

Bulletin





Santa switched on the lights of Bramhall (with a little help from us) and a trip to Chads theatre provided a great evening's entertainment with 'Brassed Off'' (pictures by kind permission of Pauline Neild Photography)







Alex & Vida discovered collecting for St. Anne's Hospice.



The food must have been wonderful at Michael's as they were queuing on the stairs



Just a few of the members at the Christmas party





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Lue Speaking

Happy new year to all who read this bulletin and 'gong hey fat choy', or greetings for the end of January which marks the beginning of the Chinese New Year! I have been reflecting on our Rotary year whilst nearing the end of our holiday in Southern Florida. It is hot and sunny but no need to feel jealous as we will be home in the cold by the time you read this.

Our Woodford collection was a great club effort as almost every member participated. It has boosted our charity account considerably and as a result we were able to send a substantial amount of money to shelter box to support the Philippines disaster. The run up to Christmas was a very busy time for the club as we also organised the Santa float, especially as this was the first year that we took total responsibility for organising the event. Again, all who were able contributed and enjoyed the fun despite some evenings of torrential rain and bedraggled very wet Rotarians. There were a few days when our house resembled a laundry with a dripping wet Santa suit and soaking tabards! We also had a highly enjoyable Christmas dinner with an excellent speaker, I suspect we won't look at a Derbyshire hill farmer again without wondering if they too are such good comedians.

Presidents drinks went well despite my concerns there may not be sufficient food. I now accept that estimating quantities of food for a party is not one of my strengths, I must have tried to cater for two or three times the numbers expected! By the end I was trying to send people home with goody bags. The quiz night held to thank the collectors on the float and ex-Round Tablers went well, despite the difficulty of the questions, especially Brian's Science rounds!

We are becoming more trendy with our new image on Facebook which will hopefully reach out to younger potential members. Let's hope that 2014 (year of the horse) is equally and even more successful and exciting as all that have gone before!

Millie's Trust - 4th December



It was good to have the opening grace delivered by Dennis Allport, looking well after his recent alarming incident whilst climbing Bosley Cloud.

The opening business discussion concerned the frequent requests for more collectors for the various seasonal collections that we undertake. The initial response is usually a stony silence followed by some kind soul/s volunteering. Gordon revealed that the latest bulletin has been produced with the aid of the

Rotary colour laser printer and very professional it is too, with lots of relevant colour pictures. He then went into the economics of the new printer – losing me along the way – but basically I gathered the more copies we produce the cheaper it gets!

President Sue complained again, justifiably, about the delay in the meeting coming to order after she rang the bell. Do we need a louder and more alarming signal – or just better manners?!

An interesting International Toast was proposed by Chris Monkhouse to the Sedona Rotary Club in the middle of Arizona. Chris has visited this very active club in the beautifully situated town of Sedona and described some aspects of its seriously – based agenda which includes The Oath of Allegiance and the Rotary Four-way Test.

Vida (Club Services) then welcomed our speaker, Sarah Harrison, and reported on the absentees, including John Meeus who has injured himself during Pilates (I thought this is supposed to be good for you!). She went on to promote the sale of her apparently limitless supply of apples, the sales of which have realised £33.40 so far for Club funds. Later she auctioned an 'Oldie' Cartoon Calendar for the princely sum of £5.00 (or was it £4.00?)

Geoff Hunt then repeated his invitation for members to attend

the Drop-in Café at the Governor's House for the benefit of Alzheimer's sufferers. The Café, run by Cheadle Rotary Club, would be open between 10.30 and 12.30 on Wednesday December 18.

John Sykes reminded members that he needed their menu choices and payments for the forthcoming Christmas Dinner on 20 December at Bramhall Park Golf Club. Bob Preece then reminded members that three additional collectors were still required.

After the usual delicious dinner, courtesy of Lorraine, we settled to hear about Millie's Trust from our speaker, Sarah Harrison. Sarah explained that she was a lifelong friend of Millie's mother, Joanne Thompson, and shared her devastation at the tragic death, in a choking incident, of Joanne's nine-month-old daughter, Millie, on 23 October 2012. Many people were affected by this tragic incident and wanted to help in some way, so Joanne suggested that an affordable First Aid Course for parents of young children would be a suitable memorial to Millie.

A group was then set up at the beginning of 2013 to organise a Charitable Trust which could both receive the gifts from the supporters and investigate how its funds could best provide suitable First Aid courses. Sarah explained that she was a trustee of the Trust, which has raised £100,000 in the first year of its existence.

The Trust offered First Aid Courses for a variety of users, with the emphasis on first aid for babies but also adults. The aim was to teach basic procedures so that the participants would have the confidence to take the right action in emergency situations. Courses were organised both directly by the Trust itself (in effect by franchise) or through existing providers whose courses were often very expensive and beyond the reach of many possible participants.

The courses under the control of Millie's Trust were six hours in length and offered free of charge with the expectation of a £20 donation from those who could afford it. Arrangements with existing course providers reduced their fees where appropriate.

Twenty courses per month were held throughout England – although mainly in the North West – and also internationally (Australia was referred to). Sarah added that running the Trust was hard work for the volunteer trustees, such as herself, but the feedback from the first year of operation was very rewarding.

In giving the vote of thanks, Bob Preece, said that Sue and he had been on a course and had been very impressed with the realistic format using full-size child dummies (and encouraging the presence of babies and young children). Sue and he also praised the effectiveness of providing courses that were low-cost (or if necessary free) as the alternative to usually, very expensive existing courses.

Sergeant-at-Arms, Sid Davis, extracted fines with the usually flimsy reasons, including your correspondent for 'being too big' (I'll remember this when it's my turn).

The meeting finished after the following reminders:

- 1. The Club still needs for next Rotary year, the following officials: Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 2.President's Drinks are at Chez Preece on Sunday January 5th. Sue needs to know who will be attending.
- 3. Gill Critchley will welcome donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards to fellow Rotarians.

After the meeting on 11 December, the next meeting will be on 8 January 2014.

David Poizer.

When I was general manager of a farm building manufacturer in rural Shropshire I found that one of my tasks was to handle the advertising budget which was quite large. We had regular adverts in The Farmer & Stockbreeder and various poultry publications.

One day a representative of the Border Advertiser based in Oswestry called to try and persuade me to advertise with them. In the room with me was our "sales manager", a portly soul called James who lived in a little cottage not far away. It was, like so many rural properties quite primitive.

The rep. said to me – " Mr Davies, it would really bring you good results if you advertised with us. Most people in this area read the Border Advertiser " and, turning to James , he said " You take the Advertiser, don't you , Mr James ?"

James, taking the pipe he was smoking, out of his mouth, said -

"No, not any more. We've a water closet now"

Sid

Visit of two Genies 11th December

On the eleventh day of the twelfth month of the thirteenth year two Genies did appear but wait we deal with the first half of the meeting first!



As we sat down to eat we noticed the festive crackers on the table and some of us who did not mind getting their hair ruffled put on the paper hats in the true festive spirit. Vida read a South African blessing written by Nelson Mandela as deemed appropriate by his death this last week. John Sykes then informed us that the Theatre trip had its date altered to Saturday 25th January 2014 due to copyright restrictions.

Trevor spoke of the envelope stuffing at Walthew House which could be next Thursday or Friday. An Email will follow. Ian spoke of air-miles and Cheshire Life which has some good articles concerning Bramhall in the special November issue.

Next came Geoff with the international toast to Kingman Route 66 district 5490. He gave us oodles of facts concerning this wild west club who have sponsored a peace student at Bradford, name of Nigora Akhmedova from Kyrgyzstan.

Bob gave us some details about the Float and the tennis club

but by the time you read this we will be heading into Spring!

Michael has volunteered to be Father Christmas at Queensgate School and he also told us about his very successful Cheese and Wine Evening which raised over £500.

Maggie offered us some of her lovely home baking in many shapes of gingerbread with a seasonal flavour.

We then had a very swift E.G.M. when we learnt that Gill is absolutely delighted to the



next Vice-President and Abi is to be Secretary and Michael is being allowed to take charge of the money.

Lorraine had prepared us a lovely Christmas meal with turkey, pork, salmon, Christmas pud, et cetera et cetera. We responded by presenting her with a bouquet and giving boxes of chocolates to her assistants.

After all this chatter we came to the main event of the evening namely the Genies I told you about earlier. Claire Johnson and her interpreter, Suzanne Robinson told us about the work they undertake to help anyone who is deaf but mainly the children. There are only five of them and they cover the whole of Greater Manchester. They think that there are about 1,500 deaf children in this area and the provision within the state system is not very satisfactory.

Without sign language the deaf people are very isolated - we all need patience and understanding to help communicate with them. Genie networks was able to be set up with the help of a legacy and the Children in Need Appeal has also helped them with funding.

Claire herself and her husband are both deaf but have a threeyear old little girl who is not.

Genie networks help in every way they can - with parenting skills, with social events, help in schools, teaching sign language. Helping in any way possible to make the deaf person part of the community and become as independent as they can. It is a very small charity but with big ideas and endless enthusiasm to make the world a better place for all deaf people. Gordon gave the vote of thanks as he is particularly concerned with this work as his granddaughter is deaf. They gave us all a sheet with the alphabet for the deaf on it so we should start practising because it would be a big difference if we meet a deaf person if we could just sign a greeting!

Then we had a very forceful ~Sergeant-at-Arms in the shape of Harry who extracted money from everyone.

So ended our last meeting of the year as we look forward the 2014.

Vida

Comparison of Christmas collections

Tin-rattling, Woodford Park

2013			2012		
Saturday 16/11/13	£	381.19	Saturday 17/11/12	£	209.37
Saturday 23/11/13	£	241.73	Sunday 18/11/12	£	177.77
Sunday 24/11/13	£	314.79	Saturday 24/11/12	£	262.77
Saturday 30/11/13	£	444.55	Sunday 25/11/12	£	300.16
Sunday 01/11/13	£	301.65	Saturday 1/12/12	£	232.96
Saturday 07/12/3	£	334.77	Sunday 2/12/ 12	£	254.96
Saturday 07/12 Light up	£	72.84	Saturday 8/12/12	£	273.39
Sunday 08/12/13	£	407.07	Sunday 9/12/12	£	344.86
Saturday 14/12/13	£	353.52	Saturday 15/12/12	£	280.00
Sunday 15/12/13	£	319.85	Sunday 16/12/12	£	211.25
Saturday 21/12/13	£	192.78	Saturday 22/12/12	£	298.06
Sunday 22/12/13	£	214.05	Sunday 23/12/12	£	250.25
Total	£	3,578.79		£	3,095.80

Santa's Float

<u>2013</u>			<u>2012</u>		
Sun 8/12	£	584.75	Sat 8/12	£	442.00
Mon 9/12	£	349.24	Sun 9/12	£	718.00
Tues 10/12	£	413.16	Mon 10/12	£	214.00
Weds 11/12	£	390.60	Tues 11/12	£	356.00
Thurs 12/12	£	490.02	Weds 12/12	£	454.00
Fri 13/12	£	434.17	Thurs 13/12	£	229.00
Sa14/12	£	613.30	Fri 14/12	£	342.00
Sun 15/12	£	493.71	Sat 15/12	£	424.00
Mon 16/12	£	513.75	Sun 16/12	£	520.00
Tues17/12	£	381.19	Mon 17/12	£	359.00
Weds 18/12	£	329.36	Tues 18/12	£	396.00
Thurs 19/12	£	453.79	Weds 19/12	£	380.00
Fri 20/12	£	280.01	Thu 20/12	£	431.00
Sat 21/12 Market	£	90.80	Fri 21/12	£	448.77
Sat 21/12	£	460.62			
Total	£	5,278.47		£	5,713.77

The Wellspring Raids the Co-op Store in Bramhall



On Monday December 30th several members of The Wellspring charity based in Stockport raided the shelves of the soon to be closed Co-op store in the Village Square in Bramhall.

Due to the gen-

erosity of the local people, the Rotary Club of Bramhall and Woodford were able to pay for over £500 worth of food in tins and packets. This will enable the charity to continue their work in the community looking after the homeless and disadvantaged of Stockport. Chris Rose, the manager of the store said "It is sad that the Co-operative store has to close in the Square but I am pleased that we are able to do our bit for the local community through this charity."

Sue Preece said that she was delighted that through the generosity of the public, the Club was able to support The Wellspring charity. She also thanked the Co-op shop manager and staff for their help in supporting this initiative.

A stunned Stephen Wilkins of The Wellspring said "Oh dear. This is wonderful. I would just like to say a big 'thank you' to both the Co-op and the Bramhall Rotary Club for making this possible"

lan

This article appeared on the web site 'I love Bramhall' on the 3rd Jan having been penned by Harry

Santa's Sleigh delighted our Bramhall children again this Christmas – all to raise money for our local groups. Dr Harry Hill kindly let us know the history of the sleigh and the hard working groups involved this year.

The whole thing started over 30 yrs ago when then members of Bramhall Round Table decided



to have a mobile Santa to collect for charity and, of course, delight the children of Bramhall. Round Table is an offshoot of Rotary and caters for people up to the age of forty, when, by convention, they join the local Rotary club. By happy chance, one of those members, Tony Burch, owned a trailer-making company and he was able to adapt an existing trailer chassis to take a covered body which would protect Santa from the worst of December's weather while displaying him to the crowds. It was decided fairly early on that local charities and other worthy causes would be involved in the collecting of donations, since it is demanding of time and effort, and the Tablers themselves could not do it alone. This arrangement still pertains. In recent years membership of Bramhall Round Table has dwindled as young people find it increasingly difficult to make time away from work and family. The remaining members approached Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club to see if they would take over the running of the float. After some discussion it was agreed that B+W Rotary would indeed carry on the popular tradition. After 30 years of hard labour the float and sleigh were rather careworn and it was decided that a thorough overhaul was required. During the summer of 2012, stalwart Rotarians stripped the float to the original chassis and set about renovating it. After many man hours of effort the structure was fit to

send to a professional trailer builder who produced the new, impressive float.

Naturally, some of this work cost money, and various people were approached for donations. The real star was NFU Mutual which provided £1500 without any arm-twisting! The rebuild of the float was done at cost price by Lynton Trailers (UK), and materials for the new sleigh were provided by Mark Davenport (Builders). The sleigh was designed by Maggie Hill and built by her two sons-in-law, Andrew Tucker and Chris Raistrick, with other members of her family wielding paint brushes. A particular feature is the lighting of the sleigh which changes colour every few seconds.

For the last two Christmases the float has been organised by Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club but the original Round Tablers still provide a great deal of help and manpower. Each night is manned by a different organisation, ranging from Scout groups to Walthew House, a small Stockport charity helping the blind an/or deaf of the borough. Different areas of Bramhall are covered each evening and each session takes about two and a half hours (but more at weekends). It can be a cold and wet job, but the sight of joyful children with Santa is a great motivator. In order to ensure that all participants get a fair share of the donations the entire sum collected is pooled and divided equally between them (after small running costs). Very kindly County Van Hire charge a very small fraction of their normal rates in a gesture of great generosity. This year, the amount to be divided up is about £5,600.

Thanks to the efforts of Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club and their Round Table colleagues, Santa has a glowing future on the streets of Bramhall; and of course to the generous residents of Bramhall for their valued contributions"

The groups involved this year were: 2nd Bramhall Scouts, Stockport U11 Rugby, Sabre Scouts, National Childbirth Trust, Woodford Scout/Guides, Rotary Club, 4th Bramhall Scouts, Wellspring, The Mill, Queensgate PTA, Ladybrook PTA, Bramhall High School, Walthew House, 2nd Phoenix Explorer Scouts.

Committee Night - 8th January

The first meeting of a new year has usually been very well attended, and this was no exception! Everyone was clearly getting Rotary-withdrawal symptoms, for which (as Harry will tell you) there a very few cures apart from 'Cold Turkey'! So all but three of our members sat down to our usual super repast.

Apart from committee developments (see below)

- Vida has ventured into public broadcasting, answering questions about lottery grants for Bramhall Park
- Vida is also doing well selling garden bulbs for immediate planting, and has £140 to show for it. Brian was suitably apologetic for foolishly thinking he could plug them in and get light!
- Gordon had posted job rotas on the notice board, so no excuses are now possible.
- Abi pleaded for greater use of Facebook to promote our activities, and promised to have an evening to educate us about its benefits.
- The Christmas party made a profit of £139, which will go to the Charity account. Well done John Sykes.
- Circulating chocs and biscuits were a thank you from Walthew House: that is those left over after the stuffers had had their fill.

Michael had loaded 150 new pics onto our website for members to look at.

After the committees had cogitated, the following reported: **Membership**: Harry hoped that one potential member would visit us soon.

Treasurer: Gill said that the Woodford collections raised £3578, and the float £6278. The float proceeds were to be shared between 14 charities, giving each £350. Wellspring had received £495 for groceries – and John Meeus had the longest receipt you have ever seen to prove it! David Rose's concert and Michael's cheese and wine evening raised £1000 between them. Members' donations in lieu of Christmas cards totalled £355. The club had about £5000 left unallocated for charitable

purposes.

Our General Account had about £900, which was sufficient for anticipated needs.

Ways and Means: Bob P. and his band had immediate actions for the 2014 Duck race well in hand. We had two teams for the quiz night on Friday 17th January, when the proceeds from the float would be distributed.

Community Service: Trevor announced that the photographic competition for local schools would be resurrected. Tony B. outlined ideas for a 'Dragon's Den' type of event for charities to compete for funding from us.

International and Foundation: Michael pondered whether the international toast should be continued, and stated that half of the proceeds from the Christmas Woodford collections would go for Philippines disaster relief. £750 was proposed for the Village by Village charity. If nobody did better, next week Chris M. would receive wine as a prize for the club visit furthest from Bramhall.

Communications: Ian recalled a successful recent period for publicity, with several articles in local publications. Tony B. suggested Community Service awards for suppliers of the sweets given out on the float over the Christmas period.

Club Services: John K. reported that the weekly meal costs were to increase by £0.50, and that the weekly cost for members would be £11 to provide a small buufer for visitors'meals. **Social:** John Sykes had sold all the Chads theatre tickets bar one for our forthcoming visit.

Maggie drew the evening to a close by diligently collecting fines from all for mostly imagined misdemeanours. The following day, she vehemently denied that any of the misdemeanours had been imagined—they were all true.

The evening closed at 10.40pm. Is President Sue slipping from her excellent track record of never keeping us past 10.30? We always were a gabby lot!

Dennis

More from Sid:

Montage L Meyer's northern office was housed in Bruntwood Hall which they had purchased from Cheadle and Gatley Urban Distict Council when they moved to Abney Hall nearby. The Council retained the parkland on which the hall stood and the glasshouses where the plants were reared.

Towards Christmas Meyers had a Christmas party at a local hotel and the Chairman, John Meyer would sometimes attend and give pep talk. He would be collected by our MD from Stockport station in the late morning having traveled from London.

I was sales manager at the time and I received a call from the MD, Norman Payne to come up to his office on the first floor. His room was large with a long boardroom style table and a large desk where he would sit, often reading the paper with his feet on the desk. The relationship between us both was frosty as I disagreed at his aggressive management style towards my staff. However, he seemed to want my approval and on this occasion he wished to show me his efforts to please John Meyer.

He had tipped the gardeners who had provided him with a large number of potted plants and these were placed around the room.

Two large pots were placed on either end of the table with ivy trailing from them. Norman Payne said – "What do you think of it then?" I replied that it reminded me of a Chapel of Rest.

"Trust you" he remarked and dismissed me.

Shortly thereafter we heard him drive off to collect John Meyer and so, with the connivance of the Sales Director and some of my clerks, we rearranged the vegetation in his office and watched for his return. When we saw his car approaching up the drive, all went about their duties whilst I climbed on the table and lay prostrate with my arms folded against my chest and stayed quite still.

The door opened and Payne and John Meyer entered. There was a brief silence and then John Meyer roared with laughter. Payne joined in with a forced look at me.

Some weeks later Payne summoned me and said – "I just want you to know, Sid, that you will never be a director of this company" I was not surprised and it was not long thereafter that I left and became general manager of Meyer's largest customer. It made it difficult for Payne to be other that civil towards me although he did attempt to scupper my move to another company later.

More on bulbs



Now that Vida has made lots of money for us by selling bulbs and a fair bit of banter has ensued about whether they were 60 or 100 Watt, I thought I'd update my article about low energy bulbs a while back and introduce the new very low power LED bulbs that

are coming onto the market.

LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs differ from low energy bulbs in that they do not rely on fluorescent material to produce the light and do not contain mercury. They operate at very low DC voltages so some method of reducing the normally high AC mains voltage has to be built into the mounting. A low energy bulb can take up to a minute to reach full brightness whereas an LED bulb is almost instant.

So given these advantages, what are the drawbacks? Well, often the output light is quoted as 'equivalent to' say, 60 Watts when it is nothing like. LEDs are highly directional so the light falling on a surface may indeed be equal to that of a 60W bulb but over a much smaller area. I've just fitted a 5 foot LED 'fluorescent' tube in my garage (after removing the starter and the choke and rewiring the connections) and although the light coming downwards is the same as the old tube, the light is very much focussed down so the general feel is of much less overall. If you use the small 50 Watt GU10 spotlights in a kitchen fitting, replacing them with 6 Watt LED spots will give a saving in electricity over a couple of years (and may last a lot longer although

there is some question over the life of the cheaper lamps). I also use LED bulbs in my security lights as I am not so much concerned with overall illumination and their fast start-up is important.

Another factor to consider is the colour of the light. Low energy bulbs can give off a sickly yellow/green colour that makes people look ill whereas LEDs can be obtained in at least 3 colour temperatures (measured in degrees Kelvin): warm white (2700-3000), cool white (4000) and daylight (6000). In practice, warm white bulbs tend to look slightly yellow and daylight look blue. So for ambience, we still can't replace the old filament bulbs but the choice for low power consumption is getting bigger.

Gordon

GOOD NEWS

Today, barring a most extraordinary stroke of bad luck, India will be declared polio-free. It will be three years since Ruksha Shah, a five year old from Bengal, became the last person in the country to catch the disease. Since 1988, when the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was launched, polio has been hunted down across the world, saving thousands of children from impairment or even death.

Of course, it will take more effort still to eradicate the disease in its last stubborn heartlands of Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan – not least due to the superstitious fear of vaccinations in many rural areas, and the targeting of medical staff by Islamists. But thanks to the hard work of doctors and nurses – and the operation of the free market – the world has become healthier than ever, and is becoming more so. That is surely worth celebrating.

(The Daily Telegraph 13 Jan.2014)

Fund raising figures

I make no apologies in repeating the amounts raised by members of the club during the Christmas and New Year period. These figures sometimes need putting together on paper to get an accurate picture of all the hard work and commitment that the club has put in. Also, I believe these figures should be recorded in this Bulletin so that in the far off future people can read about all your hard work and the resulting success:

Pam and Michael Lacey's Cheese & Wine Evening and the International Concert organised by David Rose

	£1,000
Woodford Park Collection	£3,578
Father Christmas Float	£6,278
Members donations in lieu of Christmas card	s £355
Profit from the Christmas dinner	£139
Vida's spring bulbs	£225
Grand Total	£11,575

A FANTASTIC figure raised in just over a month.

Olive

Rotary Wives met on Tuesday morning 28 January at Pam Lacey's house to help "eat up" Pam and Susan's Christmas Cake and biscuits. There was a good turn out of fourteen of us, but I have to say there was still Christmas cake and chocolate biscuits left on the table. We are obviously all on the post Christmas diet. Everyone enjoyed the morning to catch up on what everyone had been doing. Thanks to Pam and Susan for organising the event and Pam for the loan of her house.

Next month's meeting will take the form of a meal at Milligton Hall on 11 February and is being organised by Linda Brisbane and Wendy Sykes.

Pam

Selling Britain 15th Jan



The evening started with an excellent grace specially written by Abi. It paid tribute to both Sue & the S@A.

Then, in a departure from normal practice, the "naughty table" (nearest the door) went first for their dinner. Top table, including the speaker, went last (that'll teach him to be a capitalist ???).

Good news - Michael informed us that the international toast will now only occur on committee nights.

Guests & Visitors – Pat, a prospective member, living at the very northern edge of Bramhall. And speaker John Doyle of the DTI. A commendably large attendance with only 3 members missing, inc Sid "at a p\$%s-up" and Caroline working.

Facebook - General huge thanks to Abi for getting our Facebook page up and running. These "social media" things are clearly the way forward, publicity wise, so we are lucky to have someone who understands what it is all about. (Later) Harry returned to the topic, adding in discussion of the "I Love Bramhall" website.

Duck Race – Ian informed us Mosley Jarman Est Agents are to sponsor the duck race to the tune of £3k. This will not affect any moneys we might be able to get from Barclays Bank

Ten-pin bowling – Trevor informed of a return match against Walthew House (where Rotarians are "blinded" to ensure a "fair" competition) will be held on 19 March.

Bulb sales – Vida has raised £223 from bulb sales.

Bullion sales – Gill had several "foreign" coins from the Xmas collections. However numismatist Ian found some were old £.s.d. 3d & 6d bits, plus a 1912 gold sovereign which alone he sold for £161! An excellent addition to our December collections.

Tony referred to his idea of a Dragon's Den format for potential charitable donations.

Bruce F introduced the speaker, John Doyle.

John seemed to think it was surprising that a chap brought up in a house with an outside privy could rise to the level of success he had. He has run his own successful business, had been a film extra, and is now a government employee consultant helping firms in the NW of England export their goods and services. The operation is part funded by the DTI (which is currently (Fri 17 Jan) called "UK Trade & Investment") and part by the FCO. They do feasibility studies for firms. They have matching funds available to help firms with the cost of marketing goods & services abroad.

John asked the audience, "what is the main function of our embassies?". In addition to helping Brit's abroad, the answer he was looking for was "promoting UK business in their country" (although the writer thought the primary function was Spying?). Apparently every embassy has a Commercial Dept. tasked with helping current and potential UK firms operating in its country.

Bruce then gave a tribute to what was an interesting talk. Commendably, the speaker was neither a charity, nor anything to do with Rotary.

Next week's meeting is organised by John Sykes, but apparently he is refusing to let anyone know what it is about!

Sue concluded with the self-contradictory statement that next week we "will be in the capable hands of Harry" as she is away. Meeting ended 10:29.

Brian

"History must repeat itself as we pay so little attention to it the first time."— Blackie Sherrod, sports writer

Sid's Community Suggestion

Our Prime Minister is urging us all to cut down on expenditure and economise in whatever way we can.

On visiting Bramhall Health Centre this morning I had a brilliant flash of inspiration and I am hastening to put this in writing in case my mind wanders onto even more brilliant ideas.

Now the Health Centre is next to the Railway station and to the Library which as most know is having a new annexe built alongside it.

My idea is revolutionary and ground breaking in its simplicity. Basically it means

AMALGAMATING THE THREE SERVICES – HEALTH CENTRE – LIBRARY AND RAILWAY STATION.

How would this scheme work?

Imagine the situation when this amalgamation has taken place :

Patients would call at the Reception Desk, make an appointment to see a doctor or nurse and at the same time book a ticket to Eastbourne, Matlock Bath or Coventry. They would also be able to return library books and the Receptionists who would have been to The Arthur Mullard School of Charm and had a course at the Railway Museum at Didcot would accept any fines for overdue books and take requests for books not on the shelves

Whilst patients are with a doctor they could, in addition to being treated or advised, enquire about train times to Buxton and the doctors would be able to give them all the information they needed, such as "Change at Stockport Edgeley etc."

A receptionist (or doctor if not busy) would meet trains and collect tickets and ensure that shady characters like Rotarians or Magistrates were not trying to travel without tickets

Solstice at the Hall

All pomp and grand,
The towering Tudor hall doth stand,
Above the valley where the river wends,
And there, the line of trees ascends,
To the peak, where they form a ring,
About an old, yet beloved thing.

Here, one can calmly rest and see, The hall, the river, the whole valley.

Standing proud, yet buried below, Crispy and fragile layers of snow, The park bench abides amidst bush and tree, The oak, the holly, and ivy.

Its swirling metal frame, painted green, Now has a sharp and frosty sheen, And the wooden panels, worn here and there, Are hardened by the frozen air.

Few people come here in winter tide,
Instead preferring their fireside,
But in the warmer months you may spy,
A resting rambler, or passer-by,
Taking in the gorgeous view,
Staying for an hour, or perhaps two,
And children and families who come to munch,
On sunny days, their own packed lunch,
Couples, lovers, tenderly entwined,
Peace and seclusion, here they find,
It's also a favourite spot for old friends,
And a place for reunions, where searches end.

In life's ever increasing bustle and pace, There is a tranquil magic to this place.

Standing proud, yet buried below, Crispy and fragile layers of snow, The park bench abides amidst bush and tree, The oak, the holly, and ivy,

Unyielding, unmoving, still as stone, Fond memories galore-never alone.

Max Farrow

(Bruce's son)

Welsh Delicate Pea Soup (serves 4)

Ingredients:

- 1 Pint lukewarm water
- 1 Marrowfat pea (selected for roundness)
- 1 Darning needle size 4

Length of white linen thread.

Method:

Put the water in a suitable bowl and whip into a thick cream In a clean saucepan heat the water over a low light. Whilst the creamed water is heating thread the needle with the linen thread and push it through the marrowfat pea centrally.

Tie a knot in the end of the thread.

When the creamed water is boiling lower the pea into it for precisely 14 seconds.

Serve with croutons whilst hot.

The above 'recipe' is similar to one I heard about from Liverpool in the 50s called Phantom Scouse which was a pan of vegetable stew over which a piece of meat has been wafted.

A Welsh joke

Rhosllanerchrugog near Wrexham, a former mining village, usually known as Rhos is a remarkably cultured place with world class choirs etc and a silver band.

One day a member of the band was going door to door seeking funds for the band and he came to a small whitewashed cottage with a longish front garden. He opened the little wicket gate and walked up to the door and knocked.

A little old lady came to door and said – "Yes – what do you want?"

He said – "I'm collecting on behalf of the Rhosllanerchrugog Silver Prize Band Instrument Restoration Fund "

The old lady said - "Speak up, I can't hear you"

The chap said ,a bit louder _ I'm collecting on behalf of the Rhosllanerchrugogetc, etc.

The old lady said – "Can't hear you . You must speak louder" The chap repeated, even louder – "I'm collecting on behalf of the Rhosllanerchrugog Silver Prize Bandetc, etc"

The old lady said – " It's a waste of time , I can't hear you – Good Bye"

The chap walked down the path to the gate and as he got to it the old lady shouted –

"Shut the gate after you"

The chap muttered under his breath – "Stuff your gate"
The old lady shouted – "And stuff the Rhosllanerchrugog Silver
Prize Band Instrument Restoration Fund too!

"The four most dangerous words in investing are, 'It's different this time."— Sir John Templeton

Recommended Trades People (Feb 2014)

This list is provided for the use of members of the Rotary Club of Bramhall and Woodford. Naturally, neither the Club nor any member can be responsible for any problems that may arise. Please send any further recommendations to Gordon.

Decorators:

A & S Beevers, (0161 612 6605). These two young brothers do fantastic tidy work. [Rose, Sykes]

Cris Calow Decorating Services for outdoor work (480 1816), 32 Aberdeen Crescent, Edgeley. [Dobson]

Boilers & Heating:

Andrew Gersham 07950661760 [Chattington]

Hulme Hall Heating, Geoff 0785 489 4423 [Meeus]

Steve Cottrell, 01625 260707, Mob; 0780 127 9856, E mail: centralheating@ntlworld.com [Burch]

AD Heating, Anthony Dutton, 0161483 3478, Mob 07973 598 493 [Jackson, Preece]

Electricians:

Mike Shanley, (0780 1329 173 and 0161 449 9794) [Allport, Dobson]

Electrical Appliances/Repairs

Ray, A-One repairs (A1 repairs) (0161 477 2992), 42 Newsham Rd, Stockport, SK3 8GN. He came when he said, gave a no pressure quote, came again on time for the repair and did it. (Lacey)

Rob Ellis, Marple Domestics, (0161 370 0950, 07976 389192). [Sid] **Plumbing:**

Ken Davies (now semi-retired), (07831 183 018) [Allport, Jackson] BPF Plumbing and Heating (Bernard) 0161 439 9982/0797 642 9508 [Rose]

Paul Vukasinovic, AA Manchester Plumbing & Heating Services. 463 Gorton Road Reddish. SK5 6LR. 0161 432 2229. 07974 221070 Paul.mphs@talktalk.net [Poizer]

Building:

Mark Davenport, 12 Ladythorn Crescent, Bramhall. (0161 439 4051) Also does joinery. [Hill]

Kevin Wright, ACE Guttering & Drainage Services, (490 1789, 07860 820414). Handyman, gutter cleaning [Hunt]

Paul Hawes, Patios and flagging. (01565 723 980, 07968 100595). [Jackson, Preece]

Paul Ford, Home improvements, bathrooms, bedrooms and general maintenance. 07748 844 897 [Hunt]

Mark Irwin, Phone 07792094634 [Davies, Walker]

Geoff Ashworth. Cleanpoint Restoration. 383 Bury & Rochdale Old Road, Heywood, OL10, 4AT. 01706 361226, 07850 810454. Pointing, chemical cleaning, sandblasting, paint removal, moss clearing, graffiti removal [Poizer]

Windows:

Pate & Lever. Unit 6, Commercial Road, Hazel Grove, SK7 4AA (0161 456 9444) [Rose]

Roofing:

Mr. J F McGranaghan Wilmslow Premier Roofing. 52 Kings Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5PW. Tel; 01625 441672, E Mail; roof-man@btinternet.com [Burch]

Steve Fell, Fell Roofing, 5 St Andrews Lane, High Lane, SK6 8HT, 01663 764555; Mobile 07836 560046 [Sykes]

Eddie McCabe Roofing 01625 526570 or 07999575931 [Yule]

Joinery:

Mark Smethurst, 3 Garthland Rd., Hazel Grove, SK7 4PD (0161 483 9690) [Batty, Yule]

Flooring:

Stockport Flooring Co., Stanley Green Trading Estate, Cheadle Hulme [Hurst]

Tree Surgeon:

Rod Barnes, Tree Services Poynton, 141 London Rd., Poynton, SK12 1 LG (01625 878 116) [Allport]

Alan Bethell Ltd, 2 Rees Crescent, Holmes Chapel, Crewe Cheshire CW4 7NL, 01477 533 900 [Monkhouse]

<u>alanbethellltd@hotmail.co.uk</u> <u>www.treesurgeonscheshire.co.uk</u>

Carpet Cleaner:

Nu-Life Carpet Care, 480 7284 [Rose]

Quality Cleaning Services, John 0800 183 3344 or 07710 318 068. Good prices and prompt service although the carpet does stay damp for a couple of days. [Jackson]

Refrigerator and cooker repairs:

Mike Clegg, (07773 090876 and 0161 449 7050) [Allport]

TV Aerials:

Teleaerials, 49 St John's St, Lees, Oldham (0161 624 6681) [Allport] **Plastering**:

Alan Lawrie, 20 Conway Drive, Hazel Grove SK7 5NB (0161 484

0298, 07749 060 988) [Lacey]

Sean(aka Liam) Kelly, 41 Westwood Rd, Heald Green, Cheadle, SK8 3JW (0787 346 4642) [Lacey]

lan Cottam, Plastering, 07889 530 994 [Batty]

Computing help:

Nick (0800 612 4565), PCSOS24-7. <u>HELP@PCSOS247.com</u> [Davies]

Derek Wilson 01204 303 988, 078318 17463 [Rose]

Party/outside Catering:

Coco Deli, Gill or Emma, 86 Station Road, Cheadle Hulme SK8 5AE. (0161 485 8143) [Saville]

Mobile cosmetic car repairs:

Bump-a-car, 33 Courthill St., Offerton, Stockport, SK1 4EA. (07795 842 717, Ivan, or 07855 824 118, Adrian) [Monkhouse]

Tyres

Milesmore Tyres, *Doug*, Marcliffe Industrial Estate, 1 Macclesfield Road, Hazel Grove, SK7 5EG [Rose]

Garages

Whitehill Garage Tel 0161 480 6744 Mob 07773613221 Unit 1a, Hammond Avenue,

Stockport, SK4 1PQ. MOTs, Servicing and Repairs to all makes and models of cars, vans etc. Known to me for 20 plus years. [Dobson]

Windscreen repairs

TRANSGLASS -automotive glazing. PAUL SHAW - windscreens ,car alarms, sunroofs. Repairs done at your home and insurance approved. Mob; 07831 234425 Office; 0161 456 2079 [Rose]

Picture Framing

Lazy Daisies Picture Framers, Tony Gallagher, 122 London Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 4DJ, Tel: 0161 483 4003, Tony@LazyDaisies.co.uk

"This is the way the world ends, not with a bang, but with an ulcer."— TS Eliot, British author, attributed

"A modest little person, with much to be modest about."—
Winston Churchill on Clement Attlee

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."— Winston Churchill on Stafford Cripps

Engineering talk 22 January



The meeting was ably chaired, in President Sue's absence, by Vice President Harry.

The first task was to catch Bruce the younger on the hop for a Grace but as he'd come unprepared the honour was passed to John K who stepped in.

Message received from Pat Holmes who visited the club last week was that she enjoyed her evening with the

Club and found the members to be lively, friendly and welcoming. She will visit the Club again when she has recovered from an injury to her foot.

John T thanked everyone for their useful suggestions re parking at the Duck Race, though I detected a note of sarcasm as many of the suggestions had been less than practical.

Harry noted that Abi has suggested a shuttle bus service from a central car park which could be run using Scout buses. Bob S will investigate the insurance implications.

There followed a talk given by John Sykes on his origins in Yorkshire and on his career as an electrical engineer with a variety of companies from ICI to AstraZeneca (where he still works). He described a number of overseas trips he had made in the line of duty to far-flung places such as Russia and South Africa. John also shared with us some photos of these trips as well as some photos of a TR7 which he lovingly restored over a number of years.

Following the talk he was questioned regarding his time at Sellafield and John Knowles was able to show an astounding understanding of nuclear physics. When questioned as to how he knew such detail, he raised a smile by stating that he has a

Masters in Nuclear Physics and NOT Theology, as some might expect. Harry then declared him an imposter!

Sergeant at Arms was Ian D who chose a naughty and nice/bad and good theme. Surprisingly there seems to be more naughty members than there are good members!

Members are reminded to bring an extra £1 coin to add to the cost of the meal as the cost has been raised to £11 from the beginning of Feb.

Jan



Treasurer Gill was in her counting house, counting out her money......Yes, over the two wonderfully huge collections made at the garden centre and on float nights our beloved Treasure (!) spent night after night feeding her new toy, the counting machine.

It was very early on in December when the machine coughed and shuddered to a halt. Something bright and shiny was winking at her. And a bit later the same

thing happened with more shiny objects being rejected. After a bit of googling she called in the cavalry. Your author, the erstwhile exbanker amongst you, immediately saw that the culprits were coin of the realm! Not only that but they were pure silver six penny pieces and silver threepenny bits. But the treasure trove continued. After a reasonable period of time for any claimants to come forward a visit was paid to a well respected coin and bullion dealer. Here I had a bit of a haggling session with the proprietor and managed to force his offer up from the original after he had consulted the day's bullion price of GOLD! Yes gold!

Somehow or other what we had been given was a 1912 sovereign made of pure gold. The condition of the coin was not of a standard that would interest a coin collector so we just got a bullion rate for it-a mere £161.00. The rest, although silver, were not of any real value as silver prices are not good at the moment. Total raised was £175.

lan

Brassed Off 25th Jan





I must admit that Brassed Off is my favourite film of all time so I jumped at the chance to see how faithfully it transferred to the stage at Chads and how accurately it could portray the desperation of the times.

Some stand out performances from Jo Chatters as Vera, Catherine Thompson as Rita, Rachael Stronge as Sandra and Tom Seal as Shane complemented the excellent Marple Brass Band with their rendition of 'Rodrigo's Concerto d'orange juice' still managing to bring a lump to the throat.

John and Wendy did a superb job of arranging the evening and providing snacks for us all. Many thanks are due to them both.

Gordon

"A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."— Mark Twain, attributed

25 years ago

Looking through the Bulletin for January 1989 it would appear that little has changed. The talk was of dieting after the excesses of Christmas feasting and the fact that never had so many attended committee night. Membership development (i.e. increasing numbers) was already in the minds of a young club. There were a number of paragraphs which had been extracted from another publication. One district governor once wrote: "One shudders to think where half of my clubs will be in ten years, because they have so few young members. This is why we limit most of our Community Service to fund-raising projects – we do not have enough young men with the energy and the desire to work. This hurts our reputation and gives us the image of 'the old men's club!" The comment which followed asked 'Should our club take notice?' One of the speakers was a nursing officer at Cheadle Royal hospital which had been founded in 1763 and moved to its present site in 1846. A high proportion of patients have alcohol related problems, which may not be surprising as 3 million people in the UK were drinking to excess. This brought a sudden quietness to the upper room at Millington Hall. Another speaker was the head teacher from Bramhall High school. He complained about the government for producing enormous amounts of legislation, which in his opinion were half baked, employers for conflicting requirements of school leavers and the media for exaggerating the problems to be found in schools. He stoutly defended the state system. When asked for school participation in the Festival he expressed reluctance in view of other commitments.

There had been a Christmas cryptic quiz and I am listing below some of the 50 clues for you to try. Example – clue: vertical dessert answer: plum pudding.

You'll be mad if you get this

Miss Thatchers' in musical mood

Plural here and now

Literally legs

Sounds like colloquial dysentery

Small shoot in the Common Market

Sounds like a hot howl

Flog off the metal

Soapy offal

Cheeky and funny

I will email the answers to everyone in the near future.—Ron

A Rotarian in the making—see back page

The back page of this bulletin shows a letter written by Sam Sterk (Bruce Farrow's sister's grandchild) who is 7 years old and who asked all his relatives not to buy him Christmas or birthday presents but to give the money to PADS (Pacific Assistance Dogs Society), the Canadian equivalent of our Canine Partners. The photo shows Faith, their own dog.

Part of the text of the letter is:

Hello. My name is Sam and I am trying to raise money for the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS). They raise assistance dogs for people with disabilities other than blindness and train therapy dogs to work alongside people who work in healthcare. These amazing dogs are trained to turn on light switches, help get people dressed, pull wheelchairs, pick things up and be great companions. It takes between \$50,000 and \$90,000 to train one dog and I would like to help. We had an assistance dog called Faith who went to work with my mum but was also a great family friend. She passed away last year and I would like to raise money in her memory.

The idea has since become a class project at his school.

Quite an amazing thing for a 7 year old to do.

Blind Run

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

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

482 4944. Allow plenty of time for Mr Marshall to get in your car.

Saturday prior to the Blind Run – Phone Cathy Dennison (just in case), Joan Goodall, Mrs Marshall and confirm they are going – Doing this on Saturday allows time to organise a second car if necessary.

Monday – Collect passengers in the order, Cathy, Joan, the Marshalls, to arrive at WH before 1.30pm then on to Our Ladies if required.

Pickup – 3pm at Our Ladies if appropriate, 3.30pm at WH Let John Sykes know if you get stuck.

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

Please carry your mobile phone in case of problems.

Date	Driver
03/02/2014	J Sykes
10/02/2014	D Rose
17/02/2014	B Preece
24/02/2014	D Allport
03/03/2014	S Preece
10/03/2014	A Jenkins
17/03/2014	D Poizer
24/03/2014	V Chattington
31/03/2014	R Malabon
07/04/2014	D Burstow
14/04/2014	H Hill
21/04/2014	J Meeus

Cathy may not attend very often so we are attempting to organise the run with one driver.

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

Diary & Job Rota

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

Date	Diary	Bulletin	Sgt @ Arms
05/02/2014	05/02/2014 Committees	C Egan	B Farrow
12/02/2014	12/02/2014 Facebook & Social Media (Jackson/Jenkins)	P Richardson	A Newsome
19/02/2014	19/02/2014 Nick Mosley (Mosley Jarman)	J Meeus	D Rabone
26/02/2014	26/02/2014 Christine Cassar, The Philippines	T Saville	G Hunt
05/03/2014	05/03/2014 Committees	B Stevenson	J Knowles
12/03/2014	12/03/2014 No meeting due to President's night		
14/03/2014	14/03/2014 President's Night, Adlington Hall Hunting Lodge		
19/03/2013	19/03/2013 Dobson/Dougal	C Monkhouse	S Davies
26/03/2013	26/03/2013 Edmonds/Egan	D Allport	T Burch
02/04/2013	02/04/2013 Committees	N Loveland	J Sykes
09/04/2013	09/04/2013 Farrow/H Hill	D Rose	M Lacey
16/04/2013	16/04/2013 M Hill/Hunt	B Preece	G Jackson
23/04/2013	23/04/2013 Knowles/Lacey	A Jenkins	D Poizer
30/04/2013	30/04/2013 No Meeting (5th Wednesday)		
07/05/2013		V Chattington	R Malabon
14/05/2013		D Burstow	J Thewlis
29/06/2014	29/06/2014 BBQ at Sue's		





The 'stuffers' strike again. This time, we beat our previous record by completing the Walthew House envelope stuffing in 54 minutes. This apparently, saves their staff over a week's work.

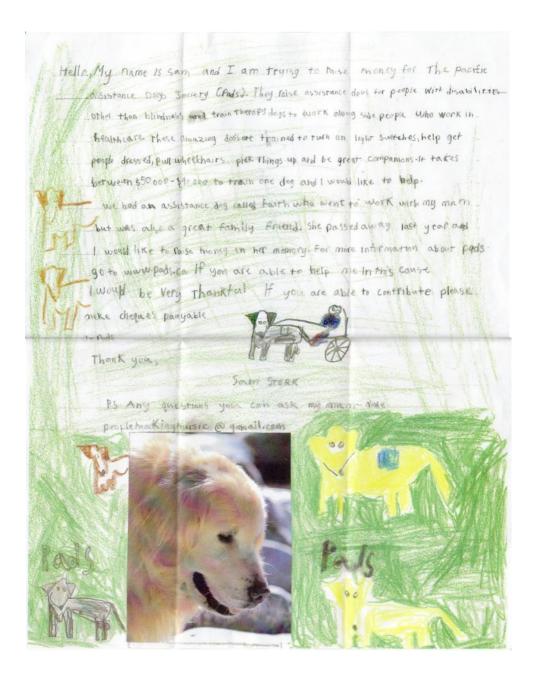


Sue presented flowers and chocolates to the staff at Ladybridge Club for their wonderful service



A piece of equipment for testing children's hearing, paid for by a B&W £500 donation recently has safely arrived. AUD-E-MED bought and sent this warbler to Ismael in DRC. He recently graduated from our one year Gran Fondo sponsored programme in Nairobi. On his behalf Aud –E-Med Directors send their grateful thanks to our club.

- David Rose



A (very) young Rotarian in the making. See inside for the text.