

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



Our President  
presided over an  
evening of  
edutainment

# Bulletin



Welcome to Pat, our newest member.



L-R: Navendu Mishra (visitor), Nick Mosley (Speaker from Mosley Jarman) and Peter Gray (visitor).



The stuffers struck again March ably assisting the staff of Waltheu House in their task of filling envelopes with their quarterly new sheet



[www.bwrotary.org](http://www.bwrotary.org)



Cutting the ribbon at Beacon Counselling's new office (see later)

Charity No. 1025767



## *Sue Speaking*

Well the secret is out – people living in Bramhall have a better average life expectancy than any other country in the world! (*Stockport Times 13/03/14*). Women in Bramhall South can expect to live to almost 88, men to 85. Our Rotary VP Harry, local GP, of course claims credit for this ever increasing healthy population!! This is in stark contrast to a huge disparity for people living in poorer areas – local Stockport boundaries embrace some of the most affluent areas in the country, but also some of the most deprived areas. Hence, Rotary can make a contribution to improving lives, especially for those living near to us!

That is why I am proud to call myself a Rotarian as I do believe we can make a difference whilst also having fun in the process. The average Rotary Club, just like ours, is made up of very un-average people. From time to time, friends, neighbours and acquaintances ask me “Why should anyone join Rotary?” I am sure there are lots of good answers to this question, especially on the Rotary web-sites but I decided to make my own list:

- fun
- friendship
- opportunity to give something back to the community
- absence of an ‘official creed’
- citizenship in the community
- entertainment
- citizenship of the world
- continuing education
- team work and skills development

I am sure I could go on at length, and many of you could also contribute profound answers but I think this list is a good start. In other words, whilst it is true that Rotary changes lives of the people we serve; it also changes the lives of Rotarians even more! So for me the question should be “Why not join Rotary?” So, we all need to get out there and make the residents of Bramhall, Woodford and Cheadle Hulme realise what they are missing! If we demonstrate a willingness to listen and to engage with youth and new members in our club, we can create a sense of shared ownership and shared responsibility for Rotary’s future.

**President Sue**

## Committees 5<sup>th</sup> Feb

After the usual excellent food from Lorraine and co., we had our February Committee Meeting. The Chairmen spoke as follows:

Membership (me) - nothing to report

Secretary (Jan) - nothing to report

Treasurer (Michael, standing in for Gill, skiving in the States) - the Charity account has £4300 available, and the General account has £1180

Ways and Means (Bob) - the Duck Race preparations are now very much under way. We will have dates to sell tickets in various supermarkets in the area, stalls are selling well under Ian's expert guidance, traffic issues are not yet resolved but a great deal of work is being put into this area, and the publicity campaign is starting shortly.

Community Service (Trevor) - Walthew House wanted volunteers for bag-packing at the weekend, and has a Ten-pin Bowling contest on March 18th at Parrs Wood. We were reminded of our dismal record last year, but we have enough volunteers for two teams.

International and Foundation (Michael again) - everything is going smoothly, and we shall have a dinner with international students. We are encouraged to take them under our wings, but there is no compulsion!

Club Services (John K) - delighted that we all remembered to bring the extra £1 as the weekly charge rises to £11. We are reminded of the importance of the Apologies system: absence or extra mouths to feed MUST be emailed to [apologies@Bramhall-Woodford-Rotary.org.uk](mailto:apologies@Bramhall-Woodford-Rotary.org.uk) before 1pm on Tuesday in order that Lorraine can obtain and prepare the right amount of food. Failure to meet this deadline will mean that the meal MUST be paid for at the next meeting you attend, although sudden emergencies will be looked on with compassion.

Social (John S) - the visit to CHADS to see Brassed Off was a success in every sense. A small surplus will be added to

the Charity Account. President's Night will take place as announced at Adlington Hall on March 14th. We are committed to 60 places, so bring your friends!

Following all this good work we were treated to not one but two Sergeants-at-arms, the result of a minor communication glitch. So we had stereo fines as John T and Tony took turns to invent misdemeanours and everybody suffered.

With no significant AOB, President Sue closed the meeting at a smidgeon after 10.30.

## Harry

---

### Social Media 12th Feb

President Sue opened the evening with her usual warm welcome then invited Sid to say Grace - which he did very effectively!

Maggie had made a supply of beautifully decorated cupcakes so that we could all help John T celebrate his birthday! As it turned out, there were two more birthday boys - Chris M & Brian D - so Maggie's cakes went down well!

Lorraine & team presented us with the usual delightful meal, but where were my chips?

David P welcomed Pat H here again - no crutches this time!, then read out the list of apologies - holidays, health, work - even bad weather were the excuses! David then went to sit down until someone reminded him he hadn't welcomed his dear wife as a guest!



After coffee we reassembled for the presentation by Abi & Gordon on `Social Media`. This started with a slight panic as a cable was missing from the set-up & Gordon, Brian & Abi were struggling to get the show up & running. Abi had to be taxied home & back to collect the missing cable, but in the meantime Gordon

gave us a very good introduction to explain all about `Facebook`. It all started as a means of communication between University students but very quickly developed World-wide. Abi then returned with the `missing link` & she then gave a very good detailed description of how Facebook works & the benefits it can provide. Thanks to a question from Sid, Abi explained in clear detail how to `get on` to Facebook, & even I could understand it! (I can just about cope with E-mails so I don't think I will be joining -but, who knows, watch this space!)

We'd been encouraged to bring along our I-pads & things, & at this point Gill used hers to join in with a message `I'm cold! When can I go home?`

Over all, very interesting - well done Abi & Gordon!

Bruce F then took over as Sergeant at Arms & squeezed £1 out of each of us - mostly for just being there!

Jan then informed us that as Sec she had just received a Xmas card from the Mayor!

John M told us he recently attended a `Pride of Stockport` event where 8 presentations were made - two being Millie`s Trust & Wellspring - well done to them both!

Sue closed the meeting at 10.20pm

**Peter**



---

## Facebook for the petrified!

I know there's been a presentation recently from Abi and Gordon about Facebook and if you haven't tried it yet I thought I would share with you how I joined this social media, its merits and perhaps what the uninitiated should be aware of. I joined Facebook (fb) in 2008 mainly to keep in closer contact with my family living in various corners of the world and also hopefully to contact our friends from the time we lived abroad. However as with most things, I found there were some surprising ad-

vantages of being a part of fb that I hadn't even dreamed of, as well as a few vague irritations along the way.

**Is it simple to join?** I don't mind playing around on my laptop and one day I decided to Google Facebook just out of curiosity more than anything. It seemed pretty easy to join, just answering a few obvious questions and setting a password and voila you are suddenly a part of what is now a group of over a 1 billion active users or "friends" from around the world! Once you become a fb user you quickly get used to its layout and how you send and receive quick messages and pictures.

**How secure is it?** It seems secure to me. The secret I think is to be aware of what information you are putting down about yourself on any website - and this includes fb too. Fb likes to ask questions about you to discover your profile and so I would suggest you include as much, (**or as little**), information that is appropriate for you. A lot of people of our age group are nervous about this but you can please yourself how much detail you give. Personally, I don't believe in telling the world how old I am, my telephone number or exactly where I live, so my answers to those questions have always remained blank.

**Profiling and its possible advantages.** To increase your profile even more fb offers you the opportunity of inserting some of your favourite things like..... TV shows, films, sports, places you have visited, books, music, and inspirational people etc. It suggests choices for you and all you do is tick the ones you like. I don't bother with any of these, but recently found it extremely helpful when trying very hard to find a birthday present for my grandson in the US (this was one of its surprising advantages). Not having an idea as to what he wanted, as a last resort I went on to his fb page for some clues and he had fortunately put some of his "favourites" on it (you find young

people do this more than our age group) and there at the top of his list was the TV show **Top Gear** featured as one of his favourites .....DVD birthday present sorted - and grandson delighted!

**You choose your friends.** You can choose the “friends” that you want to be in contact with – again fb almost does this for you, synchronizing your email contacts into your fb page, asking permission from your contact that you want them to be a fb friend. “Friend making” can only happen if both sides want it to. Be aware that it’s possible that you could get requests to be “friends” from friends of friends who you don’t really know and it’s ok to just ignore them. Some people have just two or three “friends”, some have 15-20 and some (especially teenagers) have hundreds or even thousands! Fb cleverly takes you gently by the hand in all these procedures - and it’s easy.

**What you can do on fb.** Once you become a user you can now tell all your friends about your holidays, your work, hobbies, celebrations, where you like to visit, what local restaurants you like, etc. You can easily download photographs of vacations, trips and family groups, etc. Unlike emails, comments are usually short and to the point and can sometimes quickly open up a conversation with many worldwide friends. The ripple effect of this can sometimes be quite astonishing and fun. If you see something that a friend has posted that you really like, you don’t even have to make a comment for them to know you’ve have seen it because underneath each new comment or picture there are two tiny words - “like” and “comment”. By just clicking on the word “like”, your friend’s fb will show them you have seen and liked their comment or “post”. I really do value the ability fb gives me in keeping me in close contact with family and close friends both near and far.



**A surprising benefit .** A great advantage we as a family have found recently was quite unexpected. Many of you will know that my son Andy is on a lifelong medical diet. The manufacturer of his special low protein foods have just recently joined Facebook and now what used to be a large international and faceless organisation is now a familiar, friendly and colourful “friend” who gives support and diet suggestions, asks the opinions of its customers, supplies recipes and gives loads of information about its open days and cookery demonstrations. This has made an enormous positive difference to Andy and probably to thousands of other customers on medical diets and to also many hospitals throughout the UK. As an advertising tool it must be invaluable to the organisation, and it also gives hugely beneficial support to its customers. As a consequence I see a great value to the local community for Rotary to be part of fb. What better way of advertising in a friendly, colourful and attractive way a club’s local fund-raising events or even perhaps attracting new members?

**Any negatives?** A couple of irritations (I suppose nothing can be perfect)..... a casual friend started to monopolise fb with advertising pictures of her rather awful knitted items for sale, and a young relative of ours started downloading a lot of risky drunken photographs of herself. So I decided the time had come to “unfriend” these people – which again was quite easy to do. They don’t know you have done it so there’s no long term harm done!

**The essence is - YOU decide what you want to see, and what YOU want other people to read about you - and all is ok.**

I haven’t even mentioned the games you can play, the birthdays you can record, or the amusing YouTube mini films you

Continued 

can view. So, if one day you fancy having a play with Facebook, give it a try. It's easy to join, it's intuitive to use, you can use it as much or as little as you feel comfortable and it keeps you in touch with everyone – well, almost everyone!

## Olive

---

### **Mosley Jarman 19 Feb**

The Bulletin this week starts at Dinner as your writer arrived late and took over from Sid who very kindly offered to do the Bulletin if I had been very late. On arrival Sid in true Rotary style said “nothing to report”!!

There was a new arrangement for the buffet dinner with a Menu sheet placed on the table which nobody looked at because most diners were asking as to what was in the various dishes. However a good idea which if expanded might speed up the queue.

Brian Dougal was toasted and wished a happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday for which he very generously provided the wine

There was an excellent turn out, about 40 including our guests, namely, Nick Mosley the speaker for the evening, Peter Gray and Navendu Mishra, guests of VP Harry and Pat Holmes guest of Vida.

John Knowles reported on the question absenteeism, not apologised, this was followed by a short debate and finalised with a statement that the principal of ‘No Show One Pays Next Week’, would be adopted unless it was a ‘serious’ reason. The degree of seriousness assumed to be determined by the House Chairperson!

With dinner complete and her Majesty toasted there followed the coffee break. All reassembled at about 9.40

Tony Burch introduced the speaker, Nick Mosley senior partner of Mosley Jarman Estate Agents in Bramhall, with great enthusiasm. He stated that Nick had a totally different and fresh approach to property sales and continued with one of the best promotions of any speakers business that the Club had ever

heard also possibly one of the longest. He did at the end say that Nick had sold a property of his within two weeks of it going on the market!!!!

(Somebody said they heard the words 'commission' and 'promotion' mumbled quietly but I don't believe that!!!)

Nick came to Bramhall at the tender age of 14 and first lived in Bridge Lane and then Moor Lane. Following school years he embarked on a career in Estate Agency with Bridgefords in Cheadle then to Edgeley followed by a very busy branch in Manchester city centre. Then back to Gascoigne Halman in Cheadle. It was there that he decided, that although he wanted to stay in the business, he wanted something with more of a challenge where he could adopt (as Tony B had said) a fresh and different approach to property sales. He realised there was only one way he could achieve this and that was to open his own agency in the area which he knew so well; Bramhall. The plunge was taken in June 2011 when the housing market was still at a low ebb. Although interest rates were at their lowest for several years mortgages were only available with big deposits consequently FirstTime buyers, the very root movement of property sales, were practically non-existent. However with his vast experience of the market and the area, Mosley Jarman Estate Agents opened in Moss Lane. Nick had the words "What on earth have I done?", in his mind and the words of others saying "must be barmy" ringing in his ears. However he set out with a small staff, and a 15 hour day, in targeting houses which were not selling by other agents. Success followed success and he now has an excellent and loyal staff of 11 assistants who have the same professional attitude to their clients as himself. Furthermore the team as a whole is firstly and only dedicated to selling properties and is not involved with mortgages or insurance policies. The success storey continues in so far that we will shortly be seeing an Estate Agency in Wilmslow with the name Mosley Jarmon over the window.

A few questions followed and can be summarised by Nick saying that Bramhall prices had increased, compared with other localities, due to its accessibility, a 'high street' well stocked with

shops and restaurants, (*not to mention the Charity Outlets, Rep's words*) easy road and transport connections to the city and airport and easy access to rural Cheshire and most important a good spread across the price range, demonstrated by an average price of £360K. The Government had helped the first time buyers with the low cost mortgage scheme but it could do a lot more to improve the market by a considerable review of the property tax. The increase in same price range properties for sale, on the South side of Bramhall, i.e. Woodford and environs, was not due to The Woodford Aerospace sale, but to the lack of first time buyers giving a push from the other end of the market.

He concluded that he was pleased, in spite of what his accountant said, to support the Duck Race as he felt it would, not only assist Rotary in its endeavours, but further help his recognition in the area as an independent Estate Agent.

Tony B gave a much shorter vote of thanks for an interesting and illuminating talk on a different form of successful estate agency.

Michael, as Sgt at Arms extracted an excellent amount of money from the assembled company and VP Harry closed the meeting at 10.40.

**John Meeus**

---

## **The Philippine Disasters 26th Feb**



Our meeting on 26th February was very well attended, particularly so because we welcomed 9 members of RC Cheadle , 1 from RC Poynton, and Pat Holmes once again. All had come to listen to Christine Casser, a Maltese lady of tender years studying for her PhD at Manchester University.

Our meeting started with a Jewish grace from David Rose, and followed with several business items whilst food was awaited. Har-

ry Hill, for Trevor, asked for help with envelope stuffing the following Tuesday at Walthew House. John T. Suggested that the club should pay for the entrance money for the forthcoming 10 pin bowling match against Walthew House's partially sighted players. It was agreed that half the £12.50 fee per person would be provided. The same John noted that Bramall Hall would be closed for 18 months over 2015 for renovations. It was hoped that this would not stop the Duck Race as the park would still be open. Belgian Consul John M arrived in time to enjoy a dessert. It is not known if he was charged for a part meal!

Our speaker Christine had represented the Disaster Aid organisation in the Philippines in 2013 in a team assessing needs to provide targeted aid. The Philippines, a country of many islands, suffered a major earthquake on the island of Bohol on October 15, 2013. This left 210 dead, 900 injured and thousands displaced. Devastation was severe with infrastructure destroyed, concrete buildings reduced to rubble, bridges down and landslides. Many people wanted tents close by their wrecked homes to safeguard their plots of land and remaining possessions. There was no single solution of aid. The team was able to assess individual needs and help to supply them. Shortly after the earthquake, a massive typhoon, one of the strongest ever recorded, hit other islands. The devastation here was much worse, with over 500 dead and 13 million affected. Disaster Aid provided corrugated iron, wood, plywood, nails and hammers to help the local people build shelters and repair their homes. The help provided was decided after consultation with those affected. Tents were not their chosen priority. Aid delivery to small islands was very difficult and small boats were used where possible.

In all, a picture of unimaginable devastation was outlined and the £7000 raised by RCs of Bramhall & Woodford and Cheadle seemed a small, but very worthwhile, contribution when measured against the need.

The evening ended with Geoff Hunt relieving members of the customary levies for real and concocted demeanours.

**Dennis**

## Committees 5<sup>th</sup> March

President Sue introduced the Committee night which was somewhat sparsely attended by one guest and 21 members, a surprising number of whom remembered the full Rotary grace. The meal seemed better than ever with 4 "mains".

Chris introduced the international toast to the French Club Sainte Foy la Grande. The tenuous connection to the club which Chris had not visited, although he had spent time in village, was that his great aunt Dora had taught there. Vida listed the apologies of holidaying members, notably Brian and Jan who were celebrating 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays with a 2 week cruise, it was romantically suggested, to Stoke on Trent. Vida was unsure whether Bob S. was eating turkey or being eaten by mosquitos in Turkey. Having received a kick in the shin by way of an aide memoir, Vida introduce Pat (sorry didn't note your surname } for the 5<sup>th</sup> time. It was announced Pat would be inducted as a member on 19<sup>th</sup> March which was greeted with a round of applause, a first said Michael who knows about these things.

While waiting for pud. John Meeus confused the meeting in his customary style, by announcing his planned holiday. John Sykes said that the Presidents night was well in hand and that attendees now numbered over 70. Ian advised that the speaker on 19<sup>th</sup> March was a retired member of the Special Branch which caused consternation to some members. The apologies on the night may be illuminating. Michael complained at length about a complex envelop stuffing afternoon at Walthew house when he had been misguided and misled. This did not seem to create the expected tsunami of sympathy.

Then followed the committee reports after coffee which were mercifully short, no doubt because everything was in good order rather than nothing had been done.

Harry complained that his thunder had been stolen by Sue as Pat's induction had been announced. Gill reported that there was £4500 in the charity account of which £3000 had been allocated to the Dragons Den venture, £500 for others, leaving

£1000 unallocated. There is £1600 in the general account which includes a £400 subsidy for Presidents night.

Bob P. for Ways and Means reported that arrangements for the Duck Race were well in hand. The bouncy castle issue had been resolved and demand for stalls and by entertainments was buoyant. Flyers were being produced and the park and ride arrangements had been finalised. This provoked a long discussion by members who, stimulated by the mention that the arrangements had been finalised, made a large number of unhelpful alternative suggestions. It was suggested that a request be made of friends of Rotary for help on the day and Caroline asked for help at the family day in the park at Easter.

Trevor reported that, unfortunately as Tony had been struck down at the last moment and was a late apology, we were unable to progress arrangements for the Dragons Den. Arrangements for the photo completion were pressing which is likely to be held late May or June. Time to clear the footpaths is approaching and the state of the paths will be checked. A question was raised over the proposal to spend £500 on a notice for the Friends of Parkside project which Trevor deflected by saying it would be discussed at the next council meeting.

Michael for International said he was arranging a speaker on Syria and requested £250 for Wateraid in Tanzania. He said work had started on an international concert on the 25<sup>th</sup> September which would include a meal at EGOs and would be a fantastic night. Unusually, very briefly, Ian announced that a press release for the Duck Race had been published by the Stockport Express and Vida reminded everyone that there was no meeting next week on account of Presidents night. John S. had nothing further to add on social. John Meeus tested support for a trip to the motherland (Belgium) to commemorate the great war and got a good response.

Harry with customary unfairness fined everyone. The meeting ended at 10.15pm.

**Bruce the younger**

## Abenta School Building Finished ...on time



**'Village by Village' are a charity we have supported in the past. Here is an update on their work in Ghana.**

**This is the first step on a difficult road that will bring education to children and pride to the community of Abenta, a village with real problems... We are so proud of all our volunteers, staff, funders we did it !**

I've just returned from Ghana where we finished building the first primary school block, part of a six phase plan of development in the remote rural village of Abenta, Ghana, West Africa.

We in the developed world can make a difference if we really work with communities in poverty and not just think we know best. Village by Village's staff and volunteers live in these villages in poverty, roll their sleeves up and work shoulder to shoulder with the local community to fix the problems they have identified. We do not subcontract the issues to a third party and hope they make a good job of it, we put ourselves in harms way to ensure we get it right. We do not always get it right, but because we live in these communities we eventually put it right.

**One of the most amazing things I learnt was: how ownership works.** We are a very small charity and we do not have much money and we are tight with it! We only plaster the outside of buildings not the inside as plaster helps stop rain erosion etc . This saves us a few hundred pounds and we can use that cement on another project. At the opening ceremony and rather craftily the Head Master of Abenta told the community (in local language) the reason we did not plaster



GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE  
AKUAPEM-NORTH MUNICIPAL EDUCATION OFFICE

In case of reply the  
number and date of this  
letter should be quoted

My Ref. No : GES/ER/ADD:

Your Ref. No : \_\_\_\_\_



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

POST OFFICE BOX 102  
AKROPONG - AKUAPE  
TEL. 0872 - 22197

18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 201


THE DIRECTOR  
VILLAGE BY VILLAGE  
**ACCRA**

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

The Municipal Directorate is most grateful to the 'Village By Village' Not For Profit Organization for your demonstration of being a critical stakeholder in Education by providing a three (3) unit classroom Block and Computer Laboratory for Abenta Methodist Primary School.

Once again, on behalf of the Director General of Ghana Education Service, the Regional Director, Ghana Education Service, the Akuapem North Municipal Education Directorate and indeed the community of Abenta. We deeply appreciate your intervention.

Thank you very much

  
.....  
**J.Y. KISSI-TWUM (REV)**  
MUNICIPAL DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
AKUAPEM-NORTH

the insides of the classrooms was because the charity was testing the community to see if they were a community worth supporting. One by one, 25 pence at a time, the community filled up a bucket with just under £70. This wasn't the first time the community helped, They helped us build it by providing free labour, they collected stones, sand and water. But we never thought of asking them for hard cash. You just do not think of asking a village in poverty in Africa to give you money. They have now taken ownership of that building which means they will look after it, this is true partnership working, this is how it should be.

# Members' Pages

## April 2014

The next 4 pages are not present in the email version

### 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](mailto: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 Jan Edmonds and Gordon of any changes to these details

Website: [www.bwrotary.org](http://www.bwrotary.org)

Email to all members (who have email):  
[bwrotary@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bwrotary@yahoogroups.com)

#### Other email addresses:

Council members (and Gordon): [bwCouncil@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bwCouncil@yahoogroups.com)

Ways & Means Committee: [waysgp@bwrotary.org.uk](mailto:waysgp@bwrotary.org.uk)

Items for inclusion in the Bulletin to Gordon  
(Accompanied by large amounts of cash)

# Club Officers and Committees 2013—2014

**President—Sue Preece**  
**Vice President—Harry Hill**  
**Secretary—Jan Edmonds**  
**Treasurer—Gill Critchley**

## **Club Services—John Knowles**

Vida Chattington, Caroline Egan, David Poizer

## **International—Michael Lacey**

David Burstow, Sid Davies, Geoff Hunt, Chris Monkhouse, David Rose

## **Community Service— Trevor Saville**

Dennis Allport, , Bruce Bissell, Tony Burch, David Rabone, Bob Stevenson, Bruce Farrow

## **Ways and Means – Bob Preece**

Dev Dev, Maggie Hill, Abida Jenkins, Ron Malabon, John Meeus, Alan Newsome, Peter Richardson, John Thewlis, Pat Holmes

## **Social— John Sykes**

Gill Critchley, Neil Loveland,

## **Communications—Ian Dobson**

Brian Dougal, Gordon Jackson

## **Membership—Harry Hill**

Jan Edmonds

Foundation— TBA

District Representatives— John Sykes

H&S—David Burstow

Child Protection—David Rose

Bulletin—Gordon Jackson

## **Open day at the Crematorium**

When I had the large DIY yard at Cheadle, Stockport I used to have a full page advert in the local paper and used to insert the odd stupid thing such as spoof letters of recommendation etc. I am still told now, over twenty years later that my adverts were missed for their humour. Now there was a Stockport Councillor called Leonard Singer who, for some unknown reason took a virulent dislike to Roscoes (my business) and, being on the Planning and Environmental Health Committees made life difficult for me by resisting any planning applications etc. He was a great self publicist and every week there would be news of his activities. He specialized in aircraft noise, girls riding horses on verges, dog dirt etc. He had brief notoriety when the Inland Revenue went on strike by going on the train to London to pay his Income Tax (a sure sign of insanity). In fairness he did play the organ at sing-alongs in old peoples' homes.

Now Birmingham City Council, at this time, were criticized in the press for opening a shop and this coincided with Councillor Singer announcing that there was to be an "Open Day at the Crematorium" on a certain Saturday so I took this opportunity to get back at him by announcing in my advert that –

"As a counter attraction to Councillor Singer's opening of the Crematorium Roscoes would be demonstrating their "DIY Cremation Kit" and that Mr. Willy Singit would be demonstrating it at 10am sharp on Saturday and urging people to be on time as he was strictly limited to one performance only".

The next edition of the Stockport Express had a banner headline on its front page stating – "Councillor slams tasteless advert" which brought us valuable publicity.

In my next advert I also had a large heading – "Apology to Councillor Singer"

In which I apologized for any offence caused but saying that we had to object to the Council engaging in commercial activities. "Where will it end?" I asked – will it be "Afternoons at the abattoir" next, or "Tea on the refuse tip" or "An afternoon with the rat catcher", "A day with the dustmen" "Soirees at the sewage works".

A letter along these lines was also published in the Express

I also explained the Roscoes had been taken in by Mr Singit who turned out to be a conman and the DIY Cremation Kit had turned out to be merely a bag of barbeque charcoal, a bottle of methylated spirit and a box of Swan Vestas matches.

Shortly afterwards I received a letter from the Advertising Authority stating that they had received a complaint about our advert. I ignored the letter.

Some time later it was announced the Councillor Singer was leaving to live in Teneriffe . He had, in fact left his wife for a younger woman and was going to manage a block of flats in Teneriffe.

I sent to the Stockport Express a letter and poem which, surprisingly they printed.

It was Headed – ODE TO LEN and it said –

The feature by Rosey Bailey on Councillor Len Singer's imminent departure for Teneriffe prompts me to submit the following on this sad occasion –

“ No more an open day at Stockport Crem  
Organised by Councillor Len;  
No more will girls on vicious gee-gees  
Be stopped despoiling Cheadle's verges.  
Great big doggies doing their jobbies  
Will foul our Parks and streets and lobbies'  
Big loud aircraft low o'head  
Will disturb our tranquil beds.  
No one will go and that's a fact  
Hotfoot to London to pay his tax.  
O – don't go with your young birdie  
To the shade of big Mount Teidi  
You should be a Parliamentarian  
Joining all those other comedians  
- In Westminster  
(With apologies to the Poet Laureate)

Sid Davies, Roscoes of Cheadle.

Eventually the Advertising Authority sent me a letter saying that they had considered the advert and decided that it had not caused offence and no action would be taken.

I replied saying that I apologized for not responding to their various letters as I found that the best way to deal with embarrassing correspondence was to ignore it completely. I therefore trusted that “nobody would rake over the embers” and that I was glad the matter had now “burnt itself out” etc. etc.

It did the business a power of good. Such publicity would have cost us dear.

**Sid**

## A bag of tools

Isn't it strange that princes and kings  
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings  
And ordinary folk like you and me  
Are builders of eternity

To each is given a bag of tools  
An hour glass and a bag of tools  
Each must build ere their time is flown  
A stumbling block.....or a stepping stone

**President's Night** at Adlington Hall was attended by 62 people (23 Rotarians included) and provided a great evening of entertainment.

Mark Hunter was unable to join us but very kindly donated a bottle of House of Commons Whisky for us to use to raise funds for charity. We played "roll a £1 coin" across the dance floor – very slippery and many coins found the far side of the dance floor rather than the intended target.

We raised £40; nearest to the bottle and therefore the winner was Steve Sanderson, a guest of Michael. Steve most generously handed me the bottle back and insisted we use it again at another event to increase our Charity coffers further.

The food was of a very high standard and 'Elvis' did a fantastic job. Well done to John Sykes for the organization.



## How to solve the economic crisis - Case study

Small seaside resort in the south of France is having a hard time with the recession. The proprietor of a small hotel is wondering how he is going to survive when in walks a wealthy Russian and asks for a room.

The proprietor says he has a nice room on the third floor – cost 100 Euros. The Russian says he must inspect the room first. Puts a 100 Euro note on the reception desk and is directed to the third floor.

As soon as he is out of sight the landlord picks up the note and hurries to the butcher to whom he owes 100 Euros and gives him the note. As soon as he has gone the butcher rushes to the farmer nearby and gives him the note as he is overdue in paying for his meat.

The farmer takes the note and gives it to the local prostitute who had given him favours on credit. She in turn hurries to the hotel to whom she owes 100 Euros for rental of a room on several occasions and puts the note on the reception desk..

Just as she is leaving the Russian descends the stairs and tells the landlord that the room is not suitable. He picks up his 100 Euro note and departs.

Result – no one has borrowed or stolen any money but everyone is now free of debt and the seaside resort is looking forward to better times ahead.

“It is easier to run a revolution than a government.”— Ferdinand Marcos, former president of the Philippines

“It is doubly tainted. Taint yours and taint mine.”— Mark Twain, when challenged on the wealth of his friend, Standard Oil magnate H.H. Rogers, as being ‘tainted’

## **An actor's life for me**

A matelot has a 48 hour pass from his ship in Portsmouth. He lives in Kendal and as it's too far away to go home he decides he will have some time in the countryside away from the sea. So he gets a bus into the Hampshire countryside and gets off at a nice village and books in to a B&B for the night.

He wanders down the main street and sees the church hall is open so goes in where there is a snooker table and the locals invite him to have a game. Whilst he's playing the Vicar comes in looking agitated and spots him. He makes a bee line to him, welcomes him and after some conversation he asks the matelot - " I wonder if you would do me a great favour ?" The matelot asks him what favour and the Vicar explains that once a year the amateur dramatic society from the next village come and give a play in the village hall and they had just phoned him to say one of their cast was ill and could the Vicar get a replacement. He explains that he doesn't want a local as it would spoil the effect.

The matelot explains he has no acting experience at all and the Vicar assures him the part is just one line.

Reluctantly the matelot agrees and for the rest of the day he is beset with nerves at the thought of acting in front of a lot of people. He is told that all he has to do is, on a signal from the wings to rush onto the stage and say "Hark ! - is that a pistol shot I hear ?"

He repeats this line over and over again and in the evening goes to the church hall, getting more and more nervous. He stands behind the curtain in the wings whilst the play goes on. And so - he gets the signal from the other wing—rushes onto the stage and shouts -

" Hark - is that a shittle pot, I hear ?, No I mean a posstle shit, No - a shistle shap. O bugger - I didn't want to be an actor anyway "

**Sid**



## Bowling along

We fielded two teams of four for the Walthew House cup on the 19th March, Harry's Helpers (Harry, Ron, Sue and Bob) and Michael's Marauders (Ian, Gill, Gordon and Trevor). We arrived to find that the event had attracted quite a bit of interest and sponsorship which allowed 16 teams to take part. Walthew House had laid on refreshments with a good supply of different blindfolds and spectacles to simulate eye problems. A very enjoyable morning and this time, we weren't all rubbish even



though we were well below the score obtained by the blind teams. Michael's Marauders came fourth but in the true spirit of upholding everything dear to Rotary principles, Harry's team did come last.

### From Kathryn Sheldon:

Just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone for making yesterday such a great day.

We were absolutely delighted with the support we received! I hope you all enjoyed the experience.

As well as providing a great experience, the day was also about raising much needed funds to support our work.

I'm delighted to let you know that you all helped us to raise over £1,500! Thank you so much!

## **A Great Lesson on Stress**

A young lady confidently walked around the room while leading and explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'half empty or half full?'... She fooled them all .... "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile.

Answers called out ranged from 8 oz - 20 oz. She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it.

If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem.

If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.

In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes". She continued, "and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced.

So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night... Pick them up tomorrow.

**Dennis**



Capital Properties are proposing a giant inflatable duck be placed on the roof of the Village Square for two weeks ahead of our race day. Brilliant!



Mark Hunter opened the new Greek Street premises of Beacon counselling which were funded by a lottery grant of £300,000. Bruce is on the board of trustees and has worked closely with the manager James (right) to put the bid together.

---

### **Special Branch March 19th**

The evening started with John Knowles saying grace and this was followed by the announcement that the numerous bottles of wine populating the tables, was by courtesy of Bob Preece who was celebrating a special birthday. President Sue was coy on the subject, just telling us that he was “fifty plus VAT”.

Michael offered the view that our speaker would be unlikely to be able to answer any questions at all at the end of his talk, being ‘Special Branch’ !!

‘Visitors and Delinquents’ report told us that we had a ‘plethora’, no less, of lady visitors – Pam, Kay, Oriane, Pat and Mary (Monkhouse).

There then followed a humorous discussion about the varying degrees of success we had in the ‘Blind Bowling’ match against the Walthew House teams. Much of this was indecipherable to anyone who had not attended, with talk of varying degrees of

artificial 'blindness' imposed (temporarily) on the 'sighted' team. Harry felt that it was part of our Rotary duty to make people 'feel better' and so losing, fulfilled this objective admirably ! The H & S implications of our teams 'temporary blindness' were then amusingly aired.

Vida called for volunteers to plant daffodils and was underwhelmed by the response - but the two of them will no doubt do a good job !

President Sue again thanked all concerned for an excellent Presidents Night. Sue then told us of a survey which named Bramhall as the best place to live and reach a ripe old average age. Eighty eight was the figure mentioned. This was fifteen years longer than Brinnington quite close by. Harry, of course, claimed credit for longevity in Bramhall !!



After the meal, Pat Holmes was inducted as a member of Rotary, in the usual manner and warmly welcomed by the Club. Sue had done the maths, and informed us that ladies now represented 20% of our membership.

Ian introduced Rod Deveraux, our speaker. Rod is an ex Rotarian of the Handforth & Heald Green Club and had twice served as President. He complimented us on being the most relaxed club he had visited. Rod's career in the police started in Moss Side and he worked his way through Drugs (squad !), Vice and CID. In the CID he had been involved in both the Moors Murders and the Yorkshire Ripper, investigations. On one occasion he received a call to say that a body had been found, "where" he asked, "Southern Cemetery" came the reply

- 'oh yes' he said !! It was though, another Ripper victim. Rod then wanted a new challenge, but rejected 'horses' and 'dogs' and then an acquaintance suggested Special Branch. "what do you do" he asked, "can't tell you" came the reply, but he joined, only to sit and do nothing for four months after an extensive interview, whilst his past was thoroughly checked for 'skeletons' in the closet. Whilst talking of closets, he was also asked if he was gay. When he joined, there was a team of 36 in what is now known as CTU (counter terrorism unit) but now there are four hundred more. They gather information from agents and pass the intelligence to MI5, MI6 and SIS. He was taught to think like a spy and in fact was taught in London by Michael Bettany, who turned out to be a Russian spy himself.



There was IRA activity in the area, and they actually watched whilst terrorists buried an arms cache in Dunham Forest and there was another in Macclesfield Forest. Rod ran around 13/14 agents at a time, when he was assigned to the Middle East Desk, and these were Libyans whom he approached as a 'Home Office representative', there to assist them in Britain. When he had gained their trust, they gave him information about others that the security services

were keeping an eye on.

He told us numerous interesting stories including a bomb in Whalley Range where a bomb disposal team arrived from Liverpool and it exploded, singeing the Major who was trying to make it safe. He had royal duties too, finding himself accidentally in a lift with HRH Prince Charles and Di on a visit to the Halle in Manchester.

Rod was a very enthusiastic and interesting speaker, who could very obviously have carried on talking much longer.

John Meeus, as Sgt @ Arms then asked anyone who had ever had a motoring or parking fine to stand. Most of us did, Harry was one of the good boys who escaped, but I think everyone paid up in the end, so that was 'all fine', then. John was also prevailed upon to tell us of his recent meeting with the King and Queen of Belgium and actually really went quite dreamy eyed when describing her ....!

The excellent meeting closed, on time as usual.

**Chris Monkhouse**

### Changes to Bramhall Square

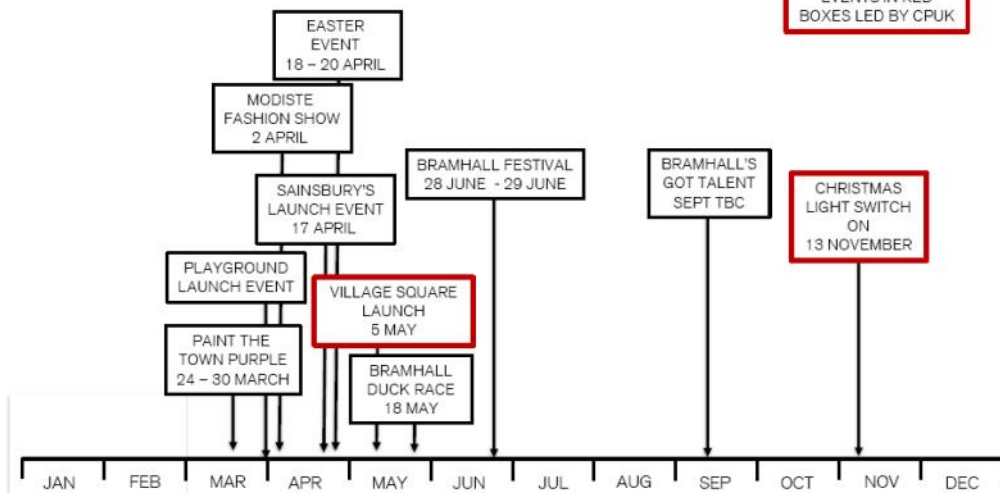
Members may have seen the new play area in the precinct (sorry, the Village Square) but many more events (inc. our duck race) are planned over the coming months by the owners Capital Properties.

Here's a timeline:



#### TIMELINE OF EVENTS 2014

EVENTS IN RED BOXES LED BY CPUK



## **25 Years ago**

The Bulletins for February and March 1989 (Vol 2 Nos 11 &12) have the usual mix of events. The secretary told how quickly his son got the hang of skiing prior to the trip to Scotland. Rotary Wives were planning a cruise on the canal (or the “cut” as it is known in the Black Country). Disgusted of Tonbridge Wells wrote another of his letters to the editor. One of the speakers was a gentleman who had received a new heart at Wythenshawe hospital. This was in the pioneering days of transplants. Our newest member at the time gave a job talk on Polaris submarines. His Navy career culminated in the command of a nuclear missile submarine. Those of you who have seen documentaries on the “Perisher” course will know that it is not for everyone to be able to captain a submarine. A seemingly quite man Hugh explained why he would press the button if necessary as he believed deterrence helped us to enjoy our freedom. A three year analysis of raffle winners showed Bruce Bissell as one of the five who had never won a bottle of wine. The raffle had started as a means of clearing our debts from the early days of the club. It was reported that the Festival had raised £4700 which was shared by Rotary, Round Table and the NSPCC. Members were invited to cycle along the soon to be opened motorway from Portwood to Denton. The Bulletin reporter complained that sitting next to the President was a health hazard as he was deafened by vigorous ringing of the bell. The Past District Governor caused a certain amount of despondency by heading his talk with one word – poetry. He actually spoke about The Rubayat of Omar Kiyam which is the story of three boys in Persia. The poem has 75 verses each of 4 lines and is apparently more often quoted than the bible. It gave rise to the words assassin and Hashish.

**Ron**

## Letters to the bulletin

In today's Telegraph ( March 26<sup>th</sup> 2014) there is the obituary of AirCommodore Jack Holmes who in 1943 rescued the crew of a Coastal Command Fortress aircraft which had sunk a German U-boat U417 north of the Shetlands. Their plane had been damaged by the U-boat.

With great courage and skill Jack Holmes landed his Catalina flying boat in a rough sea and rescued the eight crew. Realising he could not take off with the extra weight, he jettisoned fuel and eventually managed to take off and reach the Shetlands.

At lunchtime I listened on the radio to our politicians screaming at each other in Parliament like naughty schoolboys and became very depressed. It seems a generation of lions is gradually departing leaving a lot of donkeys to protect our land and our heritage.

Jack Holmes' story reminded me of my relative by marriage – Air Vice Marshall Wilf Oulton who died in 1997 (born 1911). He was brought up in Abertillery in south Wales where his father taught at the school there. He is mentioned in the book – Coastal Command as having sunk three U boats in the Bay of Biscay and coincidentally they were U463, U563 and U663. There is a dramatic photograph taken from his plane of one of them sinking with its hull almost vertical.

In the 50's he was Air Attache in Buenos Airies and my dear mother used to urge me to contact him if I was in trouble (I was in tankers then, trading sometimes down to Rio Grande de Sul).

He later was in charge of British forces at Christmas Island during the hydrogen bomb tests and developed the early air traffic control systems at Heathrow.

Encouragingly there are still people of stature such as our brave forces personnel who have served our country well but among our public figures it is difficult to find any who don't have - "feet of clay".

**Sid**



## Presentations par excellence! 26th March

March 27th and an evening demonstration of state - of - the art video and presentational skills! But that was a bit later after the usual excellent meal, and a few preliminaries.

The nominated S@A was absent, so there was a hurried discussion resulting in a two pronged attack (Bob S and Abi). The apologies were a mixture of sunshine holidays and illness related absences. Vida pleaded for help to plant daffodil bulbs in Bramall park, but was met with a lukewarm response even after offering back massages for those in need! Bob P wanted help in distributing leaflets in Bramhall the following Saturday. Ian and Sue had managed to get Rotary Today to publish a full page (p. 36) article on our interactions with Kasese, Uganda! Publicity indeed! Congratulations to all those involved.

A separate paragraph for this next item! John K announced that the 5th Wednesday in April (30th) would **NOT** be a non-meeting night (a double negative, but you know what I mean!), but would be reserved for a Duck Race briefing. So as not to tire us too much, the normal 4th Wednesday meeting in May (28th) would be cancelled.



Our speakers for the evening were our own Brian/Jan team. Brian's company had invested in 'Slashy'. Slashy is an approximately 2 ft. diameter circular flying drone with 4 propellers and a camera slung underneath. The gizmo is controlled by a control panel, and can be directed in any direction horizontally, and up and down, with great precision (if you know what to do!). Internal gyros keep the tiny video camera pointing in the required direction. The nickname arose when Brian somewhat foolishly could not contain his enthusiasm for the device and tried it out indoors, and without its guard cords



around the perimeter, the device attacked his arm and Brian rather painfully learned an important lesson!

The drone is used for video sequences of houses for sale, among other applications. The resulting videos give prospective

house buyers aerial shots of the house, garden and surroundings, a great selling aid for Estate Agents. We were shown an aerial video of Bramall Hall, and a combined video/still pics combination of Jan and Brian's recent 60th birthday bash at Bryn Tanat, Oswestry. This weekend extravaganza was clearly enjoyed by their guests, and allowed Brian to use his considerable skills to good effect in producing a super record of a special event.

An excellent evening display of current technology in the hands of experts!

Our evening concluded with the Abi/Bob partnership separating all from £1 apiece.

## Dennis

### Answers to Ron's quiz in the last issue:

You'll be mad if you get this—*Crackers*

Miss Thatchers' in musical mood—*Carols*

Plural here and now—*Presents*

Literally legs—*Stocking fillers*

Sounds like colloquial dysentery—*Streamers*

Small shoot in the Common Market—*Brussell sprouts*

Sounds like a hot howl—*Ginger wine*

Flog off the metal—*Tinsel*

Soapy offal—*Fairy lights*

Cheeky and funny—*Rum sauce*



A good time was had by all at President's Night



# Grateful boy thanks donors

**Eight-year-old delivered \$4,100 to train therapy dogs**

Renee Andor  
*Record Staff*

Sam Sterk spent his eighth birthday seeing how his fundraising efforts will help service-dogs-to-be at the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS).

The Courtenay boy started the fundraiser in memory of Faith, his family's 13-year-old golden retriever that passed away in November. Although Faith was the family dog, she also worked as a therapy dog with Sam's mom Nicole Burgess, who is a musical therapist.

The fundraiser finished Friday, and on Sam's birthday (Saturday), he and his



COURTENAY'S SAM STERK, 8, receives a kiss from a puppy destined for training at the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society.

PHOTO BY NICOLE BURGESS

Following the article in the last edition of the bulletin, Bruce now tells us that his grandson has handed over \$4100 to Pacific Assistance Dogs. Pretty good going for an 8 year old. I think we can all learn from him.



Bowling for the Walthew House cup (we were soundly beaten by the blind teams)