

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



Charity No. 1025767  
District 1050  
Chartered 24/9/1986

# Bulletin



Harry tries to continue his Presidential speech and maintain his dignity throughout despite an examination by 'Dr Jan'

An historic night—the first social evening which was held at The Hesketh. Harry is invisible and Gordon took the pic.



Dame Mary Peters spoke at the Belfast Conference

Chloe and Clare from Blood Bikes at the fashion show with someone from our club



## *Harry's Homily*

This is my last “Homily” as I will be unceremoniously dumped in favour of my Vice, Gill, before the next bulletin is published. I want to thank everyone in the club for the support you have given me over the past ten months, and also your tolerance of my foibles.

As I write this, we are in the midst of selling Duck Race tickets as we try to top last year's total. Despite the demands on our time we are still able to mount collections for the Nepal earthquake and I am sure we will send some of our slice of the Duck Race takings as well.

We are almost half way through our experimental reduction of formal meetings and as with most things there are good points and not so good ones. A big hit has been the social gatherings in pubs and eateries because it allows more time to talk to each other. We really are a nice bunch of people! And with that I say “Thank you and goodnight!”



## Committees 4<sup>th</sup> February

There was an excellent attendance at this meeting. Whether this was due to our new twice monthly regime or not, time will tell! We welcomed Julia Shaw again, and also our own Chris Monkhouse, back from distant parts of the realm.

President Harry decided, after much to-ing and fro-ing, that the gathering next week (not one of our 'official' meetings) would be at the Hesketh Arms. Sue would email all requesting names of those who wished to book a meal. A Walthew stuffing session would take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. The club remembered Abi who had just lost her mother. A further 10 pin bowling competition involving Walthew attendees will take place on 25 March, when it was expected that we would enter a team or two, and once again expected to lose miserably! The club would fund one lane for £50.

Our best wishes, and a scurrilous doggerel, accompanied Pat, who was to have a hip replaced in a week's time. She will soon be dancing again!

VP Gill and many helpers had managed to provide 200 bags of items for disadvantaged children in The Gambia. These would be starting their journey in the near future, beginning in Worksop. Gill and aides were well advanced in organising the Silverthon for July. Details will soon be on our website. A celeb was also coming!

Our funds were still in good shape, according to Michael.

Bob P. announced that the Spring Fashion Show on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Deanwater was almost ready to hit the catwalk. Maggie was C-in-C of this event. It was intended that the profits would go to the Blood Bikes charity. The Duck race on 17<sup>th</sup> May was also advancing well. Lots of activities were being planned as usual. Gordon had a 'quacking duck', which quacked on

demand and which would hopefully attract the attention of ticket buyers once the ticket-selling season opened. Michael suggested that we should use the Santa-tracking system to track the Duck bus's location for potential passengers. It was suggested that the club should buy a smartphone for this purpose.

Ron reminded members of the collection for the Mercian Regiment's veterans on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at B&Q.

John Thewlis reminded the club that two members were expecting to attend the forthcoming International Rally. He also told us that our guest visitor, Julia, would be speaking at a future meeting on the subject of Kurdistan.

Ian had recently updated the database of local schools. The update was now on our website. The bus company that provided the Duck Bus transport service last year had adopted their big duck as company mascot! Promotion indeed.

Vida offered to order Rotary badged items for members if they made their requirements known. Sid won the next free meal after the usual draw. Our next meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> would be about Chinese culture. After reminding us of duties for writing the next Bulletin report, and Blind Run drivers, our President closed the meeting at a respectable 10.20.

## Dennis

Some of the 'stuffers' who assisted Walthew House with their annual raffle mail-out on the 6th Feb



## **Gill's fantastic 'Bags of Love' project.**

Just a final update on the Bags of Love project which we have now completed. When we started we thought we would aim for 30 bags and this escalated to almost 170 bags, 56 pairs of sandals, 15 brand new outfits for babies (donated) 80 tubes of toothpaste, and some large toys for nurseries which were too big to fit in the bags. On Friday I hired a van and took them all to Worksop to meet the man from the charity and to transfer them to the container which will be shipped out when its full, mainly waiting for more medical equipment for the new clinic. It is likely going to be the early summer before it reaches the Gambia.

So many thanks to all of you who donated items for the bags and especially to Abi who made so many wonderful colourful bags. Thanks also to those of you who donated cash, this was given to the charity to purchase 50 kg bags of rice which will be given to the poorest families on the books of the charity. This can be done immediately.



At council last night, they agreed to pay the cost of the van and petrol from the charity account, this was £75 and was gratefully received. Here's a picture of the van outside my house !!

**Gill**

## **Mercian Money**

The Collection at B+Q for the Mercian Regiment on the 14th Feb made £477.78, plus 57 cents and Bruce's pub collections add £140 making a total of £617.78. This has been made up to £650 and has been sent to the Mercian fund.



## **A meeting at Barclays**

Myself and Ian had a meeting with Anneliese Riley, Manager of Barclays, last Friday. The meeting went very well and Anneliese said they would continue to support the Duck race by sending at least 5 members of staff to help sell tickets on the day. Could be more but will not be less. That guarantees us £5000 in sponsorship. They would like to sell tickets in the branches - Bramhall, Cheadle, Hazel Grove and Stockport. We could issue them with 500 tickets. They would like some more publicity on the day. They will investigate having a Barclays tent and pull up poster where they are selling tickets. Anneliese said that their large duck was left out last year - we must make ensure that it gets in the water this year and if possible wins!

They may be able to support the Spring fashion show and Silverthon challenge. Could possibly have a number of staff modelling for the fashion show and help with the Silverthon administration. We need to be aware that each member of staff can support a charity by helping to raise money and nominate it to receive £1000, but the money is a matching grant and we would have to raise £1000 for them to match it. This is not a problem with the Duck Race but could be with other events.

They want us to send them the details of the Dragons Den winners and the Food Bank contact.

**Bob Preece**

## Chinese culture 18<sup>th</sup> Feb



Harry opened proceedings promptly at 8p.m. (more or less!) but hadn't got the aid of The Bell (gone missing). Gordon suggested he should get `the No-bell` prize! He started by welcoming our two

guests/speakers - Ian from Blood Bikes & Xiaomin Peng our main speaker. As it was the Chinese New Year, Harry presented the young lady with a New Year card on behalf of the Club. Grace was then professionally said by David Rabone. Vida was then on stage for the usual `Guests & Apologies` - as well as our Speakers we had 5 Rotary Wives, our `regular` guest Julia plus a Gentleman friend of Dennis's (I didn't catch his name, but apparently Dennis is trying to cajole him to become a member!) Mention was made of Abi, not ready to rejoin us yet, & Pat who has just had a hip replacement. There were no takers for `any other business` apart from Trevor who brought us up to date with the proposed officers for the coming year.

We then tucked into the usual lovely grub & after the loyal toast we were asked to be back soon as our speaker had a train to catch.

On our return, Ian was then invited to give us a brief intro to the work of the `Blood Bikes` (our main charity for the Fashion Show) which he did very effectively. They are all volunteers - about 30 for Manchester area, & they deal with essential medical deliveries for NHS using the impressive Motorbikes & they have a few cars available in case of inclement weather conditions.

John Knowles then introduced Xiaomin Peng to speak to us about the history of Traditional Chinese Culture. She started off



well by passing round some typical Chinese goodies, then started with Part One, `The Essence of Traditional Chinese Culture` which took us back to 2,600 B.C. & Taoism then the teachings of Confucius & Buddhism. This included a mention of the Martial Arts such as Kung Fu which was part of the culture. This was followed by a description of the various Dynasties such as Tang.

Then we had a hiccup as the computer turned itself off! Gordon rushed to help but told us it was Microsoft`s fault so we had to wait for some time with no pictures!

This gave me a problem as my hearing aids had packed up the other day so I was struggling to hear what was said! However, eventually Microsoft came back to us & we were introduced to part 2 - The Destruction of Chinese Culture. This started in 1949 & was assisted by Communism from 1999.

Part 3 was Renaissance of Traditional Chinese Culture. This was by way of Shen Yun - Performing Arts, Music & Dancing on stage which went world-wide & is still so doing. At this stage our speaker had to apologise due to travel commitments but she got a round of applause as she bade farewell.

All that remained was info on the Blind Run & a reminder that the next formal meeting would be in 2 weeks time.

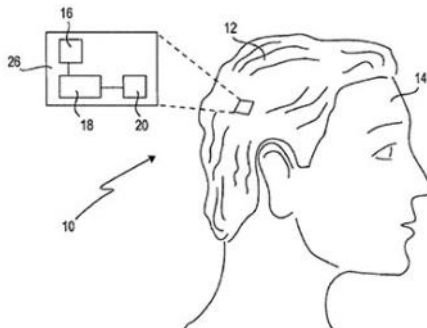
The meeting closed with the final toast & finished at 10.18pm.

**Peter**

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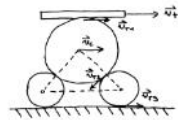
## iWig?

No, it's not an April 1st spoof. Google have applied for a patent on a hairpiece with implanted electronics. They say it can be made from human, yak or synthetic hair or even feathers.



## Obscure Engineering Conversion Factors

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese Soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfurlong
7. 365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer = 1 Lite year
8. 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Serling
9. Half a large intestine = 1 semicolon
10. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz
11. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
12. Shortest distance between two jokes = a straight line
13. 2000 mockingbirds = two kilomockingbirds
14. 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 Fig Newton
15. 1000 ccs of wet socks = 1 literhosen



## Every Rotarian, Every Year

As a club we try to meet our "every Rotarian every year" target of \$100 per member. We achieve this by voluntary member donations. Voluntary means just that and by no means all members do it. However it is an option which members should know exists and it is done by standing order - typically £5-10 per month. It is done through the Treasurer (me) and kept in confidence - so much so that I think we do not even have a record! So if you do not contribute, and wish to, then get in touch with me and we'll sort it

Cheers

**Michael**

## **President's Night 13th March**

What a great night! I had a wonderful time (which is what matters!) but everyone else seemed to enjoy it as well. My thanks go to all involved in organising the evening, particularly Brian who did a grand job (high praise from a Yorkshireman!) I do like the Hunting Lodge as a venue - the food was good and the staff were excellent as always.

The interruption, I confess, had worried me for weeks. I knew that Tony, despite being exiled in foreign parts, was itching to humiliate me and because he's such a wily old fox I knew he would have something worthwhile up his sleeve. Never in my worst nightmares did I think of a dress and long wig being involved! Climbing onto the tables was frightening because I could see myself landing in a heap as they gave way under my weight, but that was nothing compared to having the biggest loppers in the world being wielded near my nether regions! I really did feel that I'd been interrupted good and proper!

So thanks to everyone involved, and I'm looking forward to my last event, the barbecue, which will take place in early July.

Now what can we do for Gill's interruption next year?...

**Harry**

**.....And the reply**

Many thanks for your comments. I think all praise to the actors, Michael, Ian (over-acting), Gill, Caroline, our very own "Officer and a Plumber" John, and of course Jan who despite much protestation did deliver my line "Oh bu\*\*\*\*r, now the head's come off".

But don't blame Tony for the dress & wig. Got to fess up – that was purely me and Jan!

So glad you enjoyed it,

**Brian.**

## **The Fashion Show**

'It'll be alright on the night' could have been the tag line for this year's show with last minute ticket sales enabling us to proceed. Apparently, the Deanwater got a bit flustered about the sudden change of numbers but all was well in the end.

Our long-suffering audio system decided to choose this particular event to throw a sickie and so needed some tender ministrations and a good talking to by my soldering iron in order to survive the day but it was nursed through.

The weather conspired against us but to no avail. A massive hail storm battered the venue but we were well underway inside by then and were certainly on a roll.

Sorella dropped out due to illness leaving us with SOS, Crissan and Modiste. There was also a shortage of models but Rotary ladies stepped into the breach and performed excellently so we have a new slogan—Join Rotary and become a top model! You never know.

The supported charity was Blood Bikes who, much to my disappointment, didn't bring a bike but Clare and Chloe got their message across very well and many more people have now heard of this excellent organisation than previously. Clarins supported us brilliantly with a raffle prize worth £250 which was won by a lady who refused to let it go even for a second so it was obviously much appreciated.

We received many compliments about the organisation, the food and the event so many thanks to all who helped and to Maggie for her organisational skills. We raised a fantastic £950 for our cause.

**Gordon**



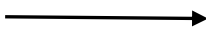
## Walthew House Bowling Tournament

This is getting silly, every year, the blind teams beat us soundly. In fact, they beat everyone. The fact that they practice every week and we are just plain rubbish has nothing to do with it. We managed to field two teams of 4 because we had 9 people (!!). Gill thought Harry had his maths wrong and pointed out that two times 4 is 8. Still, we had three lanes booked which made the maths even better. Michael was, unfortunately taken ill so couldn't make the numbers up to 10. I really must get Harry a calculator.

Gill's daughter Nicola came along and scored a few strikes and Harry's guest, Hilda who has helped us at various functions, did well and even managed to get one of the balls over the gutter guards and into the space between lanes. A real achievement. John Knowles started the day in great form with two strikes and gave us hope that we were going to romp home as winners but as the games went on, our rubbish scores dragged him down. Despite all this, our teams managed to come 2nd and 3rd which is quite respectable with Gill getting third best average. We beat Stockport

Lamplighters so that's what matters.

### Gordon



Mother and daughter celebrating strikes (and stripes)



## Cinema - Sue & Bob's recommended films Part 1, 2015 & 2014. (Part 2 in the next issue)

Most of these films have been rated by the 'Times' or the 'Guardian as 4\* or 5\* . We have seen those marked with a ✓

A Most Wanted Man	✓ New thriller, perhaps the best so far to tackle the war on terror
A Most Violent Year	Intelligent crime thriller set in 1981 New York
American Sniper	Most lethal sniper in USA history
Beyond Clueless	Fun analysis of teen movies
Birdman	Washed-up super hero in black comedy
Child 44	Set in 1950s Soviet Russia, couple join forces to capture a serial killer
Dark Horse	Incredible true story of a poor Welsh lady who breed a race horse
Enemy	A man seeks out his exact look-alike after spotting him in a movie
Ex Machina	Smart drama about beguiling robot
Force Majeure	5* Black comedy about the aftermath of an avalanche
Foxcatcher	Olympic wrestler helps form a wrestling team for the 1988 Olympics,
Inherent Vice	Joaquin Phoenix cruises California as a private eye, stoned (funny)
Last of the Unjust	French, activities of a Rabbi in concentration camp, during Holocaust
National Gallery	Documentary, work of frame-makers to boardroom meetings
Selma	Martin Luther King, march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama '65.
Still Alice	Linguistics professor and her family struggle with early Alzheimer's
Testament of Youth	✓ Must see, VG! Book by Vera Britten re 1 <sup>st</sup> WW

The Gambler	A self-destructive man watches his debts mount
Theory of Everything	✓ must see, amazing! Stephen Hawking story of his life
While we were young	NY couple find their lives reinvigorated by friendship with hipsters
Whiplash	✓ 5* Independent film about a drum teacher and his protégé
Wild	✓ Rhys Witherspoon, drug addict goes walkabout. Good scenery
Woman in Gold	Jewish survivor of WW2 fights for return of artwork the Nazis stole

### 2014 films

Babadook (horror)	Not like sound of this horror film, but got excellent reviews
Boyhood	Joys and pitfalls of growing up, filmed with same cast over 12 years
Gone Girl	✓ VG, psychological thriller, adapted by Gillian Flynn from her novel
Grand Budapest Hotel	✓ Good, but unusual humour
Hunger Games	Series consists of four science-fiction dystopian adventure films
Ida	Polish - Nun unearths family's secret in bleak yet arresting drama
Mr Turner	5* Mike Leigh's film is about English artist played by Timothy Spall
Pride	✓ VG, must see, brilliant, true story, gay support for miners' strike,
The Imitation Game	✓ Excellent, Alan Turing, Bletchley Park, code breaker – true story

Do you have a list of your favourite films/TV shows you could share with us? Send it to Gordon. For the record, mine are:

**Metropolis (1927)**. Fritz Lang's study of a dystopian future was the grandfather of Sci-Fi and has influenced many films since.

**2001 (1968)**. Another classic which introduced ground-breaking special effects and realistically shows that there is no sound in space. The follow-up, 2010 was a real disappointment.

**Patrick McGoohan—The Prisoner (1967)**. I am not a number. Incredible imagination about the controls that society places on us.

**Brassed Off**—The original Channel 4 film about the destruction of a mining community and its brass band.

### **ShelterBox team heads to Nepal following 7.8 magnitude earthquake**



A ShelterBox response team is preparing to travel to Nepal to see how ShelterBox can be of assistance following an earthquake measuring 7.8 in magnitude.

The quake occurred between the major cities of Kathmandu and Pokhara , with tremors felt as far away as Delhi in India. More than 500 people are reported to have died following the earthquake, while there is extensive damage to homes and buildings.

ShelterBox is already in talks with several aid agencies and Rotary contacts based in Nepal to see where we can help.

Dave Ray, ShelterBox Operations Coordinator, said: 'One of our contacts based in Kathmandu told us that the environment is filled with fear and that people have been told to expect more tremors. There is a lot of damage in Kathmandu and emergency relief will be required for sure.'



## The problem with M.E.N. 18th March



What a night! Around forty Rotarians and one guest gathered to hear Paul Harrison, Editor of the Stockport Express, give a very interesting and informative insight into the ways and woes of the newspaper world.

There is a story behind the numbers. Cheadle Rotary Club wanted to invite Mr Harrison to speak,

but he was unable to attend on Tuesday evenings which is when Cheadle meet. The neat solution to this problem was for Cheadle to come to our Wednesday meeting and bring their speaker along. Accordingly nine Cheadle Rotarians swelled our ranks.

Despite the larger numbers the food was well up to snuff. This was much appreciated by those guests near me, although the lack of chips was commented on!

Our (their!) speaker came armed with a laptop, but was dismayed to learn that the wi-fi coverage in the club is patchy. Michael came galloping (figuratively) to the rescue by setting up his mobile phone as a wi-fi hotspot. Just think, it's not so long ago that we used the telephone to talk to people!

Paul Harrison seems to have led a peripatetic existence as he moved from job to job and publisher to publisher. He now works for MEN, which is in turn owned by Trinity-Mirror. He has seen staff numbers tumble over his career: a decade ago he was in a team of six editors, several sub-editors and quite a few reporters; there is now one editor, one sub and four reporters. The most dramatic change though has been the move to online news. In Stockport the printed newspaper is delivered to about 280,000 people whereas the equivalent website is viewed up to 9 million times a month. This sounds wonderful, but the big problem is finding a viable income stream from web viewing. Printed newspapers have been around for a couple of centuries

and advertising has helped to fund them for most of that time. Online news, in its current form, is little more than a decade old and no-one has yet conclusively cracked the advertising conundrum or come up with an alternative funding model. Perhaps this explains Paul's evident preference for the printed word!

After a view of Paul's online paper an extended Q+A session ensued. In it, Paul gave some tips on how to get items published. Ian, as PRO, was taking notes!

The meeting finished very early, at about 10.15pm, but a great deal of mingling of the two clubs meant that the room didn't clear until later than usual. All in all a very successful joint meeting!

**Harry**

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### **Committees 1<sup>st</sup> April**

All fool's Day and a good attendance considering it was Committee Night. That, would you believe is a compliment to RCBW!! An excellent buffet dinner, as ever, the envy of Clubs in the District I am sure, was enjoyed by the twenty odd members attending (not that the members were odd just the numbers). During dinner Vida did Guests and Absentees. None of the first but quite a few of the latter. There was exchange about certain absentees but names were not mentioned, or your writer did not hear them, to protect any embarrassment. Vida also presented a bouquet of flowers and an uncollected raffle prize to Maggie for doing an absolutely superb effort in her work for the Fashion Show. Sales went from about 50 to 90 in the space of a week. Well done Maggie. Vida also announced that she had gone past her 'sell by date' in modelling which of course will be difficult to fill at the next Fashion Show. Vida you will be missed. Vice Pres' Gill announced that the next informal meeting will be at the Farmer's Arms Park St Poynton on Wed 8<sup>th</sup> at 7ish. About

18 attending. You can recognise the venue because a large Bullock (I think the spelling is correct) has been dropped outside the venue.

Membership. A notice will be sent out regarding the application of Julia Shaw in the next few days

Treasurer: Both accounts in good order with about £4500 in charity account

Ways and Means: Again thanks to Maggie's lead and members attending, the Fashion Show was a resounding success and realised about a £900 donation for Bikes for Blood. Gordon 'Sparks' put in some excellent maintenance work in last minute repairs to the sound stage. Apparently his head came out of amplifier looking like something from a Tom & Jerry cartoon when he mistook Harry's flashgun for a spark from what he thought was a dry joint!!!! Good job the bar was close by or was it a few reassuring words from Harry that settled him down.

The Duck Race arrangements were up to date including a van for transport, stalls, park arrangements, Duck Race Bus and sale of Duck Race tickets (More members needed for sales at various locations) and many other aspects, are in hand. If the weather is as good as last year it will need 'all hands to the pumps'. (Contradiction in turns I know). Your writer is pleased to state that Bramhall High has indicated that they are willing to help as part of their pupils Initiative Schemes. Do let us encourage them to do so and make sure they are kept occupied through the day.

Community Service: Ron has had further contact with Valley School. The "Friends of Valley" are confident that they will be able to provide manpower to help set up and take down gazebos etc. at the Duck Race.

International: John T announced that Vision Aid Overseas is cel-

celebration its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a proposed donation would be put before Council.

Communications: The Duck Race is being advertised in various publications and internet media. Silverthon similarly being advertised including District and RIBI websites. Photo shoot to take place in the following week. BWRC entering one team maybe two

Club Services. Nothing to report but Vida did sell three of our old District 1050 banners.

AOB. A new amplifier has been purchased. Harry reported on the Walthew House bowling competition where those who were not hard of seeing had to wear glasses to make them as if they were. Walthew won the competition with BWRC coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> (and V.P. Gill came 3<sup>rd</sup> in overall scoring).

**John Meeus**

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## **Rotary has a phone of its own!**

Gordon has donated his old smartphone (HTC Desire C) and I have got it unlocked and onto the Three network. So, we now have a device we can use in various ways. At Christmas float time it will be the Santa tracker, and soon it will be on the Duck bus so we can see where it is. At some events such as the Silverthon it will be the main contact point for "Rotary HQ". The number of the phone is **07480 556452**, but there is no point in calling it most of the time as it is switched off or in use as a tracker. Do make a note of the number for our main events such as the barbecue when, hopefully, it will be switched on and answered if called.

## **Michael**

If you enter this as one of the contacts in your own phone under the name 'Rotary Mob', it will save you having to write it down.

## **A second social 8th April**

As the second Wednesday of the month is now destined to be our "social " event of the month, we decided to have a group meal at the Farmers Arms in Poynton. The pub has recently been refurbished to a high standard and there is a separate restaurant now.

There were 18 attendees with four late cancellations so we would have achieved over 20, several of the wives also came along. Strangely they seated us in the same set up we have at Ladybridge in an "n" shape though this wasn't requested.

The pub offered us a set menu of three starters and three mains at a fixed price with everyone buying their own drinks and this made for easy calculations at the end! Peter had the foresight to bring along a voucher for 10% off which we assumed would be just for his meal but they gave us 10% off everyone's meal!. As the money had already been collected at that stage, we decided to donate the money left over to the charity account, so unexpectedly - a social event benefited the charity account. !

The food was excellent standard and a good time was had by all.

**Gill**



A few of the members who met at the Victorian for the third social.

# What I did on my Holiday *Or* Ten go a-travelling



This year's RIBI conference took place in Belfast in early April and ten stout Rotarians (strictly nine plus Oriane) took themselves off to Northern Ireland. The first surprise to your correspondent was the finding that the aeroplane carrying us had *propellers!* The last time I dealt with a propeller it was attached to a balsa wood model by an elastic band! Nonetheless we had a pleasant flight over the Isle of Man before landing near Harland and Wolff's shipyard.

The conference took place in the Waterfront complex and our hotel was a fifteen minute walk away, which provided Pat's new hip with some on-the-hoof physiotherapy. We were all pleasantly surprised by the weather, which was dry and warm (ish) as we went to our first session on Friday afternoon. Outside the Waterside entrance is a flock of sculpted sheep and, egged on by IPP Sue, we sat on them like naughty schoolchildren and took photos of ourselves.

The first session of the conference was crammed with speakers from all walks of life, and local voices predominated. The highlight for many was the talk given by Dame Mary Peters, the Olympic gold medallist, who is not only a Rotarian but has run or supported countless schemes to integrate the disparate sections of Belfast in the wake of what are euphemistically known as "The Troubles". From the same Belfast club came the deputy Lord Mayor who from our seat up in "the Gods" looked about nineteen but



who spoke with considerable maturity and sense.

Other speakers talked of their projects or told their life stories, and somewhere in the middle of it all came half a dozen young Irish dancers with their arms clamped by their sides but legs and heads and hair flying every which way. If they had worn big hats and green clothes I would believe in leprechauns! RI

President Gary Huang also made an appearance but those of us waiting for a great speech stirring Rotarians world-wide to action were disappointed, as we were taught how to do a “happy clap”. Those of you who came to my President’s Night will know my feelings on that sort of thing. Fortunately the organisers had found an excellent local comic who closed the session, but who also turned up at that night’s official dinner.



The Saturday and Sunday sessions followed the same pattern and if you want to know the details of speakers I’m sure they are available online somewhere. I know some of you have been to more conferences than I’ve had hot dinners and you know only too well the roller-coaster ride of rousing speaker followed by droning speaker. I’ve only been to two RIBI conferences, and this one came second.

Despite the packed schedule there was time to explore



Belfast to some extent. The warm sunshine of Friday was followed on Saturday by cloud, rain, bitter cold and horizontal hail. It is years since my face was so cold! We hiked out to the Titanic

exhibition which is built on the site of the ill-fated liner's birthplace (or should that be berth-place?). It's a large striking building holding an exhibition of pictures and objects telling the Titanic story. It gives a great insight into the Belfast of a century ago and highlights the conditions the ship-builders worked in. There is even a convoluted cable-car ride through part of the exhibition. The problem for me was that I knew how the story ended, and since the whole process is in chronological order, it finished on a bit of a down before turving us out into the bitter Belfast breeze.

We then went on a tour of Belfast. There are open-topped buses available for this purpose but we seemed destined to miss them so we took a couple of large taxis



instead. There is much to admire in Belfast but we spent an hour and a half visiting sights in the Unionist and Republican strongholds. One driver in particular seemed to know a great deal about the Troubles and it became clear that as a teenager he had played his (minor) part in them. The two rival factions are in neighbouring council estates and I was astonished to see that the "Peace Wall" which was built to try and keep them apart is not only still in existence, but it remains a significant fortification which can be crossed at only one point, and that those gates are still locked at 11pm. The unionist area is famed for its wall paintings, mainly on the flat end walls of short terraces. They provide the only colour in a bleak, treeless and windswept landscape. Subjects range from Prince William of Orange astride his horse to portraits of masked "heroes" of the most recent fighting. On the other side of the wall lies the Republican area where pictures are less common (save one of Bobby Sands, the hunger-striker) but gardens of remembrance can be seen on every other street. These are all very neatly kept, though the flowers are artificial and the ground is brick,



and on the back wall of each is a list of names commemorating those from the small surrounding area who died in the name of Republicanism. They fall into two groups: those who died in the recent Troubles (1969 onwards) and those who died in the 1920s. The Irish have long memories.

On Sunday afternoon the group split as Gill and Pat flew back to Manchester while the rest of us went north to Bushmills and the Causeway Coast. But that's a story for another time...

**Harry**

A once in a lifetime  
eclipse of the sun  
caused a great deal of  
excit ..... ZZZZZZZZZZZ



### **Collecting for Nepal**

Dev joined Maggie and me on a gentle stroll round Bramhall's watering holes this evening, and after about an hour and a half of chatting to nice interested people we've got just over £260. I pushed the idea that we were supporting the initial relief effort, using DisasterAid as the example, so we must use this sum for that purpose. It does fit nicely with the idea that we could support both the initial phase and the longer term goals. In the longer term I think this low key but targeted collecting should be used more often, but it must not be over-used and I would suggest limiting it to this sort of disaster collection. It is certainly much more pleasant than standing in the rain hoping passers by will but a few coppers in the tin!

## FINAL D1050 INTERNATIONAL -26 FEB 2015 - David Rose and Geoff Hunt

Three inspirational presentations delivered with eloquence to a well attended meeting.



**Rtn. Jane Walker.** In 1996 went to Manila on holiday and came across families living in squalor in shanty towns and children searching recyclables in rubbish dumps to earn money for their families. On returning to the UK, she began to fund raise and founded

PCF—Philippine Community Fund in 2002 after working with these children.

Jane left her demanding job in advertising and moved to Manila with her son to manage the project fulltime. PCF provides education through community schools and healthcare for all the family. A purpose built dumpsite school using old shipping containers to accommodate 900, Also Ofne cemetery school where families live in a local cemetery.

She runs an academic curriculum and (food for school) programme. The kids receive family food parcels based on full attendance, good behaviour and achievements each week end. Attendance rate is 100% !

PCF has expanded and provides many skills, free health services and nutrition help.

The dumps have now been cleared and because recyclables are short, there is a shift to charcoal-making with its smoke induced problems.

Jane was awarded MBE for her amazing efforts in raising living standards and job opportunities for this impoverished community.

**Peace Ruharuz**a related her touching life story. One of 14 children in S. Uganda. Her mother gave her away as a “spare girl” due to extreme poverty. She left home at an early age scavenged for food, passed between family friends and physically abused. She often ran away into the jungle. Education was her dream ambition.



At age 8 local church people offered her a lifeline - a financial sponsor which funded her education, food, clothing and healthcare. She had no name so adopted Peace and eventually gained a university degree.

She improved her life in UK and returned to Uganda 2 years ago to set up Fountain of Peace Children’s Foundation village to provide homes and house parents for orphaned and abandoned kids with healthcare and education.

Interesting it is near Kasese! Quite a heart-rending story.



**PDG Ian Priestley** finished with his update on malaria. It is preventable and curable.

He provided stats eg; every minute a child dies of the disease. Children under 5years and pregnant women are most vulnerable. It is endemic in 100 countries.

Rotary programmes provide insecticide impregnated nets, sprays which are effective and cheap.

Mortality rates have fallen by 47%

globally and 54% in Africa.

One project in Papua New Guinea aims to give a net to everybody.

Ian pointed out that malaria causes more deaths than polio, despite a worldwide eradication fund of \$1b—it really needs \$5b. He doubts that End Malaria Now will happen when polio is eradicated.

Finally, there were several interesting displays but the one that caught my eye is SOLAR AID [solar-aid.org](http://solar-aid.org) The solar light eliminates the use of kerosene lamps which cause pollution, and toxic health and fire risks. The solar lights capture the sun and deliver clean safe light at night. A quarter million have been sold at £6 each-- great investment.

This last Assembly was without doubt a truly moving experience.

## David Rose

### **The Spice Room**

Seventeen of us gathered on the 29th April (a 5th Wednesday) for a meal at The Spice Room on Dairyground Road at the behest of Maggie who had made contact with the owner. There were many compliments about the food and the company so this could be a venue we return to in the future and certainly one I shall use.

Another good one  
Maggie.

### **Gordon**

Photo by Harry



## Duck Bus Tracking

I have been asked a couple of times how the duck bus tracker is accessed, for example on smartphones at the park. Well, assuming the phone has data coverage, all you do is: go to our web site [bwrotary.org](http://bwrotary.org) and click on Bus Tracker which you will find at the bottom of the blurb under the duck race advert on the front page.

## Michael

Chris in Seattle shooting at a wild box that was sneaking up on him.



All smiles at President's Night

## Bramall Hall Restoration 15th April



There were 23 Rotarians present and the dinner was of the usual high standard. The evening got off to roaring start as President Harry proposed the loyal toast before pudding was even served but we suspected he was just keen to keep ringing his Rotary bell! Announcements included heartfelt pleas by Bob P to fill in the rota for duck ticket sales. He reminded everyone, that all who could, needed to do at least three slots each if we were to cover the dates and venues arranged. Ian told us more about the forthcoming world first B&W 'Silverthon' (scheduled to take place on Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup>) and the publicity he had managed to get in the MEN. After an unusually long break for coffee we were treated to an excellent and most informative talk by Alison Farthing about Bramall hall's historic restoration project. It commenced with a quick quiz about famous faces of Stockport, eg; Mike Yarwood, Michelle Keegan and Joan Bakewell. Bramall Hall, a grade 1 listed Tudor manor house has been awarded a £2 million Heritage lottery fund grant for repairs and renovation and improved access for people with disabilities. At the end of September 2014 when the hall closed over 2,000 local people flocked to see it. Since then rooms and offices have been cleared, artefacts, furniture and fittings have been wrapped up and moved or sent for repair and filming has taken place in the hall and park. Work has also been started on the Withdrawing room. Specialist contractors, Hirst Conservation, have already begun work on the decorative Venetian plaster ceiling in the Withdrawing room. This is delicate work and involves considerable skill and research, for example to match historic paint colours. Another grant has been sought to restore the fireplace and frieze. In addition to all this, there will be two new themed rooms, a butler's pantry and a Victorian breakfast room. Historic glazing will be repaired along with 'Arts & Crafts' metalwork. The stable block will be redeveloped on two levels providing a new café, re-

located shop and an educational area. Landscaping of the walled garden will provide space for outdoor seating, hospitality and events. These upgraded areas and redeveloped hall will provide a welcoming and new experience for visitors. Bramall Hall and café area are scheduled to open again in Spring 2016. Until then if anyone wants to help or become more involved there will be a public volunteer programme launched soon. Much interest was generated by Alison's enjoyable talk. The meeting closed at 10:24pm

**Sue**

### **25 years ago**

These notes cover Volume 3 no. 6 to no. 9 (December 1989 to April 1990). A joint meeting with Lamplighter and Hazel Grove amongst others heard a talk by Gill Thompson, the chief executive of Manchester International Airport, on the first 50 years of the airport. (Do older members still refer to it as Ringway?).

There was to be a second terminal due for completion in 1993 and a rail link to the city centre. There were no immediate plans for a second runway!!

In January there was a lively discussion about the cost effectiveness of the Abbeyfield scheme in Bramhall and a suggestion that we could approach Hillbrook Grange with a view to building an extension which could perhaps be used as a short stay facility for old folk while their families had a break. Members were asked to donate pens, pencils and erasers for The Gambia. (Gill to note). A visit by the District Attendance and Membership Officer revealed that 40 Rotarians had left District 105 in the last year – equivalent to a full club closing down. Our attendance was 72% which although above the 60% minimum still left room for improvement. Concern was expressed about Bramhall Festival. Some past advertisers had declined to subscribe this year,

the paradescent was not definite and the bouncy castle would not be available from the Alliance and Leicester Building Society. Members were asked to note a future event in their diaries and Filofaxes.

The Children in Need appeal at Manchester Airport run in part by Poynton had raised over £100,000. Not bad for a day's work, but an incredible amount of preparation beforehand. The ski weekend in Scotland was deemed a success with 27 people taking part despite the limited amount of snow. On the second day some went back to the slopes but others toured a local glass factory, while some went sightseeing in Edinburgh. Five of the party played 18 holes at the Pitlochry Club claiming that it was steeper in places than Glencoe.

**Ron Malabon**

## **ROTARY WIVES**

When Rotary was first formed, the wives met and decided not to have the formality of a traditional Inner Wheel but instead organised an informal group calling it Rotary Wives. We thought we would have a group which would meet once a month, with two members arranging a meeting each month. This has worked very well and we still meet once a month (excluding August) having a variety of events. This year we have been out for several meals both in the evening and at lunchtime, went to the Plaza in Stockport to see "Hairspray" and this month will be going to Simply Books to meet the author Adele Geras who will be talking about her latest novel "Cover Your Eyes"

During the last year we have supported Rotary by having a book stall at the duck race raising over £100, we organised the kitchen to supply drinks to Rotarians and participants at the



Dragons Den event at Woodford Community Hall, and also made teas and coffees at the concert at the Methodist Church for International.

The group is a good link for the widows of Rotarians as it keeps them in touch with what is going on in Rotary which was a part of their lives. Unfortunately this group is increasing namely, Kathleen Batty, Margaret Boyes, Linda Brisbane, Barbara Death, Susan Handley and Sylvia Rains.

We have a membership of 21 but have no new members since Nina Farrow and Joan Saville joined, mainly because the new Rotarians have been ladies.

We do not have a committee and have always chosen to meet on a different day each month, so that people involved in regular other events are not excluded. However the downside is that it also means that one cannot block out a set day each month to keep free. We usually get between 10 and 16 people attending each meeting. In July each year we hold a mini AGM when names are pulled out of a hat to decide which two members will arrange each month, and that two select what activity should take place and when during their given month. At one point we had a Chairman, who was always the wife of the current President, but that fell by the wayside some years ago when several Presidents did not have a wife or a wife in our group.

We were awarded a Paul Harris fellowship for our work in supporting Rotary (especially Bramhall Festival when we regularly raised £1000) and the regalia is held by Wendy Sykes who received it on behalf of Rotary Wives in the year John was President.

Although we do not have a committee, I keep the address list and type the monthly list after each July meeting and seem to have become the point of contact for Rotary Wives. Funny how one can get a job without being voted in!

**Pam Malabon**

**Newspaper article as seen in Manchester Evening News,  
Stockport Express and Macclesfield Express:-**

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**'Unique' challenge will put over-55s to the test.  
Organisers are looking for competitors for the Silverthon  
Triple Challenge event in July**

Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club members, from left, Gor-



don Jackson,  
Gill Critchley,  
Ian Dobson  
and Michael  
Lacey

A community  
group has  
launched an  
endurance test  
for older people  
it believes  
could be the  
first of its type  
anywhere in

the world.

[Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club](#) has created a three-part trial for the over-55s dubbed the Silverthon Triple Challenge to be held on Saturday, July 25.

The name of the unique event is a pun on the phrase 'silver fox', an affectionate term for more mature people.

Fittingly all proceeds from the event will be donated to Macclesfield-based [Age UK East Cheshire](#) , a charity that helps to support people in their later years.

The challenge, which will test competitors' strength, speed and intelligence, is open to teams of four, all of whom must complete the three distinct sections of the event.

The teams will have to complete an 18-mile bike ride beginning near the Boar's Head pub in Poynton and following a circular route through Bollington and [Marple](#) before returning to the start

point.

And their endurance will be further tested by a five mile walk to Bowstones in [Lyme Park](#) from Marineville marina on the [Macclesfield](#) canal.

A series of indoor challenges will then test the competitors' brain power with quiz questions, crosswords and logical brainteasers to be expected.

The event is the brainchild of the club's vice president, Gill Critchley who was inspired to devise a challenge for older people after her daughter completed an ironman challenge.

Ian Dobson of Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club says he believes the event, which is being promoted by TV celebrity Christopher Biggins, could be hugely popular if it receives enough exposure.

He said: "We think the Silverthon has the potential to run big time if we can get a bit of backing and publicity. It could be like the London Marathon which started small and is now a massive event.



"But it's not a race, it's a challenge, although human nature being what it is, I'm sure people will compete within their teams.

"There are other challenges out there but are generally aimed at a younger age group. It's intended to be a fun event with a serious purpose of ensuring age doesn't restrict the chance to take part in a challenging pursuit on an even playing field."

For further information visit [www.bwrotary.org](http://www.bwrotary.org).

*An alternative picture appeared in the Stockport Express.*



# **Club Officers and Committees**

## **2014—2015**

**President—Harry Hill**

**Vice President—Gill Critchley**

**Secretary—Trevor Saville**

**Treasurer—Michael Lacey**

**Club Services—John Knowles**

Vida Chattington,

**International—John Thewlis**

Sid Davies, Chris Monkhouse, David Rose

**Community Service— Ron Malabon**

Sue Preece, Abi Jenkins, John Sykes, Neil Loveland, Bruce Farrow, Tony Burch, Alan Newsome, Dennis Allport

**Ways and Means – Bob Preece**

Maggie Hill, Bob Stevenson, Peter Richardson, Pat Holmes, David Poizer, David Rabone, Bruce Bissell, David Burstow, John Meeus

**Social— Brian Dougal**

Caroline Egan, Dev Dev, Jan Edmonds

**Communications—Ian Dobson**

Gordon Jackson

**Membership—Gill Critchley**

Geoff Hunt

**Foundation— Michael Lacey**

**District Representatives— John Sykes**

**H&S—David Burstow**

**Child Protection—David Rose**

**Bulletin—Gordon Jackson**

## Apologies

Please let us know if you are unable to attend a meeting. There are two ways of notifying us:

1. If you have enough notice, please fill in the apologies book which is available at every meeting
2. Send a short email to [apologies@bwrotary.org.uk](mailto:apologies@bwrotary.org.uk)

**Notification must be by midday on Tuesday or we are charged for the meal and must now pass this cost on.**

Please notify Trevor and Gordon of any changes to personal details

Date	Diary	Bulletin
06/05/2015	Committees <b>Duck race update (IMPORTANT)</b>	D Rose
11/05/2015	Council at Sunrise	
13/05/2015	No meeting	
17/05/2015	Duck race Bramhall Park	G Jackson
20/05/2015	Meeting Speaker Julia?	M Lacey
27/05/2015	No meeting	
03/06/2015	Duck race debrief	A Jenkins
08/06/2015	Council at Sunrise	
10/06/2015	Social - Saville/Monkhouse	Saville/Monkouse
17/06/2015	Dorothy Forster – Marie Curie	J Knowles
24/06/2015	No meeting	
01/07/2015	Handover	V Chattington
06/07/2015	Council at Sunrise	
08/07/2015	Social - Rabone/Rose	Rabone/Rose
15/07/2015	Speaker TBA	R Malabon
22/07/2015	Last minute update on Silverthon ?	D Burstow
25/07/2015	Silverthon	

**Address/telephone details are now held on the members' area of the web site. Paper copies will only be issued when there is a change.**

## Blind Run

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

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

Mr & Mrs Marshall, 62 Countess St., Heaviley, SK2 6HD. Tel. 482 4944.

**Saturday** prior to the Blind Run – Phone Cathy Dennison, Joan Goodall, Mrs Marshall and confirm they are going

### Monday –

Driver 1- Collect Cathy, then Joan (suggest Cathy at around 1pm) to arrive at Walthew house before 1.30pm

Driver 2 – Collect the Marshall's (suggest 1pm to allow plenty of time for Mr Marshall to get in your car.-, to arrive at WH before 1.30pm or to Our Ladies if required.

Pickup – 3pm at Our Ladies if appropriate, 3.30pm at WH

Let John Sykes know if you get stuck.

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

Please carry your mobile phone in case of problems.

Date	Driver 1	Driver 2
04/05/2015	<b>Bank</b>	<b>Holiday</b>
11/05/2015	B Preece	V Chattington
18/05/2015	R Malabon	D Burstow
25/05/2015	H Hill	J Meeus
01/06/2015	G Hunt	J Knowles
08/06/2015	J Sykes	D Rose
15/06/2015	D Allport	B Preece
22/06/2015	V Chattington	R Malabon
29/06/2015	D Burstow	H Hill
06/07/2015	J Meeus	G Hunt
13/07/2015	J Knowles	J Sykes
20/07/2015	<b>Closed for 7 weeks</b>	

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



If Santa doesn't bring me one of these bikes next year, I might SERIOUSLY doubt he exists  
Gordon

Our soon-to-be member Julia helped sell duck race tickets

And we met the mayor and mayoress at the bowling alley





We raised £950 for Blood Bikes at our brilliant fashion show

A plethora of members and partners thoroughly enjoyed the Belfast conference.



Alison Farthing spoke about Bramall Hall

