiser with no notice to supply fourteen “Disaster Relief” boxes (£7k of funding) to Haiti after the devastating earthquake, which I felt privileged to initiate and coordinate. My consistent areas of operation have been on the W& M front where I have been able to apply practical effort due to many years in manufacturing and project management from my various businesses, but equally I have greatly enjoyed the other roles. The sailing trip on Tenacious was for me a great adventure, emanating from an original idea from Herb Boyes and put to practical implementation by Sid and me going to “Festival of the Sea” in 2004 when we celebrated the 200th. anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar. My year as President stands out in so many ways but probably best remembered by the superb interruption written and orchestrated by Sam Kennedy who came back specifically to extract the “Michael” from me after he left the club.

Anyhow, I must not drone on, but only to say a fond farewell, not goodbye as I hope to visit from time to time and certainly to witness the humiliation of President Harry at Presidents Night. Harry and I have always enjoyed a combative but good humoured series of exchanges and I came to realise that he did really “love me” when he adorned the walls of the club with an array of enlarged photographs of me on my last meeting. Similarly, I was most touched to receive the leaving card signed by most of the club. This card contained a poem from Maggie (clever girl Maggie and I can see why Harry has got to his dizzy heights!) which I presume most of you have seen, but if not the case please see below or however Gordon plans the bulletin. Maggie, I will treasure that little poem.

I wish you all great success and fulfilment in the future in your great club.

Tony

Tony's leaving card

top man

tenacious

torment

TONY

tireless

terrific

tough

'T' is for Tony - a Tribute.

trendy?
(well you can't win
'em all)

t is for Tony
He's tireless and tough
Tenacious and terrifying
When enough is enough.
Not timid
Or tardy
A trouble free mate
He teases out problems
When we're in a state.
Through turbulent times
He's tackled the tasks
A terrific team player
Yes, Tony's the tops!
He's a terrible torment
To tame him we've tried
But he's totally TONY
When all's cut and dried.

The 3rd strain of the Nile virus is coming.

I thought you would want to know about this e-mail virus. Even the most advanced programs from Norton or McAfee cannot take care of this one.

It appears to target those who were born prior to 1953.

Virus Symptoms

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice. (Done that)
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail. (That too)
3. Causes you to send an e-mail to the wrong person. (Yup)
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you. (Ah-ha)
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment. (Done that)
6. Causes you to hit SEND before you've finished. (Oh no, not again)
7. Causes you to hit DELETE instead of SEND. (Hate that)
8. Causes you to hit SEND when you should DELETE. (Heck, now what?)

It's called the C-Nile virus!

"Anyone who believes that exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist."— Kenneth Ewart Boulding, British economist

"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery."— Winston Churchill, prime minister, Great Britain

"If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning."— Catherine Aird, pseudonym of novelist Kinn Hamilton McIntosh

"It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."— W. Somerset Maugham, British playwright, author

I take no responsibility for the following
Gordon

SUPPORT FOR A NEW PROJECT.

Those of us who were concerned that the cut in official meetings would reduce communication and the evolution of ideas will take heart from the following item. I think it shows that informal groups may well be able to develop schemes even more effectively than committee nights

On a non-meeting Wednesday Harry, myself and our spouses met for a chat. The conversations covered a wide field of subjects but, inevitably, our thoughts turned to past travels and the sights we have seen.

Harry reminisced about Yorkshire as he often does, and remembered, almost wistfully, that they had seen a shop retailing second hand underwear. Maggie added that she knew that Erica from What Lies Beneath takes old brassieres from customers but does not know what she does with them.

As a group of **bosom** friends we suddenly all thought of “**Bras for Africa**” - what an **uplifting** idea! Or, as the Germans have it, “**Wunderbra!**”.

We would need to find a **wearhouse**, possibly at **34B Back Lingerie Street**, (it has a **peekaboo frontage** with a **balconette** overhanging it, I seem to recall) to sort and pack the items but we would need some **strapping fellows** to **lift and separate** then shift the goods. They would need breaks of course for some **chicken fillets** and a **large cup** of tea. Any vehicle hired would have to be a **front loader** for convenience possibly a ‘**D**’ **sized** model from Enterprise Car Rentals. Publicity could be used to **hook** the public in to **support** the project.

Don't let this idea slip **under(the)wire** - there is definitely some mileage in it but it may just flop and go **bust** which means we have **boobed**.

Ian ably assisted by Sue, Harry, and Maggie

Quiz night

I announced the winners to be the ex- Round Tablers, who got a bottle of wine. And in 2nd place, 2nd Bramhall Scouts.

As the actual 3rd and 4th places were the two Rotary teams, I decided to only announce the top 2 !

Also noted was that the 2nd Bramhall Explorers team were 5 actual Explorer Scouts, ie 15/16 year olds, no adults. I commended their effort and didn't enumerate their score!

Brian.

Team	Mix- ture	Ent & Arts	Educa- tion	2014	Film	Potter s	Gen- erals	Music	Countries Map	Total
Round	15	17	10	18	12	10	15	20	13	130
2 Bram	13	11	11	16	9	12	14	18	15	119
2 Bram Ex- plorer	4	8	2	6	8	4	6	4	10	52
Rotary Pres	15	11	6	16	5	16	14	16	13	112
4th Bram-	6	12	7	8	8	17	16	19	12	105
The Mill	10	13	8	14	10	17	12	15	11	110
NCT	3	13	1	12	7	6	12	14	10	88
Bram High	8	14	4	15	14	17	13	12	8	105
Wal- thew House	2	8	4	13	6	11	6	14	14	78
Rotary Riff Raff	12	14	7	13	6	14	18	21	13	118

Downtown Abby Party Friday 9th January

aka Presidents Drinks

Early in January the great and good Rotarians of Bramhall, Woodford and Cheadle Hulme received an invitation to a spectacular B&W Rotary Presidents party to be held at Earl and Lady Hill's estate in Bramhall. Great excitement was generated in surrounding areas as planning got underway! The Duke and Duchess of Swann Lane were among the first to accept the invitation. They were followed closely by the Lady Susan and Lord Dobson of Wansley Manor, who were forced to apologise in advance for their expected late arrival as they had previously committed to allowing the dressers to have the evening off and so had to have their under-butler and assistant housekeeper take over their duties. Consort Mary and John Francois Ferdinand Meeus Consul to the Belgian Ambassador for the Kingdom of Belgium at the Court of St James's London, also promptly sent felicitations and he expressed his sincere thanks for the invitation to celebrate and share his Excellency's continuing Rotary service. Lord and Lady Loveland of Broomhill and the Duke and Duchess Preece of Southdown were also early respondents.

On the evening the Rotarians arrived in a variety of classic vehicles, many driven by their chauffeurs. The numerous guests were warmly greeted by Lady Maggie Hill, who was wearing a delightful sequined dress. Lord Harry Hill was supervising the butlers and servants as they prepared exotic cocktails and a most amazing feast. Guests were treated to delicious canapés such as 'devils on horseback'. Everyone, or nearly everyone....., had dressed up to the nines for the occasion. The men were asked to wear the Downton attire but the kindly Lady Hill suggested that some may be unhappy with this request so if they preferred they could wear whatever made them feel comfortable. Lord Hill was one of the first to seize upon his wife's understanding and so took this as an opportunity to wear his much loved jeans and t-shirt again!! However, there were lots of ladies in their Downtonesque finery with a plethora of sequins and sparkle and handsome men in

black dress suits – just like a normal Rotary meeting! The evening was a tremendous success and the Hills had gone to enormous trouble to ensure that all present had a wonderful fun time with superb food. We all suspected that the servants below stairs would also be able to eat the tasty leftovers for a good few days afterwards.

Duchess Susan Preece

If you want to add something extra in the bulletin I researched the following -

Addendum:

Downton Abbey is a British period drama television series created by Julian Fellowes. It first aired on ITV in the UK in September 2010. The series, set in the fictional Yorkshire country estate of Downton Abbey, depicts the lives of the aristocratic Crawley family and their servants in the post-Edwardian era—with the great events in history having an effect on their lives and on the British social hierarchy. Such events depicted throughout the series include news of the sinking of the RMS Titanic in the first series; the outbreak of the First World War, the Spanish influenza pandemic, and the Marconi scandal in the second series; the interwar period and the formation of the Irish Free State in the third series; the Teapot Dome scandal in the fourth series; and the United Kingdom general election of 1923 and the Beer Hall Putsch in the fifth series. It has received many awards and was recognised by Guinness World Records as the most critically acclaimed English-language television series of 2011. By the third series, it had become one of the most widely watched television drama shows in the world. On 29th of January 2015, it was announced that season 6 will be the last of the series.

Fellowes tries to be as authentic in his depiction of the period as he can. A 'tremendous amount of research' went into recreating the sets. Researchers visited nearly 40 English country houses to help 'inform what the kitchen should look like. Dinner parties in the era would have been even more over the top than those shown. Relationships between servants and the Grantham

family, as well as with other upper class characters, are portrayed in a manner excessively familiar and more informal than the norm for the era. Downton Abbey has been credited with spawning a massive worldwide increase in demand for professionally-trained butlers, especially British butlers, notably in China, Russia and parts of the Middle East, leading to some butlers fetching salaries as high as £150,000.

Sue

HS2—Neil Masom 28th Jan

Meeting was called to order by Mr President at 8.10 .During the break between courses, Brian advised the requirement for attendance at Presidents night on Friday 13th March at Hunters Lodge, Adlington. Sign up will via the web page and course selection will be available at the same time. Cost for this is £27.00 each, a reduction of some £5.00 on last year which was welcome news to members. John Sykes delivered a certificate to Harry for the Club to thank us for raising over \$1500.00 for the End Polio Now campaign. Bruce F reminded us of his request for help at B&Q Stockport on the 14th FEBRUARY with collecting on behalf of the Mercian Regiment benefit funds. Please turn up anytime between 10.00 and 16.00, a plea reiterated by Mr President

Once the mid session break was taken Dennis welcomed Mr Neil Masom as our speaker on the subject of HS2, who began by giving a brief background of himself. A Director of several companies following his retirement from BA systems he is now a part of the implementation management of the HS2 project involved in advice on strategy decisions and in holding the executive to account for time and cost related matters.

HS2 is viewed in one of two ways, either negatively with the views including waste of money, totally unnecessary, pipe dream, upgrade existing etc. Alternatively, the view can be taken that this is a visionary scheme leaving a legacy of a first class infrastructure in England which will help significantly in closing the North South divide resulting in it being seen as a good use of monies.

The need for additional capacity on the West Coast mainline is

agreed by all as the expected population of England will rise to 70 million in the foreseeable future up from 52 million in 2005. There is little chance of increasing the capacity of existing systems so a radical approach is needed.

The first phase of the HS2 line is planned to be operational in 2026 (assuming passage through parliament by the end of 2016) with the extension to Manchester and Leeds being completed in 2035. From 2026 the trains will use existing lines to the other destinations. When fully up and running the HS2 lines will be dedicated to the fast trains and no other traffic will use the line. As existing lines to London will have spare capacity (nearly everybody using the new line) additional freight will travel on these lines relieving the motorway network of heavy vehicles.

Travel to the station hubs will be part of the integrated system whereby passengers will be collected from home or other point of pick up on a Just In Time basis and delivered to the station at the correct time for their train. As each train, each up to a ¼ mile long and running up to 18 times an hour at speeds of up to 340KPH, will carry up to 1000 passengers in dedicated carriage sections (Business/leisure/cheap etc) it is essential they arrive on time and to their appropriate carriage as indicated on their tickets. 18 passenger groups have been identified as potential customers therefore the different carriage types. There will be no refreshments supplied on the train but these can be pre-ordered on line for collection prior to boarding the train. Ticket costs will be market driven – if there is enough demand then they will be in line with existing prices but if spare capacity then there may be offers.

Funding for the project is expected to be generated in the UK as there is no provision for help from Europe but there is discussion about using private finance for the rolling stock which is expected to be manufactured in Doncaster. David Higgins is Chairman of the HS2 project and has a history of delivering on time and on budget (he ran the Olympic Games delivery team).

After a few questions Dennis thanked Neil for his talk and the club showed its appreciation in the recognised manner

Harry reminded the meeting next week is committees before Bob Preece was the lucky winner of a free meal next time. The meeting closed at 10.30

Trevor

Club Officers and Committees

2014—2015

President—Harry Hill

Vice President—Gill Critchley

Secretary—Trevor Saville

Treasurer—Michael Lacey

Club Services—John Knowles

Vida Chattington,

International—John Thewlis

Sid Davies, Chris Monkhouse, David Rose

Community Service— Ron Malabon

Sue Preece, Abi Jenkins, John Sykes, Neil Loveland, Bruce Farrow, Tony Burch, Alan Newsome, Dennis Allport

Ways and Means – Bob Preece

Maggie Hill, Bob Stevenson, Peter Richardson, Pat Holmes, David Poizer, David Rabone, Bruce Bissell, David Burstow, John Meeus

Social— Brian Dougal

Caroline Egan, Dev Dev, Jan Edmonds

Communications—Ian Dobson

Gordon Jackson

Membership—Gill Critchley

Geoff Hunt

Foundation— Michael Lacey

District Representatives— John Sykes

H&S—David Burstow

Child Protection—David Rose

Bulletin—Gordon Jackson

Money isn't everything,
But it sure keeps the kids in touch.

Apologies

Please let us know if you are unable to attend a meeting. There are two ways of notifying us:

1. If you have enough notice, please fill in the apologies book which is available at every meeting
2. Send a short email to apologies@bwrotary.org.uk

Notification must be by midday on Tuesday or we are charged for the meal and must now pass this cost on.

Please notify Trevor and Gordon of any changes to personal details

The only dates that are confirmed are the following

Date	Diary	Bulletin
04/02/2015	Committees	P Richardson
18/02/2015	Traditional Chinese Culture	J Meeus
04/03/2015	Committees	D Rabone
11/03/2015	No meeting due to President's night	
13/03/2015	President's night. Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall	
01/04/2015	Committees	
06/05/2015	Committees	

Address/telephone details are now held on the members' area of the web site. Paper copies will be issued when there is a change.

Blind Run

Mrs Joan Goodall, 3 Poise Brook Drive, Offerton, SK2 5JG Tel: 456 2076
Cathy Denison, 47 Chester Croft Rd, Off Spath Lane East, Grove Lane,
Bramhall., Tel: 439 7559

Mr & Mrs Marshall, 62 Countess St., Heaviley, SK2 6HD. Tel. 482 4944.

Saturday prior to the Blind Run – Phone Cathy Dennison, Joan Goodall, Mrs Marshall and confirm they are going

Monday –

Driver 1- Collect Cathy, then Joan (suggest Cathy at around 1pm) to arrive at Walthew house before 1.30pm

Driver 2 – Collect the Marshall's (suggest 1pm to allow plenty of time for Mr Marshall to get in your car.-, to arrive at WH before 1.30pm or to Our Ladies if required.

Pickup – 3pm at Our Ladies if appropriate, 3.30pm at WH

Let John Sykes know if you get stuck.

If you cannot do your appointed duty, it is up to you to find a replacement.

Please carry your mobile phone in case of problems.

Cathy Dennison has advised that she will not be going to WH “until the weather improves”, she will phone John later in March when she wishes to start going again.

Date	Driver 1	Driver 2
02/02/2015	J Meeus	G Hunt
09/02/2015	J Knowles	J Sykes
16/02/2015	D Rose	D Allport
23/02/2015	B Preece	V Chattington
02/03/2015	D Burstow	R Malabon
09/03/2015	J Meeus	H Hill
16/03/2015	J Knowles	G Hunt
23/03/2015	D Rose	J Sykes
30/03/2015	B Preece	D Allport
06/04/2015	V Chattington	R Malabon
13/04/2015	D Burstow	H Hill
20/04/2015	J Meeus	G Hunt
27/04/2015	J Knowles	J Sykes
04/05/2015	D Rose	D Allport

Mr & Mrs Marshall want to go to Walthew House on alternate weeks, the other week they want to go to Our Ladies & the Apostles which is located near Greek Street, so is only a stones throw from WH. The activity at Our Ladies finishes at 3pm, it is run by volunteers and at 3pm all must leave and doors are locked so they must be picked up at 3pm.



Quiz night was a great success and won by the Round Tablers



The group 'Tone-Acity' (and Bruce) serenaded Harry at the Christmas party.



Downtown Abbey meets President's Drinks



Members gathered at Sweet Thought to pack the bags for Santa's float.

A night at CHADs theatre to see 'No Sex Please, We're British'



Neil Masom spoke eloquently about the HS2 project

Owing to the reduction in meeting numbers, the bulletin will now be produced quarterly. The next edition will be brought out at the start of May.