

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

February 2017



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

# Bulletin

A successful fashion show and lots of Santas





## **Name the Santas**

(including the front cover)  
No prizes, just a challenge  
to see if you can spot the  
Rotarians behind the  
beards.



And no, I don't  
know who they are  
either.

## *Bob's Bulletin*

It was nice to have a rest over Christmas after a very busy lead up and I hope everyone feels suitably refreshed. In October I was very pleased to induct Pam as another new younger member and I'm sure we all hope this trend continues.

November brought another successful fashion show in which our own Rotarian models looked as professional as ever. The event raised £750 for a local charity, Action for Sick Children. December saw us active on three fronts, Woodford, The Santa Float and Santa's grotto. The use of non-Rotarians to help at Woodford proved very effective and helped us raise £2,000 for Signpost for Carers. The Santa Float was as popular as ever with the families of young children and is a wonderful community event. The money raised continues to increase and I'm sure all the collecting groups were very pleased with £450 that they received. The Santa Float involves a lot of work starting with packing the goody bags, organising the collecting groups and the rota and giving out the collecting tins and clean beards for Santa every night not to mention walking the streets, but it is well worth it. I would particularly like to thank Maggie for all her hard work.

Our fund raising continues to increase and we can also be proud of our member's donations to Rotary Foundation. In December we received a certificate of appreciation from The Rotary Foundation as we gave an average of over \$100 per person in 2015-2016. President's Drinks always makes a good start to the year and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as Sue and I did.

We can all look forward to President's Night in March and I hope as many people as possible will join us at the National Conference in April which will take place in Manchester.

**Bob**

## **Committees 2nd November 2016**

Today I face a challenge: how to make a bulletin report of a committee night interesting and entertaining? Now I don't want to be called a quitter but experience has led me to believe that there are some challenges that it is best to walk away from and this is one of them.

So, everything proceeded as normal: we met in the bar, went through to the dining room where President Bob read a grace, there was the usual jostling for position in the meal queue and the usual meal choices. Vida read out the 'sick, lame and lazy' roll, with the only absentee who was anywhere exotic being Denise, who was billed as being in Australia... except she wasn't and appeared resplendent after the meal. After dinner the Ways and Means and Community Service committees went into huddles whilst the rest milled around for a bit. Then came the reports...

There were no new members and no money in the charity account - nothing interesting there. Ways and Means had good news and bad. The first bit of bad news concerned the Fashion Show, where, despite Maggie's best efforts, ticket sales were poor and, barring a last minute dash, it was likely we weren't going to cover costs and would have to cancel. The second bit was that our float and Santa are not wanted at the 'Light up Bramhall' celebrations this year. The good is that possibly we can take the float to Bramall Hall as they are not doing a Santa and that the slots for our Christmas activities have almost all been filled. There didn't appear to be anything else of interest after that (although I may have dozed off and missed something). Anyway, Bob called proceedings to a commendably early close with the usual toast to 'Rotary and Peas the World over'.

**John T**

## The Fashion Show 9th November

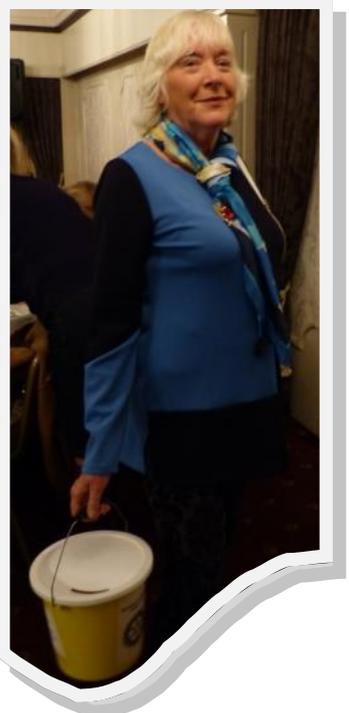
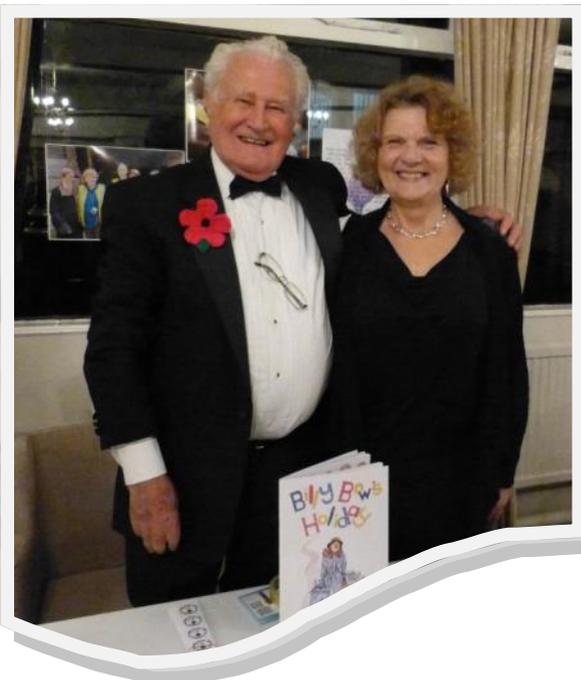
Right up to the previous Friday, there were doubts that there would be enough attendees to make this worth running but, as always, a late surge and arrivals on the night meant that we were once again packed out.

Ian once more did a superb job of keeping things running whilst members Maggie, Kate and Denise modelled so expertly that you'd think it was their day job.

Great prizes from many Bramhall shops boosted Vida's raffle income whilst Peter and Julia sold Christmas cards and Billy Bow books.

Modiste, SOS and What Lies Beneath showed their lovely wares and it was all sponsored by Clarins. The recipient of the evening's earnings is Action for Sick Children.

Many others were involved but greatest thanks go to Maggie for the organisation.





Four weary travellers went to RC Winchester's meeting on Monday night and had a great reception from them. The chap on the left is John Wilkinson, Sue's contact in the club, and who put us up for the night, and the Prez is Fiona Whitehouse, who has cochlear implants and is a very impressive president! We hope that the trip will lead to some combined Rotary efforts in Uganda, particularly the setting up of a local Jaipur Limb Centre.

**Harry**

### **And from Sue**

Bob and I, along with Harry & Maggie, set off to attend a meeting at the Rotary Club of Winchester on November 14. Harry agreed to drive us all in his posh car so we did not complain! Rotarian John Wilkinson and his wife Myra generously provided us with accommodation in their lovely cottage in Shawford just outside of the main town. On arrival John kindly gave us a most interesting tour of Winchester and Harry took lots of brill photos, especially of the stunning Winchester Cathedral.

Winchester is the largest club in the area, with a diverse membership of over 90. Such diversity requires a range of meetings

to suit individual needs; breakfasts, lunches and dinners and members come to any or all of these. They are involved in several youth-focused Rotary projects, community activities include reminiscence coffee mornings for those living with dementia and their carers and a Stroke Club. Members also organize social events such as an annual party for local senior citizens. Their major annual fundraising events are the Clarendon Marathon and a swimathon. During the Rotary year 2015-16 their fundraising totalled over £30,000. In addition the RC of Winchester has an environmental team and internationally they have been actively involved in '[Books for Schools](#)' charity and improving medical facilities at Kagando Hospital both in Uganda, and in the provision of an Ultra Sound Scanner for Yei Hospital in South Sudan. They are twinned with clubs in Germany and France and each year in rotation they get together with these clubs. The RC of Winchester is also involved in helping to support a proposal to set up the Rotary Jaipur Limb Project. This particular proposal, which is at a very early stage, is to establish a workshop in Kagando Hospital.

We were all warmly welcomed to their meeting which started promptly at 7.30 pm with a meal, followed by business, a break then presentations. The main one that evening was by Rotarian Kordo Saeed, Consultant Microbiologist from North Winchester Hospital Trust, talking about the interesting "things" that people bring back from holiday. Kordo, an Iraqi-Kurd, is a member of the Winchester Club and is also a double polio victim who is doing much to raise interest and funds for End Polio Now. His talk was horribly fascinating and we were shown slides with all manner of 'disgusting' ailments and pests that travelers can sometimes unwittingly bring home!

Meeting with John and Myra Wilkinson, and hearing about the excellent work with which they have both been involved in Kasese and Kagando Hospital, was very useful and has certainly motivated us to explore the possibilities of organising a B&W trip to Uganda!

**Sue**

## Owl Therapy 16th Nov

Sue reported that she and Bob, Harry and Maggie were well received on their visit to King Arthur's home town, Winchester Rotary. They have an impressive membership of 90 with approx 50-60 members attending the meetings. Mutual interest in projects in Uganda was discussed as well as superiority (by B&W Rotary) in purple bulb planting.

At tonight's meeting it was noted that there was a good turnout as we had extra guests and 2 Presidents (safety in numbers?) as Tricia (President) from Poynton Rotary joined us for the evening.

Anita from Hack Back then proceeded to deliver a very informative and inspirational talk on the work she does using "Owl Therapy". Having trained as a psychologist she incorporates her two owls - Murray and Mango - to help people with a range of problems and issues who appear unresponsive to current therapies.

Among her clients are people with mental health issues, substance misuse, vulnerable women who have been abused, cancer patients, young children who has been abused, patients in hospices, disabled adults, elderly and homeless people.

Working together with Birds of Prey (Cheshire Falconry) these birds help achieve results with people where other methods fail. The owls are specially trained and working with them help clients build up trust and a sense of purpose/raising confidence and self esteem.



There is involvement with Runcorn Rotary for a cross generational project. Rotary Members go into schools and read to the children from the owl story books about Murray and Mango. And email has gone out to see if this is something we might get involved in.

We were introduced to Murray (a burrowing owl - on account of the fact that he burrows.....) A more appropriate name might be Murray - a very noisy owl .....

Mango - a Barn Owl - was silent by comparison. Both owls had their late night supper at Rotary and we were rewarded by an impromptu aeronautical display as they flew between our tables and nearly mistook a couple of the nice hairdos as their landing strip!

Anita provided us with lots of interesting facts about her owls One of note is that they are social climbers as like to mix with the high and mighty. (Mayors and other dignitaries)

Anita is passionate about using "Owl therapy" as she sees such positive results . It suffers from underfunding and needs greater exposure to be recognised as a viable alternative therapy.

The evening ended with a vote of thanks to Anita and the usual toasts.

**Scribed by Denise**





This is what 6500 units of chocolate looks like and it is sitting in my front room and has been packed into gift bags ready for distribution by Santa.

Our local Sainsbury's manager, Toby has worked his socks off for the last few days, personally collecting all the offer bags left over from Halloween from all the local stores to get us the best possible value for our money. Having decided that to get together the number of sweets I asked for he would have to include some normal priced bags, he found that if he put them through his till they still came up at the offer price (about half as much). Not only that , he knocked off a further £20 as a gift from his store, so I think he has really done us proud.

**Maggie**

## **Bramhall High School 30th November**

Keen to meet and hear from the new Head teacher of Bramhall High School, Rotary members, spouses and guests turned up in impressive numbers and were welcomed and given a few brief notices which will be detailed in separate emails as necessary:

Gill requested meal choices, guest names and payment for the BWRC Christmas meal (see Gill's email from 18th November)

Date: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 7pm for 7.45pm

Venue: Bramhall Park Golf Club. Manor Road. Bramhall

Price : £25 pp – 3 course meal plus coffee.

Brian requested members contact him re: tickets for a performance of On Golden Pond by Ernest Thompson at CHADS theatre on Friday 27th January.

Maggie thanked members and their spouses who transformed the Hill's living room by bagging 6000 items of chocolate for Santa to share with small visitors to his sleigh. Please help add leaflets this afternoon / evening (Thursday 1st December) if you are available.

In his capacity as Treasurer, Michael encouraged members to voluntarily donate £20 in lieu of sending each other Christmas cards. £500 raised from individual charity donations from members will enable BWRC to claim Gift Aid on £5000.

After a hearty meal and coffee, we welcomed Lynne Fox who was appointed Head teacher at Bramhall High School in April 2016.

Lynne spoke about the importance she placed on knowing the local community and maintaining a high profile in order to be approachable and supportive. Lynne explained her passion and ambition for local pupils to gain success and that she was keen to be re-inspected by OFSTED following the 'Requires Improvement' label



the school received two years before her appointment.

Formerly a PE teacher in Manchester with a passion for hockey, Lynne became a Head teacher in Wigan for four years and then an Executive Head teacher in which she was able to share her leadership skills with other schools.

Now at Bramhall High, Lynne offered a few anecdotes of how high expectations are currently reinforced and support is given to her committed, gifted staff and to each pupil.

A lively Q & A session (with reference to EBaccs, Progress 8 scores, funding inequities and other educational jargon) was followed by warm applause and thanks expressed to our evening's Speaker by President Bob.

We look forward to forging closer links with the school; a web-link of regional and national Rotary Youth competitions will be emailed to Lynne.

Bob reminded members that next Wednesday is a Committee night but the next BWRC Council meeting would follow in January due to festive Rotary commitments.

Though this wasn't mentioned at the meeting, Ian highlighted via email a great Facebook message:



**James Pratt** ▶ **Bramhall and Woodford Rotary**

37 mins · Stockport · 🌐

Think I say for a lot of the people of Bramhall I'm really glad to see the floats going ahead this year .... for me it's the start of the festive period. I remember running out in my younger years and getting so excited when I heard the music !!! We've all grown up now but come out or all stand in our front room and wave the float past 😊 thank you to all involved 🙌🙌

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL IN RAISING LOTS OF MONEY FOR STOCKPORT SIGNPOST FOR CARERS (and other local charities) AND SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER.**

**Andrew**

# From T'Tinterweb

[Jane Dewhurst](#) Definitely! We have missed him over the last few years. Doesn't feel Christmassy until Santa has visited 🍪 📺

★ [Seraphina](#) Congratulations and well done to all those wonderful people who have made it possible for us all to enjoy your float - look forward to it every year and Merry Christmas.



[Jo Marie](#) Thank you so much for visiting our road. The children get so excited

[Daniella Hudson](#) I took my daughter to see him tonight for the 3rd year running. Amazing as always, she loves looking out for him and getting her goody bag. Thank you to everyone involved! X

[Walthew House for Deaf and Blind](#) Congratulations and thank you for your support once again this year!

[Vicki Holt](#) Yes thank you. It's the best day of the year! 🍪 📺 🌲

🍪 📺 🌲 [Claire Reynolds](#) Our 10th year of visits from Santa thanks Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club 🍪 📺 🌲

[Nicola Brooks](#) Thankyou, Thankyou, Thankyou. Waited a long time to see Santa on our road!! Merry Christmas. 🍪 📺 🌲 🎄

[Gill Roberts](#) Thank you. We saw you last night but our photos haven't turned out great. The kids loved it and we were all super impressed. Thank you again.

# This year

## The float

It went out for 15 nights and collected £7,521 (last year 7/14/£7425)

## Woodford

We collected on 10 days and raised £2,404 (last year 7/£1402)

## Other

We collected £208 at Bramall Hall and £274 at the Village square Grottos (last year £203 at Light Up Bramhall, £176 at Barclays and £347 Grottos)

## Overall Christmas collections

In total this year we collected £10,406 (last year £9,554)

In addition we received £2,000 sponsorship for the float which will pay for the sweets and give us a "kitty" of at least £1,000 for future float refurbishment or repairs or improvements.

Well done everyone!!

Cheers

**Michael**





A leading UK children's  
healthcare charity  
Registered charity no 296295

## ACTION FOR SICK CHILDREN

A leading UK children's healthcare charity  
Reg. Charity No: 296295

Action for Sick Children  
10 Ravenoak Road,  
Cheadle Hulme, Stockport  
SK8 7DL  
0161 486 6788  
val.jackson@actionforsickchildren.org  
www.actionforsickchildren.org.uk

Ref: VJ/GB/Donations  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to thank the members of the Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club for their very kind donation of £750.00 and for holding the fashion show in aid of Action for Sick Children; your support towards Action for Sick Children is sincerely appreciated.

Each year Action for Sick Children continues to advance its mission of ensuring that healthcare in the UK meets the unique needs of all children and young people and their families. With over 50 years' experience, [Action for Sick Children](#) campaigns on all aspects of healthcare, whether in hospital in the community or at home and from national policies to individual family cases.

With the help of supporters such as you we will continue to see improvements in the standards of children's healthcare and help us to implement new campaigns and appeals for the future.

Thank you once again for your very generous donation and for supporting Action for Sick Children.

Yours faithfully,

Kind regards,

VALERIE J JACKSON  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Val J Jackson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

## News from Uganda

I was so pleased to receive the following email from the head of Lhuhwahw Village, Uganda. You may remember a few years ago we sent money to Kasese RC to help support this very poor village to become more self sufficient. When Bob & I and David went out to Uganda in February 2013 we visited them and were treated as honoured guests and they were very grateful for our help and using the money appropriate. I was delighted to hear they are still benefitting from our input!

**Sue**

Dear sue,  
Happy Christmas and prosperous new year 2017 to you and your family and all Rotarians at BRAM HALL AND WOOD FORD UK.



We appreciate very much your zeal to assist our project in Lhuhwahwa community. The organization is moving forward the following photos represent some of the activities like these six women have also completed tailoring making a total number of 40 women in Lhuhwahwa

community who have got training from our project. Pigs were bought from profits of clothes.

We are requesting you to continue praying for us.  
May God bless you all

Yours truly

Masereka Stephen

Wonderful photos from  
Lhuhwahwa



## **Committees 4th Jan**

18 happy souls turned up for the first meeting of 2017, to be joined after the meal by John Sykes. After lots of hugging, kissing and shaking of hands to the words "Happy New Year", we sat down to the normal excellent food. Peter had placed wine on the tables to celebrate his son getting a CBE for services to childcare.

We also celebrated our lovely waitress, Claire's, birthday slightly to her embarrassment.

After the meal and coffee John Sykes conducted an admirably brief EGM at which the 2017-2018 officers and VP were elected. They are: David Rose as president, Steve Littlewood as Vice, John Sykes as secretary and Michael as treasurer.

The committees reported as follows.

### **Secretary NTR.**

**Treasurer** : Both the general and charity accounts have about £2,000 of available funds. Reminder re Xmas card donations.

**Ways and Means:** The use of volunteers at Woodford was a success. Collections at the precinct and Bramall Hall were OK and raised our profile. The Santa machine could be used in, for example, the precinct but should not be used at Woodford. The Santa stops worked but were possibly over popular. We need more "trained" team leaders for the float. For the Duck Race we can only collect on two mid-week days at Handforth Dean (9/11 May). We are awaiting replies from Notcutts and Co-op at Dairyground Rd. We have asked HIMOR if, in the event of a shop being empty, we can use it to promote the Duck Race. Opinions were sought re a Spring fashion show, possibly another lunch time with meal one.

**Community Service:** The blind run will restart at end of January. Signpost for Carers are coming next week to give us a talk and receive their cheque. Andrew will visit the local heat of

Youth Speaks (14/2) to prepare for us entering a team later.

**International:** Our loan via Lend With Care is working well with money coming back which we can later reinvest. The village project in Uganda is proving a great success with profits made from using the sewing machine we gave being used to buy pigs and so on. Sue and Harry are plotting in secret from their partners to elope to Uganda (I may have slightly misunderstood this bit!)

**Communication:** No Ian, no report

**Social:** Chads is 2/3rds sold out. Tickets will be ready soon.

The End

**Michael**

Just to say TWO BIG THANK YOUs, firstly to all those who came to Walthew House this afternoon and blitzed the stuffing, and secondly to those who risked trench foot on Saturday morning to plant another 6,000 bulbs in the park. I think it is quite astounding that in three sessions (well three and a little bit really) we have managed to plant 16,000 bulbs which will give a great show come the spring.

I'm still in discussions about the plaque which will have our name and that of the Friends of BH+P on it but that will be sorted before the flowers emerge.

Well done everyone!

**Harry**

## **From Kate Puc at Francis House to Ian**

Good News Ian

We have had the money from Barclays Bank and the amount was £1251.00

It has just come in.

So that makes the grand total for the Duck Race 2016 ...Drum

Roll..... an incredible £13,251.00 0- thank you so so so much again.

As Uren has now left who shall I send the thank you too?

I hope you are feeling much better.

All the very best

Kate x



## **Ian's reply**

Thanks Kate for letting us know. This is really good news. It is just a great pity though that it has taken such a long time to get sorted.

Please do not worry about sending a note of thanks to Barclays. We know there is a new manager in place now and one of our members will be establishing contact in the coming week to investigate the possibility of future support.

May I, on behalf of the Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club, thank you for your support and forbearance and wish you well with your future fundraising efforts.

Best regards,

Ian Dobson

Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club

## **And again from Kate:**

Thank you Ian for those kind words.

It has been lovely working with you and the members of the Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club.

I hope your future fundraising goes well and the duck race this year.

I hope that we may work together again sometime in the future

and that you keep Francis House in the back of your mind  
and if you can't think of which charity to support you know we  
would only be too glad to hear from you.  
Many many thanks for your support.  
All the very best for 2017  
**Kate x**

## Science Word Search!

Find each of the words in the box below. Words may go across, down, or diagonally.

ATTRACT  
GAS  
LARVA  
REPEL

CONSTELLATION  
GENETICS  
LIQUID  
SKELETON

CRATER  
GLACIER  
PHOTOSYNTHESIS  
SOLID

EARTH  
GRAVITY



G	A	S	Y	C	Z	Z	K	D	P	G	A	R	I
E	G	V	R	O	Z	I	P	Y	H	A	E	B	H
N	R	C	E	N	A	H	S	N	O	T	A	L	H
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L	Y	X	E	L	V	R	A	T	N	T	T	C	T
A	K	K	L	A	X	D	A	W	T	Z	I	O	P
C	S	C	I	T	H	V	G	T	H	T	V	I	A
I	B	L	Q	I	W	Y	X	P	E	S	A	O	A
E	L	F	U	O	F	L	M	N	S	R	O	S	F
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X	B	E	D	G	S	G	F	L	S	X	M	P	L

frames Pedigree View X Bramhall and W... X FamilySearch.or X Little Be

→ ↻ <https://www.facebook.com/bramhallwoodfordrotary/posts/1854937> ☆



### Billy Bow's Big Scarecrow Adventure

The adventures of Billy Bow, Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club's scarecrow have been captured in a new book raising funds for Rotary's Purple4Polio...

ROTARYGBI.ORG

97 people reached Boost post

Like Comment Share

Tamsin Hill and Herbert Chatters Chronological

 **Walter Thomas** Pleased to report that Billy Bow's Adventure book is now in use at a specialist school for Downs Syndrome children in Silves,Algarve .Teachers think it's a HOOT !  
Like · Reply · Message · 21 hrs

 **Bramhall and Woodford Rotary** Interesting comment Walter. Can you tell us any more about this potentially interesting and intriguing situation?  
Like · Reply · Commented on by Ian Dobson [?] · 19 hrs

 **Walter Thomas** we have had regular trips to Portugal over the years and are friendly with a Portuguese family in Silves,Algarve .Ana works for the local council and has been a trained teacher with Downs Syndrome youngsters for a long time now .She is always looking for material to engage with the group and this year we gave her Billy Bows Adventure Holiday book at Christmas. We will find out the story progress on our next visit in 8 weeks.  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 7 hrs

 **Bramhall and Woodford Rotary** What a great tale. Thank you for your support Walter and please pass on our thanks to Ana. We hope everyone in Portugal continue to thoroughly enjoy Billy Bow's Holiday adventures.  
Like · Reply · Commented on by Ian Dobson [?] · 19 hrs · Edited

## Signpost for Carers on January 11<sup>th</sup>

There were the usual absences on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Bruce Bissell was still looking for snow in Switzerland, but we were pleased to see Dev once again. Bob Stevenson had his repaired arm in a sling. John Thewlis had been knocked over by his exuberant dog and injured his leg, whilst Olive Hunt had fallen down a few stairs and hurt her foot and Geoff was looking after her. We wish them all well.

Ian Dobson had a bag containing an unspecified number of euros (at least I think that was the position) with a value approximating to £27. These had been donations in our Christmas collections! Bids were solicited for this bounty, and Bob S. won with a bid of £30. Michael was generously prepared to add 4 supermarket trolley tokens, again from Christmas collections!

Harry reminded us of the annual competition for the Walthew Cup which was to take place on March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Parrs Wood bowl. Michael reported on the great difficulty that he had breaking old mobile phones prior to disposal. Even several hammer blows were barely sufficient! Ian reported on the success of the Billy Bow's scarecrow book, which was being used in the Algarve as a teaching aid for Downs Syndrome children. Now that is surprising! President Bob and several more of our Rotarians were planning to visit Kasese in Uganda in March to renew friendships and continue our support. Anyone interested was invited to join the group.

After the break, Ron introduced our guest for the evening. Jennie Dav-



vies is the only full time member of Stockport Signpost for Carers, all the other staff being part time. Jennie told us of how she started the group in 1986 and how it had grown greatly over the years. In Stockport alone there are thought to be 2000 carers supporting relatives, parents and others who depended on their help. Many of these carers were under

18 years old, and one was as young as 6. The organisation provided emotional and financial help to those in need, and was able to interact with many local charities and social services to connect those in need to the sources of appropriate help and support. A lot of those in need do not see themselves as carers, and do not realise that additional help is available. Contacts in local schools help Signpost to identify children who care for parents. These children may, for example, go home every lunchtime to feed the parent(s) and may have to get up extremely early before school to do essential household chores.

A cheque for £2000 was given to Jennie for Signpost. This sum was from our Christmas Woodford Park charity collection.

Our next meeting, the Christmas Float quiz night, would be on January 18<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was to be a buffet meal, cost £5, and the evening would start at 7.30, not 8pm. Please note!

The evening ended at an unbelievable 9.50 pm. This could be a record for our club!

**Dennis**

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## **A Different View of Christmas from Maggie**

Oh no, it's all over for another year. I have to say I was quite heartbroken on twelfth night and had to steel myself to take down the decorations and pack them all away at the very last moment. It will come as no surprise to most of you that I absolutely love Christmas and everything that it can throw at me. When many of you are filled with horror by the thought of following Santa on his float for several hours on a cold, dark night, I just can't wait. If I had the time and the energy I would be out there on all fifteen nights.

As I wandered around the village shopping this week I heard on more than one occasion, " Thank goodness it's over. Let's get back to normal." What's wrong with you people? It's the best time of year!

Perhaps my love of the hustle and bustle of Christmas is because it has always been that way. Christmas has always been a huge part of my family's life. I can still see the thick, blue, paper bags, filled to the brim with dried fruits, arriving in a bicycle basket with Ann our Co op girl. They then had to be washed and sorted for tiny pebbles before drying ready for use in the cake and puddings. I think that was my job as soon as I could stand on a chair to reach.

When the puddings were finally mixed everyone in the family had to stir the mix twelve times in a clockwise direction to ensure twelve lucky months in the coming year.

The cake, once in the baking tin, had to be wrapped and double wrapped in layers of grease proof paper to make sure it didn't 'catch' on any side in our rather unpredictable gas oven.

As well as preparing all the Christmas food to the highest possible standard because my gran and grandad would be with us on Christmas Day, my mum had another enormous task. This is probably why I can keep my cool when the lounge is full of 2000 bags of sweets and the hallway is full of SANTA suits and beards a week before the whole family descends on us for Christmas.

My dad was the headmaster of a village school in West Yorkshire and I'm proud to say that he made sure that Christmas was special for all the pupils. There was always a huge party for the whole school. The partitions between the classrooms were drawn back and the desks were rearranged to provide party tables the whole length of the long hall which was formed.



This is where my mum came in. She would produce individual jellies with three different coloured

layers, in waxed water lily shaped dishes, for the entire school. This meant that each layer of jelly in every one of the couple of

hundred dishes had to be left to set before another layer could be added and so for days before the party, every conceivable surface in our house had a jelly on it, some set, some not. It was a bit of a lottery so woe betide anyone who nudged the wrong one.

The day before the party, the jellies were joined by cooling trays of fairy cakes. This is when it became really interesting trying to move around the house. It wasn't until party day that some of the teachers, only the ladies of course, came and joined my mum to make potted beef and salmon spread sandwiches and the like ready for the afternoon. I wasn't allowed to help with the jelly making, the layers had to be just the right depth, until I was quite old. I had to content myself with cutting and rolling endless strips of crepe paper to make streamers which would join the massive Christmas tree which decorated the hall. Everyone seemed to enjoy the party, at least in my memory. I think this could be where my love of Christmas originated.

Christmas for me is all about the magic. Santa must be real for the children as he always has been for me. One of the best nights for me on Santa's rounds this year could easily have been a disaster. We arrived at the meeting point on time and after waiting for half an hour realised that SANTA was not going to turn up. At this point the collecting group which consisted of only four people really, as one partially blind lady was assisted by her two children, began ringing around trying to find a replacement SANTA. Thankfully a rather small and skinny SANTA in the form of Bruce Bissel, who was just coming off his shift at Woodford Park, stood in for half an hour so that we could get started. Eventually the grandad of the two teenagers in the group was dragged out of his nice warm armchair to play the part. We were told from the start that he would not be pleased and that he would be very grumpy. Not a very promising start and as he drew up in the car the mist started to come down. As we helped him to get ready it became apparent that at least in the dark he was almost totally blind. It looked as though it was going to be a very long night.

We set off with just 2 collectors on each side of the road and as

we progressed along the route the mist became thicker and damper. There was no lack of children coming out to see SANTA and I reckon a little bit of Christmas magic happened. Santa warmed to his new job and was absolutely brilliant with the many children who climbed up to see him and it turned out that in the strong lights of the float he could see them . The collectors were amazing and covered every house on the round until the very last Road when we deemed it too late to knock on doors. The best thing of all was seeing little children coming out in bare feet and pyjamas and not even noticing the cold in their excitement at meeting SANTA. The lights on the surrounding houses were absolutely magical through the mist and despite the cold everyone was smiling. This is what makes Christmas for me.

So to all you, "bah humbug " people, try looking for the magic in Christmas this year.

**Maggie.**

(and here's the school where I grew up)



In the lifetime of club members, here are some of the events that have shaped our world. There are, of course, many others

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>
1927	White Lines introduced on roads
1928	Votes for Women age >21
1928	Penicillin discovered by Alexander Fleming
1929	Wall Street Crash
1932	Mass Trespass on Kinder Scout
1934	Cats Eyes invented ( Percy Shaw )
1934	Launch of Queen Mary liner
1935	Radar invented
1935	National Grid completed
<b>1936</b>	<b>Abdication of Edward VIII ( after only 10 months )</b>
<b>1936</b>	<b>George VI</b>
1936	First Butlin's Holiday Camp (Skegness)
1936	BBC TV Broadcasts
1938	Munich agreement Chamberlain & Hitler
1939	Jarrow March to London by 200 shipyard workers
<b>1939</b>	<b>Second World War</b>
1940	Blitz bombing raids on Britain
1940	First fully fitted kitchens appear
1944	Education Act ---- Secondary Education for all
1944	Green Belt established around London
1946	Heathrow Airport opens
1946	New Towns Act (Stevenage = first )
1947	School leaving age raised to 15
1948	National Health Service established
1948	Nationalisation of Railways
1948	First Jamaican immigrants to London
1948	Last Workhouses in Britain close their doors
1949	First commercial Passenger Jet (Comet) is built
1949	First high rise block of flats built in Holborn, London
1950	Korean War
1951	Festival of Britain
1951	Peak District National Park

## More TimeLine

### **Year Event**

- 1951 First Zebra Crossing appears
- 1952 **Elizabeth II**
- 1952 Britain tests first Nuclear Bomb
- 1956 Suez Crisis
- 1956 Britain's 1st Nuclear Power Station (Calder Hall, Cumbria )
- 1957 Sputnik 1 and the start of the space race
- 1958 CND founded
- 1959 Start of Vietnam war
- 1960 Birth control pill becomes available
- 1961 Berlin wall started. 1st manned flight into space
- 1962 Cuban missile crisis
- 1963 Assassination of John F Kennedy
- 1964 Beatles first visit to USA
- 1965 Death of Winston Churchill
- 1969 Moon landings
- 1971 Invention of the micro chip
- 1973 Watergate
- 1977 First mass produced home computers
- 1978 First test tube baby
- 1979 Smallpox eradicated
- 1981 Wedding of Charles and Diana
- 1982 First commercial CD player
- 1985 Live Aid concert
- 1986 Challenger and Chernobyl disasters
- 1989 Fall of the Berlin wall
- 1990 World Wide Web invented
- 1991 Dissolution of the Soviet Union
- 1994 Nelson Mandela elected
- 1997 Death of Diana
- 1999 Introduction of the Euro
- 2001 World Trade Centre destroyed
- 2003 Iraq war begins
- 2008 Stock markets plunge



## Windows 10, a new operating system

If you are buying a new computer or have been persuaded to upgrade your existing one by Microsoft's constant nagging and nefarious methods, you will have the latest operating system called Windows 10. There was no Windows 9 (to avoid confusion with windows 98) so they went from 8 (which was a disaster) to 8.1 to 10.

During the time when the upgrade was offered for free, I upgraded a laptop from Windows 7 and just couldn't get it to work properly. Things that had previously been OK just failed to function so I undid the changes within the time period allowed. Another laptop upgraded without a hitch so it depends on the age and make of the machine whether you have problems or not.

I recently replaced my ageing desktop machine with one having Windows 10 already installed and found that an older printer that I was quite happy with was no longer supported although everything else works fine.

Why did Microsoft change to Windows 10? As time goes by, they will remove all support for previous versions which will free up their staff to concentrate on just one system although that system will go through many iterations in the future. BUT, and it's a big but, Windows 10 is riddled with permissions that allow Microsoft to snoop on everything you type, visit on the Web or speak into the microphone. They say that this is simply to offer a more personalised experience but it is really to gather marketing and other data. Big Brother has arrived. You can however, severely limit what gets reported by typing into Google '*Windows 10 privacy settings*' and follow the instructions given by one of the sites that comes up. THEN, recheck them periodically as upgrades to Windows 10 have been accused of resetting them but surely they wouldn't do that? Would they?

**Gordon**



## **25 years ago**

This covers the period November 1991 to January 1992, Nos 5 to 7. Local guide and scout groups offered to help fill emergency boxes which cost £18 each. We had a candidate, a business manager at Stepping Hill Hospital, for the Group Study Exchange scheme which was visiting Oklahoma. Barclays Bank told the Rotary Wives they would no longer be able to have free banking. The tariff would be 63p per entry and £5.00 per quarter standing charge so the ladies withdrew their £17.74 and closed the account. Our second sponsored rail trip to London was not as successful as the first because British Rail put up their charges by 35%. (No change there over the passing years). A Rotary Scholar from Zimbabwe gave an interesting insight into life in a segregated society. Sid Davies informed us that President Mugabe must be from Accrington as spelt backwards his name is E-ba-gum !! We had a debate that "the image of Rotary is responsible for the decline in RIBI today". One of the contributors said that the outsider's image of Rotary is of wealthy businessmen meeting for their own benefit who occasionally do some good in the community. We do very little to change this image, locally or nationally, this encourages the view that we are very secretive. We do publicise ourselves at the Festival, after which we disappear until next year. Our average age increases each year as we fail to recruit new younger members. We must change our image to survive (thankfully we have changed). George Webster whose wife was Polish gave a moving talk about the poor state of affairs in Poland and a hospital in Plonsk in particular. This was to give rise to a trip to Plonsk by some members of our club to deliver hospital supplies. (Dennis Allport can give more details). One of our members at the time performed regularly on the stage at CHADS.

**Ron Malabon**

## Quiz Night 18th January

Everyone assembled at the club and the evening started with part one of the Quiz brilliantly run by Brian and Jan. At 8.30 p.m. Claire and her helpers silently produced the buffet food and everyone was very impressed with the quality and quantity of the food provided. Claire's team did a splendid job.

Then followed part two of the quiz. Everyone seemed to enjoy participating in the quiz and were amazed at some of the answers to the questions - we all learnt something but will we remember all the new facts! The cleverest team were Woodford Cricket Club with 71% of the answers correctly answered followed by Michael's team with 69% with the Mill coming in at 63%. Chocolates were handed round to the winners and Gill's team received the wooden spoon!

We were unable to give Santa's helpers their cheques but they will receive the money by banker's draft. The whole evening ran very smoothly to my great relief and we covered the cost of it as well.



**Vida**

### Note from the DG

#### End Polio Now

As I write, there have been no further cases reported in Nigeria, but we must remain vigilant. The year to date figure for wild polio cases in 2016 is thirty-two, compared to fifty-six for the same period in 2015. Virus derived polio for these periods is down from twenty to only three.

Please continue to support End Polio Now, in terms of publicity and funds, so that we can beat this disease once and for all.

**Stan Bowes**

## Scam emails—a warning from District

Dear District Secretary

It has been brought to our attention that there is currently a scam email being broadcast that we would like to make you aware of so that you may advise the membership of your clubs accordingly.

The email is sent in the name of Michael Hall, purporting to be a Rotarian from the London area and a member of District 1070 – however, the area and district may change depending on the target group. This person indicates that he is an Attorney and looking to access funds from the estate of a deceased person with the same surname as the Rotarian they have emailed.

This is obviously a false phishing message **and should not be responded to**. The nature by which the Rotarian information is collected is normally via the unscrupulous use of web crawlers or trojans on infected machines to obtain email addresses, or simply machine based programmes that randomly try until they get a hit.

It is therefore important that Rotarians protect themselves from such scams and are aware and use good email etiquette to protect the information they hold. We would, therefore, like to remind members that when sending email messages to more than two people it is recommended that they use the BCC facility as this helps prevent information being accessed.

Thank you for disseminating this information.  
Regards

**Tina Howard**  
**Head of Club & District Support**

## A Cunning Plan (from 2008)

**Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club - 5 year Plan 1/7/2008 to 30/6/2013**

### Plan A

Over the five year period we plan to change ourselves from:

A little known club of 35 almost all male members over 60, which serves the local community in small ways directly and raises modest funds for local, national and international projects.

**to:**

A little known club of 30 almost all male members over 65, which serves the local community in small ways directly and raises some funds for local, national and international projects

i.e.

Little known – maybe less well known

35 members – 30 members

One female – maybe a female or two

Nobody under 50 – Nobody under 55

Small amount of local hands on service (under 10 man hours per week?) – less of it

Modest fund raising (£10k pa?) - some fund raising (£5k pa?)

### Plan B

Over the five year period we plan to change ourselves from:

A little known club of 35 almost all male members over 60, which serves the local community in small ways directly and raises modest funds for local, national and international projects.

**to:**

A well known club of 50+ members including at least 10 female

and 10 under 50, which offers direct services (hands on) to the local community and raises significant funds for local, national and international projects.

i.e.

Little known – well known

35 members – over 50 members

One female – at least 10 female

Nobody under 50 – at least 10 under 50

Small amount of local hands

on service (under 10 man hours per week?) – more of it (over 30 man hours per week)

Modest fund raising (£10k pa?) - significant fund raising (£50k pa)



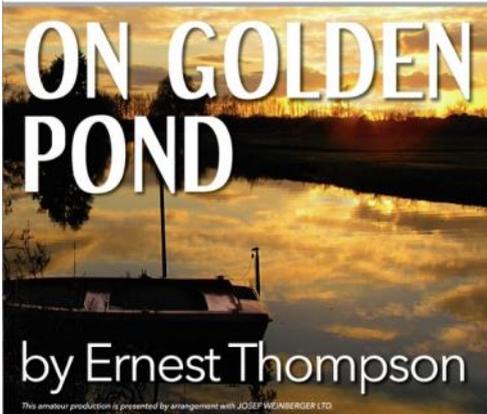
## Bulb Planting at Bramall Hall

The gardening volunteers were again blessed with fine weather on Saturday, quite remarkably so, considering the amount of rain which has fallen on the days before and after! It was lovely to see a couple of new "recruits" who came along and worked hard with the rest of us planting bulbs (provided by SMBC) in the sometimes waterlogged ground.

The bulbs were a mix designed to naturalise in grass, so we hope for a great display of colour next spring. There were some species tulips in the mix and they would hate the damp conditions of the chosen site, so we fished out most of them and they have been planted near the Playground where the soil is sandy and free-draining.

Although the gardening timetable has a couple of dates in December we have decided to hang up our spades until the New Year. After planting 16,000 bulbs in the last three sessions I think we deserve a break!





CHADS  
THEATRE

27th Jan

Our annual Chads Theatre trip was very enjoyable, many thanks to Brian for organizing this event and much appreciation to both he and Jan for the delicious M&S buffet! Nearly all the tickets were sold and the audience loved the play. Many of us remembered the original film *On Golden Pond* was released in December 1981 with Henry Fonda, Katharine Hepburn and Jane Fonda in the starring cast.

'*On Golden Pond*', by Ernest Thompson is a classic American comedy/drama that was every bit as touching, warm, and witty today as when it debuted on Broadway in 1979. The story is about the retired couple Ethel and Norman Thayer. The couple spend every summer at their home on Golden Pond. Norman, who is beginning to experience memory problems, celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Their adult daughter visits, bringing along her 13-year-old step-son. The turbulent relationship between father and daughter, the generation gap between young and old, and the difficulties facing a couple in the twilight years of a long marriage, all combine in a play that gave us unique insight into family life and aging. The actors were of a high standard and overall this was a most enjoyable evening.

**Sue**

**And from Brian**—103 tickets were sold (= £1,030) with costs of £255 for the buffet and £360 to CHADS - leaving a profit of £415.

# Appeal



The blind run continues to be popular with the people we take to Walthew House who would otherwise find it very difficult to attend. We now need more help on this community effort so if you can spare a couple of hours on Monday every few weeks, it would be of great benefit. Please contact Ron who can give you more details.

## And now for more good news

Rotary Foundation issued us with a certificate for our support of the 'End Polio Now' campaign (see Bob's Bulletin page)

2015-16



## *Bramhall & Woodford*

is presented a certificate of appreciation for its financial support of End Polio Now: Make History Today Campaign. Together, we will fulfill our promise to the children of the world and eradicate polio.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Kingsmith".

Ray Kingsmith  
Chair, The Rotary Foundation Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.R. Ravindran".

K.R. Ravindran  
President, Rotary International



The theme of President's Drinks this year (have we ever had a theme before?) was 'Talking Heads' and some imaginative headgear got people talking. Many thanks to Bob and Sue for working so hard to make this a success.





WAITING TO SEE SANTA



A happy Christmas party

Brian in question master mode at the quiz

