



Dec/Jan
2011/12

Christmas and New Year Bulletin

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



Sue & Gill doing their great work in Gambia

Olive's highlights of the the York Rotary Conference

(And what is the point of holding a conference anyway?)



The Stevensons, Laceys, Yules and Hunts gathered in York one weekend in October and in general seemed to enjoy the experience. So what was enjoyable? Here are my favourite moments and also some bits I could have done without!

The highlights.....

Firstly, almost the very first presentation was the “**This Close**” CD on world polio eradication which proved to be a very moving and inspirational start to the conference. A dramatic start which shocked us into full concentration. We then immediately turned full circle with a great talk from the 5 member GSE Team from India. They each spoke supremely confidently for a few minutes to short video clips showing us their home environment and Indian history, culture, sports, architecture, art and food. So far India has never been a country at the top of my holiday list, but it certainly looked quite fascinating. Afterwards they presented a surprised DG Ian with a fabulous long garland of exotic white painted cardamom seeds, with silver beads and gold bells, and a silver turban-like hat both of which he wore with pride for the rest of the conference.

Canine Partners – This was probably my very favourite presentation - but I'm always a sucker for dogs! An amusing talk about special dogs helping special people. We all know how they help the blind, but these super dogs are trained to help severely disabled wheelchair bound people. Black labradors, Chutney and Zebedee, trotted forward to demonstrate their amazing talents which ranged from doing the washing – yes a dog doing the washing (I could do with one myself), to helping to undress their owner. They picked up mobiles and remotes from the floor and opened cupboards and drawers, retrieving items and then closing the cupboard door like all good dogs should so as not to leave a hazard for their owner. They could even press the red button at pedestrian traffic lights with their nose. Zebedee showed us how it was done and achieved 100% accuracy proving that dogs are not completely colour blind. They demonstrated only a few of the things they could do while all the time furiously wagging their tails. It seemed that most of the audience loved this excellent presentation and the dogs showed us their skills with a calmness that only Labradors possess.

Next up was the **Weaverham High School Choir** who were winners of “Rotary Youth Sings”. 15 beautiful teenage girls, and one boy, sang their hearts out for us. Lots of gorgeous long hair and pretty faces, (including the boy), they performed modern uplifting



songs and were truly fantastic. At the end of their short performance they were rewarded with a well deserved standing ovation - and Geoff was quite overcome!

Next on my list of highlights was **Alistair Humphreys – an Adventurer** and what a character! This unassuming young man from the Yorkshire Dales had circumnavigated the planet alone, crossing five continents in 4 years on a bike! We heard about his adventures and ferocious challenges along the way, including cycling in the desert in the summer, along the Great Wall of China, and Siberia in the winter. He covered a total of 46,000 miles in 60 countries and lived mainly off banana sandwiches! “Go and find a country that you can’t spell its name” was his motto. Slightly manic he certainly developed a bug for adventure after that and went on to walk through India, work in the Arctic, ran numerous marathons, raced a yacht across the Atlantic, and rowed the channel in a small boat with Major Phil Packer a paraplegic soldier, and then he finally decided to walk the whole of the M25 last winter in the snow. I certainly identified with his description of how he felt when on top of a very high mountain and he became oxygen depleted and said he felt “like a grandma with a very bad hangover”. Funny, inspiring, mad, but he was great, and I think was the real star of the conference.

Another good bit was Stockport Rotary Club’s own **Rev. Roger Scoones** who started the Sunday session with his “thought for the day”. This perhaps could well have been a boring talk but Roger used his very dry humour to good effect and told us about his own Rotary Moments most of which had been very happy ones. He finished with a wonderful description of some Rotarians – “they are like old trainers, all worn out, except for the tongue!”

The major highlight for most people was the **Saturday Evening Gala Dinner** on the platform of National Railway Museum. Fine dining surrounded by beautifully restored antique Royal Trains. “Dress to Impress on the Orient Express” was our brief and many people did look pretty impressive – I saw Indian saris, fascinators, antique fur stoles, glittery waist coats and even a cowboy hat? and then the famous Tremeloes band brought the house down with their 60’s music. As President Bob was overhead to say as he staggered back to the table after dancing for an hour “they’re fantastic, I feel 40 years younger”.

The lowlights.....

The bits I could have done without..... a couple of speakers inevitably went on too long, the self congratulatory trophy awarding section (boring), and then after 4 hours of presentations and when many people had retreated to the dining room for a “Fellowship Lunch” we had to listen to another talk by someone we had already heard during the morning! Unfortunately, there was no escape – the doors had been closed - and there was not much opportunity for the fellowship!

So what really was the point? The Conference certainly gave the attendees the opportunity of seeing the many facets of world wide Rotary - from helping to fund the MacMillan Nurses to the provision of thousands of mosquito nets in Africa; from helping with Dictionary4Life in hundreds of schools to helping to fund very many local charities. It showed us all how vibrant and energetic Rotary is in supporting hundreds of local and international challenges. It certainly opened my eyes to see how enthusiastic, and successful, Rotarians can be when faced with overwhelming odds in the areas of polio, malaria and natural disasters. The point of the conference showed us all quite plainly that Rotary is a force for good and you should feel proud to say you are a Rotarian.

Robert's Writings



It is only right that I should first of all pay tribute to our late member Bob Batty. A founder member, Paul Harris Fellow, and a pillar of strength to new and existing members alike. He will be missed.

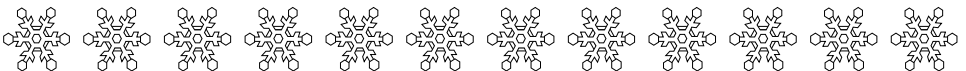
Since the last 'bulletin' we have had a very successful joint meeting with Gatley Rotary Club (The white book may not be too far away?).

David, Sue and Geoff attended a Peace conference in Bradford. We have also had 2 excellent meal evenings diverted in the middle by Dennis.

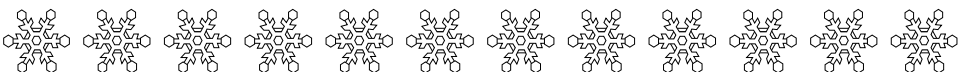
Four of us attended the District Conference in York (Geoff, Michael, Graham and Myself and our respective) a very fruitful and enjoyable event. Since then I have attended the 'Institute' event in Leicester and have met amongst others next years Rotary International President and this years RIBA President. Some excellent workshops attended (more details to be given soon). We of course all look forward to hearing from Gill and Sue about their travels in Gambia.

We now look forward to the Xmas/New Year Period. Firstly the Xmas meal on the 14th December and of course my President drinks on the 8th January.

Rotary Friendship and Good Wishes to you all.



There will be a Christmas walk on Wednesday 28 December which will be very local, about 3.5 miles starting from Vida's home at 10.15am Boots advisable as some bits may be muddy. I will nominate an eating place for lunch later. I am thinking of the 3 Bears near Kathleen Batty, but I have to make sure that they can cope. They are currently extending although they may have completed already. All welcome, as always - partners, relatives, friends etc.



"It's a recession when your neighbour loses his job;
it's a depression when you lose yours".

Harry Truman

Secretary's Soapbox



During the middle of a Rotary year there are not many tasks for the Secretary to do (apart from forwarding the vast amount of stuff which comes in from RI, RIBI, District, other clubs etc etc. However one of the key tasks which is the responsibility of the secretary is running the election for next year's office holders. RI rules require that an election is held by 31 Dec for the incoming Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary (plus President if anything untoward has happened such that this year's VP cannot take over as planned !)

Normally this requires very little effort by the current secretary, just procedural paperwork. It is the VP (president-elect) who has the onerous task of persuading people to fill these posts. Any political junkies like me will recognise the skills needed as residing principally in The Whips Office. Of course this year I get to do both Sec and VP functions. So it is essential I make it absolutely clear, in what I understand is a break with tradition, I needed no strong-arm tactics what-so-ever to get volunteers to agree.

I am absolutely delighted to find that we have a correctly nominated person for each of these positions. Sue Preece as VP, Gill Critchley as Treasurer and Michael Lacey as Secretary. This means that next year (July 2012) I hope to have at least 3 of our women members on council – my contribution to bringing B&W into the 21st century. Not all will share my views on this, and on many more things too. It is my view that this, and having a lady president in 2013, will prove to make absolutely no difference whatsoever – which is my view of exactly how equality should work.

OK, just to finally depart from all this good stuff, I will report what has already been said by those knowing the new line up. Following the parliamentary theme, the ladies on council will henceforth apparently be known as “Brian's Babes”.

Not to be missed

December 1st World Aids day, prisoners for peace day, start of anger awareness week (NO IT'S NOT!!!); 2nd International day for the abolition of slavery; 3rd International day for disabled persons, tree dressing day; 6th start of National dads matter week; 11th International mountain day.

January: 18th Winnie the Pooh Day; 23rd start of farmhouse breakfast week; 24th Global belly-laugh day and start of food allergy and intolerance week; 31st Bubble-wrap appreciation day

Meeting Reports

5th October – Committees

A somewhat chaotic start to the evening was eventually stilled by a somewhat delayed President, allowing grace to be said and food to be served.

Michael Lacey gave us details of the new high tech. way in which money could be donated to the Club via Vodafone and at no cost (to the Club, of course, not the donor). Just text to 70070 the message BWRT24 £x where x is the amount to be donated and it will even add the Gift Aid.

John Thewlis announced that we had agreed to help again with the MacMillan collections at Morrisons in Cheadle Heath – 1st and 2nd December. The schedule for collections at Woodford Park was distributed again.

Ron Malabon read out the apologies – somewhat of a coincidence to have 2 of our members in Boston but perhaps not.

The President reiterated congratulations to John Meeus in connection with the presentation of a ‘Sapphire Pin’ at Charter Night, recognising 25 years of outstanding service to the Club.

“The crocuses have come” says Vida and she was then successful in eliciting the support of two fellow-planters for this Saturday. The Communications Officer drew attention to four new press releases.

By his own admission, the Treasurer had nothing much to report - £1.5k in the Charity account; the General account is OK-ish and the profit from the Mercian Cup was £2.5 – 3.1k –ish. Vida sought to persuade members to purchase new car stickers but there was a co-operative gasp at the £2 cost. Those wanting apples were bidden to Vida’s boot after the meeting: next week there will be eating apples. A team has been assembled for the Hazel

Grove Quiz on 25th October and your correspondent was somewhat taken aback to discover that he had been volunteered for this in his absence the previous week.



Trevor announced that the winning balloon had reached Poland (965 miles) with the runners up making Hamburg and Sweden. The holder of the winning ticket lives in Cheadle Hulme and will be offered the Hot Air Balloon Trip or a cash equivalent. This year we are supporting Round Table with the Christmas Float. It will operate for 12 nights and we will need to provide one person from the Club for each night: the charity of the day provides the rest of the staff and Round Table, the driver. We shall have one night when we are the charity and obviously that will need to be staffed. (provisionally that is 16th December but there was debate at the meeting and afterwards as to whether this clashed with the Christmas dinner – clarification will be e-mailed to members.)

The programme for the rest of the year is arranged: those who are down to provide evenings in 2012 should get with arranging that. There was an enigmatic announcement by the International Committee that they have a project that will be presented to Council next week but, presumably to heighten the expectation, no details could be released at this stage.

John Meeus alerted us to a theatre night scheduled for January. Graham Yule talked about a scheme for recycling inkjet cartridges and told what he referred to as a “joke”. David Walker had done preparatory work on the internet for the onerous task of S & A. The result? Everyone was fined as usual.

John Knowles

Sunday Nov 27 2011

Senegambia Beach Hotel, Gambia

We left cold Manchester on Wednesday morning with suitcases overflowing with kiddies clothing and resources to arrive in hot sunny Banjul, the Gambian capital, six hours later. Just outside the airport we had our first sight of the highly colourful birds which abound throughout The Gambia. Wednesday evening we attended The Banjul Rotary Club meeting and exchanged pennants. On Thursday we were anxious to visit Hart House which was the object of us coming to Gambia in the first place. The Englishman, Geoff Hunwicks and his elegant Gambian wife, Rohey, set up Hart House as a respite home over ten years ago and it caters for 22 children. Hart House is one of the first such places in Gambia catering for children with disabilities and learning difficulties. My fellow Rotarian Gill Critchley and I presented them with the many items of children's clothing, educational resources and interactive toys which had kindly been donated and they were delighted with the many gifts. Sadly, among some of the less educated members of Gambian society, there is much ignorance and superstition about children with learning difficulties so Hart House is quite unique. Alternative provision is non-existent! The children we met appeared to be well nourished, happy and cheerful.



Our visit coincided with the elections of President Jammeh who has been in power since 1994. He is highly thought of, indeed almost revered, by most of the people. The opposition was minimal and he was overwhelmingly re-elected with a 75% majority vote. We did not see any trouble and the elections were well administered and highly organised. Over the last four years the President has been holding surgeries where he uses his mystical powers to cure ailments from HIV, Aids to infertility. However, he has done a lot for his country's progress and construction to improve roads and education are given very high priority. As with any 3rd world country there is hassle to buy tourist tat but overall the Gambian people are warm, friendly and welcoming and are rightly proud of their many achievements, despite being one of the poorest countries in Africa. The first set of traffic lights were installed seven years ago but they do not always work; the good side is that parking meters are unheard of! As we went around the town and villages I was quite concerned by the number of irresponsible tourists who repeatedly hand out sweets and pencils to poor children, despite being asked not to do this, almost creating mini riots in the process. Sadly these are all too often viewed as excellent photo opportunities by ignorant tourists to show how good they are, instead of giving the valuable educational resources to responsible charities to distribute in an equitable and fair manner for those in greatest need! Situations such as these just teach children to beg!

Continued



On the Friday Gill had some rest and relaxation and I explored Banjul. Interestingly I never felt frightened or intimidated and found people genuine and interested in me! The city was quiet as the population eagerly waited for the election results, even though the outcome was a foregone conclusion!

Saturday was the most exciting as Geoff and a member of Hart House Trustees collected us from our hotel and we went shopping for items to buy so that we could spend the £400 given to us by Rotary. First stop was to buy two bicycles for the children in order for them to improve their fitness levels and develop motor skills. Whilst there, we could not resist purchasing a paddling pool for the little ones. We then found a shop and managed to buy a new washing machine, most unusual in the Gambia. We were all delighted with the purchase as up to now the home had to deploy some of the care staff to wash all the kiddies clothes, bed linen etc by hand. Given that many of the children are not continent this was a major task and consumed much time and energy. The new machine should make a big difference and release staff to spend more time with the children. We also bought drying racks, large boxes of washing powder and several small sensory toys. The total of £400 was well spent and much appreciated. To enable this purchase we had to visit cash points, which regularly run out of notes, on dozens of occasions as the Gambia is a cash economy and we were only able to draw out small sums of money at any one time. As one pound is worth 46 dalasi you can only imagine the bulk! I originally put the large number of notes in my money belt for safety but then realised I looked very foolish and pregnant!

Sunday we went on the Roots trip up the Gambia River which was quite a poignant reminder of a horrendous part of European history. By the afternoon we realised the main focus for Gambians was the Liverpool vs Manchester City football match! We have only a few days left now but we are beginning to be drawn in to this fascinating and friendly country.

Sue Preece

12th Oct An Oriental Evening

We met at the Oriental Buffet on Wellington Road for a good social evening with friends and food. The friends were good even if many thought the food was not as good as Lorraine's.



A good turn-out of members enjoyed themselves in nice surroundings.

19th October A joint meeting with RC Gatley.

Entertainment organised by Tony Burch & John Meeus

There was a full house - I counted 50 diners, about 30 from Bramhall & 20 from Gatley. We were encouraged to mingle, so we alternated our seating where possible.

We were seated promptly, but as the food was not yet ready President Bob invited the Gatley President's representative to introduce our guests. Trevor (W&M) and Vida (CS) were also invited to speak, which they did. Trevor sent round a Christmas Float rota, and Vida announced that we would field 2 teams at the RC Hazel Grove Quiz Night next Tuesday (25th). One of the Gatley member's was heard to ask "Is it always like this?" I think he was referring to the chaos, banter, robust humour & general mayhem enhanced by the crowding - a sort of Dante's Inferno. I think the answer is "Yes", RC Bramhall is not for the faint hearted - and that's how we like it!

At this point, Tony also outlined the after dinner entertainment. This was to be a mix of QI & Just a minute/plus another TV game whose name escapes me. Much of the audience seemed somewhat confused, but the essence was: There would be six teams of seven, each being given a topic. Each team would have to speak for 3 minutes, using at

least 1 speaker from each club. Points would be awarded for amusement, relevancy, timekeeping etc. For a 2 minute period following each presentation, one member from each of the other teams could add additional comments. Further points could be won (or lost) in this way. We then enjoyed an excellent meal, broke for coffee at 21:15, and returned 10 minutes later. A judges' table was set up with John M, Tony & Michael presiding.

The entertainment went to plan and the winning team was the 'Fox' team with a witty and imaginative 3 minutes featuring tales of Dr Liam Fox, Samantha Fox & Foxy Knoxy. Runners-up were the 'Comedy' team. Tony presented one of his old Motor Racing cups to a Gatley member of the winning team, so they would have to invite us back.

There were 2 raffle prizes, one being won as usual by Michael.

S@A Geoff Hunt (Club Member & Assistant DG for those who need reminding) fined everyone and John M tipped the proceeds in to the Treasurer's pocket.

All in all, and very entertaining and successful meeting, as well as being a joint event which ADG Geoff has been encouraging throughout his term of office.

The meeting closed at 22:20.
Graham Yule.

Woke up last night to find the ghost of Gloria Gaynor standing at the foot of my bed. At first I was afraid then I was petrified.

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.

A tribute to Olive Hunt from Beacon Counselling:

Over 10 years ago, Beacon looked to set up a letter for its volunteers and supporters that would have news of donations and what the service was doing. Olive Hunt stepped into the breach and created the first edition of 'Friends of Beacon'. Perhaps she didn't expect it, but over the next 10 years she would change the newsletter from a bi-annual A4 update into a 4 page, bi-monthly newsletter in full colour! What is more, Olive developed a real knack for finding interesting items and for making potentially boring items interesting. During her time at Beacon she has shown a flair for writing in a way that is informative and professional, yet warm and personal at the same time.

Now Olive is stepping down from this role with her last edition in August. She has shown amazing dedication, commitment and the time she has given to make the Friends newsletter what it is. She has been a stalwart for Beacon for such a long time.

This is not the end of Olive's involvement with Beacon as she will be helping out with occasional projects and is currently working on a History of Beacon, which will be developed into a booklet for all.

Olive now makes great contributions to our own bulletin so Beacon's loss is B&W's gain.

25th October, A successful quiz night

We were able to field two teams at Hazel Grove Rotary Club's annual quiz - The Bramhall Busy Bees and the Woodford Woodentops. There were five Rotarians in each team with David Rabone being unable to attend.

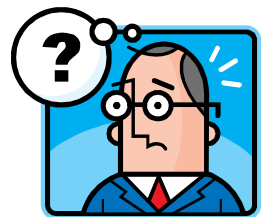
Our gallant teams fought bravely and eventually there was a tie break to choose the winner as the Busy Bees had fifty-five points as did another team. Graham Yule boldly stepped forward with a member of the opposing team and the question master asked the question when did Heinz start making tomato ketchup? Much pondering took place and Graham hazarded a guess at 1908 whilst our opposition said 1927. Graham's answer was the nearest to 1897 so we were declared the winners.

Actually it made no difference to the prizes as they had bought identical wines - the first prize was supposed to be superior wines but the purchaser had failed in this task! We were quite happy with our lot and had a bottle each and one left over for the club.

The woodentops were much better at winning raffle prizes than the busy bees and went home with a good supply of loot.

What a good evening.

Vida



Spotlight on a Rotarian—Graham Yule



Graham joined the club about 9 years ago. He had left Round Table at aged 40 and then had a few years in the wilderness before Tony Burch persuaded him that B&W was the club for him.

He was born in the Teesside area and lived in Redcar, Stockton and Middlesborough before moving to Southport when he was 16 years old. However this itinerant?? existence didn't bother him too much because he attended a boarding school in York at age thirteen. The school was St. Peter's, established in 627, and one of its most famous pupils was Guy Fawkes – so unfortunately November 5th was never celebrated!

As a teenager he became fascinated with computers but was persuaded to study Electronic Engineering and did what he describes as a “sandwich course – the bread being at International Computers Limited (ICL) and the filling at the University of Sheffield”. He earned some pocket money during that time with a Christmas job in an off license selling draught sherry to “old dears”.

After graduating, his first job at ICL brought him to West Gorton, over the road from what eventually became “The Chatsworth Estate” in TV's “Shameless”. Graham assures me that apparently the shops and pubs that appeared in that programme are definitely real.

Graham married Sue thirty six years ago. Sue studied French at Durham University and then went on to do a teachers training course at Didsbury College and afterwards taught at Hazel Grove High

School. After a six year break when their two boys Richard and Christopher were small she taught at Bramhall High School until moving to Lady Barn House School in Cheadle twenty two years ago where she became Headmistress in 2002. Sue recently retired and has since enjoyed having more time on the golf course.

Their sons are obviously high flyers..... Richard lives in New York and is a Vice President at Deutsche Bank and Christopher is a First Officer with Tiger Airways and based in Singapore.

Graham told me about his hobbies – many of them technologically based; building and maintaining web sites, and a keen photographer. He loves the outdoors with skiing and trekking being particular favourites and soft adventures (exciting but low risk, e.g white water rafting, guided glacier walks) - and Rotary of course!

Graham and Sue have travelled quite a bit of the world and they particularly loved the Galapagos Islands, Petra in Jordan, the Walkers Haute Route, Svalbard in the Arctic, a Safari in Kenya and cruising down the Nile. They also found one of their holiday highlights to be the juxtaposition of the Grand Canyon and nearby Las Vegas. I know what they mean, the splendid grandeur and silence of the Canyon versus the dazzling noise and razzamatazz of the fastest town in the world! Quite mind blowing.

And finally, Graham's Rotary highlights..... he says he thoroughly enjoys his involvement in the Bramhall Park events such as the old-style festival and recently the hugely successful Duck Race, as well as the satisfaction of helping others whilst having fun and enjoying good company, and he says “he will always remember the privilege of being Club President last year”.

Olive

26th October An Educating Job Talk



John Knowles opened the meeting with the longest grace of the year, for which he was later fined. Numbers were down due to various holidays and 'our fire-fighters' visiting

Cheadle and Gatley Rotary. This contrasted with last weeks record attendance, boosted by 13 members from that club. President Bob congratulated Tony Burch, John Meeus and Michael Lacey for providing an excellent evenings entertainment, in which integrated teams spoke on a variety of topics. Bob urged attendance at Round Table's 50th Charter Evening on Friday, he saw it as an opportunity to recruit new members. Vida announced our quiz team's win at Hazel Grove last night and received a well deserved round of applause.

Following the usual excellent meal, Sue Preece began her job talk - a very full and detailed history from birth to the present day.

Sue, an only child, was born in Liverpool. Earlier her Fathers family had emigrated to New York and when Sue was 6or7yrs old her parents joined them in the Bronx. In 1962 the family returned to Liverpool where Sue went to Notre Dame High School. After school she commenced teacher training and in her last year at College she met Bob. Voluntary service in Africa followed, where she taught English and Science. Bob went out to Africa and on their return in 1971 they were married Sue taught science at a secondary modern

school until her three children were born. Later she worked 11/2 days per week with the Liverpool Peripatetic team at home and at a variety of Special schools. In 1987 she Graduated after part time studies. Sue and Bob re-located to Cheadle Hulme where she taught at Bethesda as a supply teacher.

Following a funded course on children with physical and learning difficulties, she was appointed principal of Bridge College, Offerton. The introduction of Makaton, where signs and symbols are used for communications, improved the all round development of children. From the initial twelve or so students Bridge College eventually grew to 50 students and 60 staff with a variety of disciplines. It became a center of excellence. Sue left after 9 years and joined Ofsted. In 2003 Sue became National Needs Adviser and visited Primary and Secondary schools, prisons, and FE colleges. Sue's success was recognized by an invitation to the Queens Garden Party. She retired in January 2011

Jim Thomas noted Sues obvious enthusiasm and applauded her efforts to have special needs children integrated into main stream education, wherever possible. Her comprehensive and enlightening talk was warmly applauded.

Ian informed us that Charter Night had been publicised in the Stockport Times and Express.

Bob Preece fined John Meeus for appearing in Cheshire Life, Brian for losing the White Book, Caroline for objecting to any new members younger than herself, Bruce and Harry for a slanging match and finally all those without poppies.

Neil

Vida's Gardening Tips



Well what I was going to say was R E L A X there is nothing to do in the garden now but where has winter gone? My raspberries are still raspberriying, the dahlias haven't died back, the begonias won't fall off their stalks, and worse the birds are building nests because they think it is Spring!!!

Even the trees are still in leaf so you will still have to pick up the leaves from your lawns less they turn mossy and you will not have a lawn to be proud of next year. Please pick up the leaves which are in large clumps as slugs lurk under them all happy and cosy for the winter and emerge in the Spring chubbier than ever ready for a good attack on anything juicy.

When your dahlias finally do agree to look black, dig them up and cut the tops down to around six inches or if you are really with it and metrical fifteen cms. Shake all the soil off the tubers and make sure they are dry and then wrap them in newspaper and store in a frost free area - I use the loft. If you are very enthusiastic you could label them with their variety or at least their colour of flower.

Now you will, of course, have saved the alium seed heads which look really spectacular sprayed gold for the Christmas season as do pholomis seed heads and even big poppy heads. You didn't well better luck next year.

When you have done all the above and your back is aching from picking up all the leaves which you have put in a special place in the garden to mulch down to a wondrous compost in a couple of years time if you can wait that long! You can sit down and look out at the garden and decide whether you like where everything is growing and if not draw a sketch and see where improvements could be made.

We will be back in February to tell you all the hundred and one jobs will be needed to be done in this busy month so be prepared to attack!!!

Vida.

There is now a simple way for people to use their phone to donate to us (no excuse now 'I've got no change') by texting to 70070 the message BWRT24 £5 to donate £5.

They can donate £1,2,3,4,5 or £10, always to 70070 and using BWRT24

Why don't you try it now? The BWRT24 stands for B&W Rotary 24hrs a day!

Michael

PS all of the donated money goes to us and the sender is not charged for the text.

PPS they can make a gift aid declaration (needs a smartphone I think, and we get an extra 25%)



'Children in Need Rocks' Concert

The MEN arena in Manchester was the venue for this year's Children in Need Rocks concert on 17th November and I was lucky enough to be able to purchase two last minute tickets at a ridiculously inflated price but what the heck.....it's for Children in Need!

The event was organised by X Factor judge and Take That star, Gary Barlow, who assembled a fantastic line up of talent to perform and give their services free of charge. It was simultaneously hosted by David Tennant, Chris Moyles and Fearnie Cotton and interspersed throughout with stories from children who have been helped over the past year from last year's fundraiser.

The evening's entertainment was started by the Collectives - a hastily assembled bunch of Rap artists - singing (?) this year's Children in Need song "Teardrop". The insertion of the letter "C" would better describe them - not to my taste and largely unintelligible but they were the only real disappointment of the evening.

Ever eccentric, Lady Gaga (for once dressed fairly appropriately) then launched into "Born this way" and "On the edge". She has a quite outstanding voice and stage presence, seeing her perform live really did change my opinion of her. Michael Buble came on to huge applause from the ladies in the audience and crooned his most popular hit song "I just haven't met you yet" before rather bizarrely ending with "Santa Claus is coming to town" (it's still 6 weeks off Michael!).

Snow Patrol breezed through two of their lesser known songs and husky voiced James Morrison gave us a rendition of his classic "You give me something" before joining Jessie J (I've never heard of her either!) in a rather embarrassing duet. Actor Hugh Laurie revealed a great talent on the piano and jazzed his way through one song before joining forces with the diminutive Jamie Cullen so perform "Hallelujah I just love her so". Ed Sheeran, a young singer songwriter with great talent, sang his recent hit "The A Team" and Kelly Rowland (another X Factor judge and ex Destiny's Child) tottered her way through "Dancing on Air" in enormous 6 inch heels and managed to stay upright against the odds.

The performance of the evening belonged to Andrea Bocelli who sang his rendition of Nessun Dorma with a female choir of 12 (who only sang two lines - hardly worth getting dressed up in your best frock for!) and achieved a standing ovation and rapturous applause from the crowd. Local band Elbow belted out their great hit "One day like this" with the entire audience joining in the chorus. The surprisingly athletic X factor runners up band, JLS, sang and danced through a couple of their hits to the delight of the young fans at the front who had been queuing outside for 48 hours.

Cheryl Cole was due to duet with Gary Barlow but had been taken ill and was unable to attend, so he duetted with the audience instead to the Take That hit "Want you back" (thought he might have been able to persuade a couple of the group to appear!?) but didn't take any more limelight himself which is a shame as he has great talent.

The evening drew to a close with an outstanding performance from Cold Play singing "Waterfall", "Paradise" and "Rule the World"

It was announced the following night that £2.5 million had been raised from the concert. It was a privilege to be there, though not a privilege to join the huge queue of traffic trying to get home !!

Gill

2nd November, Committee night

A goodly number turned up for the usual excellent repast, which commenced after the shortest grace on record from John Knowles. This was in petulant retaliation for the criticism of his mammoth one the week before! During the meal Jim T. gave details of the curry evening on 16th November, to be held in Cheadle Hulme. After all was settled, who else than the aforementioned Reverend asked if we could now have a referendum on the matter! Greek politics get everywhere.

The reports of the committees after coffee:

Treasurer. The rugby/balloon day will deliver a profit of £2850/2950. Michael proposed that this be rounded up to £3000, which had no objectors. Our accounts seemed to be in good shape, the Charity Account having £1000 left after the £3000.

Sales. Vida had enormous bags of Bruce-the-younger's eating apples for sale at £1 each, and several kilos made their way to different homes later in the evening.

Ways and Means. Trevor announced that the Woodford Park Christmas collection rota was now full, and that the rota for the Christmas float was coming along well.

The Woodford Park collection was to be for the Together Trust and Rotary charities. Customers to Woodford Park would be provided with the option of texting donations if they preferred.

The float would be held as a Rotary event, and we would be following the well oiled arrangements honed by Bramhall Round Table, which has now dissolved. Several questions of clarification were dealt with. Our club will run 1 evening completely. On all the others we would provide a leader, with local organisations providing the staffing. Proceeds would be channelled through our club, and (after any expenses) would be divided equally between all participating organisations (Scouts, Guides, Bramhall High School etc.). The float itself will be inspected and renovated as necessary on 20th November. Round Table will provide a towing vehicle. A number of details still need to be resolved (insurance etc.). Vida had obtained 25kg sweets to hand out to Bramhall's

children. The Scouts would leaflet the district about the float itinerary.

Club Services. Bruce-the-younger outlined the forthcoming programme, and Dennis asked once again for all to bring scissors and sellotape to next week's meeting to participate in some diverting activities. The Christmas Pudding evening on 23rd November would be open to partners, and Vida didn't want us to forget that it would be her birthday. Perhaps someone will give her a bag of apples? We were reminded of the Christmas Dinner on 14th December. It was suggested that we invite ex Bramhall Tablers to a meeting in the New Year with the object of interesting them in membership. Michael was trying to arrange an open evening in the main hall at the Ladybridge Club to hear a brilliant speaker on the subject of canine helpers. All being well, a dog would come as well.

Communications. Ian had been successful in placing two items in the press and last week our 'fire fighters' were presented with certificates for their community activities. A new leaflet was in preparation giving helpful information to visiting speakers. An advertising cum news story campaign for the Christmas float was planned.

International. David Rose had been to the excellent Peace Seminar, and would be attending the welcome dinner for Ambassadorial Scholars.

Community Service. Vida wished to support the Bramhall Community Ambulance. Watch this space!

Social. John Sykes, reporting for the indisposed John Meeus, reminded all of the Christmas Dinner, Presidential Drinks on 8th January and a theatre night on 27th January.

The rest!

David Burstow won the raffle, and Gordon ingeniously retrospectively fined all who had ever phoned him for computing advice the sum of 25p per call. Now there's a wheeze – who will be next in charging to be spoken to I wonder? Could be a nice little earner for us retired folks!

Dennis

Across	Down
1 & 3 Circular logo for a famous organisation	1 We have one every Christmas
6 A very calm lake - not	2 How can they be eternal when they have so few sides?
7 Most live here	3 You wouldn't give him the boot
8 We are so happy that we exclaim	4 Inside wet cats; and so on
10 A museum in Poynton has lots of them to help us go	5 A beginner has an advantage on the shelf
11 If our committees ever stuck to it, it would be a first	9 Two more than 2 down for US defence
13 Choose that one over this one	12 Act through another organisation
15 When life is bad, you may make it	13 Quietly delayed and cover with another metal
16 It isn't good to look this when the enemy are near	14 Viewed a book we hear
18 But it does look good to look like this at work	17 Cut this to move with rhythm
19 Suggestive first name of a Bond girl	





9th November— Dennis's Diversions

It was a 'back to school' night in many respects. As usual, it started with head boy, R Stevenson,

keeping all on their feet while he finished some inconsequential conversation before announcing grace.

We all sat down

As has now become common, several announcements were made during the meal; mainly concerning future events. On the 16th November, we are due to visit a local Indian restaurant (the name escapes me for the moment (it's the 7-Spices)), particularly as J Thomas who is organising the event announced a price increase from £12 to £1. This caused some stir, particularly from one member near me who swallowed the wrong way and choked, nearly causing a retirement from those who intended to be present by one.

He recovered

The main event of the evening was discussion about paper by D Allport at whose behest, people had arrived armed with scissors and Sellotape. I had not.

I forgot

D Allport started his presentation with a reminder to us all of his education as a student at Stockport Grammar where he excelled at science and maths, so much so that he eventually fashioned a career as a scientist. This drew various sotto voce comments of such a nature that I

can only report on two:

Teacher's pet & Swot.

He then asked for the distribution of 5 strips of paper, which he had prepared earlier, per person. The distributor in my area was head boy Stevenson who seemed to be having trouble counting the strips. He was helped by H Hill who pointed out that when counting, 5 was after 4 and before 6. He eventually got it right and each person received their strips.

I was lucky

I got 6

Before attacking the paper, our speaker demonstrated a card trick which involved turning cards from back to front without apparently disturbing the deck. I will not explain it again here but it involved some under the table trickery which was extremely cunning. It perhaps explains the educational standards at SGS at the time.

Clearly criminal

He went on to instruct us to twist the paper, Sellotape the ends and cut it lengthways thus producing a paper which had only one side. A good deal of variation could be provided by carrying this on with further twists and sticking with Sellotape. Most people ended up with beautifully shaped paper. I ended up with short bits of twisted, cut up paper, some stuck with Sellotape.

All over the floor

There was some dispute over who was S@A but eventually H Hill had the office and laid about him with considerable panache and venom. Settling old scores

He even fined me

Henry

A mate of mine admitted to being addicted to brake fluid. When I quizzed him on it he reckoned he could stop any time.

A further note from Sue & Gill:

There are 1,850 kiddies in the lower 'basic' school aged between 7 - 14 and they either attended in the morning or afternoon! Classes are large and they are mostly learning by rote.

What
great
work..
Truly
Rotary in
Action.



Rotary Wives - November Meeting

The meeting was on Tuesday 15th at Jaqui Rabone's house and was organised by Jaqui and Marilyn Banks. A most enjoyable evening which began with a glass of wine and then everyone had plenty of time to look at a most attractive array of bags, scarves, jewellery, watches, shoes and very much more by "Lisa". Many of the ladies treated themselves. Later Jaqui provided some delicious savouries and mince pies and we had time to catch up on the latest gossip. A great evening – and thanks to Jaqui for hosting this event.

Pam Malabon



23rd November—Puddings and Presentations

We had wives, partners and guests aplenty to see the presentation of three £1000 cheques to beneficiaries of our rugby day. The sudden death of Bob Batty the day before resulted in a subdued mood and an excellent eulogy (reprinted on the back page) by David Poizer expressed what we all felt - Bob will be greatly missed.

We were joined by Major Ronnie Goodwin, RSM Tony Blackshaw and Private Paul Hunter of the Mercian Regt.; Mike Doherty and Richard Hope of Stockport Rugby Club; Eric Williamson the chairman of the Royal British Legion (Cheshire); Alan & Rose Kennedy of the Cheshire Regimental Association (Stockport) and Steven Kennedy who donated the silver plate. Mulled wine in the reception area to begin and the dining room set out with the tables in groups contributed to the informality of the evening. Ian Dobson and the kitchen staff had certainly pulled out all the stops and we were not disappointed.

Beginning with a very nice soup course, we were quickly into the first of 6 puddings (complete with a couple of bottles of fizz for each table). Ian attempted to introduce each course by explaining a little about the Christmas celebrations in each country but had to abandon his carefully researched speeches as time began pressing and the barracking increased. The order of service was:

1. Italy—Panettone
2. France—Chocolate Log (Bouche de Noel)
3. Denmark—Rice with hot cherry sauce (Ris A L’Amande)
4. Germany—Stollen
5. Poland—Poppyseed cake
6. Britain—warm Christmas pud with cream (or custard or brandy sauce)

The presentations followed with an excellent short talk by Major Goodwin thanking us for our donations and explaining what it meant to those at the front line. The fund allows ‘quick fixes’ for those soldiers in difficulties. One example being a soldier who was suffering from post traumatic stress being funded to visit his wife in America.

The surprise of the evening was the presentation of a decorative plate to Bruce Farrow for his sterling work in developing the rugby day. With typical modesty, he would only accept the plate on behalf of the club and not for himself.

One of the guests present was Mandy Oldham who won the balloon race and whose husband had donated a large ham to the club to be raffled at a future date.

Tony Blackshaw announced the winner of the wine raffle in his best RSM’s voice and S@A Yule took a sadistic delight in extorting money out of as many poor unfortunate souls as he could.

December at Bramall Hall

Christmas Decorations, Saturday 10 December onwards. See the beautiful Christmas decorations around the Hall, Normal admission price

Concert with “Renaissance”

Monday 12 and Thursday 15 December, Doors open 7pm: concert starts 8pm

Prior to the concert - see the House beautifully decorated for Christmas. Christmas carols, spirituals, seasonal classics and the truly contemporary. Price £11 per person £9 Leisure Key. Tickets include a glass of mulled wine and a delicious mince pie.

Booking essential. Contact: 0161 485 3708

Gordon Gilltrap—Guitar Concert

Wednesday 14 December. (but it's also our Christmas party) Doors open at 7pm concert starts at 8pm. This acoustic and electric guitarist has released over thirty albums during four decades in the music business. His distinctive style includes folk, blues, rock and classical. Tickets include a glass of mulled wine and a delicious Mince pie. Prior to the concert see the House decorated for Christmas. £18 Adults, £16 Leisure Key. Booking Essential

A Christmas Cracker with Santa - Family Day Event.

Sunday 18 December, 11am to 4pm. Enjoy this very special Christmas event established for 18 years. See this magnificent Hall beautifully decked for Christmas, a wonderful back drop for our musicians, jugglers, magicians, jesters, and many more entertainers. A perfect way to enjoy the spirit of a traditional Christmas with the family. Tickets to see Santa will be limited and timed. Entry to Hall and festivities only: Adults £7.00 Children £5 (3 - 15yrs) Leisure key £4.50. Children up to 8yrs old booked to see Santa will be charged £1 extra. Booking essential. Contact: 0161 485 3708

Figgy Pudding.

Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 December. Doors open at 7pm concert starts at 8pm. Prior to the concert - see the House beautifully decorated for Christmas. An evening of mistletoe, myrrh, merriment and memories to celebrate the magic of Christmas in song and prose. Price £17 per person Leisure Key £15. Tickets include a glass of mulled wine and a delicious mince pie. Booking essential. Contact: 0161 485 3708

Visit Santa at Bramall Hall

Thursday 22 December. 1pm - 4pm. Santa will be in his magical grotto for one day only. Pay him a visit but also pick up a quiz sheet and see what you can spot amongst the beautiful Christmas decorations around the Hall. Suitable for ages up to 9 years old. Children and Rotarians must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Adults £4.05 Children £7 includes viewing the House, Quiz sheet and a gift from Santa. Booking Essential



***My favourite restaurant.....
The Swettenham Arms
(near Congleton)***

Not exactly a local eatery but for a special occasion it's well worth the beautiful drive through the Cheshire countryside on a warm summer evening. This is an award winning large whitewashed old pub lavishly renovated inside with open fires and beautiful welsh dressers, and covered on the outside with enormous flowering hanging baskets and troughs. The food is delicious, if slightly on the expensive side (but it's a special occasion after all!), interrupted occasionally by unexpected chef's gifts of small plates of mouth watering little offerings.

Good wines and immaculate service help to make this a very enjoyable evening. Afterwards, before you go home, walk round to the rear of the building and through the garden where summer wedding receptions take place and enjoy the large meadow of flowering lavender and sun flowers, or if you have the time wander through the Arboretum next door.

This establishment has won 22 awards since 1998 - and it's only about half an hour drive from Bramhall.

The Swettenham Arms
01477 571 284

Olive



***Do you have a
favourite local
restaurant?
Ego's, Gusto,
Olivers etc?
Why not send
Gordon a few
words about it for
the next Bulletin?***

Christmas Theatre Entertainment for all the family



*Feel like going to see a pantomime over Christmas?
Here's a rundown on what's on over the Festive Season.....*

Opera House

Cinderella

A glittering parade of everything you could possibly wish for in a traditional family panto. Starring Louie Spence and Suzanne Shaw. 3rd December to 31st December

Forum Theatre, Romiley

Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs

Traditional family pantomime. 8th December to 17th December.

The Lowry

Scrooge

Tommy Steele returns in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge.
12th December to 7th January.

Salford Arts Theatre

Aladdin

Family fun with Princess Jasmine, Wishee Washee and Widow Twankee.
12th December to 24th December.

Plaza, Stockport

Jack & the Beanstalk

Starring Claire Sweeney & Paul Shane. 9th December to 8th January.

OR IF YOU PREFER SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE GROWN UP.....

Palace Theatre

Dirty Dancing

First ever National tour. 22nd November – 7th January.

Royal Exchange Theatre

You Can't Take it With You

A revival of a 1930's Broadway hit. 10th December to 14th January.



To Everyone.....

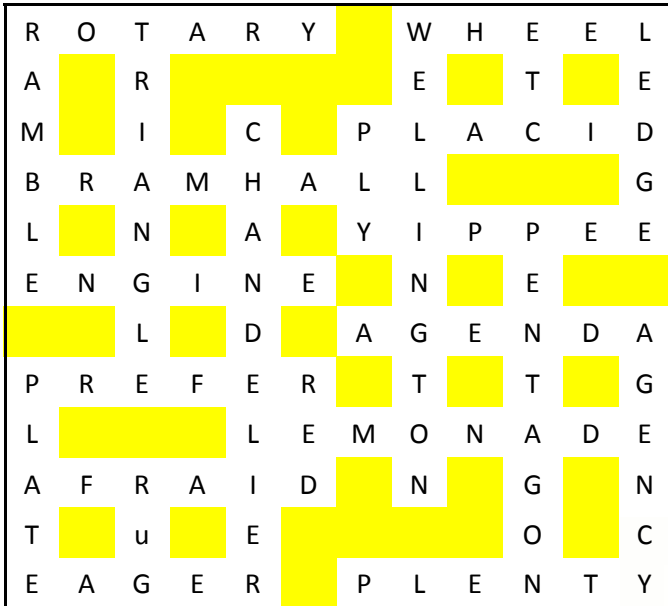


*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas
and
a Prosperous 2012*

Just a reminder that we no longer send Christmas cards to each other but rather donate an amount to the charity account via Michael or our text line.

Support Your
Local
Rotary Club
Bramhall and Woodford

Text **BWRT24** £2 / £5 / £10 to 70070 to donate now



No prizes for getting them right but you *may* be allowed to join the quiz team next year.



Bruce was either very proud of his Möbius strip or he was showing the latest in RIBI's idea of Rotary underwear



"It doesn't matter what other people think - the important thing is that you believe in yourself"



© MAREK ANDERSON, WWW.ANDERSTOONS.COM



"I remind you that my client is nice until proven naughty."



Blind Run

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

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

Cathy Denison, 47 Chester Croft Rd, Off Spath Lane East, Grove Lane, Bramhall., Tel: 439 7559

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

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

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

Date	Driver 1	Driver 2
05/12/2011	R Malabon	G Critchley
12/12/2011	B Preece	S Preece
19/12/2011	V Chattington	D Walker
26/12/2011	No blind run	
09/01/2012	D Burstow	B Bissell
16/01/2012	J Meeus	G Hunt
23/01/2012	J Sykes	D Allport
30/01/2012	R Malabon	G Critchley
06/02/2012	B Preece	S Preece
13/02/2012	N Loveland	D Rose
20/02/2012	D Poizer	G Jackson
27/02/2012	D Walker	V Chattington

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were £70. Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

Diary & Job Rota

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

Date	Diary	Speaker/Host	Bulletin	Sgt @ Arms
07/12/2011	EGM/Committees		B Dougal	I Dobson
3rd-16th Dec	Christmas Float			
Nov/Dec	Woodford Christmas Collection			
14/12/2011	Christmas Dinner, Bramhall Golf Club			
21/12/2011	No meeting			
28/12/2011	No meeting			
04/01/2012	Committees		C Egan	B Farrow
08/01/2012	President's drinks			
11/01/2012	Peter Dunlop - 'Educate'	S Preece	J Thomas	A Newsome
18/01/2012	Peter Owen - Peru	D Burstow	T Saville	G Hunt
25/01/2012	Gill & Sue - Gambia Trip	R Stevenson	J Knowles	C Monkhouse
27/01/2012	Theatre night at Chads			
01/02/2012	Committees		D Allport	T Sheppard
08/02/2012	Tony Baugh - A Sign of the Times	G Jackson	T Burch	N Loveland
15/02/2012	T Nightingale - Bramhall Community Ambulance	V Chattington	D Rose	M Lacey
22/02/2012	Matt Davies - MEN Group	B Dougal	B Preece	H Barker
29/02/2012	No meeting - 5th Wednesday			
09/03/2012	President's night			
14/03/2012	Committees		S Davies	D Poizer
21/03/2012	Egan/Farrow	D Walker	J Sykes	R Malabon



The presentation to the Mercian regiment, collecting at Woodford Park and the winner of the balloon competition, Mandy Oldham.



A good turnout enjoyed the curry night at the Seven Spices restaurant where members of Round Table joined us.



Club members and Round Table prepare to restore the Santa float (Gordon took the pic)

Sue and Gill with some of the many items donated for their Gambia fact-finding trip.



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

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

Email to council members only: bwccouncil@yahoogroups.com

Items for inclusion in the Bulletin to Gordon (who is not open to bribery of any sort, honest guy, none at all, despite the scurrilous lies printed in the gutter press)



Bob Batty 30/7/1931—22/11/2011

I consider it an honour to present some thoughts on Bob Batty, my best friend in Rotary.

The first phrases that come to mind are ‘one of nature’s gentlemen’ and ‘salt of the earth’. These phrases can be clichés but in Bob’s case they are spot on.

If you ever wanted a job doing properly – ask Bob.

If you every needed sound advice on anything - ask Bob.

Indeed, if you ever wanted to know anything about the history of this club - ask Bob.

Always interested Always involved Always loyal and considerate -
That was Bob.

Small in stature but huge in character.

I don’t think I ever heard him raise his voice but he had no problem in making his views known, if necessary.

Married to Kath for fifty-one years – their Golden Wedding was last year. Father of Philip living in Japan and Rosemary who nearly died from Swine Flu in the last year.

I first met Bob about 33 years ago when we both attended Bramhall Methodist Church and Philip and my son, Bruce, were in the Scouts together. We became friends and Bob eventually invited me to join Bramhall Rotary Club a year or two after it had been founded.

A Past President, Paul Harris Fellow and founder member of this club, Bob did most of the jobs and contributed a tremendous amount to Rotary. In addition he kept up his friendships with his ex-Round Table colleagues in the 41 Club.

As a civil engineer, Bob had a distinguished career in the water supply industry and as a long time member of Bramhall Methodist Church, he used this expertise to help look after the extensive church property.

I helped him with the testing of the electrical appliances at the church and saw how heavily involved he was in its day-to-day life. He seemed to practically live on the church premises.

I have just sprinted through some of what Bob got up to in his eighty years. You must agree that he has led an admirable, busy, fulfilling life of service to his fellow man.

Bob – We Salute You – God Bless – We’ll all miss you.

David Poizer

