

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

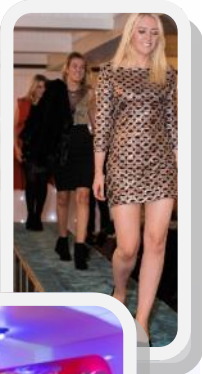


Charity No. 1025767
District 1285
Chartered 24/9/1986

Bulletin



A perfectly poised president poses on the platform prior to the participants parading



Our latest members are made most welcome ↓

Santa helped to Light Up Bramhall ↗





Members joined Gill at Michael's for President's Drinks



Gill's Jottings

Now that the hectic time of Christmas is past, we can sit back and reflect on another excellent round of fundraising efforts in the shape of the Woodford Collections and of course the now famous Santa Float.

Woodford was definitely down on last year despite our wonderful Santa Collecting Machine which certainly appealed to the children and quite a few adults! Maybe the positioning of our stand wasn't as obvious as in previous years though everyone did have time to look at it whilst paying at the till. Some things to look at for next year. Santa's float however told a different story and this has now become an iconic event, expected and enjoyed by all. I think this was a record breaking year for the float and we will go from strength to strength maybe adding a few more roads next year and perhaps cutting back at Woodford which is becoming increasingly difficult to man. Maggie and her W&M team pulled out all the stops to part people from their money and the introduction of Santa's Grotto was also well received. Special mention of course to Andy and Suzanne at A Sweet Thought who did a magnificent job of driving Santa every night and supplying the sweetie bags for the children (although of course these were expertly assembled by our very own band of Rotary Elves working very hard to make 1500 bags).

I was pleased to welcome so many of you to President's Drinks in early January and my thanks again to Michael and Pam Lacey for hosting. We will have to make a note for next year to have less wine and more soft drinks as so many people were observing "dry January".

Sadly Bruce Farrow has decided to leave the club to pursue other interests and we wish him well.

We are extremely pleased to welcome two young members - Andrew Turnbull and Kate Nicholson. They have both slotted into Ways and Means and have wasted no time in getting stuck into projects. They are a breath of fresh air to the club and I really hope we can now attract further younger members to ensure the work of Rotary is carried forward. We cannot rest on our laurels on this issue if Rotary is to have a future.

Gill

Committees and an induction 4th November

David Rabone opened the meeting with The Farmers Prayer, one of the longest yet, but certainly very thought provoking. Vida named the absentees and then welcomed Andrew Turnbull and Kate Nicholson once again.



Gill invited Andrew to come up, she read out the aims and ideals for Rotary membership. Andrew accepted his Rotary badge and re-

sponded that he had never had such a welcome anywhere, as that given by our members.

A few good humoured, ribald comments from members followed his acceptance.

After coffee committee leaders presented their reports;

Finance

Michael Lacey stated that the outstanding money from Barclays should be coming shortly, thanks to the efforts of Bruce Farrow. Our finances are satisfactory.

The International Concert raised £238.00 thanks to the tremendous effort by David Rose.

Community Services

The committee had discussed the relevant merits of the charity Age UK and Friends of Lumb Lane Park. This organisation, although not strictly a charity are attempting to raise money that would go towards renewing the play surface and provide new equipment for young children in Lumb Lane Park. They have raised £6,000 so far but their target is £50,000.

The committee proposed that we should support this group as it is local, visible and would raise our profile in this area. The proposal is to offer money but to wait and see if the project gets the go ahead before releasing the money.

A suggestion was made to provide a board at Hillbrook Grange to advertise our support for them. Bruce Bissel said that he would check whether this would be approved as it would require planning permission.

Youth Activities - We propose paying the cost of the coach to transport 30 students from Bramhall High School to Bradford University for an Exhibition entitled The Excitement of Science. A further suggestion was that we should organise a Speaking Competition for local schools.

Ways and Means

Maggie stated that she was struggling to sell tickets for the fashion show and urged us all to push sales. Everything is organised at the venue.

Help is required for the Light Up Bramhall Lantern Procession on Saturday 28th November. Meet 4.00pm behind the Vic.

Lists were circulated for all activities including the Woodford collection.

It was suggested that the school's website should show the proposed sleigh routes.

International

Sue said that she would chase council to try to make the £238.00 raised from the International Concert up to £1.000

Sue reported that presentations had been given at local schools regarding the role of Rotary, highlighting the End Polio Now Campaign, Rotaract, Leadership Roles and How to be a Chef. No response as yet from Bramhall High.

Sue stated she had attended an RIBI event where she had listened to speeches from 10 International Students who were studying for Masters Degrees as Peace Fellows.

The next major RIBI target will be the eradication of Malaria. UNICEF have requested shelter boxes for Syrian Refugees.

Fashion show proceeds will go towards this.

Sue is still collecting single lens glasses.

Club Services

John Thewlis comments that those who had visited Whitchurch Rotary all agreed how good our catering was after tasting the food Tony Burch has to endure.

Publicity

Ian had nothing to report.

Social

Brian reported that according to feedback from the attendees, the Treasure Hunt had been excellent.

18th November John Knowles has provisionally booked a speaker, Mr Roger Scoones to talk about Renovation of Ancient Buildings.

Numbers need to be submitted for the visit to Avro Museum. It is programmed for the 25th November and will finish at the Thieves Neck.

The Christmas Party is booked for Friday 18th December at Bramhall Park Golf Club.

President's Drinks venue to be arranged.

Meeting closed with The Rotary Toast.

Neil



Andrew wondering what he has done and Kate who joined in January.



Expressions saying the same thing twice:

Beck and call, law and order, assault and battery, null and void, safe and sound, first and foremost, trials and tribulations, spick and span, kith and kin, dig and delve, hale and hearty, peace and quiet, vim and vigour, rack and ruin, without let or hindrance, to all intents and purposes, various differences

Rotary Peace Seminar

The spike in regional and local conflicts around the world has underscored the need for professionals skilled in creating peace. Rotary created the Rotary Peace Centres in 2002 to identify and train highly qualified professionals to become agents of Peace. Six Rotary Peace Centres at seven prestigious universities throughout the world offer Rotary Peace Fellows a rigorous programme of study and applied field experience in areas relating to peace and conflict resolution. The Rotary Peace Centres draw from Rotary's long, unwavering commitment to peace, seen in projects that address the root causes of conflict. Rotary's 70 year collaboration with the United Nations and Rotary's peace symposiums and peace forums throughout the world further the causes of peace.

Rotary Peace Fellows are committed to the advancement of peace, serving as leaders in a range of international, national and local organisations. They promote national and international co-operation, peace and the successful resolution of conflict in their lives, in their careers and through their service activities. Fellows study at Rotary Peace Centres in countries other than their own.

The Rotary Peace Centres are:

- University of Bradford - England
- Chulalongkorn University - Bangkok, Thailand
- Duke University and University of North Carolina - USA
- International Christian University - Tokyo, Japan
- University of Queensland - Brisbane, Australia
- Uppsala University - Sweden

The 2015 Bill Huntley Peace Seminar at Bradford University was attended by Rotarians - David Poizer, Sue Preece, David Rose and Geoff Hunt on 31st October 2015. The theme was "Radical Peace - Understanding Extremism and Breaking the Cycles of Violence".

Geoff Hunt

—————→
(cont)

And from Sue

I have attended other Rotary Peace Conferences in the past but this was definitely the best day yet! Peace Fellows from Class XIII provided an interesting overview on the value of education and how conflict resolution was being successfully promoted as an effective tool for peace. One of the group told of his harrowing experiences as one of 'the lost boys of Sudan'. We were introduced to the ten members of Class XIV, all of whom had a fascinating background and had worked in diverse areas such as the UN, UNICEF, international relations, NGOs, education, etc. The eight females and two male Peace Fellows for this year came from Sudan, Japan, Kenya (2),



USA (2), Afghanistan, Canada and Jordan. There was ample opportunity to meet and chat to all the Peace Fellows.

After an enjoyable lunch and interesting conversation with other guest Rotarians we returned to the main hall to

listen to a guest panel discussing 'understanding extremism and breaking the cycles of violence'. Two of the members included were familiar to the audience, Jo Berry whose father Sir Anthony Berry MP was killed by the IRA in the Brighton bombing and Patrick Magee who is a former IRA activist responsible for the IRA Brighton bombing in 1984 - he was released under the Good Friday agreement in 1998 after serving 16 years in prison. Their presentations were extremely powerful and deeply moving and left a big impression on their au-

dience. These two people have forged a painful truce; they regularly share their story on their quest to inspire others to seek peace and reconciliation working towards putting an end to conflict and violence. They have given talks in Palestine, Lebanon, Rwanda and throughout the UK. Jo and Patrick also work closely with the charity 'Building Bridges for Peace' working with the general public to explore and better understand the roots of war, terrorism and violence.

Informative discourses followed on the use of natural resources and effective resource management. If you get a chance to attend a Peace Seminar next year I would highly recommend it, very thought provoking!

The Fashion Show 11th Nov

Set again in the Deanwater but this time with a raised catwalk that received a few raised eyebrows owing to its height, nevertheless proved very useful in enabling people on the back rows



to see the creations better. Ever the gentleman, John Meeus did sterling work assisting the models up and down the step. Presentations by Clarins, SOS, What Lyes Beneath, House of Colour and Modiste coupled with a strong presence from stalls in the bar area meant that a really good time was had by all. Ian got in quite a few mentions for Rotary membership and our own supermodel, Maggie did a fantastic job of not only running the

event, but modelling for two of the exhibitors. It seems there is no end to this lady's talents.

We received many positive comments so we can once again, declare the evening a success and look forward to more.

I just did the audio stuff which this year worked without a hitch owing to the purchase of a new amplifier and speakers so I got the easy bit.

Gordon

St Mary's in the Market Place 18th November

Rev Roger Scoones & John Knowles



After a very good meal we had our own version of Michael Parkinson in the form of John Knowles interviewing the Rev Roger. It is very difficult in print to get over to the reader the enthusiasm that Roger showed in

all he talked about.

Roger said that as a young man when others were keen to be engine drivers, he had no idea of joining the church. He joined at the age of 28. He became keen on skiing in Wengen and subsequently became Chaplain to the church in that town. He enthused about being able to walk down the short street in the town and talk to other skiers on equal terms. He came to Stockport in 1996 from Congleton. He is correctly to be described as a Rector, not a vicar. Apparently as a Rector he has the rights to collect tithes and to appoint vicars at 5 parishes in the area. Roger commented that to succeed you need to get the right people around you, and that is certainly what he has achieved in undertaking the restoration of St Mary's. The first Rector of Stockport was appointed in 1190; the present building dates from 1300, with a substantial part rebuilt in 1817. Apparently when news of Trafalgar and the death of Nelson reached Stockport the bell ringers rang the bells for 7 days which resulted in structural damage to the bell tower - Repetitive Strain Injury you might say. The tower had to be demolished and the rebuild was completed by 1817.

St Mary's was in bad condition when Roger arrived; with the right people around him they raised £1.5M with grants from the

Heritage Trust and other donors to undertake a major renovation of the Church which is almost complete. Roger invited us either individually or as a club to visit the church.

Roger declined to answer the question "what do you like least about your job", probably because he enjoyed every part of his work; his favourite activity is going into schools with his sketch book and talking to young children.

Geoff Hunt proposed a vote of thanks to Roger, which was fully endorsed by all those present.

There were 26 Rotarians plus our speaker and Sue Heap, a colleague of Rogers present.

John T was collecting car registration numbers for those going to the Avro Museum; Harry was looking for gardening apprentices for Saturday at Bramhall Hall (10am) and Gill put out a call for "escorts" to help with the Enterprise Ambulance that she and Ian drive; duties are to escort people from the door to the ambulance.

Your reporter **John Sykes**

Santa's first journey

On the 28th November, our float was given its first Christmas outing as part of the Light Up Bramhall lantern parade. Lots of great children met Santa and we raised some money for our appeal. Santa even got to switch on the Christmas lights with our MP and mayor to start the festivities.



Avro museum visit 25th Nov

A goodly number of us visited the Avro museum on Wednesday – and what an interesting place it is now in its new home. When we arrived we were split into two groups and taken around the exhibits which showed how Avro had progressed from small beginnings to become the leading aircraft manufacturer in the UK. One wonders if we would have been victorious in ww2 without hundreds of Avro Lancasters and other planes.

Because of my poor hearing I wandered around – some of the



time with Harry outside where the massive Vulcan lies. It is a truly remarkable plane and one cannot but marvel at the skills of so many people who produced this and other planes. Our own Peter R was, of course, intimately involved in this great company and I am sure that he and so many of us are saddened that this Woodford site is no more the centre of innovation and aeronautical expertise. On

a personal note I regret that the marvellous long runway is no more where I did many “touch and go” circuits when training for my pilot’s licence. The highlight for me was to sit in the cockpit of the Vulcan and marvel at the men who handled such a complex mass of dials and switches in cramped conditions.

The meal afterwards at the “Thieves Neck” was great with typical Rotary camaraderie. Thanks are due to Ian and John for arranging this great outing.

Sid

Committees 2nd December

The meeting began with a commendably short and humorous grace from David Rabone (“For us sinners, thanks for dinners” or some such). There were 24 members plus guest Kate (who later on said she would like to join – induction in January we hope). Another



excellent meal was enjoyed by all, with both salad and chips satisfying all tastes! John Sykes conducted an express EGM and Bob Preece, was elected as next year’s president, John as secretary and Michael as treasurer. We still needed a vice president – no doubt we will be snowed under by volunteers from those missing on the night.

Gill read out John Knowles’s resignation letter (essentially that moving to Handforth has made him less attached, and wishing us all well) which was received, as you might expect, with a general air of sadness and disappointment. Vida did the apologies bit and Geoff summarised the recent district Foundation Seminar.

After the break committees reported as follows:

W&M: 1,500 bags of sweets stuffed and packed. Light up Bramhall raised £200 and went well. There are a few complications at Woodford where we seem to have “approved competition” and, worse, are not being allowed to collect at all this weekend. Maggie is trying to sort it or relocate elsewhere – watch your emails. Membership: Going to Shady Oak where a 55+ club meet, Kate will join us (hurrahs all round).

Treasurer: Charity account has c £3k and general £2k. It is important to continue our tradition of donating to the charity account instead of sending each other Christmas cards. This is more true than ever because of the way gift aid works, especially in regard to our two main collections (Woodford and float).
Community: There will probably be another Walthew house “stuff in” before Xmas.

International: Sue has finished the round of Polio presentations to schools. These have gone really well. An international students evening is being planned,

PRO: NTR

Club Services: NTR

Michael

President's Drinks 3rd Jan

President's drinks was held at Pat & Michael's with Gill providing the food and drink courtesy of Waitrose. No cheap stuff for our Prez then!

A goodly turn out saw Dev bring his wife and his son who were most welcome. Our newest member-to-be, Kate joined in whilst Trevor and Joan regaled us with tales of their forthcoming five-month cruise (the swine). Harry and Michael took random snaps while we all stood around talking about those who weren't there (just kidding).

Thanks to Michael, Pam and Gill for a really nice social event.

Browsers



I no longer buy newspapers but each day, I call up the web site www.wrx.zen.co.uk/britnews.htm and click on whatever I want to read. If I fancy finding out the latest cure for (or cause of) cancer, I select the Daily Mail. If I want to find out how terrible and utterly evil Jeremy Corbyn is, I turn to the Daily Telegraph.

What all the sites have in common is that I must call them up in a 'Browser' or program that allows me access to the Internet. You may use the Windows default program 'Internet Explorer' but I find that very clunky and slow so I try others (all free):

Firefox—a very popular program that is now getting a bit bloated and brings up errors when accessing social media

Google Chrome—Started off light and lean and therefore fast but has also become rather slower with a reputation for crashing.

Opera—Not as popular but allows simple setting of the default zoom level to show pages at a better, more readable size.

Epic Privacy Browser—The above programs do tend to track what you are doing and some can report the sites you visit back to the programmers in the US so that you can be targeted by advertising. This browser says it doesn't do that. Use in conjunction with the search site 'Duckduckgo' and the marketing departments become even more frustrated. It also blocks adverts but you can do that with advert blocking extensions (see below).

All these can be downloaded by typing the name into Google but whatever browser you choose, I always add the 'extension' Adblock Plus which makes the newspapers much easier to read and stops so much of the irritating junk that gets thrown at you these days. Extensions (or 'Add-ons' as they are sometimes called) are added usually from the tools menu and selecting 'Settings' but it does vary with each program.

Social December 11th

Our President Gill was away playing tennis in a much warmer climate so VP Bob ably stepped in and led the meeting. We were a bit thin on the ground with only 17 Rotarians present but our absent friends missed a good night. Unfortunately the tables were set for more apologies than were received. We were treated to an excellent Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and then had to make the very difficult choice between Christmas pudding or lemon meringue pie and we even got mince pies with our coffee! A presentation was made to the catering staff and much appreciation was expressed for the food they ably provide each week.

We were reminded of the following.

- Presidents drinks will be held at Michael Lacey's house on Sunday Jan 3rd 12:30pm – 2 pm.
- Presidents night will take place on Friday March 18th at the Pinewood Hotel, Handforth.
- Voluntary donations, in lieu of Christmas cards (eg: suggest about £20), can be paid to Treasurer Michael.

Harry was looking for stuffers for Walthew House for around December 22nd or 23rd

Vida brought along a Christmas quiz which was good fun especially as she revealed most of the answers by singing and doing a few little dances! The winning team kindly shared their chocolates with the rest of us. The meeting finished at 10:15pm an early night for all!

Sue Preece

We continue to use some imported words when the originators have stopped. The French no longer use *nom de plume*, *double entendre*, *panache*, *bon viveur* or *RSVP* for *répondez s'il vous plaît*

Committee night and another induction 6th January

After the long break with no meetings, an eager group resumed Rotary business. There were a few absences on holiday or otherwise engaged. Harry Hill was 'indisposed' (man flu or something), about which more later. We were very pleased to welcome Kate Nicholson for the last time before her induction as a member and President Gill introduced Stephen Littlewood as a guest.

At this time of year the Woodford garden centre usually gives us excess bulbs for sale by Vida for charity funds. This year, however, they were not so kind-hearted, so there are no bulbs to be had. Begonias, maybe, later in the year, perhaps!



Harry very much wanted to introduce Kate to the club at her induction but as he could not be present, he assigned his script to Maggie who did the honours with a humorous introduction and the Rotary badge was duly pinned on to Kate. Welcome to the club Kate! We hope that you find your membership enjoyable and fulfilling. Kate shows signs of being an ideal member. She brings the average

age down and she paid her subs before induction. That may be a first!

A very smart looking Andrew Turnbull arrived after the meal, hot foot from an earlier engagement.

This was a committee night and we were blessed with reports from committee chairpersons as normal.

Of particular importance was the news



that the never-closed EGM from 2015 was to be reopened for the election of a Vice President for 2016/7. David Rose was nominated and his nomination was approved unanimously. Congratulations David! The EGM was then officially closed.

Treasurer Michael summarised the state of our finances. The Christmas party made a loss of £27, we have about £2k in the General Account, and almost £5k in the Charity Account after recent payments. The members' donations in lieu of Christmas cards raised £470. The Garden Centre collection of about £2k, will, subject to Council approval, will be given to the Friends of Lumb Lane for the play facilities. The Christmas float did very well and it is expected that £400 will be given to each participating good cause.

What followed was not Rotary at its most brilliant, I'm afraid. There was a confused debate about which dates would be best to hold a 'float quiz night', when the good causes would receive their cheques. Sufficient to say, I think, that it will all be sorted out by Council, which will ensure that our future calendar is coordinated and is clear to all.

Maggie Hill (Ways & Means) outlined the topics under consideration for the rest of this Rotary year. The routes for the 2016 float need revisiting for several reasons, the Christmas grotto in the precinct will be reconsidered. It made no profit, but created a lot of goodwill. The owners of Sweet Thoughts had done a magnificent job in helping the club over the Christmas float period. We were all very keen to recognise this contribution, and an appropriate certificate and more was to be finalised. Another fashion show was under consideration for March, and, finally, the planning for the Duck Race was gathering momentum once again.

Ron Malabon (Community Service) said that the committee supported an application to provide funds for about 30 children to go on a day's adventure training organised by Petty Pool. A

speaker would be invited, and a school in a relatively poor local area would be considered. Support for Chelwood Food Bank would be considered, and the footpaths that we maintain would be revisited to assess the work required to improve them.

Sue Preece (International) hoped to bring two RI funded international scholars to the meeting on 27 January, to have an International Evening on 13 April and to obtain support for £500 to be given to Disaster Aid to help the plight of refugees.

Ian Dobson (PRO) noted how successful Facebook had been in promoting our Christmas float, particularly with the float tracker helping families to know exactly where Santa was at any given moment! After a bit of to-ing and fro-ing, Mosaic (who have the catering concession in Bramhall Park) have given the club freedom to have food stalls on Duck race day as in previous years.

John Thewlis (Club Services) deferred to Geoff Hunt to summarise our programme for the next few weeks. So far, speakers included David McKeith on the Halle Orchestra, Petty Pool adventure days out for children and a talk about the mass trespass on Kinder.

Brian Dougal (Social) noted that there were several social events coming up, including a theatre night, and President's Night.

President Gill had obtained the use of the community bus to transport 12 of those going to the BBC visit on 17 January.

Finally, on a very sombre note, Bruce Farrow announced that he was resigning from the club, and wished us all well. The club was greatly saddened by this, and our thanks go to him for his very enthusiastic promoting and supporting of many activities during his time in the club. We will miss him.

Dennis

An Alternative Rotary Christmas Party.

This article is prompted by a recent visit from our Niece Vicky who lives on the outskirts of Henley on Thames. For the second year she volunteered to spend Christmas Day serving a dinner to 500 OAP's. This year her family also joined the event.



The event is organised by The Rotary Club of Battersea Park, involves several other local Rotary Clubs and an army of volunteers – 200 in all. The event takes place in a Corporate Hospitality marquee, the use of which is provided free of charge, food is cooked by the hospitality organisation's professional chefs with volunteer assistance.

Criteria for attending are that you are over 65 and a resident of the Borough of Wandsworth. Guests are collected from home by a fleet of busses courtesy of the local council. They have a full 3 course Christmas meal, followed by entertainment, live music and dancing. Alcohol is also on the menu and Vicky commented that some were a little unsteady heading for the bus home. Finally each guest receives a present and a take home Christmas night supper and is then driven home. It is all completely free – guests do not pay a penny.

The army of volunteers give what time they can. On Christmas Eve they are writing name tags and adding bus details so that the elderly are on the correct bus home. Vicky said that she spoke to one elderly person on Christmas Eve helping with the name tags who said she would be attending the meal the following day as a guest, but wanted to give something back, so had come to help.

Christmas day can start at 8.30am if you volunteer to go with

one of the busses to ensure the guest has assistance with getting on the bus, or you can help with many jobs during the day as well as serving the meal. Volunteers also get a Christmas lunch. At the start of the day there is a job allocation and training session. The organiser has just completed 10 years of doing the job and commented to the volunteers – “you are all professional people and can probably see other ways of organising the event, this one works, please stay with it”.

This was the 48th year of the event. Vicky signed up back in October on their website and apparently they get more volunteers than they need and have to close the list.

Final comment from Vicky was that at the end of the day she was very, very tired but felt very satisfied.

I thought this was a perfect example of Rotary on the community and would be of interest to members.

John Sykes

Community matters 16th Jan

I have inspected our footpaths today, with Vida. They are quite good, apart from very muddy patches, luckily frozen this morning. A trim in the Spring is all that is required, nothing major at all. All parts are easily passable at the moment, though a trim would widen some parts. There are 3 stiles, all fine, though rather high for short legged folks like me! The stile that used to be near the Blossoms is no longer there.



Dennis

Media City Tour 17th Jan

After the first snow of the winter, we were faced with the task of defrosting the Enterprise bus (no mean feat !) before we could set off to Media City, Salford for the BBC tour. Once there we were advised of the health and safety rules i.e don't touch anything! And warned that we were not allowed to take any pictures ofcorridors !!! Could happily take photos of the studios and radio sets but corridors were a no no! Something to do with terrorist plots apparently !!

A tour of a radio broadcaster studio was first on the list. We were able to sit in the presenters' seat and see the full array of gadgets and equipment on offer to the DJ, the knobs and dials and yes they still have CD players and old tape recorders although almost everything is digitally stored.

Next was a bit of a hike to another studio, where they record Question of Sport and the Voice amongst other programmes. As ever they are much smaller in reality than they appear on screen. Following that there was a chance to make a "play " where 5 of our members used the various sound effect instruments . They still use coconut shells for horses hooves but my favourite was a bunch of marigold gloves on a pole flapping together to make bird sounds.

The anechoic room was interesting as it is foam padded so absolutely no echo at all from any given noise, apparently used when people jump off cliffs!! On to CBeebies area and again the Blue Peter studio was tiny. It is still running but only once a week with presenters no one had heard of .

The tour ended on the set of the BBC breakfast news where Olive and Brian took the parts of Bill Turnbull and Louise Minchin to read the news from the autocue. Yours truly was given the job of weather girl without any script. Very difficult to do when you are looking at a screen in front of you and trying to point behind ! We were presented with a BBC pen for our starring roles.

I think we were all very impressed by the tour and I would recommend it to others .

Gill

Christmas Dinner – 19 December



As the Christmas Dinner in 2014 had been deemed a great success, we returned this year to Bramhall Park Golf Club.

People, including of course the numerous partners and guests, always like the opportunity for a general chit-chat before the meal. So to help this the invitation had included an enlarged pre-meal timing of 7 for 8. A large number of people did indeed arrive well before 7:30 so this

seems a model with which to continue!

It was also pleasing to see so many people far exceeding the “smart casual” declared dress code. The ladies were of course to be seen in some of their finer party frocks, and for once their men did not disgrace them. Nothing worse than when the ladies go to much trouble to look lovely, but the blokes turn up in jeans???

So following this extended chat session, everyone went promptly down to dinner. We were 60 in total, spread over 7 tables. Fortunately the onerous task of sorting a seating plan seemed to have been done with fewer complaints being heard than last year. Gill spoke extremely briefly, welcoming everyone and saying a quick secular grace. Serving the starter was made easy for the staff as almost everyone had made the same choice – salmon & prawns! Most people followed this with the traditional Christmas meal of turkey etc although those choosing the beef spoke highly of it. To finish, Christmas pudding proved just slightly ahead of the healthy alternative of fruit salad.

Last year we were entertained by four ladies singing a cappella (including Harry’s own carol!). A choir had been booked for this

year, but unfortunately a break down in communications left the group unable to attend. This became known only on the Tuesday before the event, so the Social chairman (who chairs a committee of none) had to try to find something to amuse the troops. It took the form of firstly a quiz, followed by a past-president's challenge. It also left some money unused so in a brave bit of decisiveness, 2 bottles of wine were ordered for each table.

The quiz took the form of 3 sets of questions about Christmas, plus Christmas music and Christmas films. Inevitably some people took all this far more seriously than others so it was not possible to accurately declare which table won what and prizes were distributed randomly!



For the challenge the past presidents Harry and Sue took on current pres Gill plus Bob Stevenson to build the highest structure using only marshmallows and (raw) spaghetti. Very soon after starting (badly) both teams appeared to be recruiting advisors and helpers. Rules? What

rules? Inevitably Gill's team won, but only because Bob's guest joined them, and he proved to be the only one there who had a clue how to do it.

Brian

Anti-Virus

For anyone using AVG free anti-virus, it has now been recommended that you uninstall this and change over to Avast Free because of concerns over privacy and unwanted add-ins.

Gordon

Facebook 13th Feb

Our President Gill was working so VP Bob ably led tonight's meeting for the 20 Rotarians present. As usual the quality of the food served was excellent and so generous that even chips were left at the end of dinner, was this a first? However, did the leftover chips mean that all our members were fully replete or that many were watching their waistline after the Christmas festivities? I was not the only one to find the dining room quite cold and I began to wish I had worn a liberty bodice to keep warm!

After coffee, the most recent Rotary magazine was distributed and Ian and Gordon, well supported by Harry, gave an interesting presentation about Facebook. Gordon had earlier also kindly emailed around a comprehensive and detailed handout about its use. Facebook proved to be a very difficult topic to explain to an audience with very wide ranging pre-knowledge – more than half had no idea of how to join or indeed use Facebook! Some concerns were expressed about the safety of personal data but that was not a problem as explained by our Rotarian Facebook users! All accepted that most people under the age of 50 in Bramhall & Woodford had an active Facebook account and so if we want to attract new members Facebook has to be the way forward. Our own B&W Rotary Facebook page is regularly read by hundreds of people! For example, Ian had posted a message on it thanking the people of Bramhall for their generous contributions to our Christmas collection. Someone had also posted a very amusing tongue-in-cheek article which we all found quite funny.

I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in

front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the 'thumbs up' and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook! I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist!

However, lots of very positive messages came across, the main one which was agreed by all present, was that the use of social media must be the way forward if our club is to grow and flourish! Unfortunately, during Gordon and Ian's well planned presentation the internet connection at the club was terrible and this inhibited the smooth flow of the talk. This was a great shame as most of us judged it to be a thought-provoking meeting generating much discussion and as a result of tonight a handful of B&W members are now considering joining Facebook, all of whom would never have touched it before. All this helps to spread Rotary into the wider community and bring us into 2016!

Sue

Some Christmas Carols and songs updated

Rudolph the red nosed reindeer

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer
had a very shiny nose.

And if you ever saw him,
you would even say it glows.

You are advised that under the Equal Opportunities for All policy, it is inappropriate for persons to make comment with regard to the ruddiness of any part of Mr. R. Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from the Reindeer Games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence. A full investigation will be implemented and sanctions - including suspension on full pay - will be considered whilst this investigation takes place

The Rocking Song

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:

Fur is no longer appropriate wear for small infants, both due to risk of allergy to animal fur, and for ethical reasons. Therefore faux fur, a nice cellular blanket or perhaps micro-fleece material should be considered a suitable alternative.

Please note, only persons who have been subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check and have enhanced clearance will be permitted to rock baby Jesus. Persons must carry their CRB disclosure with them at all times and be prepared to provide three forms of identification before rocking commences.

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way

A risk assessment must be submitted before an open sleigh is considered safe for members of the public to travel on. The risk assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly if passengers are of larger proportions. Please note, permission must be gained from landowners before entering their fields. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a nuisance.

The NHS and the Ebola response 20th Jan

Nice to see Gill back from holidays and work commitments, back in the driving seat.

Sid delivered grace in Welsh, Vida welcomed Steve Littlewood (on his second visit) and Tony Redmond our guest speaker. Just snippets of news; John Meeus was the only person in Bramhall to have parrots in his garden and Ian's donkeys are now Shetland ponies for the Duck Race (and Minions are on the way). The Media City trip was enjoyed by all and Gill was suitably thanked for setting it up and providing transport.



With the second half of our meeting, Professor Tony Redmond was introduced by Geoff. Tony gave us a talk headed The NHS and Response to Ebola.

Tony told us of his many roles in the NHS. If you Google Tony Redmond it will be easier for you to appreciate all he has done.

Tony's work with Manchester humanitarian and conflict response dating back to 1988 with smart organisation in Armenia and Sarajevo in 1995, also the Haiti earthquake.

Teams back then were less qualified but have now improved through rigorous assessments before being sent out. According to the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review. Medical teams are at least 100 times cost effective as UKISAR. they cost less

Ebola was identified in 1976 caused by eating fruit bats. The recent outbreak in Serra Leone is more of a concern to us. The response of 1643 applicants was outstanding. 200 were chosen and sent out after rigorous health screening. The Kitting up needed a discipline beyond comprehension. Health workers could only do a 5 to 6 weeks stint. On return had to wait 21 days before returning to hospitals to work.

Some developed pyrexia (abnormal elevation of body temperature).

Standards are now Global. A training pathway with specialist training

The lesson is that the poor are most vulnerable and that human beings know and show altruism.

Pat

And from Sid

Fellow Rotarians

I thought Prof Redmond's talk on Wednesday was one of the best! It made me feel quite inadequate and I marvelled at one man's achievements in relieving some much suffering in the world.

Now Brenda Loveland who was Superintendent Radiographer at Stepping Hill tells me I should know him from years ago when he was Consultant to the A&E at Stockport Infirmary where Brenda (and my Sally) did on-call for accidents there. I also was a volunteer for several years there – making tea, mopping up sick, and generally messing about. Professor Redmond must have been about on occasions but I can't remember him.

Sid

And from Google

Professor Tony Redmond OBE is Professor of International Emergency Medicine at The University of Manchester and a Consultant in Trauma and Emergency Medicine.

He is Lead for Global Health at the Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre (MAHSC) and Manchester Medical School and Deputy Director of the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at The University of Manchester.

In addition, he is the Director of the UK International Emergency Trauma Register, which coordinates the national surgical response to overseas disasters funded by the Department for International Development of the UK government.

Global Grant Scholars 26th Jan



Gill opened the meeting with one of her now familiar secular graces. Michael then informed the club about Ron, who he and John M had just returned from visiting in Stepping Hill hospital. Apparently Ron has a “lung viral infection” but is now on the

mend. Sadly Pam is also unwell. Their Caribbean holiday had however been excellent and Ron regaled his visitors with copious details about it.

A good turnout included all three of our latest members present. Guest John Hayes, Lymm RC and visitors Cecilia and Mia.

Harry then informed on the stuffing for Walthew House, his first request for this since September he reminded everyone. Early start of 10am! Blindfold 10-pin bowling event will be held at the end of March. Regrettably Gordon then asked Harry to explain what he was on about to the guests/visitors. Brevity was not an accurate descriptor, nor was the word “succinct”. Indeed Ian has been known (once) to describe his activities more concisely.

Chris passed round a sign-up for his do (Sun 7 Feb, Mary hosting). £10 per head to go to Blood Bikes.

Maggie informed about the Float Quiz, following evening. 50+ attendees, inc 9 Rotarians, signed up (which doesn't include the quizmasters!)

Geoff / Vida informed next week is David McKeith talking about the Halle and that the 2 weeks after that will be buffets only



A date for the summer BBQ, which is being held at the Monkhouse Mansion, was provisionally set for Sun 26 June.

After coffee John Hayes introduced the speakers, Cecilia from Fairfax, Virginia, USA and Mia from Japan.

Cecilia went first, briefly describing all the courses and postings she has been on since finishing her first degree. She worked for the US Peace Corps in Africa. Three goals: 1) assist in country, 2) learn about host culture, 3) share US culture with them. Then worked at World Bank and is now on a post-grad course at University of Manchester, funded by Rotary.

Mia comes from a town about 1hr from Tokyo, on the Pacific coast. She is sponsored by her local Rotary Club which has 33 members. She is currently studying for a Masters in Conflict Studies at Manchester. Previously she had been at the UN in New York and in Malawi, Africa where she was surprised the local people all looked so sad.

Following these two short talks there were many questions, all intelligently answered, and in Mia's case, in amazingly good English.

Records were then broken as the meeting was called to a close at a few seconds before 10pm!

Brian.

And an email to Sue:

It was a pleasure to be at your meeting last night – you have a very friendly group of members who made me most welcome. It was also good to hear the scholars speaking and one has to admire the language ability of Mia amongst her other attributes.

*With best wishes
John Hayes*



Cheque Presentations and Quiz Night 28/1/16

Every year we congratulate the dozen or so charities and local community groups who brave the December elements to collect money on Santa's Float by inviting them along to a cheque presentation at the Club. This



would be perhaps a bit dull and certainly very brief, so we spice it up with a quiz. Jan and Brian (come back Jan, all is forgiven!) have provided us with a series of increasingly difficult quizzes and tonight's was, to my mind, a real stinker!

The evening belongs to the volunteers, and from my viewpoint everyone seemed to be having a lovely time - at least, between the questions! The warmth of the atmosphere contrasted with the temperature of the room when we arrived, but fifty excited humans can generate a fair bit of heat and things were a bit more clement later on. The food, a cold buffet with hot chips, was very good considering we all paid just £4, and I heard no complaints.



Brian was the lead, ably assisted by Jan, and they delivered their fiendish questions with, I thought, unseemly relish. "Where



in the body is the lunula?" asks Brian. No it's not in the wrist (that's the lunate) but at the base of each fingernail. Good job I've retired! And that was one of the easy ones! They moved on to Music and then Films - I concentrated on the anagrams we were given all



evening to solve, having nothing to add in either of those categories. Eventually the scores were gathered and the totals totalled. Winners were Walthew House by a short head from 1st Woodford Scouts and 2nd Bramhall Scouts.

After the prizes

were given out, Maggie called on Andy and Suzanne Phoenix to come to the front, and gave them a framed Community Service Award for the enormous amount of work that they did for the Float. As



well as supplying the sweets to give to the children, Andy drove all but one of the rounds, despite losing his father during the first week.



As everyone left I heard several people say "See you next year!" so it looks like we'll be trotting round Bramhall and its environs next Christmas too.



Harry



Club Officers and Committees 2015—2016



President—Gill Critchley
Vice President—Bob Preece
Secretary—John Sykes
Treasurer—Michael Lacey

Club Services—John Thewlis , Vida Chattington, John Knowles

International—Sue Preece Sid Davies, Dev Dev, David Rose, David Poizer,

Community Service— Ron Malabon, Neil Loveland, Bruce Bissell, Dennis Allport, Harry Hill, Chris Monkhouse

Social— Brian Dougal

Ways and Means—Maggie Hill, Bob Stevenson, Peter Richardson, Pat Holmes, Julia Shaw, David Rabone, David Burstow, John Meeus, Kate Nicholson, Andrew Turnbull

Communications—Ian Dobson, Gordon Jackson

Membership—Bob Preece, Geoff Hunt

Foundation— Michael Lacey/Sue Preece

District Representatives— John Sykes

H&S—David Burstow

Child Protection—David Rose

Bulletin—Gordon Jackson



"Bull markets are born in pessimism, grow on scepticism, mature on optimism, and die of euphoria."— Sir John Templeton, American businessman, philanthropist



Marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti provided a challenge at our Christmas party.

A lovely photo of a triple tea time at the Preece's.



Gill organised a very interesting visit to Media City in Salford



Sid inspecting the Avro Vulcan with a view to taking it for a spin



It was a privilege to welcome Prof. Tony Redmond OBE to talk about the NHS response to the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone

Andy & Suzanne of A Sweet Thought were presented with a community service award at our quiz night for their fantastic



help with the Christmas float.

