

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



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

# Bulletin



Welcome to Bob as he prepares for his 2016/17 presidency at the BBQ



Flooding in Bramhall and Poynton resulted in our emergency volunteers being called out but thankfully not used.





Yet another  
fantastic duck race  
raised a record amount  
for Francis House



Vicky Almond —  
spoke about Prader  
Willi Syndrome



## *Bob's Bulletin*

Having the privilege of being your president in B&W 30<sup>th</sup> year is quite an honour and as this is also my first bulletin I hope to keep up the standard set by previous presidents. As Sue was also a B&W president in the past I don't want any criticism from her. On reflection of the past three months the Duck Race, as usual, must stand out as a fantastic fund raiser for Francis House and wonderful community event. Thanks must go to all who contributed and especially to Maggie.

Gill's presidency was notable for many good reasons and particularly for the number of new and younger members that we gained. Although overall membership is slightly reduced the age and gender balance in our club is much healthier. Gill's year ended with the annual BBQ kindly and most generously hosted by Chris & Mary who also did all the excellent cooking.

At a previous 'Dragons Den' event the first prize was awarded to Pure Insight. They contacted us a few months ago to request support for their Café Zest, which provides young people who have left care an opportunity to meet others in a similar position. We were successful in obtaining a Rotary District Grant of a £1,000 towards running this worthwhile project.

Charter Night will be upon us shortly, Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup> This is a special 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration and so I felt that it would be more fitting to hold it in a private hotel setting, hence the Pinewood. I do hope that you will all be able to attend this special Charter Night.

A few dates for your diary - This year's District Conference will be held in Llandudno on October 28 to 30 and the RIBI Conference will be held in Manchester on April 7 to 9, 2017. I hope lots of you will attend as it is so close to home. The guest speakers look good and the stage is set for a very special performance by Katherine Jenkins on the Friday night at the Bridgewater Hall.

## May 11<sup>th</sup> **Duck Race here we come!**

Only 3 days to go before the Duck Race. So what do we do? We sort out the details, the nitty-gritty – that's what. This essential activity does not make for riveting reporting, however! Who wants to know in a few week's time where the Duck Bus posters are, or who had dustbins to bring? To be brutally honest, not many folks! So this report, though brief, records an essential evening of nitty-gritting.

We were glad to learn that Chris Monkhouse would be back from his travels early and able to help, but very much saddened that the reason for his early return was to attend the funeral of a close friend.

Harry, never one to let a good workout stand in his way, called for volunteers to move compost in the park on 21<sup>st</sup> May. All that is required is a shovel and strong arms.

The main performance was, of course given by Maggie. We all were reminded of our jobs on the day, niggles were smoothed out and a few gaps filled in. Rotary cars were NOT to be left in the park once equipment was delivered. Rotary cars could be parked at the Brookdale Club, where a section has been allocated for our use. A Rotarian would supervise this and reject fly parking by the general populace. Could be a job for the returned Chris M?

Real activity would start at 8am, and Bruce Farrow, bless his heart, had volunteered to guard the entrance and help incoming stall holders. John M. was CiC of stall locations. Bruce was not the only returning ex-member willing to help. Trevor Saville would once again be actively involved, as would Caroline Egan, and David Walker (have I missed anyone?). Great to have their help, and good to see everyone again!

Maggie and her team had gone completely mad Big Duck-wise,

and sold over 140 if my memory serves me correctly. It has become so popular that some shops and businesses had to be refused, but are on a waiting list for next year! After all, a little river can only take so many big ducks, and we had no plans to stay until late evening giving them all a swim. We have a record number of stalls this year, and a plethora of special events.

All this did not come without a fantastic effort from the Ways and Means committee, and especially from Maggie and Ian, who both received well-deserved recognition from the club.

So, what is left to record?

Collect all litter in the bins and ensure that the bags are taken to the designated spot to be taken away.

Last minute plans were being considered to have a 'traffic light' system on the stone bridge to minimise congestion.

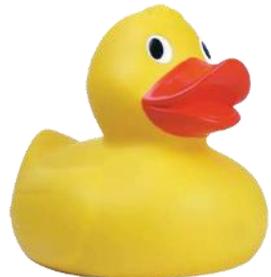
It is not only the main roads that have traffic problems.

If you need a volunteer to help with a task, go and ask Sue Preece, who hopefully will satisfy your every need.

On May 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a very informal gathering at the Vic to welcome those who would like to find out more about our club and about Rotary. Apologies not required on this occasion.

So that, I think, is that. We hope that Vida's very swollen big toe soon returns to its normal size and that she is able to walk comfortably. Too much port possibly? Who knows?

The weather forecast looks dry but cool, which will be great. Let's hope that there will be plenty of water in the river to float all our ducks, but not too much that it goes over the top of Bruce B's wellies.!



**Dennis**

## Duck Race Debrief 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016

The meeting started with congratulations to Maggie for the organisation of a fantastic Duck Race and she in turn had bought wine for everyone.

After dinner we had what is now almost a regular event, the induction of a new member. Last night it was Denise who was proposed by Pat.

The meeting was a debrief of the Duck Race. Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful event but the club feels it is necessary to discuss any issues so as to improve next time. The main problem, as always, is a lack of adult helpers on the day. Congestion on the footbridge is a problem and suggestions were made of having a stop go sign or some traffic lights. John M said he would investigate if a temporary bridge could be installed just downstream of the stone bridge. There were one or two minor complaints about a rather rude woman on the fair-ground and another on one of the stalls. One person had complained that the Krav Maga self-defence display was not suitable for children. There was some damage to the drums belonging to Walthew House steel band when they were being loaded in the van. Some of the charities felt they were out of the way and it was suggested splitting the charity stalls up among the other stalls. Jan had stated that the Candy Floss machine had not been cleaned from when it was last used and said it was too much for one person to run it all day. Also we should just buy one colour of sugar, not three different ones. Bruce commented that the scouts, as always, did a fantastic job. He said that we should have a maximum of 18 giant ducks per race and have more races if necessary. There were 350 unsold race tickets partly because the stall near the hall ran out of tickets and partly because the last small duck race was earlier than normal which gave less time to sell tickets. The support from Barclays was much less than in previous years.

Iain Bate, the SMBC Greenspace officer, said he was very impressed with the event.

Bob P said that it was brilliant that we had both a great community event and a huge fund raiser but he felt that we were expecting members to do too much. Only about 60% of the club were at the event and half of these are over 70. He felt we were failing in our duty of care to expect members to work almost 12 hours with a minimal break. Everyone agreed that we desperately need more adult helpers particularly at the clear up but did not agree with his suggestion of reducing the work load by discontinuing the Rotary games.

Michael said that although he does not have the final accounts he expects that we will have raised approximately £15k without Barclays support.

Overall everyone agreed it was a brilliant day for which we can all be proud with only minor problems.

**Bob Preece**

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## **25<sup>th</sup> June in the pub**

About 17 Rotarians and two visitors (neither a prospective new member I think – Pat receptionist at Hillbrook Grange and a friend of Kate, and David from Walthew House) had a very pleasant evening chatting and having a drink or two in The Victorian in Bramhall. Some friends were there too (Mark and Julie Sweeting, Jan Edmonds) to make it even more enjoyable. Mark described the event on 9<sup>th</sup> June which will replace our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June. It is at Amans and costs £20 – a fundraiser for The Mill. I think Brian Dougal is coordinating our attendance so if you want to go (recommended) then tell Brian.

**Michael**

## From 'I Love Bramhall'

**The Friends of Lumb Lane Park** are delighted to have funding approved for new play area at Lumb Lane Park, Bramhall

Local children in Bramhall are set to get a brand new play area thanks to a £41,825 grant from funding body WREN.

The money, awarded by WREN's FCC Community Action Fund, will be used to completely regenerate the local park by resurfacing the playground and installing modern and exciting play equipment.

Alejandra Solis, Chair for The Friends of Lumb Lane believes the upgrades and equipment will make a huge difference to the lives of people living in the area and the community.

*Alejandra says: "This project will provide a real boost to the people of Bramhall. It's fantastic that WREN has awarded us this money and we're really looking forward to our playground taking shape over the coming months."*

*Councillor Sheila Bailey, Executive Member for Housing & Communities at Stockport Council, offered her congratulations. "This is a remarkable achievement for all those involved and an excellent example of partnership working between the Council and the local community. The value of good quality play provision cannot be underestimated".*

WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund.

*Richard Smith, WREN's grant manager for Cheshire, says: "We're delighted to be supporting the Lumb Lane Park project and pleased our funding will provide such a beautiful green*

*space for people across Bramhall. WREN is always happy to consider grant applications for projects that make a difference to local communities and we're really looking forward to seeing this one take shape soon."*



Alejandra hopes the new playground will be ready for play by the Autumn.

The money raised will be used to offer children of all ages and abilities the chance to have fun in a safe environment. The cent-

repiece will be a 3 – tower adventure unit, commissioned specially, featuring a slide, climbing nets, and fireman's pole. A pendulum swing, 3 – seater rocker designed for younger children, and exhilarating skate ride will complete the new range of equipment soon to be installed.

### **And from Gill on the duck race**

Looks like it's set to be a record year which should entail a bumper cheque to Francis House . A huge well done to everyone involved and especially Maggie and Ian whose contributions have been above and beyond the call of duty !

We've created such a good event which everyone loves, given the attendance today and the comments and compliments I received from members of the public have been truly heartwarming.

It was all worth it !

**Gill**

## Easter trail at Bramhall Park



On Sunday 27th March, Easter Sunday, Billy Bow our Rotary Scarecrow and his new wife of six months, Bella of I Love Bramhall, took their friend of the fields, The Easter Bunny to Bramhall Park to meet the children and parents of Bramhall. Both Billy and Bella sported fantastic Easter bonnets and Bella looked positively blooming with a bulge of which any scarecrow would be proud. Poor Billy was confined to the stocks. Although no one ever found out his crime, Bella did have a sneaky smile on her face.

The occasion was an Easter Trail where the children could discover ten bins containing stickers located at points around the park by following clues on a sheet. There was a map on the back of the sheet to help the parents find their way. As it happened many of the children used the map whereas the parents enjoyed working out the clues. There were even reports of adults following the trail clues without any children in tow.

When ten different egg stickers had been collected the children received sweets from the tallest, but friendliest Easter Bunny in history who sounded remarkably like our own Bob S. Our patient bunny posed for many, many photographs, making lots of children and mums very happy.

The scheduled Easter Bonnet competition never really happened as contestants arrived at different times but the most impressive hats all received chocolate bunnies as they presented themselves.

After the trail Andrew, Gill, and Ian ran an impressive egg rolling competition down the slopes from the bottom of the terraces to the stream. Once again lots of children took part, some of them multiple times. 100 cream eggs for rolling were kindly donated by Tesco Bramhall.

This very low key, moderately advertised, toe in the water event turned out to be a lovely afternoon for all concerned despite ending with a mighty storm, hailstones and all.

Lesson to be learnt for next year, if we can do it again? Many more trail sheets and stickers to supply the demand and more activities.

**Maggie.**

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## **Committees 1<sup>st</sup> June**

I was asked by my neighbour on Wednesday night to make this report light-hearted or funny; how do you make a report on committee meeting night amusing? I'll do my best.

Vida was very happy that we had achieved the minimum number of attendees to make the evening pay – there were only 17 present; the rest were on holiday, celebrating a birthday, looking after sick grandchildren or were themselves ill. A swift recovery to those dealing with illness.

After the usual excellent meal and coffee the committees met

for discussion. Or rather two committees were able to meet the rest were minus important players. That did not stop some additional discussions, like planning for the BBQ (Brian, Gill & Chris) and John T and Vida comparing notes on when we would next be at Ladybridge. Access the website for details of activities over the next few weeks.

**Note there is no meeting next Wednesday**, this is replaced by a visit on Thursday to Amans in support of The Mill, see email from Brian.

Ron, on behalf of Community Service put out a call for more drivers to join the renamed "Walthew House Run", Mondays, collect at 12.30, return 2.15. In reply to a question from Gill, Ron said he was more than happy for people to do a single run as appropriate for those with other commitments on a Monday. The more that join the greater the weeks between doing the run. Maggie reported that they had completed a list of recommendations for improvements to the Duck Race next year. The committee propose Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017 for the next Duck Race; this avoids cup final day and the Manchester Run. They propose the Scarecrow festival takes place for the two weeks leading up to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2016, with that date being the finale.

Two lists were circulated covering attendance at the Amans do and the BBQ; I noted that someone had used the comments column for a plea for "hunky men needed" at both events. No names etc..

Michael had sent an email report on treasury matters – ignoring any donation from Barclays as it is an unknown, the Duck race raised over £15,000 which is a fantastic achievement. The split will be 80% Francis House, 20% our own Charity account. Ian advised he has the offer of a genuine Alpine Sleigh and was looking for ideas on how this might be used as some event. I think the offer includes a suitable animal to pull the sleigh. We managed to finish early-ish, like around 10.20pm

**John Sykes**

## A trip to Aman's 9th June 2016



I was originally intending to write the bulletin in a kind of gangster *noir* style along the lines of: *"It was a hot, sticky evening and I sensed a storm brewing in the West as I stowed my j-alopy in the municipal parking lot and made my way to the Indian joint on Moss Lane for the big meet."* I would have populated my report with such interesting characters as the Big Boss Gill, who knew her days were numbered as Bobby "the Predator" Preece had been eyeing up the top slot for the past year and would make his move very soon. There would be Johnny "Snake Eyes" Sykes and Bruce "the Chemist" Bissell, who had headed a huge drug manufacturing and distribution operation, Harry "the Doc" Hill, who would stitch up bullet wounds without finking to the cops along with Bobby "insure and burn" Stevenson etc. etc....

On reflection, however, I realised that this approach would take

up about 20 pages of the Bulletin if I were to do it justice and so, in the interest of brevity, I offer the following...

The Club met at Amans Indian restaurant for a meal organised and in aid of the Mill - our local 'yoof' organisation - arranged by their boss, Mark Sweeting and his wife Julie and ably marshalled on behalf of Rotary by Brian Dougall. Whilst waiting for our meal we were entertained by Marvello the Magician (or whatever his name was) with his coat of many pockets and his impressive prestidigitation. Donning my food critic's hat, the lamb bhuna would have benefited by the addition of a few chillies and the chicken tikka marsala was horribly sweet but the onion bhajis were excellent. That apart, though, it was a convivial evening and the speeches were commendably short.

Then came the raffle... Was it a fix?? Apart from Dev, who won a fancy hairdo at Cuthbert's the Club won nothing except for one Pete "the Fixer" Richardson, who scooped three - yes, THREE!! - prizes and walked away laden with booze.

The storm in the West eventually broke. It poured down as we left and, although this did not seem to dampen anyone's spirits, I was absolutely drenched when I finally made it back to the Municipal parking lot and my trusty jalopy.

## Johnny "Bullet-in" Thewlis.



## **11th June—Bramhall and Poynton Floods**

Back in 2014 several club members undertook training for Rotary CES (Cheshire Emergency Support). The aim was to have people who could be called upon if there was a local emergency which required a Community Hall to be opened to receive evacuees. Would we ever be needed?

At about 8.45 last night that call came, "could I assemble a small team on Standby - severe flooding in Poynton". A short while later a further phone call, could the volunteers go to Poynton Leisure Centre, but be aware the following roads are closed the most important of which was London Road North from Towers Rd to Chester Rd - i.e. the twin roundabout was closed.

The team of Harry, Maggie, Ian and John T duly went to the Leisure Centre. By 11.30 they were stood down, problem over. Thanks guys for reacting so positively

Why wasn't I there? I ruled myself out having had several glasses on wine earlier in the evening.

**John Sykes**

**And from Harry:**

You may have noticed it's been raining on and off, and Bramhall Green roundabout was flooded. I thought I'd have a look in the Park as well, and you can see the results on Friends of Bramall Park if you haven't already done so. While I was sorting the images John Sykes rang to say the Rent-a-volunteer emergency thingy was likely to be invoked, and five minutes later he confirmed it. So off we went to Poynton Leisure Centre to help cater for the refugees. They, however, were in Adlington. So we waited around with Sally Army, (the gaffer was a patient of mine!), Red Cross, East Cheshire council folk, and the staff of the Cen-

tre. Staff from the Miners' Arms came along with freshly made sarnies and a pot of home made soup. We had a cuppa courtesy of the SA, and then at 10.30 we were told



to stand down cos the waters had receded and there weren't any refugees after all.

Nonetheless it was a very useful and encouraging episode. Systems were in place, equipment was available, people knew what was going on, and everyone who should be there, was there. All except Commandant John S, who excused himself on the grounds that he had already had couple of glasses of wine! To be fair, he would have struggled to get from Hazel Grove to Poynton on account of the floods.

We know of one casualty though. Gill's back garden has a bridge over a small stream - well HAD a bridge - which along with a fair bit of her garden is probably now adding to the muck and sludge which is still closing Bramhall Green roundabout. She was with Nicola in Pwlllelhi so hasn't seen the damage yet, but her basement must be at risk. I've told her to keep in touch.

Little Jacob (4) was doing a rain dance yesterday. He may find his legs tied together today...

### **And from David Burstow:**

You may have seen the news but Poynton was effectively cut into four by the floods. Houses and businesses have been pumped out and everything is now back to normal if you can call shared space normal.

## And from Gill:

Spent the entire day clearing up the mess yesterday with help from Andrew in the late afternoon and Gordon's wonderful "wet" Hoover which dealt with the water that stubbornly remained in the garage. My bridge has been recovered from further down stream but my neighbours bridge is still in my garden where it shall remain until we can work out how to get it back!!

Carpets and soft furnishing had to be taken up in the "granny flat" which is at the bottom of the house and took the brunt of it along with the utility room, bathroom and cellar rooms. Muddy water gets everywhere !! Everything now swept out of the house and into the garden which is just a mud bath but got the gardener coming tomorrow to try and clear some of it but it will need a lot of drying out before it can be mowed etc.

The tubs in the garden took a battering and were just deposited in random places. Unfortunately my Acer plant was swept downstream and lodged on a tree trunk. I've managed to recover that but the pot has floated off never to be seen again. Has anyone got a large pot they don't use any more? It would need to be about 18ins diameter.

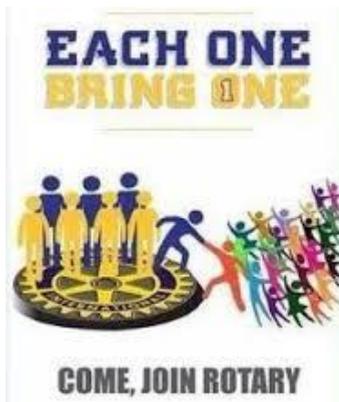
Also if anyone has got a dehumidifier that would help to dry the room out, but I suspect there has been a great demand for these.



Its bucketing down again as I write and the stream is rising again so I might have to do the whole process again.

## New Member Orientation Seminar 11h June

Denise and I both enjoyed the Rotary Orientation meeting for new members held at Swinton Golf Club. There were about 10 new members who were warmly welcomed by Stuart Sawle and Nigel Danby who outlined the structure of Rotary International and RI in Britain and Ireland.



Nigel explained that Rotary is very good at organising events but not necessarily measuring the success of such events. This impacts on the amount of media coverage given to Rotary, public awareness and ultimately Rotary funds to make a bigger difference in the world. To address this Baroness Gillian Shephard has encouraged Rotary members to share successes. For example, Rotary gained very little media coverage during recent UK flood relief efforts in Cumbria because individual Clubs acted separately. However, in total, Rotary contributed £250 000 and 25 000 hours on UK Flood Relief. (This figure doesn't include the efforts of some of our own members on Saturday night in flood-hit Poynton; well done!)

All such efforts can be publicised nationally if we know the combined totals via Rotary Club Central. 20 databases handle information from thousands of clubs across the USA and RIBI.

With issues such as polio, there is effective communication and success measurements; as a result, for every £1 donated, Bill Gates contributes £2. Polio is predicted to be eradicated in 2017 with a subsequent three year, £5 billion plan to ensure it doesn't return.

Nigel outlined other aspects of the Rotary Foundation, highlighting concerns that less money is being given to the An-

nual Programme Fund from District. (50% given by each District is returned after 3 years of investment). It was explained that £500 maximum grants can be given for NEW projects.

Nigel also discussed the concept of fellowship, encouraging us to visit other UK and overseas Clubs, share our successes and failures on the Rotary Showcase website or the District website. We were asked to individually reflect if we thought of ourselves as a member of our own Rotary Club or part of the 1.2 million RI members. The Conferences in Llandudno (w/end of 30 Oct) and Manchester in April 2017 were also promoted with fellowship in mind.

Brief reference was made to the Charter and for the need to genuinely review the Club's annual goals. This doesn't always occur effectively if Committee Chairs are elected to the Club's Council unopposed. Nigel encouraged Clubs to re-evaluate the composition of their Council which should have the main Officers plus up to 6 members.

Other points to consider:

An effective Club Council shouldn't always decide on which projects to pursue.

Project leaders may work better than Committees.

Consider other initiatives that could better serve your local community fully utilising the skills in your Club.

Review the non compulsory subscription costs of being a member.

On this last point, one BW member has expressed a preference to attend for a full meeting but without the cost of a £12 meal each visit.

At present we offer members the op-



tion of attending and eating from 8pm or sending an apology via email or our apology book. Given our new emphasis on sitting with different members to avoid cliques, we could reassure members that they are welcome to attend from 7.30pm and pay x amount for their share of the room hire if they have eaten earlier etc.

This would build in more financial flexibility to attract and retain members who only have to pay £52 for RIBI and £20 for District subs.

Afterwards, Denise and I met briefly with Mike and Barbara Ashton from Poynton RC and we have exchanged email addresses with a view to visiting each other's Clubs / staying in touch.

Finally, Nigel generously gave his time to speak with us about Youth Services. Rather than launching into setting up a Rotarkids / Interact / Rotaract group, for which District help is readily available, we could visit the Rotaract group at Manchester University and the Summer Camp committee at Petty Pool.

Apparently, £1000s was raised by one younger group by getting the Fire Brigade to pour water down a hill for which children paid 50p for each go on the mud slide! (There is currently enough rain water in the area to set this up without hoses!)

After consultation on Wednesday, I / another member can contact John Shepley, the District's Youth Services Chair and visit him or invite him to our Club.

In short, Denise and I benefited greatly from the talk and would encourage all members to share good practice and engage with the huge efforts also undertaken outside of our own Club.

**Andrew**

## Steve's Talk 15 June



Gill started the meeting by saying that the club was experimenting with a new way of meeting with each member taking a table token from a bag from which Vida has when you pay for the meal. This allocates you a table for the night so that members circulate rather than

be in a clique.

She thanked members who had helped her in her hour of need following the inundation in Poynton on Saturday night.

During the meal Vida gave out the apologies, most members gave reasons for non attendance although there were exceptions. Vida was reminded that without an apology the member should be responsible for paying for the meal and non-attendees should be charged

Following the meal, Gill asked our new members Andrew and Denise to speak about the Rotary Orientation meeting for new Members. Andrew spoke about the meeting which was organised by Stuart Sawle and Nigel Danby. They outline the work that Rotary had achieved but most of the work seemed not to make the news headlines apart from the eradication of Polio which they indicated should be eradicated by 2017 (some members made comments that this had been said before). The work of Clubs was to be combined in some 20 databases from Clubs throughout the world.

There were comments about new ways of working, such as appointing a project leader rather than relying on the chairperson

of a committee. Sharing fellowships with other clubs both nationally and internationally.

During Andrew's talk there was mention of the option of attending without having a meal and paying a small sum towards the cost of the venue. The only necessary expense was the cost of £52 to RIBI and £20 to District.

Further details of this talk are given in an Email circulated by Andrew to the Club.

Prior to our break for coffee/tea there was a discussion about the BBQ which was to be at Monkhouse Towers. It would seem that no one had organised it although Chris was to pre-cook some of the meat beforehand and John Thewlis, at the meeting, volunteered his help. Help was requested for members to provide salads and sweets. As for drinks it was bring your own. The cost was to be £10.

Following the break Steve Littlewood, one of our newest members gave his journey through life. He began by saying that the most important aspect in his life is his family. He has been married for 38 years to Lindsey. They met originally at a Valentine's Disco and were married within 18 months. They have three sons of whom they are very proud. Their sons are with wives/partners and Steve is looking forward to the day when grandchildren come along.

Steve was born in 1949 in Huddersfield and has always been passionate about sport. His childhood ambition was to play football for Huddersfield Town and cricket for Yorkshire. When he was 14 he was spotted by Huddersfield town and had it not been for a sporting injury would have looked to carry on with professional sport. He left school at the age of 18 and in 1967

began a career with National Provincial Bank (later to become one of the constituent banks of NatWest) in Huddersfield on a starting salary of £365 p.a. Initially he worked in banking branches but following a move to London in 1972 he began to specialise in commercial lending roles based in Area Offices firstly in Hendon and then Wembley. His career path took a further upward trend when he was appointed as a PA to a General Manager working, as he put it, in the corridors of power. Further Managerial promotions took him away from London, firstly to Preston then Glasgow and Edinburgh before a move to Manchester in 1999. It was whilst he was Head of NatWest's Trafford Business Centre that a company restructure took place which ultimately led to him taking a "financial package" and leaving NatWest just prior to his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Since leaving NatWest he has undertaken work for a variety of different companies in differing roles usually on the financial side of the business. For a period of 5 years he ran the UK operation of an Australian owned company which manufactured and sold specialist chairs mainly for the nursing home market. At the present time Steve works part-time, usually one or two days per week on a consultancy basis for a group of companies based in Alderley Edge

Gill announced that there would be no meeting next week as the BBQ was on the Sunday however as the following Wednesday was the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday and therefore no meeting. It was decided to have a meeting on the 22 June at the Ladybridge Park Residents Club. Apologies for non-attendance as normal.

**David Burstow**

## **An 'owler' of an idea**

If I've counted correctly, the total takings for the owl raffle which we finished at Bramhall Festival today, came to £591. We payed Karl £250 to come to the Duck Race so not only have we made up his fee, we've made £341 profit for Francis House and other charities.

Well done Michael for coming up with the idea of raffling him. We'll have to have more meetings in The Vic.

Many thanks to Ian, Peter, Diane, David Rose, Bob S and Michael for working so hard to sell all the tickets today. I hope you are all having a glass or two tonight after all that talking.

**Love Maggie.**



## President's BBQ 26th June

The weather stayed fine (just) for Gill's barbecue held at Monkhouse Towers where we were treated to a veritable feast supplied by members and cooked by Chris and Mary who did sterling work well above and beyond the call of duty . Many thanks to them both and to all those who helped organise and set up this lovely day.



## **Subject: Fwd: Kagando Hospital VVF Ward Ablution Block**

Hello Sue,

Here is the latest update on the toilet shower block for the fistula clinic at Kagando Hospital to which we jointly contributed.

Yours in Rotary friendship and service.

**Carol Nsubuga**

I am delighted to say that the toilet and bathroom facilities, which Rotary International have so generously funded are now almost complete - I've attached a couple of recent photographs. We have reached the stage of painting the woodwork in readiness for the forthcoming VVF camp.

It gives me great pleasure to invite you and your fellow Rotarians to come to Kagando Hospital to see the finished product and to complete the task by applying the final coat of paint. This will inevitably be a job which will mean either old clothes or overalls which we generously leave you to supply(!), but we will provide the paint and brushes.

The painting will be of the walls around the tiled surfaces and the doors. We have done the fascia board on the roof.

The camp proper begins next week, and I wondered when some of the Rotary volunteers might be free to wield a paint brush? Some time this weekend would definitely be possible.

**Peter Candy**  
**Project Administrator**  
**Kagando Hospital**  
**Uganda**



## From John Sykes as District Representative

On Thursday evening (30th June) I attended District Council as the Representative of B&W. There were a few items that I thought members might like to know.

- Only 35 clubs attended which is less than half total clubs in the District.
- The meeting always starts with a 1 minute silence for these Rotarians who have gone to higher service; on this occasion the list included our own David Poizer.
- The Welcome to New Members list was slightly shorter than the list of departed members, which was also reflected in the next item
- A total of five Rotary Clubs in the District surrendered their Charters—Alderley & Bollin Valley with 35 years chartered; Ashton with 81 years; Gatley & District with 36 years; Macclesfield , 89 years and Stretford & Urmston with 81years. This represents a significant total of Rotary service. Keep recruiting.
- One club has set a very ambitious target of recruiting 10 new members during this next Rotary year, and the DG thinks they will make it.
- Rotary Foundation is celebrating 100 years in operation. Mike Payne reported that there will be no Global Grants in the District this year, and probably next year. This is a function of lower contributions 3 years ago and the fact that Clubs which made significant contributions at that time have now moved in adjacent Districts and taken their money with them.
- Although the Polio campaign is almost over, the remaining areas are having to use an injected vaccine rather than the oral kind; these are more expensive and must be administered by professionals.
- Mike Wilson thanked members of Bramhall & Woodford for the response to the CES call out to flooding in Poynton; his thanks were endorsed by the DG. Those involved take a bow.

- Membership enquiries are still being received from RIBI and sent to Clubs; follow-up by Clubs has been disappointing, although it was acknowledged that not all enquiries were from prospective members, some just wanted more info on Rotary or were interested in voluntary service and did not understand Rotary.
- Booking for the District Conference in Llandudno now open on-line. Multiple booking by one person covering several attendees is now possible.

District team is looking at communications within the District and will shortly introduce a system to enable all Club Chairmen with one entry (similar to our own club system for general communications)

**Regards**

**John**

**Secretary & District Representative.**

### **In memory of David Poizer**

David joined Bramhall & Woodford Rotary in around 1990, I am unsure of the exact date and the Rotary database has a clearly incorrect date. He always enjoyed his Rotary and was a very enthusiastic member. He introduced me in 1994 and I persuaded him to be my Vice-President. He was President during 1998-99. I remember his involvement when the Club constructed the millennium bridge in Bramhall Park.

David was a local man, born in Handforth; he was educated at Cheadle Hulme School and after his National Service he trained as an Electrical Engineer. He headed over to Northern Ireland to work on a large power station project and it was here that he came into contact with the asbestos that was to so cruelly end his life. In those days asbestos was the chosen material for heat insulation on very hot piping. He was a keen

rugby player (Union not League) and in Northern Ireland he headed for the Derry Rugby Club. During one of their social events he met Kay and they married in autumn 1966; which means that this year would have been their Golden anniversary. Two years later David & Kay, now with a son Bruce, came to live in Hazel Grove. David got a job with SimChem on Birdhall Lane which is where he and I first met. We were both in the electrical department involved with design of chemical and industrial plants in many parts of the world. I moved south to Sutton Coldfield for 5 years and returned to this area to work for Fluor Corporation; my contact with David was renewed as he by then worked for Laurence Scott & Electromotors (LSE) as a local technical manager. It was through that friendship that David invited me along to a B&W Rotary meeting. I recent years David became involved with U3A. He and Kay were keen walkers and often went out with the U3A and also the walks organised by Dennis Allport.

David became a member of Bramhall Methodist Church when the family settled in this area. He was a strong member of the church and became a Church Steward. With his background it was appropriate that he became the PAT tester for all portable electrical appliances at the church. He enjoyed DIY, his son commented that their house in Chester Road was David's Forth Bridge.

David was very much a family man and was delighted when their first granddaughter was born a few months ago; their other grandchildren being two boys. David and Kay had two sons, one daughter and three grandchildren

He was a Gentleman in the full meaning of that word, he was a very quiet, but strong person. When his illness was diagnosed he was determined that he would continue as long as possible; there was no self-pity. Shortly after the diagnosis he commented to me that he was glad that the asbestos had taken so long to cause a problem, because it had enabled him to live an enjoyable life. I shall miss our discussions as we shared a car to each Wednesday's meeting.

**John Sykes**

## And from Dennis



David passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016 after a long illness with mesothelioma, the result of exposure to asbestos dust decades ago. This occurred in Northern Ireland, where he was working as an electrical engineer installing electrical equipment in a factory. Workmen nearby were involved in asbestos insulation, and a cloud of asbestos dust enveloped him.

It was whilst in Northern Ireland that he met Kay and this led to a long and happy marriage. The club passes its heartfelt sympathy to Kay and family. David's eldest son, Bruce, lives in Bramhall and will be a great help to Kay over the coming weeks and months.

David had many interests – his membership of Bramhall Methodist church for over 40 years was a very important part of his life, his love of rugby, as an active member of RC Bramhall and Woodford and as a member of Stockport U3A. He loved d-i-y and had a fine set of tools to tackle jobs. I remember him being C-in-C angle grinder when we were refurbishing the Christmas float over several weeks, David typically doing much of the hard grafting!

David and Kay led one of the walking groups in Stockport U3A

for several years; they organised walk leaders and David led many walks himself. Not for David were routes published in books! He delighted in looking at a local OS map, and picking out suitable footpaths, always trying the route out before he led it. I recall being with him 2-3 years ago on one of these walks, and he was beginning to puff a bit. This later led to removal of fluid from his lungs and his diagnosis. This did not stop him walking – he continued just as long as he was able.

Despite his devastating diagnosis, he was reconciled to the course of the disease. On many occasions he told me that he had had a great life. He was never bitter about his cancer. He treated it like a “project”. He told me recently that all the necessary “logistics” were in place at home - a cleaner, a gardener, nursing help and so on.

He was passionate about Rotary. He joined our club in 1988 and was its President in 1998/1999. Over the last few weeks he still wanted to know what was going on. Who were the new members? What were we doing? How did the Duck Race go? He wanted to be considered a member right to the end.

He was a quiet and patient man with strong beliefs and principles. He believed in getting “stuck in” for the common good. He was never self-centred. He carried out his principles by actions, not through speeches, though he was not averse to speaking his mind when he thought it necessary.

I liked him enormously and valued his friendship and comradeship, as did all he met. We will miss David. A real gentleman, an excellent Rotarian and a good friend.

RIP

**Dennis**

## **Handover 6th July.**

A mere 20 of our number met in the bar of the club prior to one of the most important meetings of the year, The Handover. Our wonderful President Gill was to appear briefly as President for the last time before being replaced by our equally wonderful Bob.

Within seconds of arriving it was evident that some did not know the procedure for a Handover meeting, many had forgotten the procedure and several were unsure whether it ever existed in the first place. Then there was the question of the seating. Should we revert to the formal U shape for such an occasion or stick to our new policy of random seating at smaller tables. Alas, there was no way of finding out which it was to be. the dining room door was firmly locked. it would be a surprise. However, unruffled and in true Rotary style Bob made A PLAN, seconds before we moved into the dining room.

We quickly settled into the formal U shaped arrangement of tables though weirdly hardly anyone sat in their usual places. Perhaps the new seating arrangements were working.

We were greeted by a generous supply of wine already set out on the tables which we were soon to find out had been provided by John Sykes so that we could help him to celebrate his 3/4 centenary. Happy Birthday John!

Vida read out the apologies which ranged from someone visiting grandchildren in Canada (Julia) to someone welcoming back a long lost child from a round-the-world trip (John T) with several others away on holiday. Most importantly Vida welcomed our guest for the evening, the Assistant District Governor, Bill Shepherd.

As we waited for our dinner to arrive Gill invited anyone who had pressing news to speak. It came as no surprise that Ian had something to say. Despite the ribbing, we all know that almost without exception his news is always something good and of benefit to the club and tonight was no different. Firstly he had

spoken with the manager of Reeds Rains and found that after their involvement as sponsors of the Duck Race this year, they were keen to have much more involvement in the future. Secondly, Redrow, who have agreed to sponsor our Scarecrow Spectacular for £250 this year, are having a launch day for their new homes in Woodford Garden Village and they have invited our President and Ian to join them. This is brilliant news as we may be able to increase our involvement with Woodford and the new housing and make us truly Bramhall and WOODFORD Rotary Club.

As usual we enjoyed a lovely meal in great company and as the second course was a little delayed, Michael gallantly stepped into the breach by announcing that he had three pieces of news for us. The first two were concerning his appearance. Why was he looking so smart? He had to wear his posh shirt so that he could use the lovely cuff links bought for him for his 70th birthday. Why wasn't he wearing his specs? He had been to the opticians that day and though he had been wearing them since he was 3, she had suggested that he didn't need them. Why was he not drinking the wine? Another of his birthday presents was a trip in a glider. The snag is, he needs to lose another half a pound in weight to be able to fly. So if you come to a meeting and think that Michael is not attending, look again, he may be in disguise.

He also reminded us that if we didn't pay our £75 subs smartish he would throw us out. That's not like Michael. It must be his new image!

Sue took over from Michael to let us know that Pat would be moving house on 21st July and that unfortunately her sons would not be around to help so any help from anyone, especially those who could set up TVs and the like would be most welcome.

Maggie informed everyone of another piece of good news. Despite the fact that SMBC only award free car parking in Bramhall

to one event per year, we were the lucky ones for our Scarecrow judging day on 17th September for the second year running.

After the pudding and the loyal toast Gill said her goodbyes for the last time as President and handed over the chain of office to Bob together with her name plate to stitch onto it. In return Bob presented Gill with her Past President's badge. Although it is customary for the leaving president to leave at coffee time, Gill was in fact zooming off for a much better reason, to be with her grandchild in Liverpool.

Bob gave us a flavour of his incoming President's report, saying that although it was sad that we had lost members this year we had also gained new members and that because of that the dynamics of the club were changing for the better as younger and more active members became more and more involved.

After a short, 20 minute break Bob took up his new role and thanked Gill in her absence for being such a good President. He said that he looked forward to a good year with the support of our new members and he had great hopes for this year's Council.

He commented that The Ways and Means committee needed the support of the club as a whole as our events flourished and that he looked forward to lots of Social events so that we can enjoy ourselves as well as observing our motto 'Service Above Self'.

He looked forward to us having more involvement with the community through ventures such as Cafe Zest set up by Pure Insight to support children who were moving out of the care system.

The chair persons of the committees then set out their aims for this year in brief.

A new council member, Andrew, has been appointed to take care of Youth Services and Ron hoped that he would continue

and expand the work already in place with Bramhall High School.

Ron also informed us of the possibility of us taking over links with The Seashell Trust from the Gatley Club which is disbanding.

We were reminded that the meeting on 27th July would be at The Hesketh where we will be presenting a donation of £1000 for Prader-Willi research. The meal will be at 7.30pm.

To conclude the evening, Bill Shepherd gave a short talk. He thanked us for the hospitality and brought greetings from his own club, Walkden.

He was very grateful to have received our chair people's reports in advance of the meeting, something which never normally happens. He thought they were fantastic and good reading, showing that we were a strong, viable, progressive club which he found very refreshing.

He talked about his own club being far from that with numbers declining and no new members.

He suggested that he believed the only way to get new members was by personal invitation, not by mass invitation and that clubs needed to be progressive as the 'dinosaurs' deterred new members.

He admitted that he would be trying to steal one of our ideas for links with the community, our work with the Fire Service and in exchange offered us an idea to help with our collection of discarded spectacles. His club involves the local doctors' surgeries who collect from patients ready for picking up by Rotarians.

He also admitted to following our posts about Billy Bow the Scarecrow and looked forward to hearing about The Book we hope to produce.

He offered to return and give us a talk about his tour of Japan and invited us to approach him with any problems we might be having during the year.

**Maggie.**

## Scarecrow Mania

It started almost a year ago. There was a gap in our fund raising events calendar. Between the Duck Race in May and the Fashion Show in November there was a huge gaping hole. This couldn't be right. SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE!

Then came the idea. What about a Scarecrow Festival? Other villages do it. It can't be so difficult. It probably won't make much money but it will be a great community event. Some had doubts. 'We can't possibly fit in another event', but in my world anything is possible. You just have to MAKE IT HAPPEN.



In fewer than six weeks the whole thing was planned and executed with minimum effort from everyone. Following the strong competition between the village businesses for 'The Best Dressed Duck' on Duck Race Day, the competitive seed was already planted and ready to be nurtured. By the end of the Festival over 100 scarecrows were on show throughout the village.

Of course we had to have our own scarecrow and so Billy Bow, The Roving Rotary Scarecrow was born. Dressed from head to toe in Rotary blue and gold and with a huge smile on his face he was ready to meet his public. Little did we know that this was merely the beginning.

The first 'Billy' photo was taken in our kitchen for publicity purposes, (because Ian nagged and nagged until he got one), but it was very rapidly followed by the 'What if' moment.

What if we say that Billy is having a fantastic holiday in Bramhall after working so hard in the fields? What if we get him to do all kinds of exciting things? What if we try and fix him to a ladder and lean him on the apple tree so that he can go scrumping? What if we set out a picnic for him on the lawn and see if he can sit down to eat it? (Not as easy as you might think with a broomstick up your b..... back, to put it politely). And so it went on, for days and days and days. The tasks set for Billy became ever more complicated and a good supply of straight pins became necessary to pose his fingers and hands in exactly the right way, not to mention yards and yards of fine cotton to suspend his limbs from trees, washing lines and anything else that was handy. Have you ever tried to get a scarecrow with only soft stuffing in his limbs to play tennis, ride a bike? It takes a teeny bit of patience!

For over a year the photo shoots have become more and more challenging and more and more time consuming - anything up to three hours. People have expressed the opinion that we are totally bonkers and need carrying away. They're possibly correct but at least we're happy mad.

Thanks mainly to our press officer the Billy Bow story took off in the media like wild fire and soon he was famous even in far flung places. Better still, the story continues and still has many followers.

During the two week festival last year we foolishly announced that Billy would be moving around the village and could be found at a new venue each day with a small prize in his pocket for the first person to locate him each day. This brought about the need for me to carry him into the village each morning at around 8.30 to find him a place to stay and then pick him up again each evening as the shops began to shut. Some days the gifts disappeared amazingly quickly and probably accounted for the feeling I had of being stalked as I walked along.

Sadly there was one day when I became distracted and terrible carer that I am, I forgot to pick up Billy Bow. It was beginning to get dark and the shops were all closed as I rushed down to the

butchers shop where I had left Billy that morning. Alas, he was gone.

The next morning I dashed back to the shops and questioned everyone. It seemed that Neil from Corry's and Jim from the sports shop had discussed Billy's plight having been abandoned and had decided to take him in for the night. He must not be left alone to face Bramhall's night visitors.

Jim was to take him in after closing the shop. Jim then went home leaving his son to carry Billy in but..... He was too late. **BILLY HAD BEEN GRABBED!**

Both Jim and Neil were full of apologies but that didn't help much. What could we do. Billy was by now central to the Festival and had a huge following. I scoured the village, looking under bushes and into bins behind the shops but in vain.

I had decided that my only option was to make another identical Billy but only after I had done my shopping. Off I went to Sainsbury's, obviously with a face like thunder because the manager asked if I was OK and I told him the problem. 'Oh, wait a minute', he said 'someone gave me something for you.' He pulled a crumpled piece of card out of his pocket and as I smoothed it out I could just make out, I HAVE BILLY. my first thought was that it was a ransom note but on further inspection I saw that it said, HE NEEDS SOME TLC. THE VILLAGE BARBER. At that point a knight in shining armour appeared, Michael. He escorted me to the Village Barber's just in case we had to fight for Billy. But all was well. He was returned to us safe and sound though a little ruffled. The point of the story being that everyone in the village felt responsible for Billy and really cared about The Festival. You can't ask for more than that.

There have been endless Billy tales over the past year, with him visiting all the local shops, falling in love, having an affair and getting married, not to mention his antics in Southport at the Rotary Conference but one incident is still being recounted even now by the person involved.

After Billy's kidnaping, Neil at Corry's and Jim and his son all felt very responsible and upset that they had allowed him to be taken so Jim suggested that rather than carrying our scarecrow backwards and forwards every day I should leave him in a shop overnight and offered his services. The next day I took him up on his offer and just before the shop closed took him in and sat him on the stools



where customers sit to try on their fancy sports trainers. All was well until 6.00am the next morning when Steve, Jim's son arrived to open up the shop in the early morning gloom. He entered the shop to find a ghostly figure sitting there waiting to be served and almost died of fright. For that reason he now has a terrible fear of scarecrows and I am failing miserably to sell him one of his own to display in the shop this year. If anyone knows of a cure for scarecrow terror please let me know immediately. *A fear of scarecrows is called Formidophobia.*

I could go on, and on and on. Carrying scarecrows around is definitely a good way to get people talking to you and incidentally, a good way to get to tell people about Rotary but I'm sure that's enough for now. You can follow this year's antics on our Facebook page. Everyone needs a giggle!

**Maggie.**

## Social Night 13th July

A Wednesday night with a difference in so far nothing was planned so it was referred to as an 'Evening of Chat' amongst ourselves. Not a bad idea for it gave the chance for the members present to express their thoughts, comments and ideas on the administration of the Club.

However a little more later. There were nineteen in attendance and, as ever, enjoying an excellent buffet. Vida announced absentees including Bruce the Younger, helping to look after a not very well grand child, our thoughts are with him I am sure, PP Gill Golf Club dining, Geoff at a relations nuptials, Ron in Italy and Bob S in France and the rest somewhere doing something else I am sure not as exciting as a debating night. Vida also, only just in time, introduced our one guest Pam Jones. That's what is admirable about B&WR, we have a guest for a few nights and he or she seems to be part of the 'family'. Am I just making excuses for Vida? I think not. However let us continue in that vein.

The new table arrangement, with the 'luck of the draw' seating plan, seemed to receive favourable comment, in that, amongst other good reasons, it's intention is to break down the 'cliquey' situation which has been prevalent in conversation, just recently, with departing members. Although one got the impression from comment that 'cliqueyness' didn't exist and if it did then who was in which clique. *(The writer would just like to add a personal comment here and misquote one of the Marx Bros "I wouldn't want to be in a clique that would have me as a member".* Enough said on the subject.

Facebook reared it's 'attractive' image once again and a question raised as to how an individuals membership would aid the B&WR Club and it seemed that it may not aid the club, but it would aid the individual to know more about the club's activities. There was a consensus of opinion, not altogether verbal but by the 'head nodding' proceedings, that it would be preferable for members to find out about those activities from the privacy of the Club's web-

site rather than from a public media format. Maybe the jury is still out on that one!

Ian reported on attending a meeting given by Redrow. A representative of the contractors informed the assembled company that they have made several donations to local schools and Community projects including B&W Rotary by sponsoring £250 to the Scarecrow Festival.

There followed a big update on the Scarecrow Festival and revelations about the Family Bow. There are two additions to the family, twins in fact, weight and names are yet to be known, or the writer missed that last Wednesday. Further more there is a small children's book, in rhyme, iambic foot of course, to be published about the family Bow, the meeting, courting, wedding nuptials and issue, not in too much detail of course, will be on sale before and during the Festival. All this was displayed on screen by Harry and in report by Maggie, after dinner including a draft of the scrip.

This really is a great undertaking and full marks to Maggie and those in her W & M committee, and those not, for helping with the whole concept.

It was reported that Bruce the Elder would like to re-join the Club. David Burstow has resigned but would still be happy to help with the Blind Run. Presumably as a member of Friends of Rotary. Seems a good idea as there are not many volunteers.

For the benefit of those who do not attend very often Denise Geary, our latest member had her induction completed by the issuing of her badge.

Next meeting on Wednesday 20th was going to be a talk about the Battle of the Somme. However, post meeting, this has been changed to a neighbour of Maggie's who is going to give a talk on 'something'. Not the Somme.

**John M**

## Seafaring tales 20th July

A select band of 14 members plus our speaker gathered to hear our chair for the evening, David Rose, announce he is a virgin. I shall not repeat the comments that followed but given it was his first meeting in the chair, he did a good job by closing the meeting half an hour earlier than normal. The few present were then tasked with eating all the food which the usual culprits tackled with great resolve. Vida read out the exotic locations which many members were enjoying but said that Gill was attending a funeral of a family member who had died at an very early age leaving two young children. In the various short news items which followed, Ian requested that the 10 members who had not contacted him, let him know whether or not they will be attending the meeting at the Hesketh next week. The Walthew run now has 3 customers and John Meeus talked about something for a while. It was mentioned that Bruce Farrow would like to rejoin the club subject to an outstanding health check. Great news as the club will certainly benefit from two Bruces!!



After coffee, Geoff Barnard our speaker and a neighbour of Maggie's (no mention of Harry which left me wondering if he still lives there) has been in the Methodist ministry for 55 years, 40 of them active in a number of locations. His topic was two seafaring stories about his ancestors to whom he had discovered a connection thanks to the investigation of a cousin.

The first was about James Haylett, his great great, great grandfather who in 1901, at the tender age of 78, was still in charge of the local lifeboat. On a very

stormy night a distress signal was received and the boat launched which took several hours because of the strength of the sea. Later he received the message that the lifeboat had overturned and was being swept into the shore. He and his son ran along the beach and managed to save four by pulling them out from under the boat but the rest were lost including 5 members of his family. He received the RNLi gold medal from King Edward 7th and 20,000 people attended the funerals. At the inquest it was suggested that life boat had turned back to which Geoff retorted "Caister men never turn back". This phrase has remained with Geoff and guided him through life.



The second story was about his grandfather who was a skipper of a drifter fishing boat. It was overcome in near hurricane conditions and was about to sink when another boat tried to draw alongside, a very risky manoeuvre in heavy seas as no doubt our nautical expert Sid would confirm. Suffice to say that only four men were saved due to the terrible conditions including Paul, Geoff's grandfather who was last to leave the boat. Fully clothed he managed to stay afloat for 15 minutes, an incredible feat in the conditions and certainly true to his predecessor's statement. In the discussion which followed which was wide ranging, it emerged that Paul was not christened Paul. Several other examples were given including by Harry who said his adopted grandfather (also called Harry) wasn't called Harry but christened John James which he was called when he was naughty.

**Bruce (the younger)**

## Sid is 90 (27/7/16)



Dear fellow Rotarians  
Thank you all for the great birthday experience which I had yesterday. I had given Sally strict instructions that I didn't want any fuss as it was only another birthday. However she had arranged some drinks and nibbles and told all and sundry that it was a "drop-in do". In the event I was overwhelmed by my lovely friends and neighbours and fellow Rotarians. Maggie's cake in the shape of HMS Conway was amazing – it will be down in Wales soon for them all to

admire down there ! The wonderful present of a stay at a posh place near Homes Chapel is too kind of you all.

I am indeed the most blessed bloke.

Thanks and God bless

**Sid**



## 25 YEARS AGO

This covers the period May to July 1991 in Vol 4 No 9 and Vol 5 No1. There was a humorous article about our first footpath clearance. "What now?" our leader moaned. "Capt'n Barker

sire, I be wonderin' where the profit be in clearing footpaths?" "The profit is to the community" he replied. The Bramfest 91 committee report said that the Stockport Messenger would sponsor the Miss Bramhall contest, Maggie Duncan (not Hill) would provide a fashion show, there would be a craft fair, there would be three marching bands in the procession and our float would be in the shape of a submarine. The blind run drivers included Allport, Malabon and Meeus. A review of the Festival concluded that a good spirit had been created, many people attended, how important programme advertising and pre-fete sales are and more people are needed on the day for rostering of different jobs. (Sounds familiar doesn't it). Although it rained heavily a profit of £6500 was made. Rotary wives ran a number of stalls – Fortune telling £120, Cakes £220, crafts £220, books £127 and bric-a-brac £176. Bearing in mind inflation over the last 25 years they did better than we do today. At the end of my year as President I awarded our first Paul Harris Fellowship to John Meeus, our founder President who held that office for nearly two years. The new President was Hugh Thompson, ex Royal Navy, who had been a frogman in a midget submarine but eventually commanded a Polaris nuclear submarine. He introduced a "Ways and Means" committee to raise funds in future. We had a talk by a Chief Inspector Critchlow (any relation Gill?) from GMP Driving school, a fellow Rotarian from Manchester North. A recent survey had shown that 10% of vehicles had gone through a red light at one particular junction more than half had crossed more than 3 seconds after the light had turned red. This was followed a couple of weeks later by a visit to the GMP driving school and a chance to see their helicopter at close range.

**Ron Malabon**



## 27<sup>th</sup> July Pub Meet for Pader Willi Syndrome

Nineteen Rotarians met at the Hesketh pub, organised by Ian. The purpose was to enjoy a carvery and to present a cheque to Vicki who is co-director of Almond Family Pubs (who own the Hesketh) and board member of FPWR, who conduct research into Prader-Willi Syndrome. Vicki's beautiful three year old daughter Bella suffers from this little known condition. The carvery at the Hesketh made a change from our usual meal out and was good value for money. We all enjoyed the evening, there was lots of fun and chat. We all paid up as usual but unfortunately someone paid with a 10p coin instead of their second £1 so we were 90p short – I know it wasn't me! Lots of money is needed for research into Prader-Willi Syndrome and people need to be made aware of this condition. Vicki gave us a talk about this genetic disorder, one of the symptoms of which includes excessive appetite which seems a very hard thing to handle.

Vicki has got involved in raising much needed funds for the charity and is also very knowledgeable about the subject, having found out more details from the United States about Prader-Willi.

I am sure we were all enlightened and recognise the need for more funds for research.

Jill presented a cheque for £1,000, a great boost for Vicki's fund-raising.

The evening finished and we all felt it had been a very satisfying one.

**Pat**

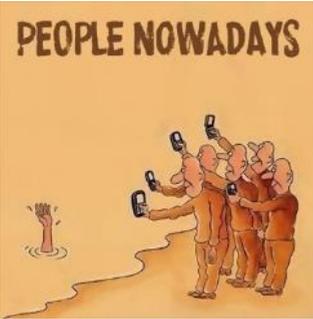
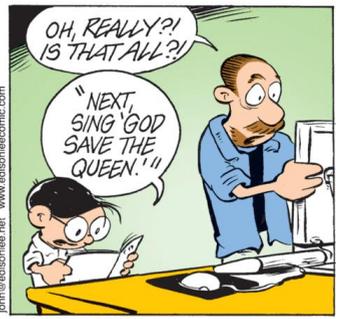


Gill presents the cheque for £1000 to Vicki. A very worthwhile cause indeed.



**Bramhall Festival went superbly**





And then there were 4