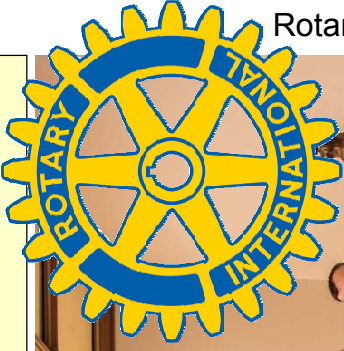




# Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



# Bulletin



Rotarian .....



Dec/Jan 2012/2013

A highly successful trip to the House of Commons



Kathryn and the  
guide dog Nelson  
help with collecting



He's a lumberjack



Jean Bailo told us  
about tours of  
Manchester



Santa and  
the mayor  
turn the  
lights on in  
Bramhall



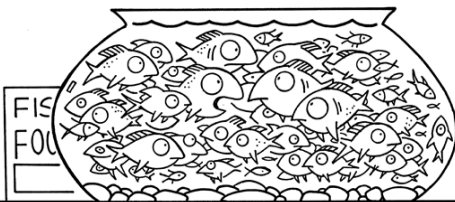
Merry  
Christmas



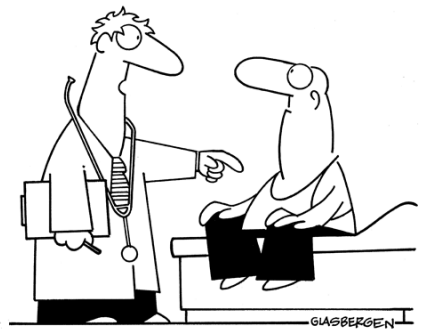
*'Never mind whether I'm good or naughty.  
I've set up a process of self-regulation'*



"Damn GPS."



Why didn't you tell me your relatives were coming for Christmas?



Keep Christmas in your heart— it leaves less room for cholesterol.

### Reminder

We no longer give each other Christmas cards but instead we donate an amount (via Gill) to Rotary funds.

## *Meeting Reports*

### **3rd October**

Whilst we were waiting for our meal PP Bob asked if he could mention District Conference. He gave his view of the fireworks display from his bedroom window and told us about the presentations on Rotarians helping with Dementia, by two trainee Peace Scholars, the Bob Higgins Foundation by Lydia on 20 years in Dairy Farming, a virus free polio vaccine which apparently reduces the potential side effects and finally a presentation by Felicity Goody on the regeneration of Salford. Bob said that he thoroughly enjoyed it and this was confirmed by Sue saying that the next conference would be at Llandudno and that she would be going.



Membership - Sue Preece announced an open evening in February/March 2013 and the theme would be bring a friend. She was going to a membership seminar and was hoping to gain some lessons from other clubs. There was to be a leaflet drop in the Stockport area from RIBI to attract new members. Although this would not cover Bramhall, she was hoping that there would be some spin off from this venture.

Secretary - Michael was still on Holiday in the USA.

Treasurer – Gill said that there was approximately £2.5k in the general account. There was about £1500 in the charity account. This included all the costs associated with the Christmas float, including the new generator and the donations from NFU Mutual. £6.5k had been donated to St Anne's Hospice.

Ways and Means - John Thewlis thanked the volunteers who helped with the float. He now wanted volunteers to help as it did its rounds from the 9th to the 21st December between 6 and 9.00pm.

Community Service - Harry Hill said that Maggie's at home had raised £360 for Walthew House. The path clearance had been de-

layed from Friday 5 October. There was to be a clearance project on the Adopted Towpath starting on Friday 19 October at 10.00am. He was asking for 6 volunteers with saws. We would be able to put up plaques indicating that we had adopted the towpath. There would be a representative from the Rivers and Canals Trust (previously British Waterways) who would be providing experience and some life jackets!! Vida had apparently some jobs at Bramhall Park about planting some shrubs in a rockery

International – David Rose said that he was well on the way to organise the concert at the Methodist Church on 24 November. Tickets would be £8.00 with some of the artists giving their services free. He was hoping that Barclays Bank would give a donation. Tickets would be sold by the Church and possibly at other locations. He was going to the ambassadorial Dinner at Chorlton. There had been problems with getting the promised £1250 donation to Uganda but hopefully Gill had been able to sort this out.

Communications - Brain Dobson said that he had been in touch with several local newspapers and magazines including the Stockport Express, SK Magazine (published every two months) and Inside Bramhall although they might want payment for any inclusion. He had written about the float and concert.

Club Services – Caroline Egan said Vida was collecting the meal money for three months after which it would be handed over to another committee member. Everyone on the committee was however receiving apology information. There was a programme of events up to Christmas but she asked members who had been allotted slots to advise her of speakers or other activities. John Meeus said that he had organised an evening at the catering centre Macclesfield College for a meal on the 23 January 2013. The visit to the Houses of Parliament had been arranged and he was suggesting an evening at Chads on 1February.

**David B**



## District Conference 2012

Bob and Sue Preece and Bob and Oriane Stevenson represented Bramhall and Woodford at the Rotary International District 1050 81<sup>st</sup> Rally (aka Conference) which was held in Southport on the 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012. District Governor Robert Strachan's introductory speech advised that this event was intended to promote fellowship and the sharing of experiences for all members. Speakers were of high quality and provided lots of interest, enjoyment and food for thought. This was enhanced by an unexpected but wonderful firework display which took place on both the Friday and Saturday evening.

Dr Geoff Mackey, from the Audley Club, gave a talk, 'Chewing the Fat', and endeavoured to explain how we all could assist people in managing team motivation and apathy. Everyone sees things differently but we need to spot the people who can add value and bring them forward to do things in our clubs; the challenge is to release motivation not to have to create it. He also said female members make excellent Rotarians as they not only carry the word of Rotary but they get things done more efficiently - next year the RIBI president is a woman! He finished his talk by stating that we should all remember that growing old is mandatory but growing up is an option.

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Sandra Dinley-Jones gave a very moving personal talk on how illicit drugs had seriously affected her family. Sandra took us on a roller coaster of emotions to the point where we expected her to have lost both her sons. However, the outcome of her many years of hell, accompanied by courageous determination and parental love, was very positive. Her powerful message was 'never give in'.

President Sakuji Tanaka's Personal Representative, Ann Marie

Hart provided an interesting talk as an Honorary Member, not just of Rotary, but also as secretary CEO for RIBI. Ann Marie reinforced the view that “this is a changing world and we must change with it” – Paul Harris 1935. Other talks included a focus on ‘Rotary and Peace’ by Geoff Barnard and opportunities that had been made available to two Peace Scholars, Flor Yanez from Mexico and Natalia Muto from Brazil. Bob Higgins, Regional Rotary Foundation Co-ordinator and Chairman of the RIB Rotary Foundation Committee, took us through a history of ‘Foundation’ and the intricacies of the Future Vision Programme.

One of the best and most amusing sessions was delivered by Lydia Slack, a 20 year old farmer’s daughter from the Peak District. She held the audience in suspense whilst she spoke. Lydia is currently an agricultural student in Cirencester but is an extremely talented speaker and comedian who lightened up the proceedings and would make an outstanding speaker for any Rotary key event. The Saturday evening was fun; a good meal was followed by an excellent group, ‘Smackee’, who were making their third return to our District events.

The talks on Sunday were equally good and informative. We were fascinated by Simon Madrell’s explanation about his international charity which sets up sand dams and water tanks in poor rural communities - a successful low tech solution to serious water shortages. Founded in 2002 ‘Excellent Development’ supports subsistence farmers and their families to grow more food to eat, store, and sell through soil and water conservation. Dr Nicola Stonehouse then explained her research about the production of a virus free polio vaccine. The Universities of Harvard, Leeds and Oxford are collaborating on this important project. Stockport Lamplighters Ukulele Band provided excellent mid-morning entertainment and demonstrated how clubs can be highly flexible and innovative. This band was the first time I had seen female Rotarians outnumbering male Rotarians!

Gerri Parlbay of REPoD (Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia) gave a very moving account about how the network was set up to initiate and support community projects helping local families living with dementia. Since the formation six years ago REPoD has been involved in helping clubs in the UK, and now in the US, to set up community memory cafes and creating memory boxes which are now being used in NHS hospitals. Although a daunting thought, one in four of us will be affected and as Rotarians we were encouraged to help improve the lives of people who are suffering with this dreadful illness.

Ann Marie then summarised the Rally advising that we needed to bring in younger and vibrant people into Rotary. We can change the world, even a tiny bit, and if we all do that then together we can achieve so much more ..... She advised how District Governors should be looking after their District and not worrying too much about what head office is doing and said it was excellent that in 2013 two Districts will be coming together for their annual conference. She moved on to discuss the RIBI national conference in Harrogate and recommended that we all attended if possible. We were then treated to a film advertising the RI international convention which will be held in Lisbon in May 2013. It certainly looked to be good!

The final guest speaker was Felicity Goody CBE DL who expressed much appreciation for Rotary's involvement with the eradication polio and the work local clubs were doing to support those with dementia. Most of her excellent and fascinating talk related to the regeneration of Salford and her involvement with Northwest Development Agency. Felicity highlighted the way the north of England was changing and perceptions of this part of the country improving. Without aspirations people will never change. A measured view is now being put forward and this is largely due to the complete reorganisation of the BBC and the dogged determination of the Council and the people of Salford who have turned dreams into reality and never taken 'no' for an answer. At the end Robert presented this wonderful BBC corre-



spondent with a Paul Harris Award.

Overall this was an excellent Rally (aka Conference) which provided participants with inspiration and it was highly motivating to all present. The next such event will be held in Llandudno on October 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2013 and will be a joint event with Districts 1050 and 1280. Over 1,100 Rotarians are expected to attend! I do hope we will be able to get lots of B&W club members to join in this event. We all look forward to continuing in a dynamic way following the ideals of the Rotary movement.

### **Bob Stevenson & Sue Preece**

#### **Trip to Media City for BBC recording**

On 20<sup>th</sup> November, ten Rotarians and partners/friends went to the new BBC studios at Media City in Salford. We managed to obtain the use of the Bramhall Enterprise Ambulance for the transport, the only criteria being that we must have a trained driver (me!) and it had to contain at least one "old" person!! We managed to just about fill that obligation and Bruce the Elder put on a convincing performance of an old dodderer when we parked up in a pre-organised bay. Arriving in a vehicle with AMBULANCE on the side certainly opens doors even if it really is more like a mini bus with a tailgate!

It was an early start and they had requested that we be at the Audience entrance for 5.45 pm which we duly did and then proceeded to wait over an hour (fortunately inside) until we were allowed in.

The show we watched being recorded was a new Saturday night game show hosted by Clare Balding called Britain's Brightest where 24 contestants are whittled down week by week to reveal the supposed Brightest in Britain. The show will be broadcast sometime in January.

It was interesting to see what goes in to making it a slick show on the night as there were many reruns of lines and shots until the producer/director was happy. We left at 10.30pm and it still wasn't finished. What appeared quite shambolic to us will probably appear quite professional on the night.

There were a few "celebrities" on the show, namely Chelsea Healey (contestant from Strictly come Dancing), Aliona Vilani and Matthew Cutler (again from Strictly) and Eddie (the Eagle) Edwards complete in ski jumping outfit! One of the games was to guess his age which most people put at much older than he actually was (48!).

It will be interesting for us to see the finished article!

**Gill**

## 10th Oct Julia Shaw, Water in Kenya



As ever, tonight was a very full evening. In addition to the speaker, Julia Shaw, we had Abi Jenkins and Ian Loutit as guests, metaphorically dipping their toes into Rotary waters.

Important items of club business were John Sykes' urgent plea for more volunteers for the Blind Run, and an update on the plight of Henry by Gordon. He highlighted the "miracles" worked by David and Jacquie Rabone in restoring his house to normality, and told us that Henry now had a working phone and a working loo. Nonetheless, this

is a work in progress.

The evening's most surprising fact is that Vida was last for pudding!

Tonight's speaker, Julia Shaw, is an old friend of mine. I first met her as a patient, but she clearly had more about her than most. I persuaded her to become lay member of an ethics committee which I was on, and we worked together on that for several years. She has a background in broadcasting and journalism, but that is a small fraction of her talents. In November she is off for a year to Kurdistan, northern Iraq, to help train local journalists.

She spoke to us on the vexed topic of clean water in Africa, which she has seen first hand while working for the University of Central Lancashire in Kenya. Condensing her talk mercilessly, water is taken from Mt Kilimanjaro to Nairobi by pipeline, effectively excluding many settlements that would benefit from it. Ingenious and often desperate locals have found ways of diverting some of the flow for drinking water and irrigation. In particular, the Masai people, who depend on cattle for every aspect of their lives, are losing them to drought. Water can be taken legitimately from the pipeline, but the cost is very high. Even schools cannot afford to take much water, and children carry water with them in polythene bags. One headmaster is even trying to bore down to obtain ground water for his school.

**Harry**

## 17<sup>th</sup> October

Vida gave the usual apologies and introduced our Guest speaker Jean Bailo, a blue badge guide.



Geoff presented Harry with a RIBI Community Champion sweatshirt which he donned for the rest of the evening.

Vida gave an account of the efforts of the quiz team who came second in the quiz hosted by Hazel Grove rotary club, losing by four points but all managing to win a prize in the raffle.

Sue updated us on the proposed visit to Uganda and David, herself and Bob had booked flights to Uganda in January. It proved too complex to use the Air miles which were donated by Rotary so Sue asked if they could be used by Kaseese Rotary club for their return visit and this was agreed by RIBI.

Jean gave her presentation on her job as a Blue badge guide in Manchester and the North West. One of her first jobs was entertaining a group of Spanish visitors in Manchester on the day of the IRA bomb in 1996 and was actually in Deansgate when it went off, a true baptism of fire. Jean described some of the tours she undertakes in Manchester and showed us slides of Manchester Town hall and the bell tower which has recently become open to visitors. There were also pictures of the Chilean miners who were trapped underground for many days, and had been invited by Bobby Charlton to come to see Manchester United's ground. There has also been a marriage proposal in the bell tower. Other tours Jean undertakes are Ghost tours around Manchester, Chethams Library, Manchester Cathedral, URBIS (now the home of the National Football museum) and Salford Quays. Jean is also bizarrely in the Guinness book of records as being a part of the largest number of people singing "Love me Do" in Liverpool to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of the first Beatles record. Plenty of questions followed this interesting talk.

Sid won the raffle and promptly donated it to the Speaker.

Our president was a reluctant Sergeant at Arms and fined all the men for not wearing a tie and all the women for wearing trousers to many cries of indignation from both sexes!

**Gill**

## **A.V.Roe and BAE Systems, Woodford**



Everyone will already be aware that the closure of BAE Systems at Woodford has led to important discussions about the redevelopment of the site. The whole issue is likely to be contentious but the good news is that, whatever happens, the “AVRO Heritage Centre” is to remain there. The Centre was created to bring together aviation artifacts which had previously been stored away from general view and nearly all have a close connection with AVRO and Woodford. It will now be rebuilt as a state-of-the-art centre on the far side of the present airfield and is due to be reopened by HRH the Prince of Wales in early 2014. However, in the meantime it is open for visits on its present site in Woodford and is well worth a club visit.

“AVRO” of course earned itself a place in world history and the heritage centre was created to bring together a fascinating collection showing how aviation has progressed through the decades beginning with Alliot Verdon Roe and his prize-winning plane the Roe 1 Biplane in 1907, together with other model planes, photographs and products made on the Woodford site before, during and after the Second World War, as well as later designs such as the mighty Vulcan bomber.

The Centre is open for visits on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 4pm by prior arrangement. Several years ago a number of club members visited the factory to learn about how the company operated and to see the production line in action. How about a club visit to the Heritage Centre to discover the fascinating story of A.V. Roe and his impact on the world’s aviation industry? Twelve members maximum, starting around 10.30am for a two hour visit – with a break in the middle for coffee and biscuits. Sounds like a good idea to me. Any takers?

**Geoff.**



## The Navvie Lark

The adoption of part of the Macclesfield Canal towpath got underway today (19<sup>th</sup> Oct). Eight or nine (I lost count!) members plus Ian Loutit and Simon Durnford brought

saws and loppers, and even an axe, to cut down saplings which are growing at the edge of the canal. Although picturesque, they limit vision for boaters and break down the embankment, so our task was to cut them back to ground level. We were assisted by Hazel Mayow, who is the co-ordinator of volunteers at the Canal and Rivers Trust, and one of her workmen whose name I did not catch. John M had organised parking in the car park at the Lyme Breeze, even though he could not lend a hand on the day.

A gentle stroll along the towpath brought us to our target stretch of canal. The situation is spectacular, with no houses except a pretty cottage, and views straight up to the tops of Lyme Park. The weather was wonderful too: warm(-ish) sunshine from a blue sky, encouraging dozens of honey bees to feed on the flowers of ivy in the hedgerow beside us. There was even a rather careworn Comma butterfly that joined in the feast.

Our first task was to listen to a safety briefing - wear lifejackets near the canal, wear helmets if working above head height, that sort of thing. We then had to plan the disposal of the vegetation we would be cutting down. Current thinking is that organic waste should be returned to nature if at all possible. This avoids the need for removal off site, which is tedious (and hard work when we have to carry it). As we studied the various potential dumping sites the lady from the cottage came out, no doubt alarmed by the presence of a group of delinquent Rotarians. She expected us to leave several bonfire sized heaps against her hedge, but Hazel said that she wanted to weave the cut stems into the hedge itself, and even offered to stop up some holes which allow dogs into the garden. Larger branches could

be cut to size to feed the lady's wood-fired stove. And that is exactly what we did. Result: a very happy neighbour and a promise of tea all round next time.

The cutting of saplings and undergrowth was pretty straightforward. I used a saw on a pole which allowed me to cut branches from a distance, while Sid sat on the bank with his feet in the water to use his loppers at close quarters. Bruce the Younger brought an axe. He wielded it just as he wields his golf clubs - the first time I have come across a benefit of playing golf! Mr Prez stole my saw-on-a-stick to take down a large branch overhanging the path - quite unnecessarily in my view - in a show of bravado.

As time went by, it became clear that most people involved felt their job was to cut things down, and someone else's to clear up the resulting mess. With the towpath almost impassable and only Maggie trimming and sorting the detritus, Hazel became executive and told us what we really should be doing. As a result, logs and branches piled up far quicker than Gordon and the CRT guy could cut them to size. Thinner branches were bundled up and carried in convoy for Hazel to deal with, and we could finally stand back and admire our handiwork.

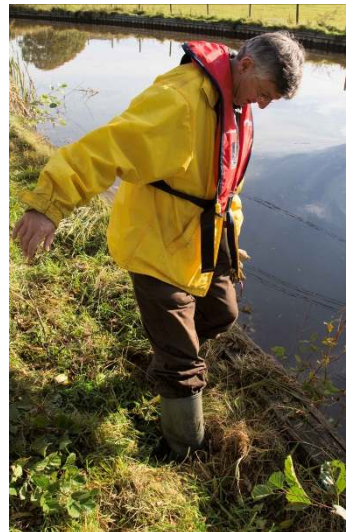
And what handiwork! A stretch of canal bank several hundred yards long which had been severely overgrown was now completely cleared of bushes. It may not be exactly as it was when it was first built, but it certainly shows what a few determined Rotarians can do when they put their minds to it!

Well done us!

## Harry

Sid thought he was helping out with Navys not Navvies.

Brian about to slip  
in (yes, he did)



# Rotary membership – the facts

Rotary membership is static, with the exception being in parts of Asia and Eastern Europe.

Data for the year ending June 2011 revealed the average club decrease was 0.62% while the average member per club decreased by 2.53%.

The average number of Rotarians per RI zone is 36,066 (RIBI 27,000).

Last year, RIBI formed 10 new clubs, whilst 19 handed back their Charters.

In RIBI, we lose on average 1% of members per year and that will rapidly increase for now it is official, RIBI has the oldest average age in the Rotary world. The average number of members per club in RIBI is 29 while in RI it is 36.

Gender distribution worldwide is 86% male and 17% female. Within RIBI it is 95% male and 5% female.

***Statistics provided by Allen Jagger,  
RI Director 2011/13  
Past RIBI President and member of Elland RC.***

In my term as Assistant Governor I “lost” three clubs out of fifteen in my own district zone. This was due to membership decline largely because of the ageing process and few, if any, new younger replacements. This inevitably led to poor quality meetings, reduced charitable activity and a lack of public profile within the club’s area. Members left Rotary because they were disillusioned. Altogether a sad business and so many years of Rotary experience were lost forever.

Happily our own club does not reflect this trend – but we must all beware complacency setting in. We need to accept changes in a changing world with enthusiasm and courage.

Standing still is simply not an option if we wish to survive and prosper in the longer term.

Is our Rotary worth fighting for? You bet!

***Geoff***

## Ian's recent press releases

### **Dateline October 4th 2012**

For the last 40 years or so Father Christmas, a.k.a. Santa Claus, has been a regular visitor to Bramhall in early December and with the help of members of the Bramhall Round Table has visited many streets and seen lots of children to find out what presents he should bring them on the special day .

The Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club have now picked up the reins and, because Santa's sleigh has been looking a little tired recently, has given it a fabulous makeover with the help of NFU Mutual.

His carriage has been transformed into a winter wonderland, full of mystique, intrigue and is now something fit to carry The Grand Old Man from the North. Along with his many elves and other helpers he will be visiting a street near you soon. He is due to start his tour of the village on December 8<sup>th</sup> – as usual a leaflet telling you when he will be in your area will be delivered to your house.

Also this year, for the first time, there will be a posting box for the little ones to send a message to Father Christmas. Look out for more information nearer to the time.

### **Dateline October 9th 2012**

The Rotary Club of Bramhall & Woodford present:- "A Unique evening of International Music". It is a one-off concert featuring international artists performing 'light' music from around the world.

The concert will be held at Bramhall Methodist Church on Saturday Nov 24 commencing at 7.30pm. The admission price will be £8 incl refreshments, and tickets are available from Simply Books, the office at the Methodist Church in Bramhall and any Rotarian.

Further Information:- The international artists / musicians performing are:

- Alice Wang playing the Chinese Piano,
- Luciano Gerber (Brazilian) Guitarist,
- Sovereign Saxophone Octet

The international concert is to remember the late Bob Batty who was a well respected member of the Bramhall community. He was a regular church goer and a staunch Rotarian. He had two causes close to his heart, WaterAid and End Polio Now, and proceeds from this concert will go to these two charities plus other Rotary charities.

Posters and publicity will be ready shortly with more details.



## Santa's Sleigh—The Return

It was a dark and stormy night (well actually, it wasn't bad although there was a chill in the air) when we gathered at Harry's for a first sight of the new sleigh and were aghast at the fantastic job that had been done. Harry & Maggie's son's in law, Christopher Raistrick and Andrew Tucker had put in a great deal of hard work (assisted in no small way by Maggie and Harry) to build us a sleigh that can be used for many years to come.

Concealed multi-coloured lighting and illuminated presents gave



the finishing touch to this superb artefact that will surely raise us lots of money.

Mark Davenport (the builder) provided five sheets of heavy marine ply for the sleigh, and Jewsons let him have it half price.

The cushions were provided by Sherlock Foams (honestly) of Stockport. They do a lot of charitable giving, and featured on "Challenge Anneka" when that was around.



And, a sucker called Harry let the lads make a complete mess of his garage, steal some of his tools, hide others, spill paint on the brick driveway, and generally make a nuisance of themselves.

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steal some of his tools, hide others, spill paint on the brick driveway, and generally make a nuisance of themselves.



## Our involvement with Uganda



Many of you will know of our involvement with a Rotary Club in Uganda but I will start from the beginning of the story and share the details with you.

I was a teacher with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in the early 1970's and I became friendly with another teacher who

stayed on at the end of our contract to marry one of the Ugandan staff. We maintained contact intermittently over the years. Carol Nsubaga is now a Ugandan citizen and both she and her husband are very committed active Rotarians. Once Carol discovered that I was also a Rotarian she asked if we could provide help for the 'Luhwahwa Model Village Project' which her Rotary club in Kasese had recently established. Whilst visiting Cheadle Hulme last January Carol met with the B&W international committee, explained in detail all about their project and spoke at a club meeting.

The Rotary Club of Kasese, in Western Uganda, and B&W Rotary now have a direct link. We have successfully begun to implement part of a joint 'model village project' with the support of a District Simplified Grant. The Rotary Club of Kasese are trying to improve the lives of the rural poor through initiatives which will address basic health, water and sanitation as well as improved income generation capacity. Luhwahwa village, population around 1,200 people, is characterized by large families with low household income, low literacy, disease, hunger and malnutrition among children. Luhwahwa is densely populated; the average household number is seven persons; there being 153 households with the households having about one acre of land to meet all their production and housing demands. The village has eight water taps with intermittent water supply; fre-

quent breakages and poor maintenance is one of the reasons that water supply is inadequate. On average there is one water source for 141 persons. The village is about five km away from Kiganda Hospital and other smaller health centers; making access to health services difficult when no transport is available.

The major occupation of the households is subsistence farming, but land fragmentation, poor farming tools and methods and land degradation make it very difficult. Rotary are supporting villagers to maximize opportunities to generate other streams of 'sustainable' income and so improve their lives. B&W Rotary are now involved with Kasese Rotary through our joint vocational training project of training villagers, both male and female in sewing, tailoring and knitting skills.

In August, I submitted a proposal for Rotary charity air miles for a friendship exchange. I had to write 300 words about how our club would work with Kasese Rotary to reach RI's goal of maximizing humanitarian impact while generating the greatest amount of public exposure to Rotary's work. My application was successful and we were awarded sufficient air miles to fund an exchange of one Rotarian from each club. Bob and David decided to come with me but it has proved far too complicated to book for three of us to fly out together and so we donated the air miles to the Kasese Rotary Club and each of us has paid our own air fare. The Kasese Rotary club was delighted with this news and now both their President, Albert Muhwezi, and Milly Nzirambi currently secretary/President elect, hope to come to stay with us early in May for two weeks. David, Bob and I go to Uganda on January 17<sup>th</sup> 2013. I am regularly asking what we can take out for the project but await ideas and suggestions.

The story now takes another interesting turn! Milly Nzirambi, as well as being a committed Rotarian, also runs a children's home/orphanage called NOTDEC (Nzirambi Orphans Talent Development Centre). NOTDEC started near to the village, years ago, when Milly's elder sister took in a new born whose mother had

died during delivery at the nearby mission hospital. There are now over 100 children, all of whom are sponsored by people in the UK, Germany, America and New Zealand. Many of the children have lost their mothers during childbirth or from illnesses such as HIV/AIDS. Without access to breast milk many babies die; processed formula milk is prohibitively expensive and very difficult to obtain for poor rural families. Other children come from situations where the family is just not able to look after them. A classroom block has been built where the children of nursery school age are taught. Once the children are capable of attending school, they, along with the older NOTDEC children, attend Kagando Primary School. Children of secondary school age attend local secondary schools. Bob, David and I will be taken to NOTDEC whilst we are in Uganda as there are guest rooms attached. NOTDEC also receives significant funding via individual sponsorship from a group of people in Leamington Spa who have also been in touch with me - Janet Johnson and her husband will be in Kasese in January so we all hope to meet.

When we are in Kasese we will be hosted by local Rotarians. Milly is keenly interested in education so I am sure we will have lots to occupy us! David will be fully occupied too... with the children in the village and the home and the mission hospital plus a health centre in Kasese town where one of the Kasese Rotarians is currently the sole physician/surgeon for a very large population. Our hosts are intending to use their Rotary charm to take us to Queen Elizabeth Game Park so I don't think any of us will have much idle time.

We have found communicating with our fellow Ugandan Rotarians rather a challenge at times. However, I am told that few Ugandans in Kasese have their own personal computer and so would have to travel into town to access and pay to use the internet café. Hence it is not surprising email communication is difficult! The last correspondence with Uganda explained that they had been very busy as many of the club were involved in

the wedding of two of their members. The groom was the Assistant Governor, as well as being Kasese Mayor, so it was a very big occasion.

Our upcoming Rotary friendship exchange and project partnership on the Luhwahwa model village project is to be featured in the December issue of the Rotary Service Update, which has a readership of over 24,000 and is distributed in six languages. So to the next chapter ..... when we return!

## Sue



The President Rotary club of Kasese, Rtn Albert and Rtn. Siwako handing over the materials to the women of Luhwahwa Model village.

Handover of Vocational Training Materials in Luhwahwa Village, Kasese, Uganda



## 12th November—London

At the invitation of Mark Hunter, a group of us went to view the Palace of Westminster to see if it would make a suitable Rotary



venue. After some deliberation, we agreed that, although the place needed a bit of 'doing up' it would suffice if the price was right. Harry and I thought that a bit of Anaglypta and flock wallpaper might help brighten the place up a bit.

Seriously though, the Palace really had that WOW factor and our guide gave us a potted history taking in a thousand years of Monarchs and government that was as fascinating as it was entertaining. At every turn, the senses were assailed by magnificent paintings and artefacts. I passed what I thought to be a framed picture but which, on closer inspection turned out to be the Magna Carta from 1215. Rather impressive!

After our tour, we witnessed the procession of the Speaker into the House and were then taken to a meeting with Mark where we took part in a question and answer session which further illuminated the workings of government.

We had all travelled down separately which allowed us to see the sights of London as we wished and after Westminster Abbey, the Cenotaph, Docklands, the Cutty Sark, Tower Bridge, Les Misérables and the Tower of London (from the outside), my party travelled gratefully home having seen some fantastic sights.

Many thanks to Mark for the invitation and John Sykes for organising a truly memorable trip.



**Gordon**

## Let's face it English is a crazy language

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger, neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweet-breads, which aren't sweet, are meat!

We take English for granted but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital, or ship by truck and send cargo by ship, or have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm goes off after it's been switched on. English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

The Cutty Sark  
in London. Sid's  
attempts to  
'borrow' it were  
unsuccessful



## From Graham Yule, Past President

The story so far....

Sue took early retirement at the end of the 2010/2011 school year - after 10 years as Head Teacher she had had enough!

We put the house on the market with the aim of escaping to the country.

However, we had little interest and, at the end of October, were about to take it off the market until the spring when we had a viewer who made us an offer and after some negotiation, we agreed terms. However, they wanted us out by Christmas! By this time, I had decided to resign from RS to take a 'gap year'. So we made a short list of properties and spent a weekend in Yorkshire to see what was on the market in our target area.

As luck would have it we found something, and as we did not want to leave it empty in Jan/Feb (see below), we negotiated an end-Feb completion.

So we temporarily moved in with Sue's parents in Southport on Christmas Eve. A bit scary, as we were still pre-completion on the new one.

I left RS at the beginning of January and Sue and I immediately set off for 6 weeks in New Zealand, which was fantastic - something a wage slave could never do.

On our returned we moved to Airton, a small village just outside Skipton. Everyone is very friendly - well, it is Yorkshire!

For the last 8 months we have been bringing the house out of the 1970's, although this is nearly complete.

I have trained as a Small Business Mentor (Marketing, Procurement & IT) and am currently helping a farmer diversify in to B&B, cottages & weddings.

I have rebooted my golf and I have upgraded the Golf Club's IT system.

I have been getting involved in community activities:

- I have transferred to Skipton Rotary and am a Trustee &



Treasurer of their Trust Fund. It is a mixed twilight club with about 50 members.

- I have joined the management committee of a local Charity which owns a cafe and meeting rooms in Skipton.
- I am have started a U3A maths course and also have started an online course at The University of Pennsylvania.
- I have taken a dry stone walling course so I can repair the walls around our property.

Sue has joined the WI and is playing lots of Golf (winning club comps already). She is also enjoying taming the garden. She took up the cello last year and continues to have lessons. She plays with The Dales Sinfonia.

It's great to have the time to do these things.

On November 3rd, we set off to Nepal to trek up to 5000m to see Everest....

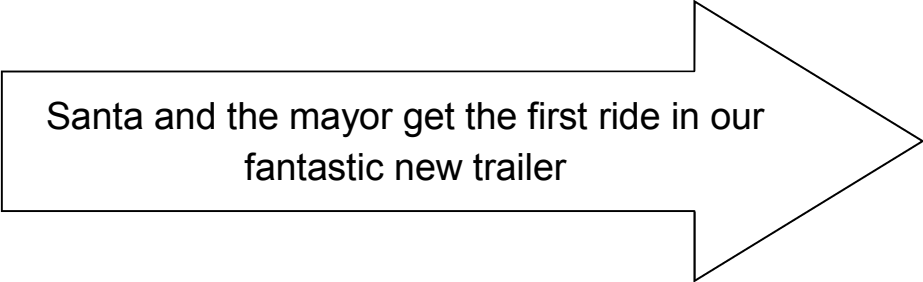
Life is good!

Christopher (30) is only a couple of weeks away from having flown enough hours (3000) to be a Captain, he has taken (and passed) 3 out of the 4 exams/assessments he needs to take. He also now has Resident status. At Christmas, he announced that he is marrying his Kiwi girlfriend next April. We are very pleased. They are having a beach-side ceremony in Phuket, hoping family & friends will join them as part of a holiday.

Richard (32) is still with Deutsche Bank in NY, and has recently got his Green Card (which gives him freedom of movement in employment), so I suspect he might jump ship. However he has a new girlfriend. He seems very keen and (unusually) far-sighted, as he is bring her over for Christmas, as we have not met her yet.

Regards to all

**Graham**



Santa and the mayor get the first ride in our  
fantastic new trailer

**25 years ago**

I have suggested to Gordon that we could have an occasional or even a regular series of articles looking back through the Bulletin to see what the club was doing a quarter of a century ago. So for the next 2012 bulletin I have taken extracts from the October and November 1987 editions.

Henry Barker was editor and John Meeus was President. We had just celebrated our first Charter anniversary with 108 Rotarians in attendance. Having survived a year's probation under the watchful eyes of District we were now free to run the club as we saw fit on our own. District was then numbered 105. The Deanwater hotel management said they could no longer accommodate us so we had to find a new venue. The Moat House hotel (now Sunshine residential care home) was to be given a month's trial. Meals to cost £7.50

Ten couples attended the District Conference in Llandudno. Polio Plus featured strongly in our endeavours and £4560 was collected in a joint venture with Hazel Grove. There was talk of organising a Bramhall Festival in conjunction with Round Table and the NSPCC.

**Ron**



## **Rotary Wives—A Trip to the Theatre**

Marilyn Banks and Sylvia Rains organised our November meeting on the 21st, which was a trip to the Woodford War Memorial Community Centre to see Calendar Girls put on by the Woodford Players. Eleven of us arrived to a packed hall.

Banked seating had been fitted into the hall which meant everyone had a good seat. The local WI had stalls down the side of the hall selling produce which gave a really authentic feel to the evening. The production was extremely good, with the “stripping off” of the 6 main characters for pictures in the calendar being handled with great care and merriment. Very brave ladies! £1 from each ticket is going to Leukaemia Research so I would think by the end of the week a fair sum will have been raised.

We do not have a meeting in December so look forward to meeting many of you at the January event to be organised by Joan Saville and Oriane Stephenson.

**Pam**

## An Evening of International Music



After the gestation period of an elephant, David R's baby finally arrived last night, and it was well worth the wait. I had been a little wary of the content: I've heard Chinese opera (unforgettable for all the wrong reasons) and I feared a Chinese piano might be similarly tough on the ears. Contemporary Bra-

zilian guitar songs could have been little better, and the saxophone is my least favourite instrument. How wrong I was to be anxious!

Taking things in reverse order, the local Sovereign saxophone octet performed tunes from ragtime to "Moon River" with great verve and musicianship. Each piece was introduced with clarity and humour, and individual members were allowed a brief demonstration of their own instrument's talents, from the high-pitched soprano to the rich and powerful baritone. Their programme was perfectly judged for the audience, many of whom were tapping feet and nodding to the beat.

Before the interval we heard Luciano Gerber, a Brazilian from the south of the country. He explained his love of the various regional styles, and the many and varied composers for the instrument. He produced a wide variety of colours from his instrument, providing the ideal backing to his pleasant informal singing style. The lyrics were all sung in Portuguese, with its elisions and soft consonants, making the overall sound carry the meaning. I for one would have loved a translation to help me follow the themes, but this is nit-picking.

The 古筝 that Alice played

For me, the undoubted star was our first musician, Alice Wang, from eastern China, who is in Manchester studying accountancy. She imported her own Chinese piano, which she played with enormous skill. Nothing like a piano, it is much more like a zither in sound and construction. An oblong box has 21 steel strings running lengthways, supported by individual pylons to allow tuning. The portion of string to the right of the pylon is plucked, much like a harp, but the portion on the left can also be used, by pressing with fingers of the left hand, to vary the pitch of the string. This allows effects such as vibrato and glissando as well as providing notes that are not available from the open strings, which are tuned to give a simple pentatonic scale. This is both familiar and comfortable to Western ears, so my fear of Chinese opera was rapidly dispelled.

Alice gave a clear introduction to each piece as well as describing the instrument itself (called a Gu Zheng). Several pieces were highly descriptive: mountains and stream in one, a fisherman rowing back home for his evening meal in another, were just some of the subjects portrayed. Alice herself, wearing a traditional white silk dress, moved her hands with great grace and elegance over the strings, bringing forth ringing chords and incredibly delicate arpeggios as the music required. Utterly spell-binding!

The club owes David a great vote of thanks for a successful and very enjoyable evening. Well done that man!

**Harry**



## 22<sup>nd</sup> October Nostalgia Night



An excellent attendance of both guests and members for this entertaining evening of nostalgia. The president congratulated all those who had made the effort to dress appropriately in the fashion of the 50s, namely Maggie and Caroline.

I estimated no less than 18 guests including wives and partners as well as the speaker and visitors from Barclays Bank and St Anne's Hospice.

Vida welcomed the guests, speaker Malcolm Macfarlane and wife Pat, Claire from Barclays and Sarah from St Anne's plus Peter representing the scouts. The wives and partners present were "too numerous to mention."

A presentation of a community service award was made to Peter Sexton in his capacity as Scout leader to thank him and all the Scouts for their superb assistance in the Duck Race. Peter in turn said that it was an honour to assist Rotary and that the work that we do served as an example to the young members of the Scouts and showed what being a good citizen means. His vote of thanks was very well received by all.

Brian then moved on to 'Big Cheque Time' and stated that it should really be Bob S and Trevor as the cheque related to the Duck Race in their year. The mammoth organisation of the Duck Race together with Barclay's contribution culminated in a superb donation of £6500 to the Hospice. Sarah from St Anne's thanked both the club and Barclays and mentioned the phrase she had used to describe the work of the Hospice to some young school children – the donation would "help a lot of very poorly people".

Claire from Barclays also made a vote of thanks to Rotary for including them in the Duck Race and assured members that their duck took pride of place in the Bank's staff room.



Following the presentations Neil introduced our speaker for the evening and we were entertained with an excellent talk and demonstration on the music of the 'Golden Age of Popular Music' given by Malcolm, himself a former Rotarian. He had everyone singing along to old favourites touching on the 60s with the Beatles but concentrating on the 50s. He included signature tunes from radio programmes of the era which most if not all could guess. He posed many questions about the era and included black and white TV and comic books such as the Eagle and the Wizard. He asked if anyone knew who had the first No One record in the Charts and I was amazed at how many knew the answer ..... apparently it was a singer called Al Martino.

He also covered many of the films of the period – Oklahoma, Paint your Wagon and a firm favourite, High Society, bringing back many happy memories of Sunday afternoon listening and viewing. Looking around the assembled company it was delightful to see so many singing along to the likes of Doris Day, Frankie Vaughan and Cliff Richard. Amazing how many knew the words in their entirety.

**Jan Edmonds**



## 7th Nov, Committees

The first Wednesday of the month is sometimes sparsely attended, but not today. A full house came to November's Committee meeting which perhaps explains the late finish (22.45 hr). Of the few absentees, Henry's excuse (being in Stepping Hill Hospital) was the best, with John Meeus' (just out of hospital) a close second. The two guests were Abi Jenkins and Ian Loutit, who continue to show interest in becoming members despite what they see each week.

The customary splendid meal was followed by chairmen's reports. Secretary Michael in fact had nothing to report, and Treasure Gill had no news on the accounts, which are both healthy if not overflowing.

John Thewlis (W+M) gave a commendably brief update on the state of the float and sleigh, which will be on show officially for the first time on Dec 1st. at the "Switch on Bramhall" event, before starting work proper on Dec 8th. Rotas were discussed, particularly the evening Santa collections which need a driver and leader for every day for a fortnight from the 8th.

I then held forth about Comm Serv. My meeting with Kathryn from Walthew House was very successful regarding support for our collecting efforts at Woodford Park. We shall have another morning clearing the canal towpath on 16.11.12 from 10am and all are welcome as long as they bring a saw or loppers. My committee has started to consider the pros and cons of running the Stroke Awareness day in April next year.

David Rose (international) has been working for ages on Bob Batty's memorial concert which takes place on Nov 24th. All is now in place and tickets were circulated freely. We need to sell between 100 and 150 if possible to maximise the sum raised for Polio and WaterAid.

Ian (PRO) was his usual shy and retiring self but he has managed to get important information into various publications and web sites. He may not be worth his weight in gold, but he certainly gets our name out into the community.



Caroline (House) gave the unwelcome news of a price rise for the room each week from January. It will cost us £35 instead of £30. This will not affect our £10 fee as some of each evening's costs are built into the annual fee. Caroline also made the eminently sensible suggestion that the evening's speaker host should be the person arranging the speaker. It was rapidly agreed by all present that this should happen from next week onwards.

John Sykes (Social) again asked for names for the Christmas dinner, and reminded us of our night at the theatre on Feb 1st. Before all that is the visit next Monday to the Houses of Parliament and an afternoon with our very own Mark Hunter.

The raffle was won by Peter, but not being a fan of red wine, he started a game of pass the parcel. I'm afraid I lost track of it after the fourth person. It transpired he was also S@A so with no hesitation he fined everyone without a name badge or poppy, which covered all but a couple of smarty pants who were named and shamed. It was an assured first effort as S@A.

The meeting ended a little late but in very good humour.

## Harry Hill

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### 14th Nov Spies, Cyphers and Scandals

A bumper turnout of boisterous members and guests listened as Eric Roth told us tales of dirty dealings and scandal that resulted in the USA joining in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War on the side of the Allies. The night was in full swing with members wanting to thank John Sykes for arranging an excellent visit to the House of Commons. Well done John. After coffee, Alan introduced Eric Roth, who first asked the questions "What might have happened had the Germans won the First World War and, indeed, why hadn't they?" He then described events that led to the USA becoming involved despite the reluctance of the US

President, Woodrow Wilson. All this started with the cable-ship, the *Telconia*, grappling and cutting German telecommunications cables leading across the Atlantic forcing the Germans to send messages to the US via telegraph making them vulnerable to interception by British listening stations. Apparently by 1917 both sides in the war were pretty exhausted and the German High Command was planning to instigate a submarine led blockade of shipping to the UK from the USA to force the British to capitulate. However, the outcry that followed the sinking of the *Lusitania* with the loss of nearly 1200 passengers and crew, including 128 Americans, led Arthur Zimmerman, the German Foreign Minister, of the time to concoct a cunning plan that would encourage the Mexicans to declare war on the USA, supported by Germany, so reclaiming Arizona, New Mexico and Texas as their own, and keeping the US preoccupied so as not to worry about the loss of shipping in the Atlantic. The plan also wanted to involve the Japanese and the Pacific. Zimmerman sent a message by telegraph to the German Ambassador in Mexico, Heinrich von Eckardt, and this message, in code, was intercepted by the British and sent to Room 40 of the Royal Navy's Code Breaking Operation set up by Admiral "Blinker" Hall, the first world war equivalent of GCHC. The message was sent via Bernsdorff, a certain quiet modest and clean living gentleman, who had an unfortunate habit of being photographed with scantily clad young ladies of distinction, and so had a slightly tarnished reputation in the best circles. Anyway, since the Brits had seized a code-book from a German soldier earlier in the war and knew something as to how the German codes were set up, they were able to decode the message and so learn of the fiendish German plan. However, Balfour, the British Foreign Minister, couldn't broadcast this discovery since this would alert the Germans that the Brits had cracked the German code, and so after many machinations, the message was subtly given to the Americans who broadcast that they had cracked it themselves so leading to a furore that resulted in the Americans joining the war on the British side and that was that.

Alan then thanked Eric for his excellent presentation and

Michael Lacey declared that he had heard the story before from Eric but wasn't convinced. However, when he checked it out he was flabbergasted to find that it was true. Well I never.

*PS I thought the following should be added as a tribute to the role played by "Blinker" Hall – taken from Google:*

Admiral Sir Reginald 'Blinker' Hall, the Director of Naval Intelligence (DNI) for most of the First World War - described as 'a genius in his own sphere and brilliantly successful' - was one of the outstanding if largely unrecognized naval leaders of the conflict. Naval intelligence's ability to read and analyse German naval and diplomatic signals on a daily basis was a significant factor in the allied victory. The Germans never realised that their codes had been broken. The interception and decrypting of the Zimmermann telegram, surely one of the most significant coups in the history of intelligence, was the catalyst that brought the United States into the War. The German unrestricted submarine warfare campaign was then coming dangerously close to cutting Britain's supply routes. The effective interface between intelligence and operations, instituted by Hall and the anti-submarine chief, Admiral Duff, together with the introduction of convoy and with the Royal and US Navies working successfully together, resulted in the defeat of the U-boats. Hall's dynamic leadership, talent for lateral thinking and force of personality were essential to these successes. Above all, he was endowed with the guile and ruthlessness which kept him one step ahead of a formidable and determined enemy and their widespread espionage and subversion operations.

**Jim Thomas**

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***Bill Huntley Memorial Peace Seminar***  
***at the University of Bradford***  
***27<sup>th</sup> October 2012***

**Who was Bill Huntley?**

Bill Huntley, former Rotary International President, announced the creation of Rotary Peace Centres at the 2000 RI Convention when he was Chair of Trustees of the Rotary Foundation. He died suddenly in 2006 whilst still travelling the world on Rotary's humanitarian business. An appeal was launched the next year in his memory to create a \$500,000 Endowment. This has been completed in July 2012 due to the generosity and support of Rotarians and friends around the world

and will result in a “Huntley Peace Fellow” being funded every three years in perpetuity. Some legacy!

### **What is the Rotary Peace Fellow Programme?**

Rotary Centres provide Rotary Peace Fellows with the opportunity to pursue a Masters Degree in conflict resolution, peace studies and international relations etc. Each year, up to 60 Rotary Peace Fellowships are offered on a competitive basis at six Rotary Centres which operate in partnership with six leading universities around the world; in Japan, USA, Sweden, Australia and England (at the university of Bradford).

The focus is on preventing and resolving conflict by addressing its root causes – ie: responding to hunger with food security, disease with health care, illiteracy with education, poverty with sustainable development and environmental degradation with conservation. Fellows put classroom lessons into practice through an applied field experience when they work around the world with a variety of governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The Fellows are chosen from countries and cultures around the globe based on their potential as leaders in government, business, education, media and other professional areas and are sponsored by Rotary clubs in their countries of origin and hosted by local Rotary clubs during their stay in the UK.

### **Do they really make a difference?**

Rotary Centres Alumni have demonstrated their ability to further global understanding and peace in their work for United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the European Parliament, the Organisation of American States and other non-governmental organisations as well as national governments and international businesses. For instance, Natalia from Brazil, (sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sao Paulo) says “my strong involvement with peace and security issues reinforced my interest in peace keeping and peace building, and I am now considering applying for jobs within UN peace missions. I am also interested in the pacification of slums in Brazil and it may be another field in which I could get more involved within my own country in the near future. Ana from Argentina (sponsored by the Rotary Club of La Plata) – has worked recently with the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the

former Yugoslavia in The Hague and her future plans are to help enable war victims to have access to justice and reparations after conflicts and to become a humanitarian negotiator in armed conflicts working in prevention of mass atrocities. These are just two examples out of many.

### **So what was the seminar about?**

It gave us the opportunity to meet both the outgoing and incoming students and to hear their stories - how they came to be Peace Scholars, their Applied Field Experiences and their future plans. Individual stories about these people are simply amazing and often harrowing. The students exemplify the true spirit of Rotary as embodied in this year's motto of "Peace through Service". If Rotary is truly about making a difference then the Peace Fellow programme is clearly a real force for good in a troubled world.

### **And finally - we listened to TWO guest speakers....**

Firstly, Lt.Colonel Rob Piper – with over thirty years service in the British Army much of which has been spent on Peace Support operations helping to deliver NATO's Strategy and approach to Peace Support Operations with recent field experience in developing local security force capability in Southern Afghanistan - and now providing military advice to the UK Government's Science and Technology Laboratory.

And secondly, Neil Wilkinson, an Able Seaman who served on HMS Intrepid during the Falklands War. As a gunner under fire, he brought down an Argentinean A4 Skyhawk aircraft in 1982. After 25 years Neil was reunited with the Argentinean pilot whose aircraft he had shot down and they have since become firm friends. Both fascinating stories in different ways,

### **And our verdict?**

This inspirational seminar in Bradford is always well worth a visit. We would encourage all club Rotarians to make the short trek over the Pennines. Come with us next year and see for yourselves!

**Geoff. Hunt and David Rose**

## **21<sup>st</sup> November Christmas float and WW2 myths**

Back to normality this week with grace read by Harry. President Brian wanted to bring our attention to three things (1) John Thewlis would talk about the float and give a very short report. (2) In the absence of a SAA he proposed that we should try a system used by Round Table of cross fines. This allowed anyone on payment of 50p to fine someone else 50p for any misdemeanour they could think of. (3) He was looking for someone to give a job talk.

Vida announced to the 27 members present a list of absentees most of whom were reluctant to say why they could not be there. Somehow the subject changed to female bishops and she nearly forgot to introduce a guest – Ian Loutit. Caroline distributed various leaflets promoting numerous events taking place in Stockport over the Christmas period. She noted that “Last Tango in Halifax” had now started on BBC 1 but it would be episode 4 or 5 before Bramall Hall appeared. There were pleas for money from John Sykes (Christmas meal) and Sue (Bob Batty memorial concert). David Rose said ticket sales were below expectations and surprisingly there seemed to be little or no support from the Methodist church members. He still hoped to sell tickets on the door.

John Thewlis rose to give his briefing on the float at 9.35pm saying it wouldn't take long but it was 10.00pm before he finished. The sleigh launch would be at Maggie's on Friday. On 1st December we would convey the Mayor to the Methodist church for “Switch on Bramhall”. From 8<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> there would be street collections. He hoped the scouts would deliver the leaflets. David Burstow expressed concern about the over 70s drivers towing the trailer and seemed to be in endless communication with the DVLA on the matter. There was then an interruption from

Vida promoting a battery powered necklace of Christmas lights. At £3.99 each it was decided to buy six to brighten up collectors at Woodford Park and on the street collections.

Still on his feet John Thewlis then became our guest speaker for the evening. There were many myths and much disinformation during the war. Hitler was not a corporal but a private first class. He had been wounded in action in WW1 where he was a message runner, a dangerous job in view of all the bullets and shells flying about, and had been awarded the Iron Cross. When he first came to power as a man of the people he was well thought of by many countries including the UK. As views changed, the term corporal was used to infer someone who was officious or a jobsworth. In 1940 Germany should have lost but there was conflict among four different intelligence services despite having captured the German invasion plans from a crashed aeroplane. Panzer tanks were not always superior as the French tanks won probably the second greatest tank battle of WW2. Because all the allied air power was concentrated in Northern France the German tanks were able to cross the Meuse further south on pontoons built by their infantry who managed to cross the river on a weir after all the bridges had been blown up. It was a myth that Dunkirk was a victory and that the French were poor soldiers, they put up very strong and brave resistance.

John Meeus wondered if people could find funny articles in the newspapers to retell at the club. Harry said we had collected £209 on Saturday and £177 on Sunday. President Brian decided it was too late for cross fines so fined everyone 50p and the final toast was taken at 10.35pm.

**Ron**



## 28th Nov. Hazel Mayow, The Canal Trust



David Rose thanked everybody who helped during the International concert the previous Saturday and advised an expected profit of circa £1300.00 – Kath Batty had sent in a cheque for £100.00 to be added to the proceeds in memory of Bob.

An update on Henry's condition was given and the need for a rota to take him to the health clinic was mooted – at present it will remain on an Ad Hoc basis with an appeal for a wheel chair added.

After the usual good meal Harry introduced Hazel Mayow who having finished her degree somewhere to the east of Manchester, took up volunteer work with canal enthusiasts while looking for full time employment but by the way of things ended up as a full time supervisor of the volunteer groups working on the canals. She told us brief history of the management of the canal system starting with its initial profitability during the Industrial revolution after which canal fortunes faltered with the advent of the railways. There was a resurgence when they were nationalised during the war years to provide additional cargo carrying capacity, but again fell into disuse afterwards with the 'big freeze' of the early 60's being the death knell of freight. They were 'managed' by various bodies over the years and finally were under the control of DEFRA who didn't really know what to do with them and other calls on the coffers (Mad Cow slaughter campaign being one of them) left the canal system under funded. Enthusiasts managed to keep the canals open during this period for pleasure craft and a flush of funds in year 2000 allowed major works to be carried out. Recently the canal and navigatable river system (2200 miles) were handed over to a newly formed charity – The Canal and River Trust who undertook responsibility for the maintenance and operation of these. Volunteer groups (Such as Rotary) have adopted a 'mile' of canal to look after the general upkeep of the towpath and surrounding area for a period of one year initially - this scheme is open to everybody willing to do the work. Enthusiasm for maintaining canals is strong generally but always room for more helps as it is a never ending project.

President Brian managed to quickly fine everybody before closing the meeting on time.

**Trevor**



## *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 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.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Driver 1</b>	<b>Driver 2</b>
10/12/2012	No blind run	
17/12/2012	D Allport	D Rose
24/12/2012	No blind run	
31/12/2012	No blind run	
07/01/2013	S Preece	B Preece
14/01/2013	D Poizer	G Jackson
21/01/2013	V Chattington	D Walker
28/01/2013	H Hill	R Malabon
04/02/2013	B Farrow	N Loveland
11/02/2013	J Meeus	T Burch
18/02/2013	G Hunt	J Hubbard
25/02/2013	J Sykes	D Rose

**17th December is the Christmas party from 10.30am to 1pm.**

# *Diary & Job Rota*

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Diary</b>	<b>Speaker Host</b>	<b>Bulletin</b>	<b>Sgt @ Arms</b>
05/12/2012	No meeting			
08/12/2012	Xmas Party			
12/12/2012	Light hearted talk on public speaking		C Monkhouse	D Allport
19/12/2012	Angela Rowley @ Bramall Hall			
26/12/2012	No meeting			
29/12/2012	President's drinks			
02/01/2013	Committees		T Sheppard	T Burch
09/01/2013	Richardson/Rose	N Loveland	J Sykes	M Lacey
16/01/2013	Saville/Sheppard	D Rose	B Preece	S Preece
23/01/2013	Stevenson/Sykes	G Jackson	S Davies	D Poizer
30/01/2013	No meeting 5th Wed			
06/02/2013	Committees		D Walker	V Chattington
13/02/2013	Bissell/Walker	R Malabon	D Burstow	J Thewlis
20/02/2013	Allport/Barker	M Hill	H Hill	B Bissell
27/02/2013	Burch/Burstow	G Critchley	I Dobson	J Edmonds
06/03/2013	Committees		P Richardson	C Egan
13/03/2013	No meeting due to President's night			
15/03/2013	President's night (Deanwater)			
20/03/2013	Davies/Dobson	B Farrow	J Meeus	J Thomas
27/03/2013	Edmonds/Farrow	A Newsome	G Hunt	D Rabone



Peter Sexton receiving his Community Service award



Views from a superb trip to the Palace of Westminster



Alice Wang and Luciano Gerber were two of the artists who provided a memorable evening in honour of Bob Batty. Philip & Rosemary were there to pass on Kath's grateful thanks.





Trevor did so much hard work during Bob's reign.



The Sovereign Saxophone Octet did a great job of entertaining us



Chris, Andrew, Harry & Maggie have given us a sleigh to be proud of.

