

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



Charity No. 1025767
District 1285
Chartered 24/9/1986

Bulletin



Harry in sartorial splendour with Mary Robinson MP who opened the duck race



A warm welcome to our new President Gill

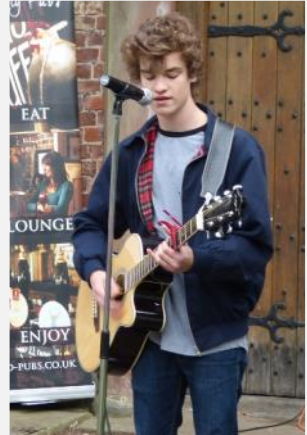




Kate & Chloe of Almond Family Pubs who sponsored the croquet lawn



One of the school choirs who sang wonderfully and 15 year old Jordan Philips who entertained us so well



The Mayor and Mayoress view the entrants in the bake off competition



Gill's Jottings

Well, my year of office has certainly started with a bang!! Unfortunately four members resigned for various reasons and one person has become an Honorary Member due to ill health so our numbers took a bit of a hammering. I don't *think* it was anything I said !!

The next disappointing news was the inevitable cancellation of the Silverthon Triple challenge due to lack of numbers. There doesn't appear to be any definitive reason for this, maybe a combination of things, although it was felt the bike element might have been a bit daunting to some. We will have a rethink on the concept and maybe rebrand and try again.

I particularly enjoyed my first meeting as President where we welcomed not only the Headmistress and one of the parents from Valley School but also Sarah from Pure Insight. It was heartwarming to hear how overwhelmed the school were when they found out the size of the donation we were giving and really pleasing to hear and see how they intend to spend the money we raised. It's not often we get to see how the money is actually spent as it often goes into a big melting pot with no idea of what difference it made. I really hope we can continue a relationship with this school.

Similarly it was good to see Rotary in action when an appeal for old suitcases, holdalls and sports bags went out to help young adults who have been in the care system.

I hope by the time the next Bulletin is published in the Autumn that we will have settled into our new meeting format and hopefully made some progress with the recruitment of new members - fingers crossed.

Gill

May 6th - Committees



The last lap to the Election and Duck Race was initiated by our President's non-religious home made grace based on Rotary ideals. It sounded like election jargon! Before the annual ritual of final tuning for the big day, Harry had the pleasure of announcing two highlights to a reasonable turnout of

members.

First, the birthday celebration of our second octogenarian founder member Dennis. The second was the induction of our latest female recruit, Julia Shaw, after the break. Pres. Harry again produced his version of the ceremony after a little "fondling" with the badge. He realised her potential after persuading her to join Hillbrook Grange board. Her reply was Rotary ethos fitted in with her career, international contacts and her many skills. Congratulations to an excellent new colleague.

Bruce Bissell asked for help for the Stockport Beer Festival to raise funds for Beacon. He suggested help on drink sales with free beer, all on a Friday pm!

In a similar vein Pres. Harry invited members to envelope duties next Monday by coaxing them with tea, biscuits and **cider**, yes Walthew House has an alcohol licence. Well you could stagger round the corner to Stockport's ground for the Beer event too!

The final details for May 17 was compered by hard worked Bob Preece who has put in an enormous amount of time. There were the usual logistic problems of tables, gazebos and van hire because Tony isn't around. A long discussion about bus times and stops etc. All the regalia had arrived and hopefully Barclays staff, BHS and Scouts will turn up on time.

Harry made a strong valid point about maximum exposure of the 100 decorated ducks and since arrangements have been sorted. There will be 20 in each race. The races will begin at 11.30am.

My International Committee suggested £1,000 donation to the Nepal Disaster and Council have since agreed to 3 Shelter Boxes plus a further donation for rehabilitation especially following a second earthquake.

Finally, good luck for a great day, weather forecast looks promising and enjoy the duck pate and duck patter!

David Rose

And from one of our sponsors

Hi all,

I just wanted to thank you all for your help and assistance with the duck race. Myself, Chloe and the directors thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Hopefully our sponsorship has created some good PR and good will around our company.

Please drop me an email when you are in the organisation stages for next year, I'm almost certain we'll want to get involved again and with our knowledge from this year we can make our stage even better!

We found our ducks, Vicki had taken them home so they've not gone missing!

Hope the fundraising on your side went as well as planned

Kate Evans

Marketing Manager

Almond Family Pubs

Part 2 of Bob & Sue's favourite films. Those marked with a ✓ have been seen by us

2012 films

Best Marigold Hotel	✓ British retirees go to India to live in hotel in need of restoration
Lincoln	✓ American epic historical drama
Magdalene Sisters	✓ VG True story of unmarried girls in Ireland
Martha Marcy May Marlene	US indi film about young woman escaping a dangerous cult
Notes on a Scandal	✓ VG Zoe Heller author, with Judy Dench as main lead
The Butler	✓ VG Cecil Gaines serves 8 presidents whilst butler at White House

2013 films

American Hustle	✓ Brilliant con man & partner forced to work for a wild FBI agent
Argo	✓ must see, fantastic! True story of American hostages in Iran
Blue Jasmine	✓ VG dark comedy drama film written & directed by Woody Allen
Captain Phillips	✓ Good, true story of ship & Somali pirates
Gravity	✓ Space shuttle disaster, amazing graphics, won 7 Academy Awards
Locke	✓ One-man show in a single confined location, man's life unravels.
Philomena	✓ VG must see, True story single mum searching for her adopted son
Twelve Years a Slave	✓ VG must see, amazing haunting and sadly true!
Wolf of Wall Street	Rise of wealthy stock-broker to fall involving crime, corruption – true

Julia Shaw's Job Talk 20th May



There were 24 members and no guests. In the absence of our Grace givers we had an evening without a formal grace. Vida's rendering of the apologies included some so confidential that the reasons could not be revealed! Following our normal excellent food we were introduced to our speaker – our newest member – Julia Shaw.

Julia worked at the BBC for 25 years doing all sorts of things as a Radio 4 broadcast journalist and senior producer. She worked in various local and network roles but mostly producing and presenting on BBC Radio 4 magazine programmes including Woman's Hour and You and Yours, producing features and documentaries and lots more. Then for a few years she did TV for C4 and the BBC as an independent producer, including an hour long programme filmed on Reunion Island simulating life on Mars. Then there were 7 years at the University of Central Lancashire where she taught post graduate students and led TV Broadcast Journalism. Some of the students she now watches or listens to on TV and Radio. Just before leaving she took a group of students to Kenya where she got the international bug (the students wrote a book!). Using her extensive contacts she got a job as executive director of an NGO (non-governmental organisation) the Independent Media Centre of Kurdistan (IMCK), in Iraqi Kurdistan. Kurdistan is a semi -

autonomous region in Northern Iraq. The Kurds here are bordered by Kurds in Iran, Turkey and Syria. There are 5 million Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan, mostly in the three main cities, plus 2.5 million refugees, mostly from Syria. Now, with ISIS, there are lots more flooding in. The Kurds are Muslims, but overall not strict Islamists. Their history is very complex, including in recent times enduring persecution under the regime of Saddam Hussein and finding peace and democracy with the introduction of the no fly zone, championed at the UN by John Major (which has had the effect of making the British very popular). The Kurdish people are very welcoming, cultured, artistic and very well informed and have a real desire to build up their country. The job of IMCK is to develop responsible journalism as part of developing democracy in the Kurdistan Region and the wider Iraq. This is in all spheres - in parliament - training MPs – (especially women) in how to engage in democracy via the media, and developing responsible journalism in all media. This mean training journalists in the basics - including the need to question everything (who, what, why, when, where, how) and to substantiate information rather than simply spread rumours or imparted wisdom! IMCK also introduces the methodology of photo journalism – leading to photo stories being published all over the world by Kurdish journalists. We should always remember that in tense times journalists are at risk of intimidation and harassment and Julia gave an example of one of IMCK's former students who was kidnapped last year and



even now no one knows where he is. Another journalist was shot dead at the front door of his home – because of his reporting of political corruption. Journalists have to practice self-censorship omitting stories on corruption and religion. IMCK trains journalists from all over Iraq bringing them to Kurdistan. Many former students are from places now overrun by ISIS. IMCK runs an internet website, Kirkuk Now which has the brief to promote tolerance and understanding amongst the various ethnicities in Kirkuk. Julia told the story of one of the journalists being captured by the Iraqi Army and was only released after four days of intense lobbying. As a big step to develop responsible “internet journalism” which is the future, IMCK are training journalists to use a phone app developed by their funding organisation, Free Press Unlimited. It enables journalists to make stories on their mobile phones - to “take photos, video and audio; edit and upload securely for publication”. The app also has journalism lessons. It was first rolled out in Iraq and then across the Middle East in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

Several members then demonstrated a better understanding of the region and its issues than this correspondent and all questions were dealt with admirably.

Harry gave a vote of thanks and the club gave warm and loud support.

Michael told a few tales about the duck race winning tickets, and Ian of how a local business had already seen business growth as a result of its sponsorship of ducky things.

Then we all went home

Michael

Committees and Duck Race Review 3rd June

The evening commenced on time with a good turn out that was enhanced by the welcome but rare attendance of Dev who arrived to the normal ribbing from members.

Once the (short) grace had been spoken and President Harry selected table order in his usual (un)biased way, the main meal was taken. During the break between courses excuses were offered on behalf of absentees ranging from being in France, New York and even Czechoslovakia which apparently does not even exist.

The second half started (as normal) somewhat later than requested with the suggestion that if we all got on with it we would finish early for a change.

Gill started us off with a request to spread the word on the Silverthon as it had not yet had a great take up of contestants and to make people aware that we would form teams of 4 if people were having trouble making their own, Leaflets are available to all and have been circulated widely but more will help

Michael advised that it would appear, subject to any unexpected costs and uncollected payments, that the income for the Duck Race was in the order of £20K with known costs in the order of £5K leaving a 'profit' of £15K which was a good result.

JohnT for international told us he had received 2 requests from ladies but hurriedly went on to say these were for support for overseas projects, one of which he proposed to discuss further at council the other he proposed a donation of £100.

CS and Secretary had nothing to report

Brian advised further about the Presidents BBQ with further details to follow, but did request the loan of one or maybe two units and transport for them. We were advised a garden visit has been arranged for later in the month (in place of 4th Wednesday)

John K asked for ideas and names of suitable speakers for the coming year

Maggie for Ways and Means advised that the Float was being used in the Bramhall Festival and it was intended that a number of Rotarians would be dressed in the clothing appropriate to the Founding Fathers. Help was requested for removal of the float from storage which was forthcoming.

Moving on to the Duck Race, Maggie on behalf of Bob P thanked all who had helped in any way toward the event stressing that a lot of people did a lot in the background and should be recognised for their efforts – it is a great team event. Also of note was the help of Andrew and his youngsters and the team from Bramhall High School.



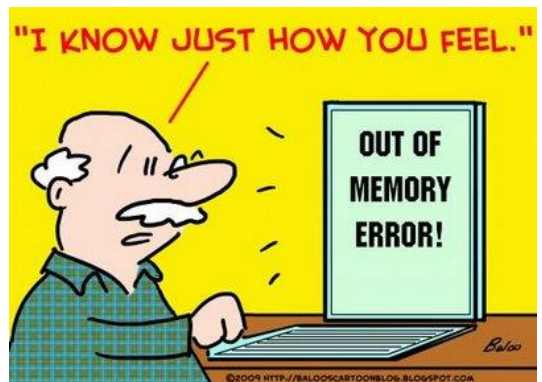
A review of the overall event with input from members was discussed without finger pointing or any priority. A major concern which went through most of the comments was a shortage of Adult helpers – a recurring comment year on year. With this in mind it was suggested an earlier start may be appropriate. It was stated that the general response from the village was extremely positive and no adverse comments were heard. However, we as a club were aware of some

deficiencies in the arrangements which could be rectified in the coming years – things such as the Duck Bus timetable should be prominently displayed showing times it was and was not running. Better communication is required between upper and lower fields where equipment for one is delivered to the other. It was felt the Large Duck Display was a good thing but needed better presentation and protection from little fingers – also all Ducks need to be delivered before 11 o'clock to ensure they all

get decent exposure. More toilets are required at the top site and staging could have been easier to access. Rubbish bins need to be provided. Event timings need to be maintained as much as possible to keep things flowing. Rotary games are very popular and whilst not extremely lucrative they do bring members of the public in contact with Rotary and help to dispel the dowdy image we have – it is suggested we extend our repertoire. A number of other Charities did well out of the event which was felt to be a bonus. Several businesses who supported the event report they gained additional business as direct result of being there and will attend again. The Girl Guides have expressed an interest in attending next time. Michael stated that the roles of money launderer and contact for helpers were, from this year’s experience, mutually exclusive. However despite our foibles it was a hugely successful and enjoyable event and many good news stories abound.

Winding up the evening the President demonstrated that the missing bell mallet had been (mysteriously) found. Peter Richardson won the free meal. Next weeks informal meeting is moved to Thursday to support the charity dinner organised by the Mill.

Trevor



From Harry as 'The Friends of Bramhall Hall'

It was a real and unexpected pleasure to welcome two Stockport councillors to our merry band on Saturday morning (25th July), not only because I know them both, but also because they worked really hard! Linda Holt has helped before when we had a grand leaf collection last Autumn, but John McGahan came along for the first time. John's wife also joined in and we all spent a busy but enjoyable couple of hours removing raspberry canes and brambles from the rhododendrons lining the main drive.

While mentioning the main drive, I have learnt that the Council has asked a contractor to clear the blocked culvert which runs under it. The contract includes provision for further action if and when it blocks in the future. Let us hope that this will allow the waterlogged land upstream to recover before any of the trees there die from oxygen lack at the roots.

More from the duck race

Volunteers - nearly all the named pupils from Bramhall High turned up and did various jobs including our games and the candy floss. We lost them later on but some stayed until the end.

Lots came from Barclays and were fantastic at ticket selling. At the end some women from Valley school arrived and dismantled gazebos and generally helped in the clearing up - making a real difference.

Money - the stallholders paid up willingly and in good humour even though quite a few said their takings were well down. The general view was that we had done a great job getting the crowds in, but the cooler weather meant that people did not hang around and stop and buy, but rather kept on walking and stayed for a shorter time.

Michael

Bramhall Festival 13th June

Thanks to everyone who turned out in the drizzle this morning, dressed in their finest attire, to parade through Bramhall Village. I think we did ourselves proud. After first of all saying that none of us had any period clothing to wear and half of us 'didn't do dressing up', I think we were probably the best



dressed section of the parade. Well done all those who took part.



Love
Maggie



USB on your computer (Universal Serial Bus)

You may know that most printers, scanners, mice and keyboards now connect to your computer using something called a USB port but there can be a confusing set of leads for this so I will attempt to demystify it a little.

The picture below shows the normal types of connections you will meet. From left to right these are Micro, Mini, a standard USB plug (the end which plugs into your computer) and the Type B found on printers and scanners.



Micro USB leads are often used as power and computer connections on mobile phones.

I have found Mini USB on Sat Navs and cameras although some cameras have obscure sockets which use a lead supplied by the manufacturer.

You can now buy power supplies that will plug into the mains or your car cigar lighter socket to charge your phone or sat nav (or even dashboard camera). They all provide 5 Volts but cheaper ones will not supply a lot of current and the stability of the voltage may not be good.

If you use USB to transfer data from one device to another (e.g. camera to computer), the speed of data transfer will vary depending on the age of USB socket. The earliest standard was USB 1.1 which was followed by USB 2 and then USB 3. These are backward compatible so a USB 3 socket on your computer can connect to a USB 1.1 connection on a camera although it will only operate at the lower speed.

If there are not enough USB ports on your computer, you can buy (very cheaply) a USB Hub to give 4 or more extra sockets. You can also get a powered version to give extra current to your peripherals.



Technology Tournament



At the end of June, St Bedes College Manchester organised a “mini Big Bang” event. What’s that you ask? THE Big Bang event is held in March at the NEC Birmingham to encourage students to consider an Engineering or Science career. The St Bedes event was a smaller version for local schools. As a part of this event I was asked to run a Rotary Technology Tour-

nament as it fits well with the objectives.

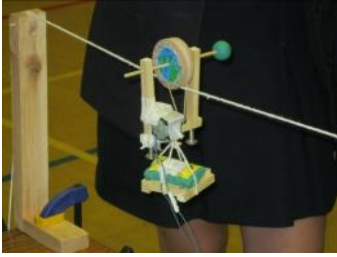
Forty three students, age 13/14 from 6 schools gathered at the College to undertake the challenge. They formed eleven teams. The format of the challenge is defined each year by a group of Rotarians from District 1040. As a member of District 1285 Youth Committee I was in charge of organising the event and obtaining the materials. This was the first time the challenge has taken place in this area.

This year’s challenge was *Crossing the River*, the brief given to each team was ..

You are members of a rescue team that is traveling cross-country and the way ahead is blocked by a deep river, which may have crocodiles. You need to cross the river and whilst there is no bridge, there is a suspended cable, which you should use to carry a rescue package to the other side.

Your challenge today is to design, build and test a vehicle, which will cross the river by running on the suspended cable. The vehicle must carry the rescue package provided.

Teams were provided with all necessary materials, wood, elastic bands, small motor, batteries, and wire. The rescue package to be transported was a small matchbox loaded with modelling clay. This was an all day event starting at 9.30 with teams expected to test out their design by 3pm; so a very long time which I learnt was significant. One teacher commented that a Design Technology lesson was only of one period duration (40minutes); also that students were usually



instructed in exactly what they should do. This challenge required that they read the brief and develop a design that would meet that brief.

Harry, Michael, Abi and Trevor kindly acted as judges for the event and I was also assisted during the day by Ron and Adrian

Ramsden from Macclesfield Rotary.

By lunch time quite a few teams were developing a design that required a pulley to be mounted at the far end of the wire, the motor fixed at the other end and they would pull the load across the river – not the intention. The rules stated that *a drive system powered by a battery/electric motor, with a speed reducing pulley system, shall be used to drive the vehicle along the cable*. They were challenged as to how they would get the pulley to the far end – back to the drawing board. One team seemed to have given up all together, laid back, not talking to each other and no visible design. After lunch, with encouragement from a teacher and Harry and Trevor, they managed to achieve a working design.

Testing at 3pm found that all the teams had achieved a workable design; which was great. Judging was on various points ranging from team cooperation through to final design and ability to travel the 1.5 metre high wire. The winners were team Phoenix, who happened to be from St Bedes College, which no doubt pleased their Headmaster who was on hand to award the winners certificates.

Was it successful? A majority of students who completed the feedback form said that they would take part again, the BW Club members all indicated they enjoyed the event and would take part again; my contact at the school has said that he is talking with the Engineering Association about a bigger event next year and wants to invite us back. So I think I can say, yes it was successful.

John Sykes



The fashion show made the June edition of Cheshire life.



Vanessa Garrard and Wendy Green

Society

Fund-raising: Vida Chattington and Julia Shaw

Field, Dorothy Foster Field, Jane Oldfield

Sarah Poomady and Annalise Jackson of SOS, Bramhall, with Joanne Khandurrani and Rachel Campbell



Buckels and Norma Molly



Stall at her Jazzy Designs stall with Valentina Jane Shaw, Jacqui Dean and Val Young



Ann Lees of Crissan, Cheadle Hulme, with fashion show models, Gail Burstow, Jill Hughes, Trudi King, Sue Preece and Maggie Hill



Rebecca, Rose, Ella Byron and Helen at her Modiste fashions, Bramhall



Joanne Khandurrani with Barbara Kola, Sarah Rooney and Barbara Brooks

STRUTTING THEIR STUFF

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN COCKS

A ladies' fashion event held by Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club at the Deanwater Hotel, Woodford, raised £1,000 for Blood Bikes Manchester. The charity's invaluable work involves swiftly transferring blood supplies when they are urgently needed by hospitals. Guests enjoyed a fashion show by ladies from local boutiques including Crissan of Cheadle Hulme, SOS and Modiste of Bramhall, as well as lunch and shopping stalls.

Ann Lees, the owner of Crissan, said: 'The event exceeded all our expectations in raising £1,000 for charity.'

'We were also able to meet lots of new customers who are now enjoying our wonderful spring and summer collections. ♦

Unseen Benefits derived from our Duck Race 2015.

1. Vernon Building Society did free face painting and received donations of £20 which has gone to their own charity.
2. The Mill collected £120
3. Rotate a Ted run by Gatley Rotary made £454
4. A Sweet Thought had two parties booked from their goody bag handout to the choirs by the following Tuesday
5. I Love Bramhall had 2 new clients and an upgrade on their internet pages at the event
6. Prestbury Travel were impressed and wish to be more involved with us. They raised a further £108 from their Where's Columbus game.
7. A child's lost shoe was reunited with her through Facebook
8. Facebook proved powerful when a winner of £100 was traced through that medium
9. Sharon Wallis Photography took 71 pictures of youngster and business will flow from them
10. Mo'bouu Boutique were connected with a prospective customer wishing to progress a purchase
11. The local Girl Guide Assn wish to be involved next year
12. St Christopher's School indicated that they wished to borrow some of our games/equipment
13. Some of the race winners donated all or part of their 'winnings' back to the club
14. Some stalls sold out early due to high footfall
15. At least two of the businesses present indicated that they would review their business models for next year's event
16. Mr Whippy diverted a van from Stanley Green to the Hall Courtyard due to demand. This made three of their vans on site. Almond Family Pubs were impressed with Gordon's expertise on their stage and wish to improve the facility next year.

Lots of happy people - visitors and stallholders and performers
Ghost income of almost £700 on top of what we made

Ian

Silverthon update

After a great effort by many Rotarians (Gill and Ian in particular) The Silverthon which was due to take place on the 25th July, was cancelled owing to lack of response from the public. We had great publicity from Age UK. There was a radio interview and press involvement including Christopher Biggins so quite why this event did not capture the public imagination is a complete mystery.



Silverthon

Triple Challenge 2015

Strong Do you still have what it takes?
- 5 mile walk -

Speedy it takes?
- 15 mile bike ride -

Smart
- Mental challenges



Cheshire East ageUK

25th July 09:00- 18:00
Nelson's Pit, Higher Paynton SK12 1TE
Entry form : www.bwrotary.org
e.mail : silverthon@bwrotary.org.uk

Age 55+
Teams of four



A winner is found

Someone had bought a winning duck race ticket but when Michael rang the number given, it wouldn't connect. The last digit was a little indistinct so after trying several combinations, Ian had a go on Facebook and successfully found her from the name. The cheque was delivered and she later posted her grateful thanks.

A superb outcome using teamwork and technology.

From Tony Burch in furrin parts via Dennis

Whitchurch meet on the first, third and fifth of month in the evening with a 2 course dinner and second and fourth of month at 1.00pm with a 2 course lunch which are shorter but do include business and the occasional speaker, who is limited to a short presentation. Whitchurch RC is quite different in character to B & W, being more formal (jacket and tie worn by most members) and is older in its character and average age. It is not as strong on fund raising as B & W and has virtually no social activities outside of the regular meetings. Its core strength is essentially within the CS function which is impressive by any measure. CS does not operate following a committee pattern, but relies on individual members picking up specific projects and tasks that they appear to undertake for many years which I think has pros and cons. I am taking on the role as CS liaison member responsible for assessing applications for help from all comers who approach the club for help and being the conduit for the various CS activities to council/district. This is a council role and I have been asked by the incoming President to evaluate and present new ideas for the club, one of which may well be the Dragon's Den project.

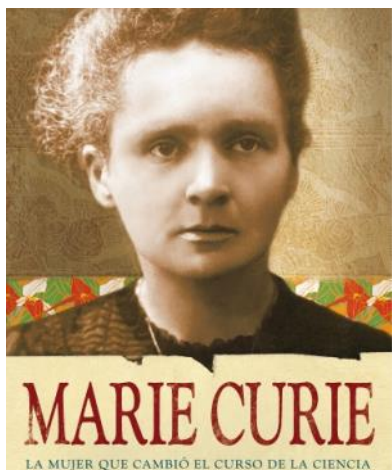


Dorothy Forster, Marie Curie 17th June

Wine was generously provided by Ron to celebrate his and Pam's Golden Wedding Anniversary. Ian informed us that photographs from the Fashion Show appeared in Cheshire Life (and tonight's speaker was amongst them). The President appealed, on behalf of Friends of Bramhall Park, for help with some gardening on Saturday morning at 10 am for about 2 hours.

After the coffee break we were entertained by a talk from Dorothy Forster who is a Community Ambassador for Marie Curie. Dorothy explained that the Marie Curie Charity supports terminally ill patients and their families in their own homes. They have dropped 'cancer care' from their name as they support terminally ill patients with diseases other than cancer. She explained that they differ from McMillan Nurses who are involved with all patients who have cancer but this charity only supports the terminally ill. Marie Curie Nurses help patients who want to stay at home. They can stay all night with patients if necessary to enable family members to get some rest. There are currently 2,000 nurses helping 30,000 patients. The cost of a nurse is

£20 per hour and the Marie Curie Charity need £5,000 per hour to provide this care. Health Authorities provide 40% of the cost but the remainder has to be raised by collections and fund raising activities. Dorothy's group has raised £70k in three and a half years; 35% of their money is spent on home care, 35% on hospices, 27% on fund raising and 3% on publicity. They also fund research into the care of cancer patients but not into the treatment of cancer.



Marie Curie herself conducted research into radioactivity which led to its use as a treatment for cancer. Unfortunately, because at that time the dangers of long term radiation exposure were not known, she died of cancer caused by her research. Dorothy concluded her talk by saying that she found the work very rewarding.

Bob Preece

Social evening 8th July

Eight of us plus Andrew (one of the Friends of BWRotary) met in the Vic for an extremely convivial evening during which we mercilessly slagged off NHS management, stole David Rose's chips and enjoyed each other's company.

Here's to many more.

What we took on the day

Tote	£832
Ticket sales upper	£542
Drinks stall	£524 plus 21 vouchers
Ticket sales lower	£521
Bake off	£225
Candy floss	£218
Gingerbread	£206
Car park	£200
Bookstall	£170
Bran tub and splat rat	£143
Balls in bucket	£124
Tin cans	£104
Peter's stall	£50
Raffle	£28

£3,386 in total!!

In addition we got £1,065 from the fairground, £600 from ice cream and donuts, £285 from bouncy castles and £690 from the smaller stalls.

At our various venues beforehand we collected £2,401. Valley school sold 75, and we still have the individual club member sales to come in (about £400 so far, but more to go).

And finally: Total income is £20,172 comprising £3,035 advance ticket sales, £3,746 advanced sponsorship, adverts and large duck entries and £6,891 on the day itself. To these add £5,000 sponsorship from Barclays and £1,500 from Mosley Jarman. Costs were £4,756 giving proceeds of £15,416.

We will donate £12,000 to Valley School.

A formal presentation is proposed for 15th July and school to be contacted but monies to be paid as soon as practical

Michael

Proverbs

It is said that proverbs are short sentences drawn from long experience. However, almost every wise saying has an opposite one, no less wise, to balance it!

I sometimes wonder whether other cultures have their own proverbs. Well, of course they do! Make of them what you will. Here is a selection:

About trees:

When the axe came into the forest the trees all said, "Well, at least the handle is one of us." (Turkish)

When the big tree falls, the goats eat its leaves. (African)

No tree falls at the first stroke. (German)

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the second best time is now. (China)

About legs:

If it has legs it will have a head. (Tanzanian)

A horse has four legs, yet it often falls. (Zulu)

Falsehoods have short legs. (Macedonian)

Miscellaneous:

After shaking hands with a Greek, count your fingers. (Albanian)

The eyes are the spoons of speech. (Arabic)

A diamond has no value to a dog (I made that one up)

The world began with war, and will end with war. (Arabic)

The wise are always at peace. (Arabic)

Looking for fish? Don't climb a tree. (China)

Every beetle is a gazelle in the eyes of its mother. (Moroccan)

Anger is the only thing to put off till tomorrow. (Czech)

America is the only country to go from barbarism to capitalism without going through civilisation (Electrician at a power station I once worked at)

Thanks to Dennis for most of these.

Handover 1st July



Here we come to the end of one Rotary year and the start of another.

Grace was said by John Knowles and Harry introduced Patrick Tyrell in the role of Assistant Governor who was accompanied by his wife, Anne. Vida then read out the list of absentees one of which was Bruce Farrow who has fallen off his bike and has broken his nose. We send him our good wishes for a very speedy recovery.

Harry then had the job of handing over the chain of office to Gill who looked simply stunning in a floral lace dress. She was a little taken aback when she realised she would have to get her sewing kit out and sew Harry's badge onto the chain! Harry received his past President's badge and removed himself from the top table to join the lower ranks.

After the break, our new President gave her report stating her ambitions for her year in office closely followed by the new Vice-Chairman, Bob. (You can read all these reports in a separate document so I won't boil my cabbages twice).

Patrick then responded and brought us greetings from the District Governor and said that he thought it a good idea to give

out prizes to the various winners of Youth competitions at our club meetings to give them a better idea of what Rotary was all about.

Patrick was impressed with amount of money our club had given to Foundation. Michael explained how we collected the money.

Patrick mentioned that their club had involved schools in the planting of the purple crocuses in the end Polio campaign. He wished us good luck in the coming year.

Treasurer, Michael, said we had raised some £34,000 this year and over the years that the club has been in existence, some £310,000.

John Sykes reported on the engineering competition which took place last Saturday at St. Bede's School. Eleven teams competed in the competition and the winner was called Phoenix. Later in the year Young Designer of the Year will be held at Parris Wood School.

Ian Dobson jumped in and said we had choir competitions and dancing ones. He then went on to say that the Avro Vulcan bomber flew over the now redundant airfield at Woodford last Saturday and will make another appearance in October when the builders who are filling site with oodles of houses will open a museum showing people how we used to be able to build aircraft! We hope we may have an opportunity to be marshals at this event and spread the word of Rotary to the new inhabitants of Woodford.

Gill asked us to bring old suitcases for the use of young people who have to move about frequently and a number of us promised to bring some to the next meeting on 15th July when some of the staff from the Valley School will come to be presented with the cheque we have raised from the Duck Race. Barclays were asked to attend but did not think they would be able to.

Gill let us go home a little early as it was so unbearably hot so we were let out into a thunder and lightning storm which was very impressive.

Vida

Extract from the DG's report from our Handover meeting:

Patrick Tyrrell
Assistant Governor
District 1285



Members: 36 (3 hon) – June 2015	Attendance: 24	66%
Guests: 0	Visitors: 0	Visiting Rotarians: 2
Venue: Satisfactory but can be difficult to find for visitors, especially at night	Food: Substantial hot meal – on the hottest night of the year	
Cost to members: £12.00	Cost to Visitors: £12.00	

AG Comments –

I passed on the best wishes of PDG Alastair, DG Nigel and my own club, Cheadle & District.

Well before the Assembly, I was sent a comprehensive pack of reports from the chairs, which was impressive. Unfortunately, it had not been circulated to members this meant that every report was read out by the respective chair. Perhaps circulating the pack to all the club members before the Assembly would be useful

The reports suggested that youth activities were only worthy of a sub-committee whereas, clearly, the club does support Youth Services activities in a significant way. Youth Services possibly needs to become a committee in its own right.

In respect of the Woodford development, because of the potential for new Rotarians over the next 10 years, I would recommend that the local (to the airfield) clubs work together to promote Rotary amongst the new residents.

The club does not use the Rotary GB&I template preferring to use their own web design, they also have had difficulties with the membership database template. At the time of writing, I do not know if they are attending the template seminar in July.

I congratulated and thanked the club for sending \$5,600 to the Rotary Foundation, an example to other clubs in the District.

In 2014/5 the club raised £34k for charities and since being chartered in 1986 has raised more than £300k.

I concluded by thanking the club for their hospitality and wished President Gill a successful Rotary year.

Diary and Job Rota

After our meeting to discuss the new format, the following may be subject to change particularly those items in italics.

Date	Diary	Bulletin
05/08/2015	Committees	J Thewlis
10/08/2015	Council at Sunrise	
12/08/2015	Informal buffet meal with 'Back to school' quiz	M Hill
19/08/2015	David Hunt, VP Uni of Maryland Medical Center	B Stevenson
26/08/2015	Bowls evening at Cheadle	B Dougal
02/09/2015	Committees with District Governor Nigel Danby	B Bissell
07/09/2015	Council at Sunrise	
09/09/2015	<i>Informal at club re Scarecrow Festival</i>	P Holmes
12/09/2015	Scarecrow festival	
16/09/2015	<i>Speaker TBA</i>	I Dobson
23/09/2015	<i>No meeting</i>	
30/09/2015	<i>Charter Night at Turquoise</i>	
07/10/2015	Committees	J Meeus
12/10/2015	<i>Council at Sunrise</i>	
14/10/2015	<i>Informal meeting at club</i>	G Hunt
18/10/2015	International concert Woodford Community Ctr 3pm	
21/10/2015	<i>Speaker TBA</i>	H Hill
28/10/2015	<i>No meeting</i>	
04/11/2015	Committees	N Lovelenad
09/11/2015	<i>Council at Sunrise</i>	
11/11/2015	Informal meeting at club	J Shaw
18/11/2015	Speaker TBA	J Sykes
25/11/2015	<i>No meeting</i>	
02/12/2015	Committees	D Rose

President's BBQ 5th July

Scorching weather heralded the 2015 BBQ at Harry and Maggie's house where the food was well up to Maggie's usual brilliant standards. A good turn



-out too as Harry revealed his surprise of the day—he announced no less than two new Paul Harris Fellowships for Maggie and Sue. Everyone agreed that these were very well deserved and reflects the scale of hard work that these two have put into the club.

As Harry's speech ended, the weather decided that it had held on as long as possible and the heavens opened to a real downpour but it was too late to dampen our spirits.



And from Harry

Thanks to all of you who came and made yesterday such a success! Particular praise must go to the Head Chef (Maggie), the sous-chef (Brian), and Corry's the Butchers who provided such excellent meat. I found myself shackled to my barbecue and didn't circulate as I would have liked, and if I



didn't speak to you it wasn't meant as a slight! The weather certainly helped, not raining until we'd all eaten.

Thank you for all your kind comments about the do, and even the odd complement on my Presidency!

I'm glad to be handing over to Gill, who will be an excellent leader, without any doubt. But like other PPs I shall be chipping in from the back benches, but at least it will be easier to shut me up!

Valley School 15th July

Free drinks at the bar was a good way to start the evening. This was due to Bob Stevenson celebrating his 40th wedding anniversary. We trust he bought Oriane a memento with a ruby in it to mark the occasion.

This was President Gill's first full meeting where she could ring the bell (gently as it happened) to call the assembled throng to order. Having started with a secular grace she then challenged both side tables to come up with three reasons why they should go first for the meal. Having listened to passionate pleas from Geoff and Ian she declared Geoff the winner but then decided that top table would go first anyway!!



Vida introduced our three speakers: Debbie Thompson (Head teacher Valley School), Janet Banks (parent of pupil at school) and Sarah Sturmeay from Pure Insight (picture on the left) and gave apologies from seven members. Gill then announced that the Silverthon had been cancelled due to lack of support from the public. Age UK had been informed. Four members had resigned for various reasons but all wanted to stay as "Friends

of Rotary". It had been decided at Council to make Alan Newsome an Honorary member. Bruce the elder said that the Mercian Cup competition would now be held at Manchester Rugby club instead of Stockport Rugby club. He also said that there was only one pub (The Queens) still having a collecting box for the Mercian Regiment.

As a departure from the norm, we then had a between course talk by Sarah Sturmeay. Some of you will remember that Pure Insight were the winners of our Dragons Den competition last year. Sarah had come to collect unwanted suitcases (which



completely filled her car other than a small space for the petite driver) and said that she hoped to return in a few months time with a film they were making which would show the work they were doing with young people. Harry made a plea for help with gardening at Bramall Hall on Saturday

25th July and Ian was looking for a band or a fiddler for the “Scarecrows on Holiday” event on 12th September.

After desserts and coffee Debbie said that Valley was a happy school with dedicated staff who had to have non verbal communication with some of the fifty one children who ranged in age from 2 to 11. There were many challenges but it was very rewarding and their motto is ‘Small steps-giant strides’. Janet said her son Luke had developed tremendously as a result of being at Valley. As part of the fund raising support team she reckoned it would have taken them more than five years to match our donation. Debbie finished off the presentation with pictures showing the type of equipment they would now be able to purchase for their sensory area.

President Gill then announced that next week would be an extraordinary meeting to discuss the way forward for the club and Michael gave a succinct summary of the formation and running of a satellite club. Sue Preece suggested a walk this coming Saturday which would have been the route taken in the Silverthon. Six indicated they would join her.

Ron



The Silverthon Walk 18th July



Owing to the general chicken-hearted response of the public, we were unable to run the Silverthon and a decision was made to use the 'walk' section as a social event and so it was that 11 of us (including Andrew) plus Bagel the dog, strode out from Nelson's pit around

10.30. Gill had omitted to tell us that, although it was around 5 miles in length, it was about 8 miles up and down so proved a fair challenge for those of us of a rotund nature. Particularly as I'd cycled there 6.5 miles through the mountainous terrain of Higher Poynton.



Anyway, one stop for ice cream, a fall by Bob Stevenson (mercifully no damage done) and a fair number of selfies later, we staggered into the pub where after a mere three hour wait, we got fed (at least it seemed like it).



I cycled back and noted that for some reason, it appeared to be uphill in that direction too.

Gordon



Barclays gave us a massive £5000 donation towards the duck race proceeds allowing us to present £12,000 to Valley School.

Extraordinary meeting 22/7/15

Last night's meeting was very well attended with 25 Rotarians present. I also received emails from three members who were not able to make it indicating their preferences for future meetings. The food was buffet style and very well received by members although there was a lot left over despite "doggy bags" being prepared for today's lunch !! The lounge bar area was not the ideal venue due to through traffic and poor acoustics though everyone was able to hear the discussions – even Sid !



Gill receives Sid's high tech answer to those who overstay their speaking time (an egg timer)



Vida received a much overdue Paul Harris Fellowship from Harry.

The debate was to discuss the format and frequency of future meetings and after much discussion; it was unanimously decided to revert back to weekly meetings with some changes to the format. It was felt we had lost our way somewhat since the decision was made in January to go to bi-monthly meetings and members felt confused about what was planned for non-meeting Wednesdays and felt adrift from the club. Further discussion about the format was held and it was concluded that they would fall into the following pattern:-

- First Wednesday - Committees, no change although it was suggested that this may take the form of a buffet meal with members sitting in Committees.
- Second Wednesday – informal evening at the club, probably buffet style on separate tables (i.e. Not the U shape) in our usual room. There would be the option to have some sort of “activity” at these meetings and suggestions were made to include wine tasting evening, quizzes or anything else members would like to do. It was felt this would naturally evolve without too much planning.
- Third Wednesday – Speaker evening or the occasional Charity appeal. We would like more thought going into the choice of speakers and Geoff and John T will liaise on this. However if any member knows of a good speaker they should inform John T .
- Fourth Wednesday – Social event. There will be a series of natural social events such as Charter

night, Presidents night, BBQ etc. but in addition we may go out for a meal, bowling, theatre etc. These should be planned well in advance so everyone is aware. If a natural social event falls nearer the second Wednesday then the 2nd and 4th could be switched round.

- Fifth Wednesday – no meeting.

Hopefully this format will be well received by members and all suggestions are welcome regarding social events or the informal nights- it's your club, you decide what you would like to do!

The second topic up for discussion was the ongoing battle trying to recruit new members. There had been discussions the previous week regarding the formation of a Satellite club to attract a younger membership and whilst this has not been ruled out, it was felt that the best way forward was to attempt to recruit a younger group to join as full Rotarians. The problem was identified that potential new younger members feel the club is based around older members and may feel at odds with this. If a group were to join together this disassociation may be overcome. We do have a potential new member who many of you have met. Andrew is very keen on the ethos of Rotary and would joinas long as he isn't the only young one! No one really wants to be the first. With that in mind we hope to run an informal evening away from the club (Maggie has offered to host this) to invite potential new members for a chat, talking about Rotary can offer them and also for them to meet each other. If we can recruit 4-5 members this way I think that would be a successful outcome and hopefully then encourage further younger members. We can but try!!

Thank you all for your contributions to the debate and the dignified way in which it was held.

Gill

25 years ago

In these early years of the club (1990) the AGM was held in April as the accounts were run on a financial year basis rather than in line with the Rotary year. Reports looked back over the preceding twelve months rather than looking forward with aims and aspirations. Preparations for Bramhall Festival (Bramfest) continued with Smith Knight Fay sponsoring the programme in the sum of £1000.



An away day visit was made to the Royal Northern College of Music for a production of "Pirates" by the East Cheshire Amateur Operatic Society which was more Broadway than D'Oyly-Carte. There was a fascinating talk on "The Galilee Boat" a boat from the 1st Century AD which had been found in the mud by two fishermen on the shores of Lake Galilee. Dennis Allport organised a visit to the ICI Toxicology department at Alderley Park. The parkland setting and quality of the Waterside restaurant made most of us envious of this place of work.

In June we lost our title as the newest club in District with the inauguration of Northwich Vale Royal. Much time and effort was devoted to Bramfest building a float for the procession in the shape of a railway engine, organising the Miss Bramhall competition and a fashion show. Car parking was as ever a problem. Bramfest was a joint venture with Round Table and made a profit of £11000 which, considering how long ago this was, was a large amount of money.

At the Club Assembly Ron Malabon became President with Dennis Allport as secretary. Community Service promised ongoing support for the Blind Rota, International was looking at Twinning, Social wanted to start with a Treasure Hunt, Foundation wanted to continue with "Youth Speaks" and "Youth Makes Music" and John Meeus was trying to sell 600 tickets for a train trip to London. David Poizer took part in Telethon 90, a fund-raising phone-in organised by Granada TV.

Ron Malabon

Blind Run

Mrs Joan Goodall, 3 Poise Brook Drive, Offerton, SK2 5JG Tel: 456 2076

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

Saturday prior to the Blind Run – Phone the above and confirm they are going

Monday – Collect the Marshalls at around 1pm to allow plenty of time for Mr Marshall to get in your car - to arrive at WH before 1.30pm or to Our Ladies if required.

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

Let John Sykes know if you get stuck.

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

Please carry your mobile phone in case of problems.

Date	Driver
20/07/2015	Closed for 7 weeks
07/09/2015	J Sykes
14/09/2015	J Shaw
21/09/2015	D Allport
28/09/2015	D Rose
05/10/2015	B Preece
12/10/2015	V Chattington
19/10/2015	R Malabon
26/10/2015	D Burstow
02/11/2015	H Hill
09/11/2015	J Meeus
16/11/2015	G Hunt
23/11/2015	
30/11/2015	

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

Winner of the best dressed duck—The Dog Spa



The Snowflake Sisters (Ian tried to join but failed) gave us a wonderful performance.





School choirs and English folk dance on the croquet lawn



The helpers from Barclays made a real difference