

Aug/Sep
2011

Rotarian

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



Bulletin



Bob Stevenson
President 2011/2012



Robert's Writings

Although I have been “gently” persuaded into the role of President it is a job in which I hope to create a win-win situation for Bramhall and Woodford Rotary and of course myself.

I have I believe, been in Rotary sufficiently long enough to understand what is required of the job, but of course I will continue to appreciate help and advice from experienced club and council members and our own Zone Assistant Governor Geoff.

We are now in the year where we celebrate our 25th Charter at The Deanwater on September 23rd where I hope we will have a most enjoyable evening with present and past members plus friends. An excellent speaker has been booked to end the evening.

I am looking forward to my involvement with the new council although we have already met once, and plans are very much being actioned. We have already supported Caroline at Woodford on Sunday 25th July where a good day was experienced by all those who attended. Final figure is not known yet, but it should be well worthwhile particularly on the balloon sales.

I had hoped to have “my own event” in August – canoeing on a local canal. Unfortunately too many are away so the event has had to be postponed.

Nevertheless the event at Davenport Rugby Club on August 21st is very much on track. The balloon race, one aspect of the event is gaining momentum with a number of balloons sold so it is hoped all 6,000 rise at the event. Supporting our Soldiers it could not be a better cause at the moment and together with the Rugby Tournament should attract a good attendance.

Other events are planned and all social events have been published.

All I would ask is that if you find you cannot attend regularly our weekly meetings then please involve yourself in supporting our Community Service, Ways & Means and International efforts as without your support the results will not be as good.

District conference is at the beginning of October in York it is not too late to book. At the time of writing three of us including myself and our Partners will be attending.

So, Club Members we have a lot on offer over the next 12 months not just in service but also on the social front. I wish you all an enjoyable and successful year.

Marshalling at Bramhall Festival

We turned out to help marshal the festival that annually walks through the centre and, for once, the weather was slightly better than it usually is although a little cold.

Gordon arrived to find the Round Table trailer stuck on some grass so with the help of John Thewlis, he managed to extricate it only to be asked if he could fix the sound and lighting system. He failed (oh the shame). Trevor Saville got a few of the lights going but the amplifier stubbornly refused to operate. The parade passed off well though and once more, our profile was raised in the Bramhall community.



Secretary's Soapbox



It is under extreme duress I write this. Yesterday, Wed 27 July, I was on “bulletin duty”. Before the meeting had even started our new editor had informed me of the deadline I must meet for this and the meeting report. The theme was returned to several more times. He knows where I live. He described his links with the police, senior ranks included. No doubt whatsoever remained in my mind of how imperative to my wellbeing it was to complete these tasks.

(I must look back through the reports to remind myself of the meeting when Gordon took over bulletin editorship, the night when our President first kissed his hand and called him “Godfather”.)

Talking of editors, apparently someone called Amy Winehouse has recently died. I gather Rupert Murdoch has said he is really touched by all the kind messages people have left on her mother’s phone.

Anyway, this is the start of a new Rotary year. Secretarially the summer is a quiet season. Not much new is expected from District / RIBI / RI until September at least.

On a personal note, I am now more in touch with my feminine side as I attempt to multitask the secretarial and vice-president roles. That second function gets under way on 10 Aug when Bob will be abroad. You have been warned.
Brian.

p.s. report filed Thurs 28 July – so it will probably be someone else who gets to sleep with the fishes ...

When blondes have more fun do they know it?

Not to be missed

August: 12th International youth day; 13th International left-handers day; 21-27th World water week; 31st National zoo day

September: National dog-adoption month; Bear necessities month; National organic month; 3rd International vulture awareness day; 8th International literacy day; 8th-11th Heritage open days; 10th Suicide prevention day; 12th to 18th National cupcake week; 13th Roald Dahl day; 16th Wear your wellies day and International day for the preservation of the ozone layer; 17th Start of British food fortnight; 18th-25th World reflexology week; 19th International talk-like-a-pirate day; 21st International day of peace and World Alzheimer’s day; 22nd World car free day; 26th European day of languages; 29th World heart day

Meeting Reports

1st June Committees

After almost a year in office, President Graham finally cracked-up and:

* Forgot Vida had volunteered the previous week to be S&A, appointed Tony, and so wasted Vida's efforts

* Forgot to check that the Bulletin reporter was present, so offered to do it personally

* Started referring to himself in the third person.

Fortunately this was a June committee meeting, so there is not much to record.

We were treated to the usual tasty meal while we sat in new committees, followed by a 20 minute session of further discussion and planning in preparation for handover.



The only thing of note that I remember is the mention of a number of summer events in which the Club is involved. These will be detailed in the club programme, which is now being issued at least weekly.

As previously mentioned, Tony fined almost everyone before we drew the raffle and had the final toast.

Graham

8th June The Mercian Regiment

The room appeared quite full with members and in particular guests. As well as our own Roey Knowles and Kay Pozizer there were:

- The speaker, Capt Grant Angus Brown from the Mercian Regiment.
- Alan Kennedy - Chairman of Stockport Branch of the Cheshire Regiment Association
- Paul Lomas - also from Association
- Mike Drew - Director of Rugby at Stockport Rugby Union Football Club
- Robert Mititelu - the President of Rota-ract club of Manchester International
- Bruce's Grandson Max Farrow

When introducing the guests Gill was amused to note the initials of the speaker (gab).

Before and during our usual buffet (featuring rather good burritos) John Thewlis re-announced the Mercian Cup

event at the Rugby club on August 21st which will feature some money spinner such as a balloon race (members to be on standby for ticket selling) as well as the family fun splat the rat and the like. David Rabone advertised an event at Woodford (for which Vida appealed for bric a brac - or as she said brick a bral) reminding us that the eventual redevelopment of Aerospace will change the face of Woodford and give the club a membership drive opportunity.

David Rose previewed next week's speaker, Sam Harris of the International Society. Secretary Brian announced the absence of the white book - which had no changes to last time anyway. He then announced his imminent narrowboat holiday and that was the last we will hear of him until next Rotary year! After the interval Alan Kennedy talked briefly about his family's five generations



The mysterious “Nee Gulls”

Are they seagulls or maybe a type of eagle? No neither!

Nee Gulls were the words that appeared recently on the reference line of an email from one B&W Rotarian to another, requesting information. This was actually a query in “Gordon-speak” about the appropriate place to send 400 children’s size

hypodermic needles donated by a local GP surgery to the third world. And the question was, where could they be usefully and beneficially used?

Within a couple of days District was contacted and a worthwhile suggestion made. The nee gulls will be handed over to Leighton Hospital and from there dispatched to “Operation Ghana”. Another splendid example of Rotary in action. Thanks go to Gordon (the provider), and Geoff (the District contact).

(Apparently Gordon has a language all his own.....horse pickle for hospital, keckul for kettle and he was originally tempted to entitle his email “hyperdeemic nurdles” but thought that was just going too far!)

Olive

with the regiment (grandfather to grandson) and that the grandson had received an MC from the queen only last week. Pictures of the presentation at the palace were circulated. Grant Brown then gave the main talk about the Mercian regiment which was formed in 2007 from several antecedents including the Cheshire regiment. The battalions have since been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan (between the 4 battalions 6 deployments and extra support). The 1st battalion served in Afghanistan between March and November 2010 and its four companies were deployed with A to Sangin, B in support of Royal Gurkhas, and C and G to a Danish unit. (can't explain why G and not D!). During this period 97 were wounded and 12 were killed. This was out of 550 men.

Grant showed a video taken by soldiers' headcams or movie cameras. It showed a

real war in a surprisingly (to me at least) green country without mountains. He went on to give a few anecdotes of his own experience as a platoon commander of a reconnaissance unit - involving being under fire in enemy territory, being left by an American special forces unit which helicoptered off (giving the sniffer dog priority over the platoon!), and having to stay still as a farmer did his ablutions (both types) only a metre away and then to savour the resulting pong for 7 hours in the heat. Grant also showed the tragic side such as a young soldier being blown up by an IED, losing both legs and an arm and complaining in a ditch about the quality of his comrades bandaging! He said that the hospital facilities were fantastic and that the time from an injury to the operating theatre could be as low as 29 minutes.

Soldiers are well trained and there can never be enough training. One aspect was the use of amputees in a programme called Amputees in Action whereby real amputee soldiers are used, complete with realistic and ultra gory makeup in battle simulations so that soldiers both know what to do and are not shocked when they see similar things on the real battlefield.

2011 will be a year of training for the regiment (in case of prison officer strikes, and in Canada, Kenya and Jamaica). It will be back in Afghanistan in September 2012.

Grant thanked Rotary for what we are doing, both fund raising and keeping the Mercian Regiment in the public eye.

Bruce Farrow gave a warm vote of thanks.

Robert then gave a brief presentation of Rotaract (Rotary 18-30 really) and his club which has about 25 members, mostly students. He highlighted one project "Books to Share" which plans to get books, both fiction and nonfiction, to the English Public Libraries in Romania. So far they have 5,000 and he asked for our help in getting more. We are giving books left over from the duck race bookstall and may do more.

Despite Vida's volunteering last week to be Sergeant at Arms there was a c*ck up and Tony (not at last week's meeting so blissfully unaware) was also appointed. Vida was justifiably grumped as her notes went to waste but we all enjoyed Tony's spirited fining. The fines were raised to £1 and the money raised went to fund a cheque for £50 to the Mercian Benevolent Fund, which was handed

over immediately to Grant. There was a double raffle with the usual wine being won by Gill and donated to Grant as was Graham's Champagne, won by him elsewhere, and won by Tony who gave it to Grant!

A most interesting evening.

Michael

An email from Graham the following day included the following:

Thank you to all who supported my Champagne Raffle on Wednesday. £50 was raised for the Mercian Regiment Benevolent Fund

An extract from some related text:

Our 3rd Battalion is currently deployed in Afghanistan from where our 1st Battalion has recently returned. Our 2nd Battalion is between its third and fourth tours. Our 4th Battalion has supported and will continue to support both these and other units' tours in Afghanistan.

The Mercian Regimental Benevolent Fund has never been needed more than it is today.

Whilst public funds and national charity funds are rightly focused on the needs of the serving soldier, regimental charity funds are devoted primarily to the needs of the soldier after he has left the Army. He may have left the Army but he is still in the Regiment. More of our wounded will leave the Army in the near future as well as in years to come and our Benevolent Fund needs to be able to plug the gaps that may appear between soldiers' needs and state provision.



15th June, International Society

I arrived after agreeing to stand in for Sergeant at Arms to be reminded I was also bulletin writer and so hoping I didn't get the two mixed up, I tried not to fine the guests and write about the misdemeanours of the members.

We had several guests and visitors. Our speaker was Sam Harris from Manchester University's International Society who had brought two students; Cecelia from Argentina and Waleed from Egypt. Geoff had also invited Stephanie Lawrenson from Ethnic Diversity Services in Stockport.

The excellent meal (with Vida being first out of the traps) was introduced by Graham as his last full meeting before handing over to Bob (a year goes so quickly in Rotary). At the half way mark, announcements included Gill trying to interest members in a walk on the 5th Wednesday, Vida appealing for Bric-a-Brac, Caroline asking for help at the Woodford event, Geoff asking us to behave for next week's visit of the ADG and Tony giving us the unfortunate news of the death of Chris Monkhouse's mother and with Chris & Mary being in an accident in their motor home. Our thoughts are most surely with them. Bob Batty reminded us that this was the 25th anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the club and that several of those present at that meeting were still with us. A milestone indeed and one that we can be proud of.

Sam started his talk by telling us he originally studied at Manchester University and lodged at the International Society building which was then in Elizabeth Gaskell House. The University now has 6000 students from 120 countries and the Society aims to help students settle in and deal with

culture shock whilst promoting peace and friendship.

One of their projects is RocketWorld which consists of taking a 10 ft inflatable world globe to schools along with some of their volunteers and introducing the pupils to the culture, language and hobbies in different parts of the world. Each pupil is given a 'passport' which is stamped as they visit each part of the globe and learn something about where they have been.

Another aspect of their work is the Hospitality Scheme where foreign students get to spend a few hours in UK homes experiencing our culture. They are always on the lookout for volunteers for this and long lasting friendships have grown from the project.

Sam has visited Afghanistan where he saw a Circus School which gave children a sense of identity as they performed to large audiences.

A Bulgarian student in attempting to revitalise her village, persuaded Sam to buy a derelict Communist School and to start a long term project to develop it.

The students Waleed and Cecelia spoke briefly about their interests (dancing for Waleed and languages for Cecelia) and their involvement with the International Society.

Neil gave an eloquent vote of thanks for an enthusiastic talk; Bruce spoke about the upcoming rugby match and the need to find alternative funding now that Barclays had pulled out; John Sykes invited us to the Young Designer competition at Parrs Wood High School; the Manchester IRA bomb was remembered by some members who came close to being involved in its aftermath and I fined as many as I could for made-up reasons (including Bob Batty for 'starting all this').

Gordon

Vida has agreed to share some of her gardening expertise with us. Here is her first contribution. Look out in future Bulletins for her tips to tackle your pesky blackfly infestations, whole-garden devouring slugs and rampant taraxacum officinales (dandelions to you and me!!)

Gardening Guru Vida writes.....



This is your new gardening section, and don't groan 'this is not for me', please read on even though I do realise that most of you posh people have your own gardeners to make your estates look just perfect! We are now in the month of August when your gardens should really be showing off and you will be inviting your friends round for Pimms or champagne cocktails and delicious canapés (can I come too?)

Here are a few points to tell your old retainer - PLEASE WATER - water especially the bedding plants and, of course, the hanging baskets as we are going to have a gloriously sunny month. Please water your baskets even if it does rain as they need lots of it. Oh don't forget to feed the hard working plants - you have three meals a day but the bedding plants only need a little liquid feed once a week. Not forgetting dead heading all the flowers if you want your plants to go on flowering. You don't want to go to seed and neither do you want them to because they will go on flowering until miserable Jack Frost comes along if you take a bit of care of them.

We haven't mentioned weeds because you will have had them dealt with in the previous months WON'T YOU!!! Oh, one last thing, if we have some strong winds you may find it necessary to stake some of your high flyers to prevent them falling over - we don't want any little accidents, do we?



Quotes:

1. Life – a sexually transmitted disease that is invariably fatal.
2. A bore is a person who talks when you want him to listen.
3. I do most of my work sitting down. That's where I shine.

22nd June—Handover

Yes, all in one evening it was Handover, Assembly and two speakers! Incoming DG Robert Strachan was present to comment on our forthcoming programmes and Nicki and Anna were there to update us on their visit to Tanzania.

But first there were the important routines of our Club - lists seeking volunteers and quick updates on current matters. We are still seeking sponsorship for the Mercian Cup event on August 21st, and a choir was to sing in the courtyard at Bramall Hall on Sunday 31st July at 11am. Funds raised would go to the Cheshire regimental charity.

Our speakers, Nicki and Anna had recently returned from a two month visit to Tanzania as part of their medical degrees. They illustrated their tour with slides and gave a very interesting account of times spent in three hospitals of vastly differing standards - one a main hospital, one a community hospital and one a treatment centre in a poor village. Some of the standards were rudimentary, constrained by lack of funding and inadequate training. All in all, the best medical facilities were at least two decades behind what we are used to. In some cases, lack of training meant that even advanced equipment could often not be used to good effect.

By contrast they were able to enjoy some great leisure time - a safari, a visit to the Serengeti, and even a visit to a Rotary Club! We wish them well in their future medical careers. Nicki was given a posy of flowers with our best wishes.

After the break, Outgoing President

Graham reviewed the past year with some well earned degree of satisfaction for the club. He then passed over the Presidential jewel to our new President Bob Stevenson, who succinctly outlined his objectives for the year ahead. His aims are in the Handover Report which all members receive, and this document also includes the plans for each of our committees for the year ahead.

A splendid feature of all the presentations this evening was their clear and brief summaries of key points. Well done all!

Our incoming committee chairpersons similarly gave useful and clear summaries of their plans for the year ahead. We look like having a busy and interesting year once again.

DG Nominee Robert Strachan from RC Altrincham congratulated the club on a balanced programme with plenty of challenges, which should provide plenty of fun and satisfaction.

Bruce the Younger won the raffle, and from his travelling store of wine conjured up two bottles, one each for Nicki and Anna. Bob Preece fined almost everyone, the catch-all (almost) was to fine all those having consumed alcohol despite the new health warnings for over 65's.

The evening ended at about 10.20 - pretty good going for such a full evening.

Dennis



Rotary Wives—Mini-AGM

Fifteen of us met on Tuesday 19 July at 3pm at Marilyn Banks house for our mini “AGM”. It was a most enjoyable afternoon, starting with a glass of wine. Pam (Malabon) welcomed Nina Farrow to her first meeting with the group and then quickly sorted the business which, with no Chairman, Secretary or Minutes, is quite easy to achieve. Names of members were pulled out of an envelope to decide who did which month with whom. A short discussion followed about types of meetings and it was agreed to try to vary the day of the week which was used so people with a definite commitment on one day of the week would be able to attend occasionally.

We should like to invite all new members’ wives to come and join us for an event, and if lady Rotarians would like to come along, they also would be welcome.

We then partook of a delicious tea including strawberries, scones and cream. We should like to thank Jackie Rabone and Marilyn for organising the afternoon and Marilyn for supplying the venue.

Organiser Programme 2011/12

September	Pam Lacey	Gail Burstow
October	Brenda Loveland	Joan Saville
November	Jackie Rabone (Demonstration)	Marilyn Banks
January	Pauline Newsome	Kathleen Batty
February	Wendy Sykes	Margaret Boyes
March	Sandra Burch	Sylvia Rains
April	Ann Hogben	Susan Handley
May	Mary Meeus (Walk & lunch)	Kay Poizer
June	Linda Brisbane	Barbara Death
July	Oriane Stevenson (Mini AGM)	Pam Malabon

29th June, Led Astray on the Fifth Wednesday

Gill Critchley organised a ‘Midsummer Meander’ round Higher Poynton with suitable libations after at the Miners Arms.

Five brave souls turned up to what was a very enjoyable evening with good weather although Gill was so keen on the walk, that she missed the exit point and led us onward to marathon levels of endurance. However, all was well and the pub was suitably enlivened by our presence.

Thanks to Gill for organising this and we hope there will be many more in the future.

Gordon



A message from Mary Meeus

Dear friends.

Thank you so much for your cards, flowers, visits, telephone calls and good wishes received in so many ways. All of which obviously helped to assist in the recuperation as I have thrown the crutches aside and can now walk unaided albeit slowly.

It was very enjoyable to see so many of you last Wednesday and I look forward to the next Rotary event.

Thanks again and best wishes to you all.

Mary.

A Worthwhile Community service Project –HFRA

Members will recall that some months ago we had a presentation from Gatley & District Rotary Club where they had teamed up with Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS). They had been trained to undertake Home Fire Risk Assessments offer fire protection advise and fit smoke detectors. They were looking to expand the operation and were talking to many Rotary clubs to get more people involved.

Four members of B&W finally signed up. We have had the school room training, the practical training with Marple Fire station and we have received our uniforms – yes it is a requirement that when on Fire Service duty we wear the same basic uniform as the professionals; the 3 in 1 jacket is superb. For us there is also a HI-Viz vest with the Rotary logo alongside the GMFRS logo. There has been quite a delay getting everything completed; I think the Fire Service underestimated the volunteers it might get from Rotary and have struggled to cope.

So we are now operational as it were; during July we have been at Woodford Garden Centre on three afternoons approaching people to encourage them to have smoke alarms fitted. The whole thing is free I should add. This generated 15 referrals as they are known ie contact details of home owners who want the Risk Assessment doing. These have been sent to the coordinators who will now arrange the home visit and allocate the visits either to ourselves or to a Fire Station team. So the visit might be two hunky firemen or two old (elderly) fogies from Rotary.

Comments whilst we have been at the garden centre have ranged from; yes please; not interested (I don't think they believed the 'free' bit of the offer); and also why isn't the side gate at the garden centre open? – sorry don't know we don't work here.

For August we are at Waitrose in Cheadle Hulme chasing more referrals and from emails with our coordinator there are likely to be requests for our first home visits. Who knows, the home visit might also generate a Rotarian.

Certainly worthwhile; it is a pleasant change not to be approaching the public for money and to be offering a beneficial service for free.

A couple more volunteers would be welcome, I know that initially there was interest from 7 or 8 within the Club. If you are interested please talk to one of us.

GMFRS Community Action Team (John Sykes, David Walker, Trevor Saville, Ron Malabon)



Bramall Hall – Children’s Summer Events Programme

Quizzes - Everyday during opening hours

Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday: 1pm - 4pm , Friday - Sat 1 – 3pm

Bramall Hall offers a special pictorial quiz for older children and a ‘Hunt the owl’ quiz for our younger visitors. A great family activity! Suitable for ages 4+. Children and Rotarians must be accompanied by an adult Price: Free with admission ticket. Tel: 0161 485 3708

Papercraft Workshops - Wednesday 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 August, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Join us in the magnificent Great Hall, Decorate a Tudor Rose, build a model of Bramall Hall, Design your own face mask, make a Green man life size effigy. All materials provided. Suitable for children of all ages

Must be accompanied by an adult. Drop in. Price: £2 per child. Tel: 0161 485 3708

Draw Attention – Caricature Workshop with Peter Richardson, Tuesday 9 August, 2pm - 3.30pm

Learn the techniques of how to draw your own caricature. Bring along your own photos for inspiration. All materials provided. Suitable for children 8 – 13yrs. Booking essential. Price: £3. Contact: 0161 485 3708

How the hall was built. Thursday 11 August. 1pm - 4pm

Find out how Bramall Hall was built and help us make a huge piece of wattle and daub. Suitable for all age groups. Drop in. Price: FREE. Tel: 0161 485 3708

Bramall Hall’s Got Talent. Wednesday 10 to Fri 12 August (3 days). 10am - 3pm each day (please bring own lunch). Do you want to sing? Come along and work with a professional singing teacher as we put together a performance of musical theatre songs for your family and friends. Participation on all three days required, performance to be on the afternoon of Friday 12th at Bramall Hall. Suitable for ages 11 – 16 yrs. Booking essential Price: £30 Tel: 0161 485 3708

Rag Rugs & Looms Thursday 18 August. 2pm - 3.30pm. Discover the art of hooking and propping! Whilst making a rug from rags. Learn how to weave on your own cardboard loom. Two very different traditional crafts explored in one workshop. Suitable for 8 - 13yrs. Booking essential. Price: £3. Tel: 0161 485 3708

Exhibition – “Inspired by Bramall Hall” The students of Manchester College annual exhibition of work inspired by Bramall Hall. Showing until Wednesday 31 August. Mon – Thurs and Sun 1 – 5pm, Fri and Sat 1- 4pm. The art and design students work in different media every year but always focus on the Hall’s art & crafts interiors and the fabric of the building for their inspiration. Price: normal admission prices apply. Students Free on presentation of a national or college student card. Tel: 0161 485 3708

Stockport Council has been successful in securing a first-round grant of £67,200 towards drawing up plans for essential repairs and improvements. The council can now progress to the second stage where they will develop detailed proposals to secure a further £932,600 to conserve the hall for the benefit of residents and visitors.

The project will transform Bramall Hall and Park into a regionally important heritage site, improving access and providing enjoyment and learning opportunities for members of the community and visitors. Conservation of the hall and estate buildings, improved access, developing the education and events programme and works to the walled garden and stable block, will all be undertaken as part of the project.

CONGRATULATIONS!

At the recent District Hand Over ceremony our Club was awarded a prestigious trophy and 3 certificates of recognition. Graham Yule received a certificate “in recognition of the leadership given to the club”, AG Geoff Hunt received his for “outstanding service above self to District 1050”, and the whole club was awarded a certificate “in recognition of its support of the RIBI Focus on the Crocus initiative”.



The winner of the Wingate Cup was of course Dennis Allport for his magnificent 10 years as Bulletin Editor. Many congratulations to everyone.



I seem to have a cup here



What am I bid for this shiny cup?



Sold to the gentleman over there with the camera

3rd July President's Barbecue

A beautifully sunny day heralded our barbecue at Graham's house where Vida and Neil were doing sterling work at the cooking whilst most of us just sat around drinking and eating. These things run so smoothly that is often easy to overlook just how much work went into the preparation and so many thanks must go to the 'back room' for hard effort resulting in a good feast.

Speeches were given by Geoff as Assistant Governor who presented the certificates mentioned above to Graham. Graham in turn, presented Geoff with the District Certificate for his magnificent work.. Graham attempted to present the Wingate cup to Dennis but as he was absent, this proved somewhat difficult. Sue passed on the Rotary Wives Paul Harris Fellowship to Oriane and being sensible, neither made a speech.—All in all, a good day.

And a final note from Graham: This barbecue marks the end of my year as Club President. We have had a fantastic year with over 20 charities helped and over 4000 local people enjoying our Family Fun Day and Duck Races in Bramhall Park. I hope my successor, Bob Stevenson, enjoys it as much as I did.

We have been asked by several members of the club to feature a series of short profiles on some of our members. Here is our first one!

Spotlight on a Rotarian

Newest B&W recruit – Action Woman Gill Critchley



Gill was born in Liverpool, right in the midst of Beatle country - she lived around the corner from “Penny Lane”, and got engaged sitting outside “Strawberry Fields” (although it wasn’t forever!). During her teenage years she had an interesting job working for a local mobile chandler carrying his paraffin containers to be filled. She thinks that Health and Safety would be absolutely horrified today!

Her first job after school was with Barclays International. She married in 1974 and was divorced in 1999. She has 2 grown up children and 1 grandchild, and one on the way. Her daughter Nicola is a Speech Therapist specialising in stroke patients and her son Matthew is a freelance sports presenter and he works mainly for Liverpool Football Club’s TV channel and Al Jazeera Sports. He also presented the World Cup from Doha last year.

I asked her about hobbies and she certainly has some interesting ones volunteers with Global Challenge in the summer months. They run events such as The Three Peaks Challenge for various charities, and she’s usually to be found up a mountain or in a muddy field

with a walkie-talkie and a clipboard! She also applied to be a 2012 Olympic volunteer and has passed the first stage. She used to teach Ceroc dancing (apparently French Jive!) but now just dances for fun. She loves weekends away with friends, learning to play Bridge, and enjoys Scrabble and quizzes and the theatre and cinema.

Gill’s main passion is travelling, her favourite place is New Zealand for the adventure and outdoor life, closely followed by Borneo and her most unusual holiday was white water rafting the length of the Grand Canyon for over 200 miles in 7 days. Gill says “sleeping under the stars was amazing and the whole holiday was a life changing event”.

Her main focus now is on running her own business organising Training Courses in Medical Terminology. She saw a gap in the market 5 years ago and developed a course online and now delivers training to achieve a City & Guilds qualification to hospitals, GP’s and individuals.

So what does she enjoy about Rotary? “It’s a bit new yet, but I particularly enjoyed being part of the Duck Race and also loved the canal trip organised by Brian. I love chatting to new people, and I like listening to the speakers, particularly Captain Brown recently, and I welcome the chance to help others in the community. The meals aren’t bad either!!”

Olive

Ask Gordon

A new occasional series whereby I answer your technical problems. This is dedicated to those people who rang me up and asked the same questions that I had already answered in my Bulletin articles previously. Similarities to answers given by me whilst employed on a computer help line are purely coincidental.

So with tongue firmly in cheek:

Q: My computer is starting to run quite slowly. Is it true I can make it faster by using a free maintenance program like 'Spybot search and destroy' or 'CCleaner' to get rid of unwanted files?

A: No of course not. The problem is caused by too much electricity building up in the bottom of your computer. You should turn it upside down and shake it to let all the little electrons out. It also helps if you straighten all the kinks in your cables as electricity doesn't like going round corners and you must wear a large tinfoil hat to avoid static discharge whilst carrying out this procedure. Please phone me as you are about to start as I wish to come and take photos (purely for educational purposes you understand).

Q: I have been asked to pay a yearly subscription to my antivirus program but I've heard that 'AVG Free' is just as good.

A: Really, I don't know where people get these ideas! There are no such things as virus programs. It is a rumour spread by a secret society that no-one has ever heard of. You should remove all antivirus programs and wander around the Internet at will (I find the naughty sites are best).

Q: I haven't carried out any backups and am worried that I may lose some valuable work. Is 'Karen's Replicator' a good free program for managing this (to an external hard drive)?

A: Rubbish! Your internal hard disc will last until the sun is a dull glowing ember and mankind a distant memory. The best thing to do is wait until you get that gut-wrenching message on screen 'Unable to load Operating System', pick up the telephone, dial my number and sob uncontrollably as I tell you that you've lost the lot. It's good for the soul.

Q: I can't open some attachments and they have 'pdf' at the end of the file name. Do I need to download the free pdf reader from Adobe?

A: Be careful, PDF stands for 'Poor Deluded Fool' and consists of programs that will turn your hard disc into a plant pot, steal your budgie, redecorate your lounge in 70s wallpaper and put ferrets down your trousers. I opened one of these once and I ended up as a Rotary member so be warned!

6th July—Committees

- 17 members + 1 prospective member
- Rev. Rabone gave Grace
- Tony – sent round two forms re - the Family fun day with rugby on the 21 August. Both sheets asking for volunteers, one for help on the day of the event and the other to sell balloon tickets at designated venues and times.
- Vida – Reported on the success of the bric-a-brac stand at the previous Saturdays event at Woodford community centre, (in aid of Christ Church Woodford) £73 was raised.. £39.30 donated to the Church and 33.70 donated to Rotary.
- Gordon – informed members about a web site called Stockport Freegle www.freegle.in/stockport unwanted items can be advertised on this site so it's a useful way of getting rid of stuff you don't need anymore. Everything is and must be free, keeps usable stuff out of landfill.
- Tony – Distributed Balloon tickets (between 10 & 20 to each member) to sell to family and friends.
- Bob Stevenson – first meeting in role as Club President formally announced Brian Dougal as his Vice President and adorned him with his regalia!
- President – reported that he had attended an excellent 99th Charter night and reminded everyone that the district conference was on the 7 – 9th Oct for those who would like to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ways & Means – Tony reported that the committee met last Tuesday to discuss the forthcoming year of events. Lots of good ideas came out of the meeting but the opportunity for all members to contribute ideas will be on the Wednesdays meeting 17th August. We are committed to: 'Party in the Park' organised by Imagine FM on the

24th July at the Woodford community centre, Caroline reported that she had enough volunteers and out lined what their roles on the day would consist of ie selling balloons, manning 2 activity stalls, collecting donations and marshalling.

Tony stressed that it is crucial to the success of the Rugby event that as many balloons as possible are sold before the event and we need to really push the sympathy with the Cheshire Soldiers.

Santa Float – needs to be clarified with Round Table as to the level of commitment they are asking from us this Christmas and we need to decide if it is something we want to take over for next year. Brian Dougal said that he would contact them and report back.

Communications – Henry read out e mail report from John Sykes who had Attended last Fridays District council meeting. Couple of points to note:

Polio project is coming very close to an end 2.5million children have been inoculated.

Conference 2011 (York) register now pay later. Get reg' so that the organiser can access numbers for various activities.

Cheques for Foundation should go direct to RIBI not District Treasurer.

Foundation so far 87,200 received against a target of 100,000. 12 clubs have achieved 100 per cent member this year.

Community Service – Vida reported that she had donated £50 the 'Friends of Bramall Hall and Park' money raised by Rotary for Bouncy Castle activity at the Easter Festival.

International – nothing to report

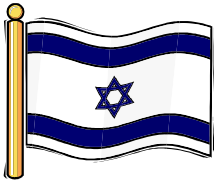
Social – nothing to report other than Sue Preece has taken over organising the food etc for this Saturdays Gawsorth event.

AOB – Tony proposed that the President should speak to Council re decision on making a donation to the 'Somalian Fund' Bob agreed he would.

Meeting finished at 10.30pm

Caroline

13th July: A Jewish flavour



Instead of the normal graces from the Revs Knowles or Rabone the meeting started with two prayers in Hebrew. Fortunately David Rose also gave us an English translation! Bruce the Elder then wanted us to see and comment on the poster for the Fun Day at the Rugby club. Bob Preece got in on the act asking those who had not yet taken tickets to sell for the balloon race to do so and David Rose announced that £500 would be sent to DEC for the horn of Africa appeal. Finally at 8.15pm food was served. Wine was provided by John Sykes having reached a certain age last week.

Richard Wilson, a guest of Henry, was introduced for the second time and four wives were also in attendance. Ian Dobson was looking for thespians as the Imagine FM stage was going spare at the Rugby club Fun Day. Jim Thomas, either getting in some early practice for when he is President or because he wanted a cup of coffee, rang the bell which prompted President Bob to propose the loyal toast.

John Knowles said three things had got him started on his visit to Israel. One was a TV programme called The Promise about a young girl who had read her grandfather's diaries about his time in Palestine/Israel, another was the book Jerusalem by Simon Montefiori and the third was a pilgrimage to the Holy Land by over 100 people from the Diocese of Chester.

Throughout his trip there was a recurring theme of "layer of history

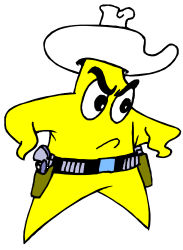
upon layer of history" as various generations had knocked down old cities and rebuilt new ones on the same site. In Jericho this is known as tells. When visiting tombs it is the Jewish custom to lay stones on the graves rather than flowers. The Holocaust museum was very much larger than he had anticipated. To get to Bethlehem meant going through the concrete wall separating the two communities and this created difficulties for their guide who was not supposed to go there and had to crouch at the back of the coach to avoid the border police/soldiers. The Wailing Wall is all that remains of the Second Temple and men are separated from women at various ceremonies. There is a Church of England cathedral, St Georges, built in 1905. They also visited Kumran where the Dead Sea scrolls were found and Jericho which claims to be the oldest city in the world. It is a very fertile area and it said that whoever controls the water controls Israel. Nazareth has a large Christian community and the journey ended at the hill called Armageddon, where, depending on your point of view, it all may end.

Ian Hunter gave details of the 50th Charter anniversary celebrations of Bramhall Round Table. Treasurer Michael made a plea for members to pay their annual subscriptions promptly and David Burstow as Sergeant at Arms extracted fines from just about everyone. Kath Batty won the raffle.

Ron



20th July—Gunfighters, Ghost towns and big holes in the ground



After grace which was delivered as eloquently as ever by David Rabone, Brian updated us on the diary content and Ian and Caroline did a double act briefing us on Imagine Radio's day in the park at Woodford on

24th July. John Meeus reminded us of the one year's notice we had had of the 25th Charter on the 23rd September. While he was encouraging us to support the event, not for the first time he shot himself in the foot by announcing the confirmed attendance of the District President.

Bob finally remembered he was in charge and much to Lorraine's relief, the charge for the food started at 8.15pm. Needless to say everyone gorged on the usual copious quantities of excellent fare. Nothing else is worthy of a report before our distinguished speaker took to the floor, except to say that we had the most upmarket apology ever from Sue Preece who was taking tea with the Queen at Buck. Palace. Bob acted as her escort, no not the President, the other Bob, although I wouldn't put it past the former to cadge a free cup of tea!

Then we heard about gunfighters, ghost towns and big holes in the ground from Chris M. who came totting a gun himself. It was a real one the same model as Wyatt Earp used at the gun-

fight at OK corral. That together with Chris' description of the Grand canyon and other large holes in the ground had us worried as there are no safety barriers and a 5000ft drop. Why worried....well Chris has had quite a catalogue of disasters while on holiday. Wisely Chris kept the gun well away from John Thewlis.

Chris told us he had had a love affair with Arizona since 1957, funny name for a girl but no more so than Harper Seven. He entranced us with a slide show of a slide show of mountains, fabulous sunsets, canyons and ghost towns some of which had featured in movies. He added greatly to the collective knowledge of the Club, informing us that Arizona was 28% larger than the UK but had only 10% of the people. The US bought it from Mexico for \$15m in 1847. I suppose the US could get the UK for a lot less than that now given the state it is in, as long as they took the debt too!

Other notable slides included some great epitaphs on grave stones, an aeroplane graveyard and the Titan missile site....beats Blackpool beach. a few questions followed including one from Harry which Chris couldn't answersmarter... Ian offered a vote of thanks.

Graham won the raffle and Gill demonstrated some intelligence and innovation with a new twist on S.of A. which raised even more money as she increased the fine to £1.

Bruce the younger

I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me. (Isaac Newton, 1642-1727)

27th July—Policing in Bramhall

A large turnout (33) to hear what the police had to say.

The meeting was started by a long and complex grace. David R, who eloquently read it out, said it was about justice. Before dinner John Meeus spoke about Charter Night & sent round a sign-up form. Bob Batty then said that Hugh & Elaine Thompson, B&W R's 5th Presy, are coming up to attend our Charter. Hugh was a nuclear sub commander apparently.

Presy Bob announced that top table would head out to collect their dinner first, but as usual Vida misunderstood where she had been sitting. Not only that but she pushed in front of our President & his wife.

Lorraine was absent and although the food maintained its usual high quality, the quantity had not been sufficiently increased for the numbers so almost everything ran out to the disappointment of those who normally have seconds !

Guests & Visitors. Bruce introduced the police guests PCSO 65527 – Maureen Creehan and PCSO 66028 – Tom Fendall. We had a visitor from Nantwich, Tony Hoy plus Oriane Stevenson and Mary Meeus as guests.

The apologies included Sid whose birthday it was, thought to be his 85th.

Presy Bob had the sad task of reading out a letter of resignation from Joe & Geraldine Fallowfield. Their life now takes them away from the area so much they feel unable to stay as active members.

Then in rapid succession - Bob Preece made a plea for more volunteers to sell balloons at the various venues. Caroline failed to spill the dirt re the Imagine FM event but nevertheless was able to report its success in selling balloons. Michael announced (without naming names) that there are still some subs not yet paid. Gordon gave a brief Tanzania update. Harry asked the police why they were fraternising with so many known criminals

and lastly Gordon stunned everyone by admitting he is currently serving a community service sentence (*it was only a joke—honest*).

After a pleasant coffee break (= no “musicians”) we went back for a powerpoint-less talk.

Gordon introduced the speakers by naming dropping his chat with Superintendent Rebekha Sutcliffe. She had recommended he talk with Tom.

Tom & Maureen then described the role of a PCSO. Basically between 08:30 and midnight they do what the police used to do – walk their beat, get to know people and what is happening with the aim of preventing crime – not just letting it happen then trying to convict someone. Nevertheless excessive paperwork is an issue even for them. For example there is now a huge questionnaire to be completed in cases of alleged domestic violence.

Success stories were given – shutting down a drug den on Butterfields Close and internet paedophilia tracked by the FBI with communications via the Met to them.

Various questions were asked and to our credit the whole meeting took place without the word “plastic” passing anyone’s lips.

PCSO contact numbers are 872 5050 – the general non-emergency police number or 856 9829 – Cheadle Heath police station where they are based.

In AOB Tony made another plea for balloon sales effort and suggested we all use the “support our Cheshire soldiers” line as it has good traction with the public.

Michael gave a sales pitch for <http://preyproject.com/>, a laptop antitheft program in which he has absolutely no shares whatsoever.

Finally, but still just after 10pm, Vida fined various people on very flimsy grounds, but then fined everyone else for no reason either.

Brian.

Blind Run

The blind run is on Monday afternoons with a pick-up time of 1.15 to arrive at Walthew House (112 Shaw Heath, Stockport SK2 6QS) by 1.30pm and returning to pick up passengers at 3.30pm

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

Ring the above to check that your passengers still need a lift. If you can't get an answer, go round anyway at the appointed time. Let Bob Batty or John Sykes know if you get stuck.

If you cannot do your appointed duty, it is up to you to find a replacement and notify the other driver.

If you have a mobile phone, please carry it with you together with the other driver's number in case of delays.

Date	Driver 1	Driver 2
August	No blind run	
05/09/2011	J Meeus	D Poizer
12/09/2011	D Rose	R Malabon
19/09/2011	B Stevenson	B Farrow
26/09/2011	B Batty	G Jackson
03/10/2011	G Hunt	R Malabon
10/10/2011	B Preece	S Preece
17/10/2011	G Critchley	V Chattington
24/10/2011	D Walker	N Loveland
31/10/2011	B Farrow	B Batty
07/11/2011	D Poizer	D Rose
14/11/2011	J Sykes	B Stevenson

Quote: There's no beginning to your talents (Clive Anderson to Jeffrey Archer)

It's how you say it:

Members are invited to send me the funniest sayings they've heard e.g. Mother to son:
"Ride your bike properly! If you have a fatal accident, you'll end up dead" (Olive)
Or one from my mother to me: "Don't come running to me if you break both your legs"

Diary & Job Rota

If you are unable to attend, please nominate a replacement.

Date	Diary	Speaker Host	Bulletin	Sgt @ Arms
03/08/2011	Committees		C Egan	B Farrow
10/08/2011	Barry Grigg HSBC - Kilimanjaro (Bissell)	H Hill	J Fallowfield	J Knowles
17/08/2011	President Bob to arrange	B Batty	G Hunt	M Lacey
21/08/2011	Rugby event with British Legion			
24/08/2011	Bob & Sue Preece - W&M evening?	R Malabon	N Loveland	J Meeus
31/08/2011	No meeting, 5th Wednesday			
04/09/2011	St. Anne's Hospice Duck Race			
07/09/2011	Committees		C Monkhouse	D Rose
14/09/2011	Saville/Sykes	A Newsome	D Poizer	D Rabone
21/09/2011	No meeting due to Charter Night			
23/09/2011	25th Charter Night (Deanwater)			
28/09/2011	Thewlis/Thomas	T Saville	J Sykes	T Burch
05/10/2011	Committees		J Knowles	D Walker
12/10/2011	Walker/Yule	T Sheppard	G Critchley	I Dobson
18/10/2011	Concert			
19/10/2011	Burch/Chattington (Gatley visiting)	V Chattington	G Yule	G Hunt
26/10/2011	Batty/Burstow	J Thomas	N Loveland	B Preece
02/11/2011	Committees		D Allport	G Jackson
09/11/2011	Allport/Barker	S Preece	H Barker	D Burstow
15/12/2011	Christmas Dinner			

Buckingham Palace Garden Party July 19th 2011

The invitation to attend a Garden Party in Buckingham Palace arrived unexpectedly, early in June. Surprise, amazement and delight all mingled with the quandary of what to wear, never having had the experience of rising to such heights before! Fortunately I had a recent wedding outfit and borrowed a stunning hat from a kind friend and, well it is always so much easier for men!

I quickly did my homework and discovered that Garden parties have been held at Buckingham Palace since the 1860s, when Queen Victoria instituted what were known as 'breakfasts' (though they took place in the afternoon). In the 1950s the number of garden parties held the Palace was increased from two to three a year. They took the place of presentation parties attended by debutantes, but have evolved into a way of rewarding and recognising public service. They are attended by people from all walks of life, from dinner ladies to diplomats and approximately 8,000 people attend each event, accompanied by the Yeoman of the Guard, Gentlemen at Arms and Gentlemen Ushers! Tea and other refreshments are served from long buffet tables housed in even longer marquees. The quantities served are enormous; at a typical garden party, around 27,000 cups of tea, 20,000 sandwiches and 20,000 cakes are consumed and over 400 waiting staff are involved in the serving. The garden occupies a 42-acre and the planting, originally by Capability Brown, is varied and exotic, with a mulberry tree dating back to the time of James I of England. A large 19th-century lake is graced by a flock of flamingos, (though we didn't see them) and the Waterloo Vase. In the garden there is a summerhouse, a helicopter pad, and a tennis court and unlike the nearby Royal Parks of London, Buckingham Palace Garden is not usually open to the public. I also found out that we were not permitted to take cameras, large bags or use mobile phones!

We chose to make the experience into a short holiday and enjoy London but we had not counted on such wet weather! The beautifully embossed invitation specified the party was to take place between 4 and 6 pm, but like most people we arrived to find long queues at about 2:15pm! About three quarters of an hour later we eventually entered through the main doorway which took us through a couple of opulent state rooms and then into the enormous garden. Rain stopped and the sun was brilliant, we enjoyed tea, sandwiches and delicious cakes with another couple and we all felt we had really arrived! But respite from the rain was short-lived and balancing tea, cakes, umbrella and a posh handbag was somewhat of a challenge and tended to destroy my carefully constructed image! However, we were not alone and soon discovered that excellent refreshments and a beautiful garden to stroll in meant that the Queens's Garden party is among the most relaxed and informal of Royal events.

Around 4pm as the National Anthem was played by one of the two military bands which played selections of music throughout the afternoon. The Queen and the

Duke of Edinburgh, emerged onto the terrace from the Bow Room and together with other members of the Royal Family, including Prince Charles, Camilla, Princess Ann, and the Duke and Duchess of Kent, they all circulated among the guests through 'lanes' which are peculiar to Royal garden parties. Each took a different route and random presentations were made so that everyone had an equal chance of speaking to the Queen and members of her family. Unfortunately we were not among the selected few! With so many people eager to meet her, it took the Queen the best part of an hour before she arrived at the Royal tea tent for a well-deserved brew. We were impressed by her easy manner and willingness to chat to as many people as possible.



From where we were standing we were close to the Queen, Prince Charles and Camilla. The day before the Party I had rushed out to buy a large plastic umbrella and was amused to see that I had chosen the same one as Camilla. I wondered if she had also been to TKMax for her umbrella but suspect not! After we had seen the Royals we had ice cream and wandered around the Palace gardens but the rain kept up. Around six we made our way to the exit and noticed

several people using their mobiles to covertly take the forbidden photographs and so we did the same. It was a wonderful day, very well organised, not at all stuffy and we both thoroughly enjoyed the experience despite the British weather.



Sue Preece



Capt Grant Angus Brown of the Mercian Regiment receiving a cheque for £50 for the Mercian Benevolent fund



Alan Kennedy of the Cheshire Regiment Association



Handing over the Mercian cup



Sam Harris, Cecelia and Waleed from The International Society



Nicki & Anna told us about medical work in Tanzania



Robert Strachan, DG Nominee at our handover



Our 25th President takes office



Bramhall Festival



Chris visits a big hole in the ground



Certificates at the Barbecue



PCSOs Fendall & Creehan



The barbecue chefs

Meeting apologies to apologies@bwrotary.org.uk by Tuesday noon please
Website: www.bwrotary.org.uk

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

Members of council can email all council: bwrotary@yahoogroups.com

Items for inclusion in the Bulletin to Gordon (will also accept gifts of precious gems)