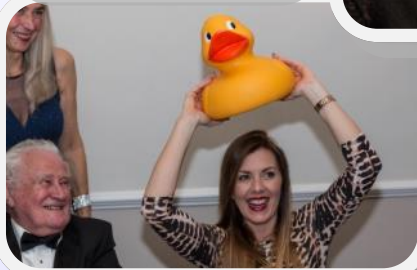


Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



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

Bulletin





Ex-member
David McKeith
treated us to a
comprehensive
history of the
Halle
Orchestra.

Yvonne Shelmerdine
gave a fascinating
talk on her involve-
ment with youth
counselling



An Easter
celebration
at Bramall
Hall brought
a great re-
sponse from
the public.

Gill's Jottings

Well this will be last "jotting" of my tenure at President as Bob will be writing the next epistle due out in July. I wonder what his entry will be called ?

My last epilogue for the Bulletin in January mentioned the addition of two new young members to the club, Andrew and Kate, who have been a breath of fresh air and have fully involved themselves in both our fund raising activities and our social outings. Since then we have welcomed another two members, Steve and Rob, who again have immediately immersed themselves into the hub of the club, integrating with ease. I very much hope that there will be another two new members in the coming month and the possibility of three – I'm working on it !!

Hopefully the induction of these new members will encourage others to follow suit where previously they might have felt Rotary membership wasn't for them. For the moment we are at least reversing the trend of declining membership but we must keep working at it, if the club is to survive many more years.

The Duck Race looms on the horizon and let's hope the weather has taken a turn for the better by then (currently writing this with snow in the garden !). Maggie and her team continue to work extremely hard in making this event a success. Disappointingly there are still a number of Rotarians who have done very little to help organise, sell tickets or be there on the day. It takes a team effort to make this family day the success it is, but there are too many who are happy for others to take on the load and be a bystander.

Maggie, Julia and I visited Francis House last week and were all very moved and impressed by the wonderful work they do for children with life limiting illnesses. With very little help from the government they are left to rely on donations to keep the place running and I sincerely hope this year's event will be one of our biggest donations so far to an extremely worthwhile cause.

Finally, please make a note in your diary for the Presidents BBQ – June 26th. Chris and Mary have very kindly offered to host the event in their beautiful house in Prestbury and even have wet weather contingencies in place !! It would be lovely to see you all there for the final event of my year as President.

Over and out !

Gill

2nd Feb. Envelope stuffing at Walthew

A heartfelt thank you to the dozen or so of you who came along to Walthew House this morning to tackle the envelope stuffing and raffle ticket recording. Some improvements in how Walthew prepares the envelopes cut the work to a small extent, but it was the numbers who turned up that meant we finished in a little under two hours. Thanks also to those who offered to come along this afternoon if we needed them.

As they say in the electricity generation industry, many hands make light work!

Great Rotary spirit!

Harry

The Halle Orchestra 3rd February

Ms President rang the bell at 8.07 because, prior to that, we had been locked out of the room. All 21 members present queued patiently whilst keys were found.

Mr Dougal reminded us of the two upcoming events;-

CHADS Theatre night, Brief encounter 4th March £10 and Presidents Night, Pinewood Hotel 18th March £25

Mr Monkhouse and his good lady are looking forward to welcoming a houseful next Sunday for "A Hash of a Lunch"

Dr Hill thanked everyone who went Stuffing earlier in the week.

Mr Lacey introduced one of our ex members **Mr David McKeith** who is chair of the Halle Concert Society.

He gave us a brief but fascinating trip through the foundation and history of the Halle, the structure of the orchestra and then some detail of the education and fund raising that is undertaken. Some of the highlights are listed below:-

It was founded by Charles Halle who was a pianist originally



from Germany.

It is 158 and 4 days old. and gave its first concert on 30 Jan 1858.

It is, perhaps the oldest orchestra in the country and the only one to have the founders name.

Halle died in 1895.

Through the years it has had many renowned musical directors and conductors. Perhaps the best known is Sir John Barbirolli who conducted from 1943 to 1970 and took the Or-

chestra through its golden period.

It nearly folded in the late 1990's but has since recovered and is, once again, in a purple patch.

It has some 80 contracted musicians with a pool of free lancers available to make up the numbers as required.

About 50% are ladies.

Up to 15 nationalities can be on stage at a performance

Around 70 concerts per annum in Manchester with about 30 in other parts of the country.

They are off to China in the summer.

The Education program is possibly the biggest in the country; they have 2 youth choirs, a children's choir and a youth orchestra.

They reach a wide range of youngsters from young offenders to those with disabilities.

The 8 Board members are all voluntary and run the registered charity as a proper business.

Turnover is around £9m per year of which about 40% is ticket sales, 24% from fundraising and the remainder from public and corporate support. (The latter is declining unfortunately)

Due to the nature of the business long term planning is a must. Soloists and conductors have their diaries booked two to three years ahead. The present conductor's contract ends in four years. Work that one out!

They now have a permanent rehearsal facility in Ancoats, Manchester

They are great ambassadors for Manchester, have a fantastic brand plus have worldwide recognition.

Then we watched the tele. Asked a few questions and then applauded after the vote of thanks. (er...there was one wasn't there?)

Final toast

Meeting Closed at 10.29

Ian

A reminder to all. You must Apologise if you are unable to come to a meeting. This week we had to pay for four meals ordered but not eaten through

A Hash of a lunch 7th Feb



Mary & Chris Monkhouse treated us to a feast at their new house and apart from everyone going home replete with food, we were all completely green with envy at their beautiful home. The event was in

aid of Blood Bikes and consisted of curry or chicken hash or corned beef hash followed by apple pie or fruit salad or trifle. Then coffee or



tea and all for 10 quid. Fantastic. We were even served by Carson, the 'butler' and £230 was raised. £90 was added to this by Rotary Wives and £180 from our charity account .

Committees 10th Feb

In the absence of Jackie a cold buffet was served but this was well received as it was served with chips! There were two guests – Steve Littlewood, who was making his third visit, and Kate Puc from Francis House (this year's Duck Race charity). There were numerous absences, not all of whom has sent apologies.

Membership

Bob P is contacting club 55 at Shady Oak to arrange a talk at end of March. An open meeting is to be arranged at the Vic with our new members present.

Secretary

Nothing to report

Treasurer

Michael's report has been circulated. There is approx. £3,600 in charity account and £2,000 in the general account. The money raised by Chris and Mary's lunch will be made up to £500 for Blood Bikes.

Ways & Means

Maggie stated that there will not be a spring fashion show due to members expressing reservations about selling tickets. A planned Easter bunny trail is to be held in Bramhall Park on Easter Sunday. We have been asked to support Lumb Lane park group by having a Rotary stall in the park on Thursday 24th March. This date is to be queried as it does not appear to be in the school holidays. Planning for the Duck Race is progressing well with venues for selling Duck Race tickets booked at Woodford Garden Centre and Handforth Dean but one more venue is needed. Kate Puc was asked if Francis House could get us into Sainsbury's or Waitrose. Barclays have agreed to continue with their sponsorship and hope that we can get £5k but this may not be easy. Mosley Jarman say they cannot sponsor us this year. Student helpers are being arranged and Pete has agreed to help with his van.

Communications

Ian is actively trying to find sponsors to replace Mosley Jarman. Kate Puc was asked if she would be able to help.

Community Service

Ron said that the Walthew House cup bowling competition would be held on March 16th. The maintenance of the footpath only requires a small amount of work at the moment.

International

An international students evening will be held on April 13th at the club and a Foundation Grant seminar is to be attended.

Club Services

John states that we need to enforce the apologies rule to avoid making a loss on the meals.

Social

The next event is at Chads on 4th March.

Kate Puc then spoke briefly about Francis House. It is children's hospice that provides respite care for children with a terminal illness. They now also take young adults. Government funding only equates to the costs for 42 days of the year, the remainder of the funding has to be raised by them. The hospice has four-

teen beds and are currently looking after 1,000 children, all of whom come to Francis House for short stays. This year is their 25th anniversary and there is an open day on 25th April from 10am to 4pm, to which all were invited.



Gill closed the meeting by saying that Harry would be acting president for the next three weeks due to her and the Vice President being on holiday.

Bob Preece

The Blind Run. The passing of an era.

Joan Goodall told me yesterday that the Monday before Easter will be the last dancing session at Walthew House. So ends a Community Service which must have been going for 20 years or more. I am sure Ron can pick it up in the archives. My memory of assisting the 'hard of seeing' goes back to Round Table days, some 43 years ago, when I was on Ways and Means and we raised £400 on the Christmas float!!! This was donated to the Stockport branch of Guide Dogs Association and the Lady with the guide dog, with whom we set up the Blind Run at Walthew House, received the cheque. Ron 'Teenager member' Malabon of RT will recall this because he was at the presentation at the Deanwater with Bob Batty and Brian Wilson, (Pres of RT) and one time Accountant of this Parish. This was sufficient to train two dogs. Nowadays, I understand, it costs about £4000 per dog

Joan's parting words were " I suppose I won't see you again" I replied "You haven't seen me at all Joan" She paused and had a little laugh and said "Good bye, and thank you and all those members who have taxied us for all these years".

John M

And from Dennis

Very sad. I, with others, have been on the Blind Run since it started. I have always been impressed with the way our guests have been so optimistic despite their problems. I usually returned home in a much better frame of mind then when I went to pick them up. A great Rotary project.

Dennis

And from Harry

Even as a newcomer to the Blind Run (relatively speaking) I think this has been a great Rotary project as Dennis says. From Walthew House's perspective it provides an opportunity to have new activities which may benefit more people. Joan will

I'm sure continue to attend WH for her lunch on Tuesdays, along with about twenty others, and if there is sufficient interest in the Club I'm sure we could find another role (apart from envelope stuffing)!

Harry

And from Sid

Yes – very sad. I too used to feel uplifted when , before I became ancient, listened to the stoic tales of my passengers. It used to amaze me how Dorothy, blind from birth, could give precise instructions where to turn at junctions etc. And Joan who flew to China to see her son and family made one feel quite humble.

Makes one count one's blessings.

Sid

Yvonne Shelmerdine on youth counselling 16th February

With a return to the past, David Poizer led us with the original Rotary Grace which, probably, the newer members did not know by rote or whether it even existed at all

Before we got onto the serious matter of eating, Acting President Harry, as Pres Gill and Vice Pres Bob had gone to some far flung places of the Old Empire, announced that he had obtained a Tesco grant of £8000 for work to be carried out in Bramhall Park. This will indeed be of great help to the current projects set out by the Friends of B.P. especially when it comes to the heavy work requiring some mechanical input. This great achievement was immediately rewarded, and quite rightly, by the top table going first for the Buffet supper. Well done Harry. As ever an excellent Buffet was enjoyed and 'ally foil doggy bags' were provided for the inevitable leftovers. There were in-

terjections by John T reading visitors and absentees the former being Walter Thomas from Poynton, who thanked B&WR for their donation which provided 800 blankets for the Syrian Refugee Children Fund in the Lebanon, and Geoff and Audrey Barnard on a Scatter from Manchester Breakfast the latter was too long to remember but some away in foreign climes some in UK doing this and that and some not apologising giving the House Man a difficult job in collecting debts.!!

Ian 'Dobbow' stated that one Estate Agent was dropping out of sponsoring the Duck Race but another was dropping in. Is this the beginning of a new 'turf war' in Bramhall. Maggie 'Elbows' advised that Angela Beer would sponsor to the tune of a £1500 with a possible further £1000 if we helped with their Fashion Shows. Some were hurt, not seriously fortunately, in the rush to volunteer. Well done both.



Following the coffee break, our speaker for the evening, Yvonne Shelmerdine, who was introduced by Dennis, took the floor to address us on her work as a Counsellor, for Beacon Counselling, a charitable organisation resident in Bramhall and Stockport.

Yvonne has been counselling, as a volunteer, for about 15 years mainly with adolescents where she considers her particular skills have been most rewarding not only to her clients but also to herself. Some of the

problems with which she deals, start with children who, at quite an early age, some even in primary schools, are suffering from violence and sexual disorders, possibly in the home, dysfunctional family life and the problematic extremities of bipolar conditions. In later years the adolescent problem can manifest itself in alcoholism, drugs, of various classes, smoking, panic attacks, bulimia and other extreme dietary disorders.

The ability to be able to communicate with and achieve the confidence of the client, and an understanding of their problems, at an early stage, is most important. Just as important is the surroundings in which the consultation takes place to create an atmosphere in which the client and the councillor can feel that this early rapport can be achieved.

Yvonne also said that the first consultation or meeting can be vary considerably in that the client will have quite a difficult time in explaining his or her problem even to the extreme of several minutes of silence before a word is spoken to the extreme of one client who burst forth his problems in 'rapper' language. She was able to decipher the problems but admitted that she was unable to assist or reply in the same language. The observation of body language and facial expressions can also convey information, as well as the spoken word, to the extent that the subject under discussion can be observed as being exaggerated, possibly sparing with the truth, purely imaginative or even secretive. This can be specially revealing when discussing matters of home and school life problems. The Counsellor must be able to obtain the innermost thoughts of the client. Even to the extent of not only trying to establish the reasons for a case of attempted suicide but the reasons for not going through with it. That being one of the most difficult in the development of the

innermost feelings of a client and the reasons for the disturbance of the mind.

Yvonne also introduced us to a table of assorted toy animals; prehistoric monsters a small rabbit and amongst other items the iconic Russian doll which contained a diminishing number of smaller dolls. She explained the use of some of them in her therapy and possibly there were many more but none as fascinating as the Russian Doll to demonstrate that no matter how big the problem is at the start, after possibly lengthy discussion, the problems will, hopefully, get smaller and smaller.

Yvonne gave an excellent talk on a very difficult subject and demonstrated her own ability and inner satisfaction in being able to help adolescents and young clients with their problems.

John M

Games for grown ups on February 24th

This was a rather unusual informal meeting, for several reasons. Our president was off swanning around foreign climes, as were our Vice President and his wife, one of our recent Past Presidents. So Harry acted as chairman for the evening for the second week, a job that he has had plenty of practice for!

A nervous John Thewlis was relieved that two unexpected members arrived to swell our numbers from 18 to 20, thereby allowing us to make a minute profit on the evening. We also welcomed once again Steve Littlewood, now a member, if not officially inducted. This must await the return of our far-flung lady President.

As it was an informal meeting, some dressed very casually. Pat Holmes proudly displayed a T shirt emblazoned with “I’m ready...” To see the rest one had to ask her to stand up. Meanwhile one’s imagination could be led down all sorts of unexpected and inaccurate pathways.

Vida had returned from her South African holiday. Whilst there, she had visited the Rotary Club of Scottburgh. This club had 17 members, and the evening meeting was swelled by two students who received support for their education.

Harry had obtained a grant of £8000 from Tesco for work in Bramhall Park. Excitingly, this could be increased to £12000, but only if the project received the most votes by Stockport Tesco shoppers over the next week. We were all implored to switch our shopping habits for one week. Handforth Dean would not do. It had to be a Tesco store in Greater Stockport.

After the excellent meal, hot now that Jackie was back from Australia, we immersed ourselves in what can only be described as party games provided by Maggie and Harry, most requiring some dexterity and persistence. All were to be achieved within one minute. Timers were provided. To give you a flavour – you could hand spin windmills and try to get them land in a designated spot (I don’t think anyone achieved this, though there were some near misses to members faces, objects on the tables etc.). Seen anyone sucking Smarties



through a straw to build a picture of a smiling face? If this was too childish, how about flipping pencils with eraser tips into a beaker? No? Well perhaps bouncing ping pong balls off a plate into a bowl would be more to your taste! Well, as it happened, this was the one that I actually could do! Furthermore, it won me a prize at the award cere-

mony at the end of the fun. John Meeus showed his dexterity in stacking apples on top of each other, a feat hopefully captured by Harry before the stack toppled over after about 10 seconds! This was definitely worth a prize! John for the stacking and Harry for the split second timing with his camera.

Harry had as much fun as the participants taking pics for future use in the Bulletin and possibly elsewhere. Look around for pictorial evidence about how seemingly mature and responsible individuals can spend a Wednesday evening when let loose!

Dennis

Important—Meal Mathematics by John T

Our standard meeting charge at the Ladybridge Club is £12, or £10 if it is a buffet meal. This consists of £9 for the meal (£7 for a buffet) which leaves £3 to cover overheads.

Overheads are £50, comprising £40 for room hire and £10 for staff gratuities. We therefore need a minimum attendance of 17 to cover overheads ($50/3 = 16.7$).

If we have a guest/speaker and pay for their meal (£9) this minimum goes up to 20.

If a member fails to apologise for non-attendance (a 'no-show') and a meal is ordered for them then that meal has to be paid for, which increases the overheads by £9 - or 3 members' contributions.

Attendance is usually around 23, which means we just break even if we have, say, a speaker and a no-show. More no-shows and we lose money. It is, therefore, important that members give apologies for missed meetings in good time.

It is appreciated that there are occasions when this is not possible due to unforeseen events, and it would be unfair to ask members to compensate the Club for their absence in these circumstances. If, however, a no-show is due to forgetfulness (Alzheimers is no excuse) or apathy, then it should be a matter of honour to recompense the Club when next attending - and our members are surely honourable people !!

Committee Night 2nd March

The meeting was opened at 8.10pm by Harry, standing in for Gill , Bob & Michael. Wine was provided on each table by Bob S in celebration of his 16th birthday.

We were joined by a guest, Robert Sweeting.

At approx. 9pm Harry gave all the committee chairs 30 minutes to have all their meetings concluded in time. Harry was so busy with the job he had been given, that he did not leave his chair until virtually time for the reports.

The Secretary & Treasurer had advised the meeting that they had nothing to report. There was no report for either the International Chair or for Community Services .

Ways & Means- Maggie discussed the Easter Bunny day at Bramall Hall & the Duck Race day. Unfortunately it appeared from those present only 3 people are available to help on Easter Sunday!

Ian Dobson (**PR**) discussed the Ramsbottom Duck Race, Billy Bow & Bella & a thought had been put forward about a 'Tug of War' competition in the Village.

Social. Brian was absent but we all knew about the Theatre night this Friday.

Harry then discussed the Walthew Cup Bowling on the 16th of March at 10am and advised that he would be the bulletin writer for this Friday .

Council will not be next Monday but the Monday after! (due to the number away)

Next week will star Andrew & Kate who will give an in-depth knowledge into their lives & jobs.

The meeting was closed at 10.20. All were pleased to see Dev on one of his visits.

Bob S

Chad's Theatre 4th Nov



The Club's Theatre Night is now become a much admired and praised as an excellent evening's entertainment, for not only theatre, but as a social evening with something of a difference. There seemed to be, as always at this event, whether you had guests or not, a mutual acquaintance with somebody in the audience. The evening commenced with a 'sing song' by members of the Chads 'choir' actors to put the audience in the 1948 era of the cinema and the ubiquitous organ performance. The giant Wurlitzer was not available of course but the effect was achieved for the timing of the play.

There were, of course, many there who had seen the film some years ago and if not many times since, and that includes the writer, who were very interested to know how the film was to be adapted to suit the stage especially that of small amateur dramatic one. To be able to transform the station platform effect, the snack bar and the minor film scenes was one thing. However to produce the effect of the train entering the station then one of the lead actors getting on the train and waving good bye as it departed, demonstrated the excellent abilities of the stage and lighting staff. We have always enjoyed the excellent standard of Chads acting and this was no exception. The difficult emotions from casual acquaintance at the beginning to a forbidden love affair and the equally forbidden inability to say a final goodbye at the end was extremely well performed by the leading actors. So were the minor young romantic associations of the porter and the waitress and the cheeky, full of double-

entendre “don’t know what you mean” liaison of the Station Master and barmaid. Three classes of society so cleverly acted and directed in the image of post-war 1948.

The evening was concluded with an excellent buffet supper provided by Claudia an extension to the bar facilities and an enjoyable and interesting meeting with members of the staff and actors of CHADS.

For several years now The Club has set up this arrangement with CHADS and not only does it benefit them, by giving them an audience for their Dress Rehearsal night, but it also raises a few hundred pounds for the charity account. Long may it last.

John M

Andrew’s Job Talk 9th March

Gill was warmly welcomed back to the Presidential Chair after her latest global adventure. Vida shared with us the known absences and apologies.

Sid's pre meal grace was widely appreciated before Ian's subsequent banter ensured he received both his main course and dessert after everyone else present. Fortunately there was sufficient good food for all.



After a generous coffee break, Steve Littlewood was welcomed as our latest in a recent influx of new members. Gill became reacquainted with Steve in December whilst collecting at Woodford Garden Centre. They originally lived on the same Poynton

estate and their respective sons had played football together in a team that Steve managed.

Steve confirmed that he is keen to become an active member in the various Rotary activities and projects and has proactively engaged with Rotarians during recent meetings with the wit and friendship that had already made him a valued member.



Andrew was then invited to deliver his 'introductory talk' and thanked Steve for being such a good warm up act.

Fellow new member, Kate was also planning on sharing the limelight but was unable to attend. We wish her a speedy recovery.

In the interests of full disclosure, Andrew was tasked to summarise his own introductory talk for this bulletin,

which presents all manner of conflicting interests and acknowledged subjectivity:

Interspersed with witty repartee and to howls of laughter throughout... (editor: we can't allow Rotarians to summarise their own talk again; this is a glaring oversight)... Andrew gave a brief overview of his early interests in volunteering stemming from a Summer Camp he attended on Lindisfarne as a child and then as a member of staff. This subsequently led to a Summer as a Sports Instructor in California with Camp America.

Having moved from his native North East to gain a degree in Manchester, he set up a Student Support department in the former North Area College, Stockport and successfully reduced the number of students leaving their studies prematurely due to personal and motivational reasons.

Andrew has since spent the last 16 years teaching Social Science related A levels which he thoroughly enjoys. He has two young children who have thoroughly enjoyed meeting Rotarians at a few of our events.

After some career related questions, to add an element of interactivity, Rotarians cheerfully participated in a game of Would I Lie To You, holding aloft True or False cards based on the credibility of some prepared statements and answers to insightful questioning. Well done to many of you who identified that Andrew obviously hasn't written for TV comedy shows. Thank you to others who believed that was a possibility!

The Council meeting, postponed due to multiple foreign adventures, is rescheduled for Monday 15th March. An auspicious date in the history of our Club, the day will also mark the final 'blind run' which long-serving members past and present have organised for over 25 years. This has been a significant contribution to our local community and has epitomised the true spirit of Rotary. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to all the unassuming volunteers who have made such a difference to so many for so long. The final run is by David Rose.

Harry requested volunteers for 10am on the same day for the Walthew House blind bowling at Parrs Wood. This also clashes with a slot raising funds at Angela Beers so those available can liaise with Harry and Maggie.

Brian sought clarification on those who can or cannot attend President's Evening on Friday 18th March. In order to inform the Pinewood Hotel of everybody's meal choices, please respond to Brian's email by Sunday at the absolute latest if you have not already done so. The meal is cheaper than previous years and Gill will be the star attraction.

Maggie and a few other Rotarians are still seeking help with an Easter Bunny trail and family day at Bramall Park on Easter Sunday, 27th March. With 100 donated Easter eggs to roll, distribute and consume, it's a guaranteed way to make Easter Sunday special!

Andrew

Blind Bowling 16th March

Once again, Harry organised participants for the Walthew Cup whereby a team of ten pin bowlers representing Walthew House utterly trounce all the sighted teams who wear various forms of sight limiting glasses or blindfolds to simulate vision restrictions whilst trying to hurl a damn great heavy ball several multiple yards down a polished surface at a bunch of poor unsuspecting skittles whilst listening to the 'encouragements' of one's fellow players.

And once again, Harry got his maths wrong although not as badly as last year when two teams of four became 13 players. This year, there were only ten of us.

The mayor and mayoress came and chatted to some of the players but declined to take part. Shame. We could have done with the help.

And the result? - We came 3rd but it was a good community effort and enjoyed by all

BW Team 1 - 404 in 1st game - 397 in 2nd game (801 total)

BW Team 2 - 381 in 1st game - 461 in 2nd game (842 total) -

Gordon

I keep fit by wrestling with my conscience.

All my life I have been doubtful. Now I'm not so sure.

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

President's Night 18th March

Set this year in the much refurbished Pinewood Hotel, we gathered to celebrate Gill's presidency and mercilessly take the mickey.

After a very nice dinner, Gill rose nervously to start her speech and was shortly interrupted by Maggie and Kate in very fetching nurse's uniforms, Nicola (Gill's daughter) was wheeled in by Ian and then Harry attempted to diagnose various ailments and was corrected by the nurses giving the correct terminology. When Harry asked where he could learn this terminology, we saw a brief video of Gill telling us about her company (Mediterm Training) and her various holiday adventures. This woman certainly gets around. The cast then danced off to 'Dem Bones' and Gill was allowed to complete her speech unmolested.



A good time was had by all and it was really nice to see so many guests sharing our celebration.

Gordon

Belgium 23rd March

The meeting opened with a short silence remembering those who suffered in the recent terrorist attacks in Brussels.

David Rabone then said Grace.

Jill welcomed Robert Sweeting again and said he had agreed to become a member. He will be inducted shortly.

The event at Bramhall Park on Easter Sunday has now got a full complement of volunteers. It will commence at 1.00 pm with an Easter egg trail, followed by egg rolling on the grass slope in front of the hall, weather permitting. 200 goodie bags have been made for prizes.

David Rose has organised The Young Musicians Regional Final at Cheadle Hulme School on Claremont Road on Sunday 10th April at 1.20pm. Helpers required please.

Following the usual splendid meal we reassembled to hear John Meeus talk about the History of Belgium and his own involvement with the Consulate.



John was assessed by the Consulate when they became aware of his Dutch name and Belgian connections. Having thoroughly checked his suitability, the Belgian Ambassador to the Court of St James formally made him a Consul.

John has responsibility for Belgian citizens as far as Scotland down to Birmingham. These number approximately 10,000, 400 being at Manchester University.

The most common problem for the students is the loss of their ID cards. These can be used throughout Europe and beyond, but not Manchester Airport, where they are confiscated by security.

The students then have to contact John who notifies the Consulate where appropriate checks are made before a passport is issued.

John informed us that Belgium had become an independent country 175 years ago following the collapse of the Napoleonic Empire. It was created as a block to safeguard French lands from Russian invasion.

Belgium declared independence from the Dutch in 1831.

How it was to be administered was seen as a problem, a monarchical state was favoured.

France, Russia and Germany proposed candidates but Britain bypassed these by installing Leopold 1st as King, he was the uncle of Queen Victoria.

Belgium is divided, Northern Belgium with Brussels as the administrative centre, the language is Belgian and French.

Southern Belgium which is most heavily populated with around 55% of the population who speak a mixture of Old Flanders and German with French as the main language. They are called Walloons.

Most of the wealth is concentrated in the North of the country following the decline of the coal and steel industries in the South.

The total population is around 11million and the International language is French, however many speak English.

John had an anecdote regarding 6 drunken sailors in Hull who were asking for the Belgian Consul to visit them in Hull. They claimed that they did not speak English.

John did not fancy going to Hull to sort this out so he suggested that the Police inform them they would have to spend the next three days in jail on bread and water. After a night in the cells they miraculously spoke English and were returned to the vessel.

Jill thanked John for enlightening us on the history of Belgium and he received the usual accolade.

John left numerous informative leaflets on Belgium for members to take.

Neil.

Easter fun at Bramall Hall

Thanks to everyone who turned out and helped at the park this afternoon. I think it was enjoyed by most of the people attending. Note to self..... Have at least 3 times as many trail sheets, stickers and bags of sweets ready if we do it again next year.

We were so lucky with the weather this year. It could have been a much quieter affair if it had rained all afternoon but maybe we need to always plan for the best scenario in future.

Thank you very much to Michael for the lovely photos, especially of the egg rolling which I didn't see. Once again I think we made a near perfect team covering the trail, the bunny and the egg rolling. Well done everyone.



We collected
£215 on the day -
of which £25 was
duck race tickets.



On Sunday 27th March, Easter Sunday, Billy Bow our Rotary Scarecrow and his new wife of six months, Bella of I Love Bramhall, took their friend of the fields, The Easter Bunny to Bramhall Park to meet the children and parents of Bramhall. Both Billy and Bella sported fantastic Easter bonnets and Bella looked positively blooming with a bulge of which any scarecrow would be proud. Poor Billy was confined to the stocks. Although no one ever found out his crime, Bella did have a sneaky smile on her face.

The occasion was an Easter Trail where the children could discover ten bins containing stickers located at points around the park by following clues on a sheet. There was a map on the back of the sheet to help the parents find their way. As it happened many of the children used the map whereas the parents enjoyed working out the clues. There were even reports of adults following the trail clues without any children in tow.

When ten different egg stickers had been collected the children received sweets from the tallest, but friendliest Easter Bunny in history who sounded remarkably like our own Bob S. Our patient bunny posed for many, many photographs, making lots of children and mums very happy.

The scheduled Easter Bonnet competition never really happened as contestants arrived at different times but the most impressive hats all received chocolate bunnies as they presented themselves.

After the trail Andrew, Gill, and Ian ran an impressive egg rolling competition down the slopes from the bottom of the terraces to the stream. Once again lots of children took part, some of them multiple times. 100 cream eggs for rolling were kindly donated by Tesco Bramhall.

This very low key, moderately advertised, toe in the water event turned out to be a lovely afternoon for all concerned despite ending with a mighty storm, hailstones and all.

Lesson to be learnt for next year, if we can do it again? Many more trail sheets and stickers to supply the demand and more activities.

Maggie

Committees 6th April 2016

Twenty five members were present and the committees reported on current and future events and activities. Before the start of business Vida gave member apologies. Neil Loveland is unwell and everyone sends him their very best wishes. Geoff gave David Poizer's apologies and his reluctant decision to leave Rotary. David is very poorly and is no longer able to attend meetings. Chris says David would welcome visits from very close friends, though only one person per visit. Chris asked Council to consider David's memberships status as he has been in Rotary since 1988 – just two years after BWR began. Everyone sends their very best wishes to David and his wife Kay.

Sue Preece requested six volunteers to host at next week's dinner, the six international students sponsored by Rotary, who are invited to discuss their studies at Manchester University and their diverse backgrounds. Rotary partners and guests are also invited to the meal.

The Vice Chair reported continued canvassing for new members at the 55 Drop-In Club and the Treasurer, approx. £3,500 in the Charity Account and approx. £2,500 in the General Account. Accordingly this year's subscriptions will remain the same as last year.

Maggie on Ways and Means reported The Easter Sunday Egg Rolling and trail in Bramhall Park a great success. Over 200 bags of sweets were given away. The Easter Bunny was a hit and it's hoped the event can be repeated at Bramall Hall when it reopens next year. This Saturday (9th April) help is required in the Village Square for the Easter Bunny and collectors to promote Rotary at the Mother Hen Storytelling event. A donation of £50 is being made to Rotary.



Volunteers also needed on Sunday 24th April to sell Duck Race tickets from 10 – 4pm at Paws in the Park Event at Lumb Lane. **Please contact Maggie.** Duck Race preparations running smoothly. 48 Giant Ducks sold. A new ticket selling venue is at the Alexandra Hospital. No volunteers needed. Question of buying new gazebos discussed and will be brought to Council on Monday. Issue of acquiring more black dustbins also discussed. Rotas for selling Duck Race tickets will be emailed to everyone. The majority of stalls are filled and there are pony rides and chainsaw carving.

Sue Preece, International Committee, announced a Warrington Rotary Club Event in August, 2016. Details emailed to members.

Building on our previous involvement with Winchester Rotary Club in *Books for Uganda*, a joint new project is proposed by Winchester Rotary Club to develop new facilities at Kasese Hospital in Uganda, where the annual Fistula Clinic treats women who have been badly damaged in childbirth and who are then rejected by their families and communities. Fundraising is underway and money is needed for flushing toilets and showers. A £1,000 request is to be taken to the next Council meeting.

John Thewlis announced an international quiz on 27th April and there is a Rotary District Young Musicians Competition organised by David Rose at Cheadle Hulme School this Sunday 10th April, 1.30 – 4.30pm.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

Julia Shaw

- Never put off till tomorrow what you can avoid altogether.
- Don't try to keep up with the Jones's. Drag them down to your level. It's cheaper.

From Maggie



A big thank you to John T, Peter Andrew and Harry who kept me company in the Village Square this afternoon at the Mother Hen event.

We collected almost £80 to add to the £50 which Himor paid us for attending the event, so another £130 towards our Francis House collection.

Love Maggie

From our globe-trotting correspondent:

Hi to all our BW friends

Well, we are now around halfway through the trip now, having spent time with our daughter Suzi and family in Seattle, a friend in Vancouver and friends in Palm Springs.

From the US we flew to Melbourne and drove to Adelaide and the Barossa Valley wine area for a week. Back then to Melbourne and visits with friends and family which we always do when there. This time we stayed in central Melbourne for a week, with six train tracks right behind us....! We covered 3,200 km by car on that 'leg' of the holiday.

From there we flew to Tasmania for a week's visit to my cousin

in Launceston, and did some touring round the island although we have been before. We still drove around 1,400 km though, but of course we both really love driving and a combination of superb roads, and hardly any traffic, is a joy.

From Tassie, an hours flight on Sunday took us back to Melbourne and then a four hour flight to Perth. We are now in Fremantle in an apartment overlooking the yacht harbour and boardwalk with lots of restaurants. Weather good at around 25 degrees and a warm breeze. We are here in WA for two weeks, then to NZ via Sidney. We are in NZ, where Mary has lots of family, for a little over two weeks. This leg is mainly to visit Mary's cousins as we know NZ very well indeed, but we will still get some driving in. I think this is about the thirteenth visit there. Ten days in Vietnam will complete the trip.

We return home on the 22nd May and look forward to seeing you all again, and meeting our new members. I have been following all the emails and so I don't feel too out of touch, but sadly not of much help. I then need to get a BBQ organised for the Rotary BBQ, as my old one rusted away and didn't make it to our new house !

Kind regards to all

Chris

- He who laughs last doesn't get the joke.
 - A friend in need is a pest indeed.
- The man who goes into the bar optimistically, usually leaves misty optically.
- Death is nature's way of telling you to slow down.

International Evening April 13th

The meeting was well attended with lots of chatting in the bar among Rotarians, partners and guests. Dinner was served a little late but as usual was delicious. Our six international students sat with their hosts on tables of six which worked out well even if we did have to add a couple more chairs. Michael informed us that the club had just received £1,400 back from gift-aid. Coffee was a quick affair as we all returned promptly for the two main events of the evening.



Rob Sweeting was inducted by President Gill with the gravitas that the occasion warranted, combined with good humour and informality that we all like. Each of the six student guests from Manchester University International Society gave a short talk about themselves and their country.

Adonai Alpuche-Sanches ('Lety') was from Mexico studying the Psychology of Education and hosted by Brian Dougal. Lety hopes to eventually work with children and return to New York where her husband is also studying. She wished she was here longer than the one year it takes to get her Master's degree. She hopes some of us will visit Mexico where we would find a warm and inviting people with an amazing culture.

Aprida Sondang was from Indonesia studying the Psychology of Education, and hosted by Geoff Hunt. Aprida told us about the 14,000 islands that make up Indonesia and the great diversity of culture that characterises her country. She said that initially she found the Manchester accent hard to decipher but she enjoys living here!

Damodar Khanal was from Nepal studying for a PhD in Education, and hosted by Ron Malabon. Damodar greeted us with 'Namaste'. He told us lots of interesting facts about his country, the wealth of outdoor activities and the ten world heritage sites

in Nepal but he particularly likes the Trafford Centre in Manchester.

Bob Vernooij was from the Netherlands studying for an MSc in Conservation Biology, and hosted by John Meeus. Bob was very proud of his excellent command of English and his scholarship to study abroad. His focus was on deforestation 2000 – 2012. He finds our British press quite odd and not what he is used to!

Irma Nugrahanti was from Indonesia studying Accountancy & Finance, and was hosted by Rob Sweeting. As Rob was previously Professor of Accountancy & Finance they had much in common! Irma told us that Indonesia was the fourth most populated country with a large Muslim population; the different religions are mainly tolerant of each other and harmonious. She said that coming to the UK was like a dream come true, especially as she was such a Jane Austin and Agatha Christie fan. She also likes our Media City and the curry mile.

Joslyn Lim was from Singapore studying Politics & Modern History, and hosted by Andrew Turnbull. Joslyn, although only in her first year of study, had previously travelled all over the world with her Dad's job. Singapore has a very wide breadth of cultures and ethnicities with four official languages but English is the chosen medium for education and administration of this small country. Joslyn has got involved in lots of volunteering opportunities in Manchester such as the Samaritans.

Surprise was expressed that none of the students had mentioned English beer – many B&W Rotarians wondered what had happened to students over the generations!! However, we were assured that most had sampled the delights our pubs had to offer. All, except Bob, referred to our inclement weather and found it so different from their home! Thanks were given to Sue for organising the international evening. Michael ably rounded off the night with reminding us all of a few very pertinent and interesting facts.

What is Rotary?

We are 1.2 million people working in local communities, interna-

tionally and globally to improve our world.

Recently in Bramhall park dozens of children were overjoyed when rolling Easter eggs down a grassy slope.

Clean water is coming to thousands in Ghana and many other places.

Our local park is being improved for children, funded partly by this club.

A hospital has been rebuilt in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami destroyed it.

This club's duck race has raised tens of thousands of pounds for local charities.

Members from this club have visited and helped directly in India, Uganda, Tanzania, Yugoslavia, The Gambia and Namibia.

A local footpath is kept clear by this club.

We promote peace by offering 100 master's degree places in peace studies each year at five world class universities.

This club organises each year a family fun day and duck race, one or more fashion shows, a scarecrow festival, a Christmas collection, the Santa float which tours all the local streets, a theatre evening and has added this year the Easter Egg trail day.

We have our own charity whose aim is to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

All over the world, sight is restored, water purified, communication improved, malaria fought against, sanitation is provided, disease prevented and education introduced, supported and improved.

This club has raised over £300,000 for local and international charities.

In 1985 there were 122 countries in which polio was endemic – now there are two.

In 1985 there were more than 1,000 cases of Polio per day, this year there has been less than one per week

We meet here each week and have fun!

That is Rotary

Sue

Manchester University International Society

Promoting international friendship

The International Society is supported by The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Salford. It is an independent, not-for-profit organisation unique to Greater Manchester. It aims to provide international students with a warm and friendly welcome when they arrive in the city and to make their time in the UK a wonderful experience.

The International Society was founded in 1966 and from small beginnings of less than a hundred members they now have around 7,000 members from over 130 countries each year. Today it is a successful organisation of 50 years standing which is committed to promoting international friendship and celebrating cultural diversity.

Opportunities to explore the UK

The International Society offers a comprehensive programme of trips around the UK. Each Saturday and Sunday throughout the year (including the summer months) they organise opportu-



nities to discover and enjoy all the wonderful places the UK has to offer.

Opportunities to share their language and culture

The International Society has

up to 70 volunteer teachers teaching classes at any one time; and 100's over the course of a year. Often the teachers are students at the universities in Greater Manchester who want to share something of their language and culture and get some teaching experience; some are teachers who are recently qualified and are looking for some practical experience and some are qualified teachers with years of experience. Students can learn a language in a fun, friendly and informal environment. Typically these include classes in English, Spanish, French, German, Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese, Portuguese, Korean and more. There are also non-language classes such as Yoga, Salsa, Tai Chi, Drawing amongst others...

Opportunities for a home from home

The Hospitality Scheme arranges for students to visit a British home on a number of occasions during their time in Manchester. This gives the students the chance to experience something of everyday British life. Once linked with a family, students are invited to the home to share in a meal, perhaps Sunday lunch, afternoon tea or even a day trip out with the family. There are always many more students wanting this opportunity than there are host families!

Our link at the International Society is Sam Harris -

Email: samharris@internationalsociety.org.uk

www.internationalsociety.org.uk / www.international16.org.uk /

www.rocketworld.org.uk

Sue Preece

25 years ago

Having missed the last edition of the Bulletin there is a bit of catching up to do. So this covers the period October 1990 to April 1991 in Vol 4 Nos 5 to 9.



Thanks to Sid Davies we had a visit to Ravenair Flying School at Ringway (as it was then known). Operating the simulator was not as easy as we first thought and most of us crashed!! We took part in the District quiz against Hyde but narrowly lost 54 points to 53 because one of their members could spell schizophrenic. One of the topics discussed during the DG's visit was women in Rotary. Apparently there were 7 in Liverpool, 8 in Birmingham but none in his club (nor Bramhall at that time). A speaker from John Rylands library told how the controversial sale of 90 books, which were duplicated in a total of 600,000, raised £1.5 million to fund conservation, cataloguing and allow the library to be opened up to the public. The first mention of footpath clearance was made in February and reference was made to Path No7 finishing near the Thieves Neck. A talk on Rotary Foundation pointed out that Group Study Exchange (GSE) was not the Yuppie holiday many thought but helped future leaders have experience and understanding of others. My President's Night was held at the Moor-side Hotel, Disley and da-do-Ron-Ron featured in the interruption together with bicycles. The final accounts for the 1990 Bramhall Festival showed £3000 to Rotary, £3000 to Round Table and £1758.85 to NSPCC who had raised a further £1241.15 on their own account. The ski-ing trip to Scotland proved popular and successful after we eventually found some snow at high altitude. Plans were well advanced for Bramfest 91 including £1000 sponsorship from Smith, Knight and Fay. A scanner for Stepping Hill would be the main beneficiary of the profits. IPP Doug Murphy, as Editor of our Bulletin, won both the District and National magazine competitions.

Ron Malabon

Quiz Night April 20th

A surprise visit in the bar of Lorraine and her family of three dogs were welcomed and fussed over.

VP Bob Preece played” Locum Presidentialis “for Gill who was indulging in the spas of Budapest. He read his own grace to a disappointing turnout of 14 Rotarians who came for the Brain of Bramhall Contest.

Three teams sat at 3 designated tables and after deliberation the food rota to go clockwise was made. Not surprisingly there was an abundance of tasty meals available.

Vida’s list of apologies was gripping, Harry photographing Maggie modelling the “Turkey Trot” in the Turquoise Restaurant, (the Ritz was booked that evening); three Rotarians plus spouses were in Kendal at a 41 Club knees-up; Stephen Littlewood had defected to USA; a late apology from Bob Stevenson and, last but not least, a return visit by Diana, a potential member.

Andrew circulated the Duck Race day rota for availability and reminded us about the Francis House visit. Brian made a final appeal for money for the Halle event and to meet at the Vic at 7pm to collect forms for the treasure hunt or counting dustbins etc. around Bramhall village.

The loyal Toast included a rendition of “ Happy 90th Birthday dear Queen Elizabeth”.

After coffee, the intelligent part began by naming the 3 teams. No Name Team, A-Team and my lot The Losers. There were two sheets, the first contained anagrams and clues for nicknames of Politicians and the dreaded answer paper for the questions. Sue and Bob alternated the questions which were in five sections.

1 General Knowledge(–or lack of,) literature (English and elsewhere), Sports, Geography (only Graduates needed- who cares if Edinburgh is more west than Bristol) and finally Science.

Well my team was crammed with PhDs, MD and a techy and I breathed a sigh of relief as were heading for relegation to Division four. The final scores were, in no particular order,

No Names- 59 & half, A-Team 49 & half and my masterminds, The Losers, managed 37& half. **Well it’s only a game.**

Sue presented the winners with a huge box of Milk Tray which was passed round everybody several times . John Thewlis gave a vote of thanks to the Preeces for all their hard work in sourcing the difficult questions and the whole evening.

David Rose

Rotary Young Musician Regional Finals



Our resident musical fixer, David Rose, pulled another rabbit out of the hat on April 10th when he led the Regional Finals, an event which he had been slaving away at for months. The smooth running of the afternoon belies the amount of effort that went into it, and David was a star!

The musicians, some vocalists, some instrumentalists, came from all corners of the North West and North Wales. The vocalists ranged from a singer-songwriter who accompanied himself on the piano, to operatic sopranos. The instrumentalists played flute, violin, piano and tuba.

The standard of performance was extremely high: the fiddler (Xander Croft) for example didn't scrape out "Frere Jacques" but gave us a piece by Fritz Kreisler which stretches professionals. Likewise, the pianist (Ellis Thomas) shunned "Für Elise" and gave us tempestuous Liszt with breathtaking skill. The operatic vocalists gave us arias from operas and songs from song cycles.

In a break from tradition (and by stretching the rules quite a bit) two of the singers were present-



ed to us on DVD rather than in the flesh. I gather a conflict of dates meant that they were both singing live in London, and this for some reason took preference over performing in Cheadle Hulme.

We had two adjudicators: Philip Dewhurst, director of music at Cheadle Hulme School judged the instrumentalists, and Jeffrey Wynn Davies used his great experience to grade the singers. I did not envy their tasks! Not only was the standard very high, but there was a wide spread of styles to consider. They were both extremely supportive of the performers, giving compliments generously, and hints rather than criticisms where they felt improvements could be made.



Ultimately though, they had to choose a winner in each category. Xander Croft took the instrumentalist crown, and Imogen Parsley, one of the “absentee” singers, was the vocalist winner. They now go on to the National Finals where I reckon they stand a great chance of winning.

Harry

Some pictures from the articles





A Treasure of a hunt

Despite the inclement weather a hardy bunch turned up at the Victoria pub to follow Brian's clues to the Treasure – unfortunately there was no treasure but it was fun solving the clues!!

A slight obstacle to overcome in the opening stages in that four clues were to be found in the Precinct which unfortunately was locked at 7pm !

Undeterred by the blizzard conditions and very soggy paper we managed to solve most of the clues and gathered back at the Victoria to mark papers, or more realistically argue about the answers !!

16 of us ended up at Amans for a meal despite most people having said they had already eaten – but it was cold and we needed warming up !

Thanks to Brian and Jan for organising the event. Maybe next time we'll have one in the summer !!

Gill

- If voting could really change things it would be illegal.
- 100% reliable contraception is inconceivable.
- Serious campers are intense.
- Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
- Sports people can avoid the pain of defeat by wearing comfortable shoes.
- Poetry written upside-down is inverse; poetry of very few lines is universal.
- A girl who screamed and shouted for a pony got a little hoarse.
- The days of the pocket diary are numbered.



The International Evening was a great success

Selling Duck
Race tickets at
a rather damp
'Paws in the
Park' supporting
Hearing Dogs
for deaf people



Chinese New Year was celebrated by the traditional Dragon Dance in the shopping centre →



← How many Rotarians does it take to get a DVD player working?



Xander Croft takes the crown at the Young Musician competition.



Dev, Mitali and Devjoy joined us at President's Night

