



May 2017

The Big Uganda Issue

Bulletin

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



It can get warm in Uganda

And (unusually) an interruption on President's Night





Another great President's Evening and a fabulous trip to Uganda



Bob's Bulletin

The last three months have been very active. In February, we had Denise's talk on her career and life. It is the sign of a healthy club that we have, by Rotary standards, a good proportion of female members and younger members.

The March fashion show was very successful and the money raised went towards our project in Uganda. Thanks once again to Maggie for all her hard work.

We supported The Mill's fund raiser once again and I'm sure everyone enjoyed the Thai food at Chilli Banana.

President's night amused everyone by keeping up the tradition of interrupting the President's speech and I think special thanks should go to the script writers and actors. I'm sure we all thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

We continued to support the Rotary Club of Kasese in Uganda and this year six of us went to visit them. They had sent us a list of their projects for helping a poor rural village near Kasese and we had transferred money to them ahead of our visit. We were warmly welcomed and it was interesting to stay with Ugandan families rather than a Hotel. It was rewarding for us to see that the money that we had sent to Kasese, both recently and over the last few years, had been well spent.

In April, a number of us attended the RIBI conference in Manchester and found it motivating.

April had a very international flavour to it, starting with the international evening. It was both interesting and amusing to listen to the students tell us about their home countries and their views of Britain. We then had a Uganda evening which came complete with traditional Ugandan food, female members in Ugandan dress and a talk about all the activities that had taken place. Despite me saying, at the end of the trip to Uganda, that I did not want to see anymore Ugandan food I found it very tasty.

We are all now working towards the Duck Race and although it is hard work I'm sure it will be a great success.

Bob

Committees, and more..... 1st Feb

After another excellent buffet comprising of Lasagna, Salmon and Chili, the nineteen of us listened to Vida who gave the list of apologies which included Michael in Cheltenham and Sue hanging out with Paul Simon !



Brian sent round a sign-up sheet for President Night on the 17 March and promised 'A good do'. John T asked that if there was a fish option, that it wasn't served with roast potatoes, I think !

Gordon had printed Bulletins, which need delivering to those who do not attend meetings and asked for volunteers. He also asked if we have noticed the very pleasant Viennese music that had been playing in the background. This came from a Bose iPod dock which we had been given and should be useful in that it is both easy to operate and sounds good too.

David asked if 'copy deadlines' could be noted in the Bulletin.

Harry mentioned that the Friends of Bramhall Park had a 'light gardening' session planned for Saturday, gathering near the stocks. Tools provided, bring gloves.

Bob Preece raised the point about payment for the Bulletin, for those requesting 'hard copy' as opposed to electronic version and suggested going back to hard copies for all, and paying £1 for it, rather than the printing cost being hidden in the subs. This was discussed later in the meeting and the majority opinion was that we were happy with the electronic copy.

David R informed us that there was to be a 'bacon butty' meeting at a golf club, (name missed), to discuss the rather depressing membership numbers.

Michael, who was absent, had sent in a Treasurers Report reporting healthy balances in both accounts.

Ways and Means - Maggie

Maggie gave details about the Fashion Show Lunch on the 3 March

and whilst it is a 'girly and ladies afternoon', a few men would be useful as bouncers (!!)

Anyone selling tickets should note any vegetarian meals needed and report this back.

Maggie has had a very good reaction from the village in general and people who have never given prizes in the past are now keen to be involved.

Another event 'Easter Sunday at Bramhall Park will be held on the 16 April and a meeting is to be held to discuss format and content.

The Duck Race. Discussions have been held regarding the erection of a temporary bridge to relieve two way congestion but is likely to be a non starter in view of cost and permissions required from the Environment Agency. A 'one way' system is being considered.

Barclays. A meeting has been held with the new manager who is very keen to support us, and is certain that she can get five staff involved. It seems that the total funding they can provide is geared to the monies that we raise, but £5,000 is thought to be possible. They are willing to do more, including Duck Sales.

The application for the Race has gone in, but they are confident it will be approved, especially after the submission of the enhanced traffic plan, which will incorporate two buses this year. A big advertising push will be needed to try to fill them, perhaps pointing out that 'parking at the Hall is very limited indeed'.

A van has been made available, and Maggie's gardener has offered his trailer and he is willing to come and help too.

Reference was made about a member of staff at Bramhall High, a Mr Er... His name was then forthcoming from John Thewlis who remembered it in connection with an inflatable sheep many years ago..... This was immediately followed by calls of "who is writing the Bulletin...".

Ian took over at this point, telling us that Redrow are keen to be involved in sponsorship opportunities, of which there are many. Reeds Rains want to come on board and Anita and her owls will be making an appearance.

Vernon Building Society are to see if the Vernon Brass Band would be available and the Stockport Silver Band are coming and it is planned to make a fourth area of entertainment in the Walled Garden.

Pete Walsh from the Police will be bringing 'interesting things' but not the car wreck previously mentioned.

We have six choirs now, up from four previously and now people are 'asking' to participate, and not 'having to be asked'. There may even be 'Zorb Balls' too !



Ron – Community Service

Blind Run – we now have ten or eleven drivers so the load is modest and is all under control. The High School has accepted the invitation to the science event at the university, but had issues in raising staff cover.

Andrew spoke about Fern McGovern who has asked for financial assistance for a Guides trip to India to help with a school renovation. She had written an excellent letter and shows the right motivation and approach. This will be taken to Council for consideration.

International – Harry (for Sue)

Six are off to Kasese, Uganda. There is a micro finance scheme where sewing machines have been provided which is generating income. Harry is to assist in a Medical Clinic which may involve family planning (which he can do, apparently, so he says, 'in his sleep') and HIV/AIDS which he can research before he goes. Sue has applied for a Rotary award and it is hoped to buy a few piglets for them, as well. With regard to the crocus planting in Bramhall Park, a sign has now been erected mentioning BW Rotary and The Friends, and asking people to keep of the grass.

Club Services – John T.

Regarding the blanks (TBA) in the program, it has been decided to have 'pairs' of members organize the events, with next week being organized by Brian and Ron. John is to put out a schedule of duties in this regard.

Social – Brian

In two weeks, there will be no meeting at Ladybridge and Gill is organising an external social event.

AOB

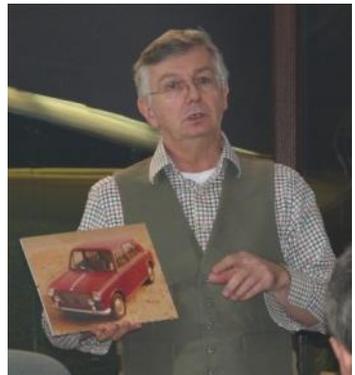
Ian asked that if anyone has any redundant gold or silver jewelry, older British coins or foreign ones, he would like them. (for charity, of course!)

Chris

The Ron and Brian Show – 8th February

The evening started as usual, although we were graced by the presence of Dev's other son - not, as many thought, the twin we had met before but the other one who is a student in Prague. Sid said a grace that was familiar to older members (the official Rotary grace) whilst Vida's attempts to list the absentees was delayed by Harry spouting on about the NHS at length. Ian gave out vouchers for Almond Pubs and President Bob reported on a depressing District meeting where the message seemed to be "We're all doomed".

On that happy note we were all ready for the Ron and Brian show where we were encouraged to talk initially about our first cars and latterly about places we'd visited on holidays. Ron kicked off, describing his black Austin A40 with a



sky blue roof. There followed several more nostalgic reminiscences of vintage vehicles - Morris 1100s, Standard 8 Tourers and Austin 7 Rubies amongst them - but the prize must go to Gordon for his Bond 3 wheeler, which could only merit the description of a 'contraption'.



At this stage almost all the ladies were asleep, although Sue did contribute by telling us she selected her first car on its colour and that she crashed it on her first time out.

The ladies did rouse themselves when the talk turned to holidays and countries we had visited. Anglesey came in for a bit of stick from Gordon and Harry whilst Dev described a visit to an Indian hill station billed as the wettest place on earth, only to find that it didn't rain at all while he was there.

The evening ended with a poll of all the countries members had visited, either whilst working or on holiday (see below).

All in all it was a most entertaining and convivial evening. with lots of people contributing and it could well serve as a blueprint for similar events. Apologies to those contributors who didn't get a mention but space (in my brain) is limited.

John T

And from Ron:

What a well travelled lot you are. From my list of 193 nations we have collectively visited/holidayed 106. So there are still 87 to go to. Admittedly some are not very attractive at present eg Afghanistan and others are a long way off eg Kiribati in the middle of the Pacific (from my schoolboy stamp collecting days I think this was previously known as the Gilbert and Ellis Islands).

The one computer tip you MUST follow.

If you have any documents or photos on your computer, it is essential that you back them up. The main call for help I get is 'My computer's stopped working and I've lost all my data. What can I do?' And very often, the answer is 'nothing—it's gone'. This is often followed by a pause, then a very disappointed sounding 'I thought you were good at this, can't you just get it back for me?' therefore it's my fault that no back-ups exist.

SO—Invest in a USB memory stick. Don't get these from PC World or Tesco as you'll pay a lot.

At the moment, a 16Gb stick will hold all the letters you will ever write and costs around £4 from Amazon. If you have a few hundred music tracks on your computer, it will hold those as well.



Photographs are a different matter. They can be very large files and a 16GB stick will hold around 3500 pictures. If you have more, you could buy a 32 or 64Gb stick or an external hard drive or even use the 'cloud'. Google offers quite a bit of free storage.

Please bear in mind that no back up is 100% reliable and really important files should be backed up to two different devices as we recently found out when Gill's external back up hard drive failed.

To find out more, type into Google, 'back up my data'.

Gordon

An oldie but a goodie from Peter

Noah was sailing along in the Ark when it sprang a leak! In a panic he got a dog to stick it's nose in the hole. This didn't work for long so he got his wife to push her elbow in the hole. After a while she complained about the discomfort so Noah sat on the hole & that did the trick until they got to Mt. Ararat. So that's the reason that all dogs have cold noses, ladies have cold elbows & men like

From Albert Muhwezi in Uganda

Dear Sue Preece,

Greetings to you all and happy new years! Special greetings to president Bob and the entire team at B&W RC! Not forgetting my good friends Harry and Maggie whom i hope to see here in Kasese in March this year. I was personally delighted to hear of your intended visit to Kasese and somehow should have replied you immediately but then i was not able to do so due very many work schedules which i have accomplished and therefore should now on have regular communication.

Let me now add my voice to what Rtn. Carol Nsubuga had said; **YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO VISIT US IN KASESE, UGANDA** and we now look forward to meeting you and doing the good work of **Rotary** and **service above self**.

I will not forget to tell you about my family which has grown to four children now; three girls and one boy. that is typical of an African man! my wife and the entire family send you warm greetings and look forward to seeing you as well during your visit here in Kasese.

I have of late been away from our weekly fellowships but everything is under the good control & care of our president Moses & the entire team of RC of Kasese whom i think you should have shared communication and are also looking forward to hosting you.

To Harry, Maggie, Pat & Julia; you are blessed to visit Kasese and Uganda as a whole; originally referred to as the **Pearl of Africa**.

Is my good friend Bob Stevenson Still a member of your club? i do hope so. I have not heard from him for a long time and of course since the time of Sir Alex Ferguson, things have not been good at the theater of dreams! - Old Trufford!!!

WHAT ABOUT the following to mention but a few: Gordon Jackson, Micheal Lacey & your wife Pam, Caroline Egan, Brian Dougal & your wife Jan, Tony Burch, David Rose & your dear wife Lorna, Abi Jenkins & her son (Manchester City fan), Ian, Barker, Burstow, Vida , Malaborn Ron, Monkhouse, Meeus, Gill, Peter Richardson and many others that i will remember their names later; how are they and their families?

We all give a full backup of what Rtn. Carol has proposed for you to support whilst you are here in kasese and shall continue to build on it as a team.

My good friends John Wilkinson and the entire team of **Winchester RC**; well done for the people of kasese and books for schools project and then the Kagando project with Myra. Many schools that we supported through improvement of their libraries have continued to do very well in their primary leaving examinations and the reading culture has also greatly improved and we pledge to continue following them up to ensure sustainability and accountability.

I have no doubt that our partnership between the three clubs will go a long way in improving the general livelihood of the people of kasese and Uganda at large.

God bless you and your families and let us keep our lines open for this memorable visit.

Regards,
Rtn. Muhwezi Albert
PP, RC OF KASESE



Quiz night at P5 – 15th February

As part of the social calendar Gill had arranged for us to visit a local hostelry. Long term residents of the area can recall when it was known as The Railway, The Cheadle Hulme, Platform 5 now it is advertised simply as P5. Walking across the car park I met Dev. It was a pleasant surprise to see him on two consecutive weeks, although this time without his son. At the bar he was persuaded by Dennis to try one of the cocktails called Porn



Star Martini. I can't remember all the ingredients but vodka and passion fruit were involved. Harry may have a photographic record of the event.

An L-shaped table had been set up at the rear of the room

to accommodate 18 members and 3 partners/wives. Everyone seemed happy with the starter courses but things changed with the main course. Those with small appetites found the helpings too large and I thought the gammon had a bitter taste due to being overcooked on bars which left thick lines of black across the meat. A large plastic box was obtained and filled with the surplus food for John Thewlis' lurcher dog. I adopted the old saying of feeding a cold and starving a fever so my plate was empty. Bob Stevenson was heard to say "I will wear anything Maggie wants me to". (Your correspondent will allow his readers to drift off into fantasy at this point.) Some people then decided to have sticky toffee pudding or cheesecake to satiate their hunger.

21.00 hours was quiz time. Although the quizmaster tried to get three teams from B&W only one emerged with the name Bramhall Boffins. Technology has moved on and you no longer have



paper and pencil and time to use a smart phone to find the answer. Teams were provided with an electronic key pad and answers were given by punching in a variety of letters or numbers. Sitting at the far end of the table I did not hear all the questions, but I did stand alongside the team part of the time and thought I would give you a flavour of some of the questions. Your screen shows a flag and you identify the country by pressing the first letter of its name. How many mobile phones were lost on London Underground in 2015? (answer 20309). You hear music and recognise a Dolly Parton classic so you punch in 925. Andrew had his finger on the button most of the time and was amazed at the quick reaction time of some of the other quizzers as even when he knew the answer he did not get first place. At 22.30 the results were announced. Purple Possums were winners and I am pleased to say Bramhall Boffins were not last. If David Burstow had still been a member there would have been a Health and Safety issue as both Brian and Bob Stevenson crashed their heads into low hanging lampshades. Finally a vote of thanks to Gill for organising the event, collecting in all the money and still having time to be in the team.

Ron Malabon

The life and times of Denise Feb 22nd



The evening's speaker was our own Denise Geary, giving a potted history of her career, but she worried President Bob by turning up at about two minutes to eight. Bob's relief was plain to see!

During the meal we had AOB's from Ian (needless to say) who

bragged about having both a brass and a silver band at the Duck Race; from Brian regarding meal choices for Prezzie's Night; from Maggie pleading for raffle prizes; and from me looking for some labourers to help the Friends of BH+P with our gardening on March 4th. (10am by the stocks, if you're free.)

Denise delivered her talk with her characteristic vivacity. Not content to lecture us and watch us fall asleep, she peppered her talk with questions such as "Which car did I have when I was a rep, a BMW or a Golf?" (A Golf, it turns out.) If I detailed her career moves it would be a very long bulletin! In essence, she trained as a nurse in London, braving the cockroaches which I remember so well from my time in hospital residences.

Further training saw her work as a midwife, spending some time in neonatal intensive care. She managed to get work in the private sector looking after Saudi princes and accompanying them on trips out of the hospital as they recovered from whatever ailed them. (I'm trying to avoid the word "escort" here!)

Marriage, motherhood and a move to Manchester provided a short break from work, but Denise was soon working for Astra-Zeneca as a nurse on the Clinical Pharmacology Unit, overseeing “first into man” trials of potential new drugs. A spell in a “Catheter Lab” (hearts, not bladders) prompted the demonstration of various pacemakers and a cardiac catheter which looked as though it would reach from toenail to scalp.

Denise is currently working for GSK as a research nurse, but faces redundancy in April. Somehow I don't think she'll be on the dole for long!

Harry

Committee night. 1st March

Despite the fact that there were only 19 members present at the meeting it turned out to be quite a boisterous gathering. Perhaps this was due at least in part to Bob S's generosity. As he was celebrating two joyous occasions, his birthday and his retirement, he treated us first to a drink at the bar on arrival and then wine on the table with our tasty meal. Needless to say, the atmosphere was relaxed and happy with bouts of raucous laughter emanating from Harry, Gill and Sue's table. I blame the Liverpudlians.

Everyone was in good voice as we sang "Happy Birthday" to Bob as we only get the chance once every four years.

If I were to be a little more generous I could blame the frivolity on the absence of many of the committee chairmen and officers. Do they normally keep us in order?

Vida informed us that Michael was stuck in mud at Moorend golf club having parked his car in a bog. Whoops. I bet he will check



where the tarmac ends next time.
Brian was busy preparing himself for a fab holiday around the Mediterranean.
Ron had escaped to Madeira I think.
Chris was in the USA but just to confuse us all Bruce WAS NOT in Switzerland.
He must have heard it was going to be a good meeting.



Sadly John T's absence was not due to a lovely holiday, just a rotten cold.
Having brought us this information Vida's work for the evening was not done. She wanted to know why the number partaking of coffee after our meal had dwindled of late. Opinion varied from the coffee was not to our taste, to caffeinated coffee keeps us awake when drunk at this time in the evening. As a result Vida asked for decaf. coffee to be served and hoped that more of us would gather at coffee time. She asked that we let her know if there were any other problems with the meal as Jackie was happy to alter things.

Whilst waiting for our pudding Harry reminded us that he would need volunteers with strong backs and arms at the park on Saturday morning to move a huge pile of compost. He tried to tell us that it was an easy job, as four of us had moved the same size pile in record time two weeks ago. Of course I couldn't let that go and had to point out to everyone that three ladies, including me actually moved most of the pile while he watched and chatted to everyone passing by. Vida reminded us that there were gentler jobs to be done by those not fancying compost barrowing, such as tending the lovely snowdrops and crocuses.

With a different hat on, Harry requested responses by email to whether people would like to be included in our teams for The Walthew Cup ten pin bowling competition which will be at 10.00am on 15th March this year at Parris Wood.
Dennis asked the question which had been on everyone's lips.

Just who is taking charge of bookings for Chilli Banana ? John Sykes gallantly leapt to the rescue and announced that so far he had 14 names on the list and awaited more requests to attend this event supporting The Mill.

Although John M is a frequent visitor to the village he confessed he didn't know where Chilli Banana was and many and varied explanations were offered from the Ways and Means committee.

Committee reports were thin on the ground.

Ian managed to find something to say. Well fancy that. He informed us that sponsorship for The Duck Race was in place with a promise £500 from Redrow, a promise of support from Reeds Rain and potentially £5000 from Barclays. There was a feeling of we'll believe it when we see it about the latter.

He also informed us that new for this year there would be The Vernon Brass Band and The Stockport Silver Band playing in the walled garden where hot food would be served by Mozaic and weather and lawn conditions permitting, people would be able to eat sitting on picnic blankets on the grass.

A little later he remembered to tell us that a gentleman named Gareth, being our 1000th 'like' on Our Facebook page would have the honour of starting a Duck Race and maybe presenting a trophy.

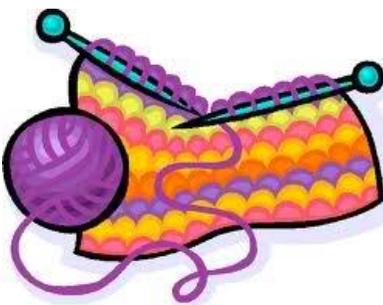
Between imparting all this information Ian was clearly enjoying being cheek to cheek with Pam as the Ways and Means table was a chair short so he and Pam shared one. When another chair was offered he stayed right where he was and used the new chair to put his feet up!

Sue told us that our micro finance scheme was still doing well, helping people in Uganda and that plans for our trip to Kasese were well underway. Sadly our request for a district grant to support our Ugandan friends had been refused with no comment as to why.

Andrew had attended a regional heat of The Youth Speaks

competition. Although there were quite a few entries they didn't come from many schools as several schools put in more than one team. Andrew felt that although it was very impressive it would not work well at his college as both pupils and staff would need to spend many nights after school training to reach a good enough standard.

Maggie said that ticket sales for the fashion show on Friday were doing really well and confirmed that those who had offered to help could still do so. Gentlemen were asked to wear DJ's. The Ways and Means Committee had spent the evening allocating some areas of the Duck Race to various members and will



continue doing so with non W. and M. Members tomorrow. Kate and Pam are now in charge of The Bake Off, John M is in charge of the Rota for pre Duck Race day ticket sales, Bob P is in charge of vans and the transport of everything to and from the field and Pat and Kate are in charge of the Duck Buses.

Gill made a plea to the knitters amongst us. Her daughter-in-law, a sister at Alderhey Hospital, is desperate for tiny woollen knitted hats for premature babies. Gill has a pattern which she will email to everyone and a source of wool, so get knitting everyone.

John M. asked whether we couldn't just provide the money to buy 100 hats but the ladies amongst us were quick to point out that finding woollen hats tiny enough for prem babies was a near impossible task and anyhow we should encourage using our craft skills.

Bob P closed the meeting by reminding us that next week's meeting would be at Chilli Banana and there would be no meeting the week after due to President's Night on the Friday.

Maggie.

Fashion Show 3rd March

Once again, after lots of planning, panic attacks and 'will we sell enough tickets?' worries, an early Spring fashion show took place at the Deanwater. Over a very nice lunch, we were entertained by a singer, Georgia who gave us expert renditions of easy listening from a range of genre.

After a break to peruse the many stalls in the bar area, the audience reassembled to watch fashions by Sorella accompanied by amusing anecdotes from Gay Rhodes in her own inimitable style. I now understand a little more about what women go through when attempting to wear Spanx.



Four of our members (Maggie, Kate, Denise and Pat) did sterling work as models demonstrating their amazing quick change skills between collections. A great debt of thanks is owed to these stalwarts.

Raffle prizes were headed by £250 worth of Clarins cosmetics and ranged through jewellery, bottles of wine and other high value items. Every audience member received a small gift of Clarins products which were gratefully received.



Georgia

Yet another successful event from Maggie which raised funds and even better, raised our profile once more in the community.

Gordon

Fating out for The Mill on 8th March

'Chilli Banana here we come' said about 20 members and partners. The evening was to support The Mill by having a buffet meal at £20pp, with a raffle thrown in to add to the funds. We were not the only folks there, the remaining seats being taken by local business people who supported The Mill's good work.

It was a convivial evening, with second portions of buffet available for those who usually indulge – you know who they are without me mentioning names. I particularly liked their homemade spring rolls, but it was all delicious fare.

The Mill relies on funding from local churches and fund raising events as well as regular donations, which they very much appreciated. Our Club has supported The Mill since it was founded 17 years ago and some long-standing members helped decorate the premises when they were commissioned.

The raffle seemed rigged but it must have been a statistical quirk as all the tickets drawn had numbers between 100 and 200, with none below 100 which meant that my table had no prizes at all! However, other members were much more fortunate – John T went home with a bottle of rioja, John S got a £30 voucher towards sewing repairs (he is still thinking whether to get new zips or to let some waistbands out!), Pam Malabon received some very splendid silk roses, and Peter got a large box of chocs. So not bad overall!

Footnote: a little bird tells me that Sue has a significant birthday on March 9th. Very many Happy Returns Sue!

Dennis

- **Silence isn't always golden sometimes it's guilt.**
- **A friendly psychiatrist is the one who lies on the couch with you.**
- **Wine improves with age. I like it more the older I get.**

The Walthew Bowling Cup (and how we wuz robbed)



This year's Walthew Cup was held recently. It is a great way for Walthew House to raise a fair bit of money, and raise its profile at the same time. In the past we've been able to field two teams of four, but this year illness, holidays and other reasons

severely limited our numbers, to the extent that we co-opted one of Walthew's service users onto our team. Shui has severely restricted vision, needing a "long cane" (white stick in old fashioned parlance) to get about. Along with Bob S's errant eye we were half way to being a visually impaired team without any help from the "Simspecs" which all sighted teams wore.

None of this detracted from the atmosphere and sheer fun of the occasion. Denise helped Shui to find her bearings at the outset, and Shui went on to post the best score of our quartet. Sadly this was not enough to prevent the BWRotary team taking its now traditional place at the bottom of the scoreboard. Once again the two Walthew House teams took the top spots and the individual highest score.

Mr Mayor, Chris Gordon, was clearly having a good time and confessed to having enjoyed more than the odd bowling session in his youth.

Next year we shall do better!
Second from bottom is our target!

All the best,

Harry



Question Time. 22nd March

Bob started the meeting with a secular grace, and as we were to subsequently hear, it will be the last at least for some time.

Only 16 members had chosen to attend. Commendably Bob, Harry & Maggie, 3 of the 6 about to set off into darkest Africa at around 4am the next day, were there. We sat down to choose both from the regulars of salmon and lasagne, but also a really rather good beef pie.

John T did G&V, without delegation, as Vida was one of the absentees. Clearly the list of reasons, excuses and non-apologised-no-shows was lengthy!

John M sent round the Duck Race sales rota.

Bob P spoke of a recent recruitment seminar, the dire state of Rotary membership generally, and the current thinking of the-more-casual-the-better. To that end we will be dropping grace and the loyal toast. Flags, chains of office and other stuff to be considered further.

Andrew is now in charge of the Easter Sunday event in Bramall Park (the one no one is allowed to write about – oops, sorry!) Joint event with Friends of Bramall Hall. Allegedly there will be a fully kosher hog roast ?

Gill spoke of a “meal-packing” session on 8 April at the Manchester National Conference. 6 places, Gill, Bob & Sue P already signed up. It may or may not cost the club money to do it. It may or may not need those going to register. An email from Gill to clarify.

Following the break, during which the room layout was totally altered, we had Andrew’s Question Time event. Clearly a great deal of planning and other work had gone into this, and it was a great shame so few were there to participate.

An audience of 9 sat facing the panel of Michael, Denise, John T and Gill. Andrew played Dimpleby and John M invented a role for himself of an unbelievably officious timekeeper, several times interjecting impertinent interruptions of Andrew Dimpleby ! Andrew started by playing the theme tune and announcing the panellists and himself in the proper QT style.

Question #1 – Dennis asked “If you were reincarnated, what would it be as?” Michael instantly knew, for him it would be a hippo. For reasons not apparent to the writer, David R asked John T whether or not he was circumcised.

Question #2 – David asked “Should all zoos be closed”. Topical ap-

parently because of some local zoo. This produced a real QT like atmosphere and debate. The panel divided along gender lines with Denise and Gill thinking all zoos should close, whereas Michael and John thought that although clearly “bad” zoos should be closed, nevertheless good ones performed a useful purpose. Polar bears in small enclosures were bad, spiders in glass tanks were perfectly ok.

As the next 2 questions were to be political, Andrew asked for swaps, Bob St and the author joining the panel.

Question # 3 – “Are referenda a suitable mechanism for making major national decisions”. Views ranged from my total support to Denise’s thought that decisions were best left to professional politicians. In real QT style, the question was used by many people as an excuse to talk about something else. In this case a discussions of the merits of Brexit (vs whether or not a referendum was a suitable mechanism to decide it). The narrow Brexit margin produced a general feeling that a 2/3 majority should be needed, although none of its proponents volunteered to go and tell Nicola Sturgeon that independence now needed that majority !

Question #4 – “Is Donald Trump a risk to a) the world, b) USA, c) women?”. Denise thought that fortunately constraints in the system would prevent serious problem, but that nevertheless “he’s an arse”. Michael thought “Yes, Yes and Yes. Bob St the same, YesYesYes. I wondered how the best 250m citizens could come up for president was an idiot vs a crook.

Question #5 – Ron asked “is the UK bankrupt?”. Bob St immediately answered, Yes, ever since the Bank of England was founded in 1694. Whether this technical truism was the info Ron was looking for, no one knew. Michael then gave a very erudite summary of the inadequacy of using debt to GDP ratios, whilst ignoring debt to assets ratios.

Finally not so much a question as a general discussion of the appalling events near parliament earlier in the day.

An excellent meeting, perhaps to be repeated ? (with my Grammar Schools question included !?!).

David R was now acting President as Bob had gone home - to see if Sue had left him any space in “his” suitcase. We were informed that there would be a gardening session on 1 April (Harry absent!) and everyone was reminded– No meeting next week, it’s a 5th Wednesday. Meeting ended just before 10:30.

Brian

Hi all

Spent a few days in Scottsdale after leaving our friends in Palm Springs. We had a condo which was ok apart from a very poor bed. Superb location though.



Drove the two hours up to Sedona which is much higher, and therefore cooler than Scottsdale. We have gone from 96 degrees, to the forties. Very heavy hail storm today, with hail so large, it actually hurt - about 7 or 8mm in diameter. Forecast looks good as we travel ever eastwards.

Chris

Committees 4th April

David Rose did an excellent job of standing in for Bob who was still in Uganda. The meeting had a strangeness to it, as not only were there less than half the members present there was also a lack of Committee Chair persons. Anyway 15 of us enjoyed one of Jackie's meals washed down with the locally made drinks. Being a committee night business was held all the way through the meeting. Vida advised on all those in Uganda, with others like John Sykes being in Cambridge. She also advised in no uncertain terms that she would not be standing for this job in June. No report from the Secretary, International or Community Ser-

vice. John T (Club Services) advised Neil Corry (Butcher) would be our speaker next week. In 2 weeks' time we will have an International Evening with the week afterwards being organised by Pam & Harry (No doubt the Ugandan update).

John T (Club Services) continued from where he had left off before the break. New list of pairings introduced. (The author being paired with Denise). Brian D was due to speak on Social but had vanished! It was advised however that the Barbeque would be on the 2nd July, plus it was likely to have a wine tasting at Bob & Sue's house on the 21st June.

In the absence of Maggie, various people spoke about the Easter Event & the Duck Race. Stephen set out that he needed more volunteers for Easter Sunday otherwise the event would not happen. His son had volunteered to be the Bunny to help us! Various discussions were held assuming the event would go ahead.

With regard to the Duck race there are still many opportunities available for selling ducks! 45 Ducks have re-entered. 16 new ones have been sold so far.

Car Parking was discussed with Phoenix Explorers advising they could help the in charge Rotarians. Kate & Pam are running the Bake off. The Busman has been spoken too & he is decorating the Bus to fall in line with the Event.

The Scouts & some nurses (thanks to Maggie) are to help with the First Aid tent.

Sponsors. It looks like we have at least one sponsor too many so we might move them to the Bake Off. Fun Fair. Michael has paid a late bill from the council of £150 re last year's funfair. Angela Rowley has agreed to judge the singing. Ian advised with the support of Gordon that



we have had 1000 likes on Facebook. Two Duck races are to be started by disadvantaged children. Info on P19 of Inside Bramhall.

The wine tasting on 21st June was to be at Blanc de Blancs in Bramhall (now confirmed).

Meeting concluded at 10.15pm. Council meet next week. Geoff is to complete the Blind run & Bob Preece will be back.

Bob Stevenson

Hi Y'All (Yes, still in Texas)



3,000 miles on the trip, and rising

Currently in Houston having driven here today from Fort Worth, which we like. Went to Dallas yesterday but crowded,

slow traffic, hugely complicated new multi major highway reconstruction which isn't on our satnav (and very poor signage) was rather frustrating. Anyway, we went and had a look at Dealey Plaza, the former Texas Schoolbook Depository, and the 'grassy knoll'. The X on the roadway marks the spot.....! Dealey Plaza wasn't the large square I had imagined, but just two very busy roads heading down to a main highway.

Chris



April 12th – Mr Neil Corry

Mr President Bob called at **8.02** and the meagre few of us in. Those in attendance entered the room to be greeted by wine bottles a-plenty on the tables. When we sat down we were informed that it had been **Ms Preece's** (biggy) birthday and we all spontaneously sang -Yes, SANG! – Happy Birthday.

The repast was sumptuous OR the scoff was grand!.

I think that this is the point to report that there were only 14 Rotary members present. Sadly, this number is the lowest I have seen on a speaker night since joining the Club. At **8.25 Ms Chattington** informed us about the absences of 14 of our band and welcomed **Mr Neil Corry**.

Mr President Bob mentioned Poynton's whist drive. If anyone wants to go, Sorry, you've missed it because it is happening as I write this!

Ms Preece talked a little about Uganda promising a full update soon. One of the quotes of the evening has to be when Ms P said "Harry was an absolute star" doing the clinic. Later she added the Millie and Albert send their regards.

Mr Meeus gasped and wheezed about the Duck Ticket Sales Rota through a shower of mucous. He left for bed shortly after. **The writer** said posters and flyers were now available for anyone who wants one



Coffee at **8.52** restart at **9.12**
Our speaker **Mr Neil Corry** was introduced by **Mr Littlewood** as "The best butcher in the land" (The writer cannot argue with that!) He is a second generation butcher having got back into the trade after dabbling as an apprentice quantity surveyor, which he hated. His dad actively discouraged Neil to follow him

into the business in Burnage. He bought a run-down place in

Bramhall some 24 years ago and continues to develop it today. Business is OK but the biggest problems are in sustaining services which incur the biggest costs. Neil supports loyal customers where he can and says that local businesses form an important part of the community, acting as its eyes and ears.

Some stats:-

In the 1990's there were 22,000 butchers. In 2007 (recession) there were 7,100. Today there are just 5,240 independent butchers in the UK.

Some 25,000 people live in Bramhall, Neil serves between 650 and 700 customers per week some of which go in more than once a week making a customer base of around 400.

There are 5 full time staff and a couple of part timers.

Questions came thick and fast and covered a wide range of subjects. Brexit, diversification, different types of cow, veal production, goat, apprenticeships, Health & Safety regs (a real bane), competition from the supermarkets.

Neil paid huge credit to the influence of his wife over the business. Congrats to her on becoming a judge in Melton Mowbray. Mr Littlewood offered thanks – THIRTEEN of us clapped.

Ian

Well, nearly completed this part of the trip as we arrived in Florida last night after a 460 mile drive from Destin, near Panama City on the Florida Panhandle, to St Petersburg- an easy drive though. The day before, we were in Louisiana. Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, having already done California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, along with keeping losing an hour as we passed through four time zones along the way. It has been a great trip and we are already planning another, east to west, Boston to Seattle - just to get those missing hours back...!



Chris

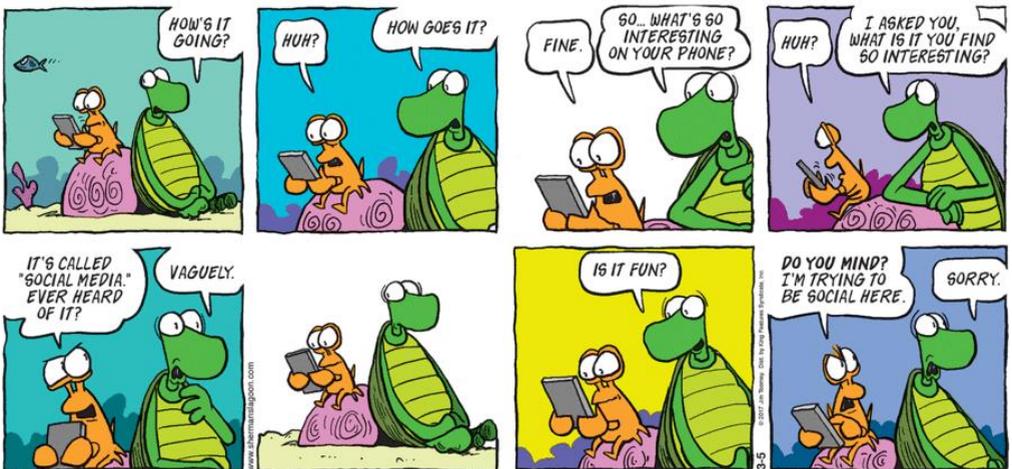
The picture below shows 175 bonnets for premature babies kindly knitted by Rotarians and friends and family. Special mention to Sue Dobson, Dennis' sister Betty and her knitting friends and Maggie and her extended family who have all been busy knitting away.

They are going to Alder Hey hospital in Liverpool and the Women's hospital in Liverpool to keep them stocked up, unfortunately the hats are single use only so they do go through a lot. I will be taking them to my daughter in law ,who is a Sister at Alder Hey, towards the end of May.



Gill

One of my favourite daily cartoons—Sherman's Lagoon



International Students Evening 19th April

A fairly good attendance, compared with recent meetings, and quite necessary in order to give our principal guests a worthwhile audience. They arrived in style by the excellent chauffeur-ing efforts of Gill who battled with early evening traffic through Manchester and Salford traffic (with Ian acting as tour guide) to arrive with enough time for some pre-dinner introductions and 'breaking of ice' chat.

As ever we and the students, we hope, enjoyed the excellent buffet dinner followed by coffee and a short break for more 'getting to know you' exchange.

Vida gave apologies and guests which, apart from the students, was one in number that being Mary who did not let me forget that I told her it was one of those joint evenings open to wives and partners etc. Never the less she enjoyed the evening as a sole representative of that group.

Vida then invited the Hosts of the evening to introduce their individual guests. This being done Sue invited each International student to say a few words about themselves, their subjects of study, their country and last but not least their impressions of Manchester.

Host John & Mary



Spain: Irene Vazquez. Studying, Modern Languages, Non language Communication and Culture. Interests: Arts and dancing especially ballet. Living in Manchester since last September and enjoying the city, especially the canal area, the friendliness of the people but surprised that the 'cheek kissing' greeting does not exist as in many other countries in Europe. Comparisons with London were expressed and it would appear that Manchester

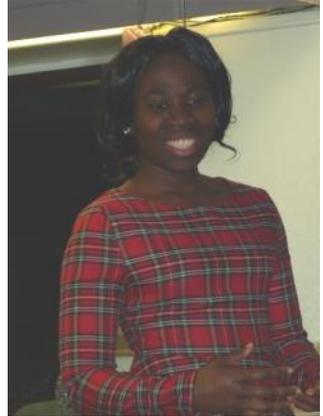
was preferred even the weather. (This was probably due to the absence of Winter in the past six months in the latter). Tea was also enjoyed, not being a popular drink in Spain, but preferred Spanish food.

Host: Andrew

2. **Ghana:** Bernice Abalin Studying at Salford University MEng Civil Engineering. Interests: dancing, singing, reading. She has lived in Manchester for 15 years with her family. Often visits the Royal Exchange which inspired her main interests.

Gave a very interesting background to her home country of Ghana regarding the various races, tribes

and languages. Also a description of how this was projected in the different type of crops and foods provided in the several regions. This she is extending her travels in going to Camp America



Host: Sue & Bob

3. **Korea (South)** Seohyun Kim Studying: English language & literature. Interests: Traveling, nature. Gave

thanks for a very enjoyable dinner. Gave a brief account of the separation of North and South Korea in 1953 following the cease fire and the evacuation of the Chinese and Allied forces from the respective territories. Also the inability for the two countries to have any exchange visiting for over sixty years. His home town is quite near the border which makes very aware of the possibility of the outbreak of conflict again between the two countries. He stated that a good ed-



ucation was a very competitive priority at home. Enjoys studying the nature of animals in the several countries he has visited. He was quite surprised how multinational Manchester is and the vast number of different national restaurants but did not find a noteworthy one of South Korea.

Host: Gill

4. **Thailand.** Surat Asvapoositkul; Studying: MSc Electrical Power System Engineering. Interests: Science and movies. Does not enjoy the prevailing weather conditions in Manchester and prefers that of his own country. Also found Manchester very quiet compared to his home city of Banco especially at weekends when it seems everybody stays at home except for those going to a football match. He admitted that his understanding of the English language was much better than his ability to speak it. This was mainly due the amount of time reading and understanding books in English which is a necessity as there are no text books in Thai on his engineering subject. He missed the food of his native country and spoke about the vast variety of dishes that are served there compared with Thai restaurants in Manchester.



Host: Harry & Maggie

5. **India.** Abhiraj Chakraborty: Studying: BSc (hons) Wildlife Biology: Interests: photography, adventure sports, martial arts, animals. At Manchester Polytechnic. He opened his talk but stating that he was “WEIRD!!” He has travelled all over India but would like to extend his travels into space even if there is no life there. India was far too diverse to describe as one country in its various



states, tribes, languages, religions and the nature of the various people out of a population of over a billion citizens. During his travels he has been bitten by snakes twice chased by wild cats, big cats that is. He has a great admiration for elephants and misses the wildlife and the size of the animals of India but can give the spiders a miss.

The students talks created a lot of interest and enjoyment which was noticeable by the many questions from the audience and the replies that were generated. There followed some informal interviews with the students and the meeting was closed at approximately 10.15. Altogether a very good evening meeting and worthwhile repeating in future years. Well done Sue for the arrangements and also to Gill and Ian who had the arduous job of chauffeuring the Students back to various parts of Manchester and Salford.

John Meeus

Simon Smith, Founder Member

Sad news I am sorry to say. I received a call this morning to say that Simon Smith, a founder member of Bramhall Rotary, died a week ago last Friday. He had been ill for several months and had been receiving radio and chemo therapy up to December but it would seem to no avail. The funeral was in Spain last Monday.

Simon and Alison had been living in Spain for a few years, presumably following their respective retirements. They were both very social characters and were always willing to arrange an event at the drop of a hat which invariably turned out to be very enjoyable and a great laugh even when it was a bit chaotic. He was treasurer one year and I think that was much the same. You could not help being happy in their company.

They dropped out of Rotary some years ago and I am sure that in the ensuing years the happy go lucky life would have gone with them. For that I am sure the social scene in Calpe benefitted. He will be missed.

John M

25 years ago

This covers February to April 1992 Vol 5 Nos 7 – 9. A vote for the inclusion of women in the club was extremely close with 11 for and 13 against (it would be another 14 years before Vida joined us). A talk by the Lord of the Manor of Bramall revealed that William the Conqueror had given lands to his new Earls and they in turn had given out minor titles including Lordships. The interruption at President's night had a nautical theme because Hugh had been a nuclear submarine commander. A joint collection in Mersey Square with RC Stockport raised nearly £2000 which enabled 200 children to go on a tour of Granada Studios. A joint meeting with Lamplighter at the Rudyard Hotel enjoyed an excellent presentation by the Royal Navy. Rotary Wives joined Poynton Inner Wheel for their fashion show with a difference. Broughton Mannequins modelled authentic costumes from about 1840 to 1990. In some cases the history of the garments was known and on what occasion they had been worn.

In those far off days we had members and wives young enough to be celebrating the birth of their own child rather than grandchildren or golden wedding anniversaries. A talk by a policeman from the Accident Unit showed how they have to develop their own brand of humour to deal with the sights they come across. The thought was that chicanes should replace road humps to control speed at half the cost. Having heard that we were to have a safari supper, he reminded us that it takes eight hours or more to get rid of excess alcohol so be careful the morning after the night before.

Bramhall Festival (a joint venture with Round Table) was underway again and it was noted that there would be three bands and ten lorries (floats) in the procession.

Ron



Uganda (the BIG story)

Background



Many of you will know of our involvement with a Rotary Club in Uganda but I will start from the very beginning of the story and share the details with you. My passion for East Africa began at school from reading about Africa and Uganda in particular – I was intrigued. When I was a newly qualified science teacher, selected to do Voluntary

Service Overseas (VSO), it seemed only natural that I would ask if I could be placed in Uganda. In 1969, it was extremely unusual for a young female and alone to fly out to the depths of Africa, but I never doubted that I would love it and I did! I'm not so sure that my parents were as keen to see their only child leave home for such an adventure! I was placed in a large secondary boarding school in Namasagali, which was located in a very remote and tiny village on the River Nile, surrounded on the three other sides by swamp. The village was north of Jinja, which at 90 km away was nearly an hour and a half's drive. Namasagali was where the film 'African Queen' had been shot and the place had not changed much since then! My claim to fame was that Jon Snow, also a volunteer teacher, had just left as we arrived. I shared a small house with Carol and two other male VSOs lived next door. There were no phones or shops but we had many amazing experiences and, overall, I am certain that I gained far more than I was ever able to give. Eventually Bob came out to visit me and I agreed to return home to marry him. By that time, Carol had also agreed to marry Emmanuel and so

we both returned to the UK in 1971. We went our separate ways to marriage and family life, Carol returning to Uganda at a very difficult political time of Idi Amin and Milton Obote and me to the calm of Liverpool.

As promised, just over 25 years later, we returned with our youngest daughter. It was here that we met Richard Tooro who had just established Kabarole Tours. I also reconnected with Carol and Emmanuel and visited them in their family home in Kasese, south west Uganda. We had much in common and each of our three children, both having had two boys and a girl, were of a similar age. We kept in contact from then on, also meeting up when Carol returned to the UK see her family, her brother by coincidence lived in Cheadle. I knew that both she and Emmanuel were very keen and active Rotarians so it seemed only natural to try to establish a link with our respective clubs when Bob and I joined B&W Rotary.

The beginning of the link between Bramhall & Woodford and Kasese Rotary Clubs.

The Rotary Club of Kasese, was trying to improve the lives of the rural poor in Lhuhwahwa village through initiatives intended to address basic health, water and sanitation as well as improved income generation capacity. Lhuhwahwa had population around 1,200 people and was characterized by large families with low household income, low literacy, disease, hunger and malnutrition among children. There were about eight water taps with intermittent water supply, frequent breakages and poor maintenance being a few of the reasons that water supply was inadequate. Lhuhwahwa is about five km away from Kagenda Hospital and other smaller health centers; making access to health services difficult when no transport is available.

B&W first visit to Kasese January 2013

In August 2012, our club won Rotary Air Miles to promote a friendship exchange. We donated our air miles to the Kasese

Rotary Club. Bob, David Rose and I went to Uganda in January 2013 and in May Albert Muhwezi and Milly Nzirambi stayed with our club. Milly, as well as being a Rotarian, also ran a children's home/orphanage called NOTDEC (Nzirambi Orphans Talent Development Centre. Many of the children had lost their mothers during childbirth or from illnesses such as HIV/AIDS. Without access to breast milk many babies die; processed formula milk is prohibitively expensive and very difficult to obtain for poor rural families. Around this time, we were also very fortunate in winning a prize for the video Brian Dougal produced for us about our Rotary exchange visit in 2013.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfsXBws9ZA4>

We have always found communicating with our fellow Ugandan Rotarians rather a challenge at times. Ugandans in Kasese do not have broadband in their home, few have their own personal computer and electricity can be intermittent. Given the difficulties I think communication overall is better than the facilities indicate! On our first B&W visit in 2013 David ran a medical outreach clinic, we distributed children's clothing, medication, mosquito nets and much needed vocational resources, such as sewing and knitting machines, so that the villagers could set up a small sustainable business and help themselves. At the end of the week David returned to the UK and our friend, Richard Tooro, organized a wonderful holiday for us touring the beautiful national parks. I have maintained contact with Richard and Carol ever since.

I have always wanted to return and so when I kept getting reports about the progress being made in Lhuhwahwa Village I managed to persuade Bob, Harry & Maggie, Pat and Julia to make a trip in 2017 andnow to the next chapter of the story!

Article for RIBI Magazine - to be published June 2017

Six enthusiastic members of the Rotary Club of Bramhall & Woodford have just returned from staying in the homes of local Rotarians in Kasese, south west Uganda. We had an amazing experience and were warmly welcomed with such generous hospitality. Entertainment was provided and trips were organized to several schools, hospitals and an orphanage as well as the local 'Equator' landmark. Visits were made to toilet facilities which had been funded by our club in collaboration with the RC of Winchester. We were delighted to see these much-needed facilities being well used, particularly those in the primary school where the original latrines had been destroyed by heavy floods in 2013 and the new block at Kagando Hospital for the fistula clinic. We were reliably informed that this ablution block was the only one painted by a Rotarian Bishop!



However, the main purpose of the trip was to further develop the long-term project, begun in 2013, to assist the RC of Kasese to develop and improve the lives of poor families living in the rural village of Lhuhwahwa. The project aimed to empower the village women, 90% of whom are illiterate, by equipping

them with sustainable self-help initiatives. It was wonderful to see the progress which has been made since our last visit four years ago. *'It made us feel proud to be Rotarians'*. We were taken to see the shop where the women had set up a small business making and selling school uniforms using the sewing and knitting machines that we had previously bought for them in 2013. To date nearly 40 of the women have been trained in tailoring.

This time both Rotary Clubs collaborated again to fund and run an outreach medical camp; the village lacks easily accessible and affordable medical facilities. One of our group, a retired GP, held a surgery

under a tree in the village and with the support of Kagando Hospital nurses treated several dozen patients. We donated fourteen cross-



breed piglets to the women's association so that they could expand their productivity. A large marquee and 100 chairs were bought in order to generate rental income for the Lhuhwahwa micro-finance initiative and to provide facilities for village events. Although putting our construction skills clearly to the test, we also helped with

the building of an eco-san toilet. This will hopefully act as the prototype for many such toilets to be installed in the village in the future. At the end of the week we went to Queen Elizabeth National Park for a well-earned holiday! All of these activities were the result of good collaboration between the various Rotary Clubs and demonstrates what can be achieved through team work. We can't wait to return again to see further progress in Lhuhwahwa and our Rotarian friends!

Ecosan Toilets

Ecosan toilets are a good alternative to conventional sanitation in vulnerable locations throughout the world. WaterAid has recently been experimenting with various technologies, such as these eco san toilets, that cater for the specific needs of communities in vulnerable areas.

The EcoSan toilet is a closed system that does not need water, so is an alternative to pit toilets in places where water is scarce or where the water table is high and the risk of groundwater contamination is increased.

The toilet consists of two parts/containers and when the first part fills up it is closed and sealed. After about eight to nine months in the sealed container the excrement is completely composted to organic manure and can be used on farms.

Uganda Trip 26th April

The meeting was well attended by members and their guests as we were treated to an excellent presentation about the Uganda trip.

Vida noted apologies from Gill, Neil and Chris. Sid and Pam were poorly so hope you two are feeling better now.

Michael informed us that Pam was now improving. Duck Race sales online exceeded those sold over the Easter period. The business cards are available and advertise and tempt those folk to go on line if they do not have the ready cash. Please have these cards on the collecting tables when selling tickets.

Ian informed us that his ebay sales of donated old coins and jewellery from Rotary members had raised £180 which has been transferred to Michael.

John M gave us an update on Duck Race rota. Still slots to be filled so if anybody has availability please put yourself down

David informed us that he has been attending the High Peak Consortium who are looking at ways of recruiting new members. Hazel Grove Rotary, along with other local rotary clubs and who support Beechwood Care and Walthew house and are involved with the Plaza Cinema in Stockport. 2 films are to be screened on the 21 June. Money raised from these showings will go to Beechwood Care and Walthew house. Tickets will be £10 public, £8 Rotarians. David will circulate more details regarding this event.

All the girls (Sue, Maggie, Pat and Julia) looked very colourful as they had come dressed in native Ugandan attire to give the evening atmosphere. They were let down by the men. Bob had his position as President to consider so dressed in normal clothes. Harry had no excuse.

Maggie started the talk by introducing us to the home made dishes using authentic Ugandan recipes. Food seem to feature largely in the group's Ugandan experiences and we were encouraged to sample the fayre on offer to supplement the usual supper. I personally thought it was all delicious, especially the red peanut sauce.

Sue then gave us an excellent presentation with accompanying slides and contributions from her fellow travellers.

We had a quick geography lesson (maps from Harry) and a fact sheet and a brief history of how the links had been forged between Kasese Rotary(Uganda) and B&W Rotary

Sue went to Uganda as a Teacher doing VSO. Met another Teacher out there - Carol- and became friends. Sue returned to the UK (1971) and married Bob. Carol married Emmanuel (from Africa) and returned to live in Uganda. Sue returned to Uganda after 25 years , hooked up with Carol as as she and her husband were Rotarians and set about establishing links

With the aid of Rotary Air miles, 2 Rotarians, Albert and Milly from Kasese were able to visit us in UK. B&W Rotary were able to do an exchange visit in 2013 (prize for video produced by Brian Dougal).

The 2017 Rotary visit appeared to have had a very busy schedule with lots of food consumed. All were housed with local Rotarians and were well looked after.

Activities included visits to the tourist school, fun (!) runs which raised £2000, dodging the boda boda motorcycles, visits to a local village where the only water supply was collected manually from the river, which was not particularly clean and visits to primary schools. They also attended a local Rotary meeting, visited Milly's orphanage, saw Rotary donated toilets, the local hospital and provided help at a medical camp. Harry came into his own here, managing with very basic facilities and limited drugs, but with the advantage of having the on site nurse helping to diagnose many cases of malaria and typhoid.

Bob the time keeper called time and wrapped up the evening after lots of questions.

Uganda part 2 (The Rest of the holiday and lots of bird pictures) will be presented on another Rotary night

Denise

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017



The 92nd Annual RIBI conference was held at the Manchester Central Convention Complex over 7th to 9th April. Bob and Sue Preece, David Rose, Bob and Orienne Stephenson plus Pam and I represented Bramhall and Woodford.

The first plenary session started at 2pm with a welcome from RIBI President for 2016/17 Eve Conway. She joined the Rotary Club of Redbridge in 2000 but started as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar graduating with a master's degree in Broadcast Journalism from North Western University in Evanston, Illinois. She has worked for BBC News for twenty years, started the Young Citizens Award and helped to launch the Purple4Polio campaign. (Maybe Julia Shaw has come across her). It was left to the Lord Mayor, in his welcome speech, to ring the bell to open the conference as the organisers had forgotten to do it at the start of proceedings.

The Young Citizen Award winner for 2017 was Bella Field who gave an amazing polished talk at the age of 12!

There were a series of awards:-

Community Service – Framlington (1080)

Vocational service – John Head Workington

PR Award for Club on-line presence - Clacton

Club Bulletin – Billericay

District Magazine – 1090

RIBI Public Relations – Newport

These were rushed through without any explanation or graphic examples. In the dim and distant past B&W won the club bulletin award at Bournemouth.

Maybe we should look at Clacton and Billericay sites and pinch some ideas.

David Rose went off to the Welcome Drinks Reception at the Town Hall and the Centenary Dinner at the Midland Hotel. Meanwhile the rest of us had a meal in a Turkish restaurant before returning to listen to “The Legends of Las Vegas” featuring Tom Jones, Barbara Streisand and Frank Sinatra.

Saturday morning started with Suzanne Rae from Australia talking about the World's Greatest Meal. This was followed by Ben Knowles (no relation to Eric) from the British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry. They started in 2014 with a Gorilla made from 4000 spoons. Their new project will be a 26ft sculpture of an angel made from knives collected through 200 knife banks. So far they have 100,000 and the target is 250,000 which hopefully will reduce the number of knife crimes in the UK. There then followed a review of the previous 10 Young Citizen Award Winners. This was shown on BBC TV and I have a recording if you wish to see it. Without going into all the detail suffice to say there are some

incredible young people in the UK.

After a well-earned coffee break we heard from Virginia McKenna and her son Will about the start of Zoo Check in 1984 (now called Born Free) and how the emphasis had changed from just lions to cover a wide range of animals and is concerned with rescue and care rather than preservation. Apparently there are now only two circuses left in the UK. The final speaker of the morning was Ade Adepitan who spoke about his life and polio. Born in Lagos, Nigeria he moved to London when he was three and had to wear a calliper while being a football goalie. He took to wheel chair basketball (Frank Bruno got him his first chair) and just failed to get into the Olympic squad for Barcelona and Atlanta but got into the team for Sydney 2000.

In the afternoon Bob Preece went to the Annual Business Meeting where I understand most of the time was spent discussing increasing the subscription. Pam went home and the others went to help Gill and Vida with meal packing. I went to go to the General Interest Session which included topics on Guide Dogs and the Trussell Trust food banks. (please no more baked beans!!). I decided to come home on the 42B bus which was quite an experience, as I had not realised how many traffic lights and bus stops there are between Piccadilly and Moss Lane. I am sure the bus was stationary for longer than it was moving. On Sunday morning we started with the Halle Youth choir who were very good and kept singing even when one of the girls on the back row fainted. RI Director and RI Vice President Jennifer Jones from Windsor, Ontario spoke about "who we are, what we do and recognition". We are leaders by mindset not title, we have connections and Rotary is a community worldwide. Michael Caruso, a communication consultant who is DG for part of Michigan and Ontario, asked us to consider using 15 words in 5 phrases. I am proud of you, What is your opinion, Will you please, Thank you and name (that is the name of the person you are talking to). Martin Bell, ex BBC and white suit, reckoned the world was at its most dangerous time since the Cuban missile crisis and spoke about the plight of refugees in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and South Sudan. The final speaker was Russell Grant talking movingly about his grandmother who had Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

I think everyone should try to attend a conference to experience Rotary on a wider scale as well as hearing about some amazing people. Manchester was the ideal opportunity since you only had to pay the registration fee not travel or accommodation costs. I spoke to one former DG from Hampshire who had flown up from Bournemouth for £53 which must be cheaper than the train. I also met a former member of Bramhall Round Table, David Hockmeyer, who moved to Sleaford over forty years ago. Only 1600 delegates attended this conference and I wonder how many will be in Torquay next year.

Ron Malabon

Another successful fashion show



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Issue	Final dates for submission
Aug-17	Sat 29th July
Nov-17	Sat 28th Oct
Feb-18	Sat 27th Jan 2018
May-18	Sat 28th Apr 2018