



Happy Christmas

Nov/Dec 15/Jan 16



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Bulletin

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



Gill getting the lowdown on Billy Bow's trysts



Taking flight to help people with learning difficulties



The International Concert showcased many talents





The bowls evening proved a hit with 17 competitors.



Lots of music and dance at the Scarecrow Festival



Gill's Jottings

Well the last three months have certainly been a hive of activity in the club. Our latest venture of the Scarecrow Festival was certainly a success and had a huge impact on the village with almost every shop taking part. This most certainly got our name known a lot more in the village and was due almost entirely to Maggie and Ian putting the thumbscrews on to great effect. A huge pat on the back to them and indeed other Rotary members who turned out in force on probably the wettest Saturday in August. The exploits of Billy and Bella and their ensuing love match certainly got people looking at our Facebook page to follow their latest adventures and I suspect this will turn into an annual event much the same as the Duck Race with all members keen to take part.

Maggie, Sue and I went to Valley school to sit in on their Harvest Festival and to see some of the equipment purchased from the proceeds of the Duck Race, a very moving and humbling experience.

What a great night when the owls came to visit. Not only did we get the chance to hold these lovely creatures and hear about how they can help autistic children but we also got to welcome four younger guests to the Club. I think it was a great night for them to see us having a good time. Andrew is now a member and we are hoping that James and maybe Kate will follow suit in the not too distant future. What a benefit they would be to the club.

Charter night was a little noisy but it was nice to enjoy a good meal together, I think some were disappointed with the meal choices and the wait but mine was lovely.

Our social calendar is filling up nicely thanks to Brian, and the Treasure Hunt recently was great fun, it was lovely to see Andrew and his children take part, it's not often we have a family event and they certainly enjoyed it. I hope we can think of more events like this. It would have been nice to see a few more Rotarians taking part however.

Hopefully everyone is now happy with the format of the meetings and they seem to be settling down nicely with some good speakers booked and some more events in the social calendar. Christmas is inevitably one of the busiest times for us with the collections and the float and hopefully this year the inclusion of Santa's Grotto will give us further publicity in the village.

It's very much "all hands on deck" for the next few months and I know those who are able to will continue to give their support wherever and whenever possible.

Back in the New Year.

Gill

Committees 5th Aug

Those members who hadn't found something better to do assembled in the stygian gloom that envelops the newly decorated bar of the club, trying to identify each other and to pinpoint Vida, the Money-lady. Things were eventually sorted out and President Gill (I think it was Gill) called us in to the rather more illuminated atmosphere of the dining room.

Deciding the order of the dining queue is becoming a source of merry entertainment. On this night it was alphabetical order, which members managed thanks to the distribution of members' details, in printed format. One shudders to think of what mental tasks await us in future but, who knows, it might stave off dementia for while. Anyway, everyone got fed and the food was up to the usual standard... But I do miss chips!

After this, things proceeded like a routine Committee Night. From the top table came the announcements that finances are healthy and we have no new members - although there are ambitions (limited) in that direction. Community Service advised members that Ron was to take over the Blind Run from John S, who has run it commendably well for the past few years, and that they've given a load of specs to Barradells.

On to W&M and the 'Scarecrows on Holiday' event. Now I have my doubts, here, as to whether scarecrows really deserve a holiday, 'cause they don't do very much. In fact, I would say they were the least proactive and productive members of the farming community, and giving them holidays will only encourage further demands, such as sick pay and maternity leave. However, someone has decided to give them a holiday and Maggie and her team have done a great job in organising the event. Things are happening on Saturday, the 12th, and members are asked to help by assembling in the village at, or just before, midday. Parking is FREE!

On the International front, Sue has had news from Kasese, where, apparently, they are doing well and have even bought 10 pigs. Wow! That's better than us who don't have any although, judging from some of the table manners....

Club Services are chuntering along, with a full programme for the next couple of months and some vague ideas beyond that.

Finally, Communications. For once, Ian had nothing to say because he wasn't there and so Gill was able to bring proceedings to a close on time.

JT

President and chairman of the Tranquillity for Crows Society

Why we have no lawyers in the club

A local charity office realised that the organization had never received a donation from the town's most successful lawyer. The person in charge of donations called to persuade him to contribute.

"Our research shows that out of a yearly income of at least £500,000, you give not a penny to charity. Wouldn't you like to give back to the community in some way?"

The lawyer mulled this over for a moment and replied, "First, did your research also show that my mother is dying after a long illness, and has debts that are several times her annual income?"

Embarrassed, the charity rep mumbled, "Um ... no."

The lawyer interrupts, "or that my brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair?"

The stricken charity rep began to stammer out an apology, but was interrupted again.

"-or that my sister's husband died in a traffic accident," the lawyer's voice rising in indignation, "leaving her penniless with three children?!"

The humiliated charity rep, completely beaten, said simply, "I had no idea..."

On a roll, the lawyer cut him off once again,

"So if I don't give any money to them, why should I give any to YOU??"

Back to School Quiz 12th August .

A good number of us seemed to have grasped the idea that we are back to four meetings a month and turned up for our first real and proper, second Wednesday, informal, buffet style meeting with a chat friendly seating arrangement..



A lovely warm evening meant that the evening got off to a wonderful start with everyone enjoying their drinks on the terrace, in the sunshine, before trooping off somewhat apprehensively to be tested to our limits by Gill's ' Back to School Quiz'.

It was evident from the number of return trips to the buffet table that not only were we all ready for our tea but we were also putting off the moment when we would be disgraced by our woeful lack of knowledge of what we should have learned at school. Proceedings were delayed to some extent by Sue who having asked for more salads with the buffet felt it her duty to eat most of two entire bowls full. Even the rabbits amongst us were impressed.

After some rearranging of bodies, supposedly to make the teams fair, we were grilled mercilessly by President Gill. Despite some calling out and unruly behaviour she held control in true teacher fashion and managed to complete the quiz.

The evening was a great success with several people remarking that they had managed to have a good chat with people they didn't normally sit with and the relaxed atmosphere of the evening and the table layout lent itself to much more chatting time. Roll on next month's informal Wednesday.

Maggie

A life across the pond! 19th August



It was a pleasure to welcome David Hunt, son of Geoff and Olive, to our meeting. We met in the bar area as our usual room was not available to us. This was OK but quite a few folk had to wander across the bar area during the meeting which was not ideal.

Several of our ladies joined us and it was especially good to see Olive Hunt once again able to join us. The meal was as usual excellent and the usual culprits could not resist seconds of everything.

A few announcements came before our speaker:

Brian announced details of the bowls evening on 26th August.

More entertainers are badly needed for the forthcoming Scarecrow festival.

Brookdale caravan owners offered no potential Christmas float drivers, as it would shortly disband!

MP Mary Robinson was to become an Honorary Member of the Club.

President Gill asked us to bring unwanted items requested by Walthew House to our next 'home' meeting on September 2nd.

Geoff Hunt introduced his "little boy" David who towered over him! David lives in Maryland, USA with his partner and 4 teenagers. We heard a brief history of Maryland, colonised by English settlers in 1649. Maryland has lots to offer its 6 million inhabitants – beaches, fishing, boating, winter skiing and much more. David lives in Baltimore, which is about the size of Manchester. Baltimore boasts of many famous sons and daughters,

but has been the site of past and present violence, most recently race riots.

David holds a very senior position as a Vice President at the world-renowned Medical Centre where he is responsible for 600 staff including 300 nurses in emergency response activities. This includes transport (helicopters and ambulances).

The hospital is very large and has been involved in several innovative procedures over the years. It has a very active transplant unit, as well as a very slick critical care team which can involve as many as 10 nurses and doctors dealing with one emergency patient all at once! The first hour after a major trauma is critical and the hospital has a very high rate of life saving of emergency patients. There are 120 emergency beds and all emergency staff wear pink (Proud To Wear Pink – PTWP – is their motto!).

In common with much of the world, obesity is a big problem and the hospital has specially designed operating table, beds, hoists, etc. to deal with grossly overweight patients. David told us that there are now more people globally suffering from obesity than those starving. A salutary thought!

A proud achievement of the hospital transplant unit was the world's first complete face transplant. This 36 hour operation included the transplantation of not only the facial tissue, but included teeth, tongue etc. A truly remarkable achievement. The patient is still alive and well, is back to work. He now has to shave stubble that once belonged to his donor's face!

There were plenty of questions exploring details of the work of this remarkable hospital, before Gill brought the evening to a close at about 10.20.

A splendid Rotary evening!
Dennis

Report sent to Sue from Uganda:

Luhuhwahwa Poultry Farmers Development Association

Luhuhwahwa poultry farmer's development association is located in Luhuhwahwa I village, Kajwange Parish, Kisinga Sub-county, Kasese District in western Uganda. This association was established/ founded by three people in 2001. The association is legally known with operation documents from local councils I, II, III, V and the Kasese District development network.

Objectives

- To improve the economic situation of women affected with poverty in Kasese District.
- Engage women leaders meaningfully in gender sensitive peace, security and justice processes.
- To boost micro-business of the active poor.
- To provide psycho-social support to the marginalized groups of people to fight stigma for positive socio-economic growth of the community.
- Enhance women's meaningful articulation of the issues including participation in the socio-political and development spheres in Kasese District.
- To provide women with vocational training in tailoring and poultry farming.
- To enable 200 households meet their own health and nutritional requirements

Appreciation

We deeply appreciate the support received from the Rotary Club of Bramhall and Woodford UK which has basically enabled us to achieve a lot. We also appreciate the support of finance, material and manuals from the association members that enabled us to establish the foundation of the association.

Activities

- Sensitization of the community of the dangers of HIV/AIDS preventive measures and how to care for victims.
- Members are involved in the savings and credit scheme where every member saves 500 shillings per week, and this

money is loaned out to members of the community in groups of 5 people to be repaid within three months with an interest of 3%.

- Members of the community are involved in tailoring and netting
- Drama, games and sports are done to sensitize the community on HIV/AIDS and life skills and survival.

Progress on achievement of objectives

· The savings and credit scheme is doing very well, with a current savings balance of seven million shillings with each member saving Uganda shillings 500= per week and then Uganda shillings 100 for welfare.

- With support from the Rotary Club of BramHall and Woodford



UK. The association now has 12 sewing machines.

· The association also has 10pigs. These pigs were purchased with profits from the sale of clothes.

· The poultry house is now in permanent materials

with enough ventilation and nice floor.

- Providing soft loans to existing groups
- We provide nutritional education and food security to the community.
- We have trained 20 women in tailoring



Challenges

- Limited seminars for members due to limited funds in the association.
- Seasonal poultry and animal diseases, which need constant monitoring supervision and immunization treatment.
- Limited capital to enable the association meet its exported like paying wages to trainer
- Lack of affordable medical facilities
- Repeated draughts
- Upcoming NGO's that target our members

Future plans

- Encouraging each member to copy best practices from the group and have his/her own project in order to improve their individual household incomes.
- We hope before the end of 2016 to begin functional adult literacy classes.
- Sensitizing the members of the community on the HIV/AIDs scourge.
- We hope to initiate a revolving loan scheme for all members of the community of Kasese District.
- Conducting exchange visits and tours for the members to enable them acquire new skills and knowledge of groups and project management.

We once again work to appreciate your support and still request you to continue praying for and encouraging us and even solicit for us other friends who can join us in this venture as we strug-

A young mother was getting worried that her little girl may get obese so she told her - `If you eat too many cream cakes you'll get a big fat tummy!` Soon after, they were out shopping when a heavily pregnant lady approached them. The little girl marched straight up to her, pointed at her `bump` & said ``I know what you've been doing!

Committees 2nd September

Ms President rang the bell at 8.10 (Yes 8.10) because, for perhaps the first time in recent memory, the food was not quite ready. All 22 members present were eager to get started.

Mr Rabone offered a short and succinct grace.

8.15 Food. Table top table, right then table left.

8.38 Pudding (or perhaps Sweet) Tables rose in reverse order.

Mrs Chattington rose on her pegs at 8.47 to offer apologies from 9, welcomed our guest the District Governor **Mr Nigel Danby** and sat down.

8.52 **Social: Mr Dougall** talked about Charter Night on September 30th. Please refer to his mail of August 11th for menu choices. He also explained reasons behind the CHADS night being on Friday 4th March for Brief Encounter rather than it being at the end of January. (Out of turn because he had to go early. Nudge Nudge!)



8.57 **Mr Nigel Danby** then took the floor. He is this year's District Governor of 1285 and brought greetings from **RI Pres Ravi**, **RGBI Mr Peter Davey** and his own president at Bury RC, **Mr David Higgin**. He then weaved

a fascinating path through the challenge of overcoming polio, the distributing of grants from Foundation, membership challenges and brand image to emphasise the Presidential theme of 'Be A Gift To The World' Mention was also made of the project to combat isolation and he appealed for club projects to be passed on through the web app.

9.15 Loyal Toast. Committees to return at 9.40. Yeah, yeah! And coffee was taken.

Well it was actually 9.50 but who noticed?!

9.52 After a couple of questions to DG we started Committee reports:-

Vice & Membership:- Mr Preece, Absent NTR

Secretary:- Mr Sykes, Absent NTR

Treasurer:- Mr Lacey stated that General Account was OK and that The Charity Account was also OK so we is OK!.

Ways & Means:- Mrs Hill Briefly mentioned the Scarecrows on Holiday event and that jobs were to be allocated soon to those coming on September 12th. A further fashion show event is being held on November 11th.

Community Service:- Mr Malabon mentioned that the blind Run starts again on Monday and that the committee were looking at a couple of local charities to benefit from the club's fund raising efforts plus a more national one for the Christmas collection.

International :- Mr Rose Still looking for sponsorship for the upcoming Family Concert

Club Services:- Mr Thewlis Said that the Hazel Grove quiz (where we normally do REALLY well!) will be on 13th October. If you want to be in it to win it see **Mr T**

Communications:- Mr Dobson Bulletin in now electronic. Paper copies cost £4 per annum and must be ordered from **Mr Gordon**. Facebook was showing some outstanding results due to the Scarecrow coverage. SK Bramhall carries the latest two Press Releases. BREAKING NEWS :- Request from Harrow Estates for us to do car marshalling at Woodford sometime in late October for final flyover of the Vulcan.

AOB;- Mr Meeus posed a conundrum regarding next week. To apologise or not to apologise? That was the question. The Conundrum Answer – Apologise at every meeting even when there isn't one.

Final toast

Meeting Closed at 10.25

Ian

The Bric-a– Brac that was collected at this meeting was taken to Walthew House and the response from David Bond was:

Hi Gill

Thank you so much to you and all the Rotary members for dropping off the items for our bric a brac - we will have a look through everything and see what's what!

Thank you very much again

Kind Regards, David Bond, Fundraiser

Another success for our club

It was meant to be a modest affair. A low key event to test the water. Would the Bramhall traders respond to the challenge of making scarecrows as they have in the past to decorating ducks. It was conceived at incredibly short notice to fill the Summer gap in our yearly programme of events. Was it even going to be possible to bring it all together in time? Ian and I had the germ of an idea in our heads. **IT WAS DEFINITELY GOING TO HAPPEN.**



Having only just become Chairman of Ways and Means, I needed to act quickly to make full use of the short time available before our concert and the Autumn Fashion Show. No time to wait for a Council meeting, I needed a snap decision, (do Rotarians make such things?). I aired the idea with the council members by Email. Phew. Thank goodness they said, "go for it".

To cut a long story short, "Scarecrows on Holiday" took off in a big way. John M. sourced and purchased the first batch of broomsticks and polystyrene balls, the makings of many scarecrows. It wasn't long before I was asking him to get more, which he did in a most un-rotary like way, at breakneck speed. The final tally of kits sold was 64 . Those not lucky enough to buy one had to 'do it themselves' as we had wiped out the entire stock of 20cm polystyrene balls from the local warehouse.

Some scarecrow owners were so excited that they couldn't wait for the start of the festival and whole window displays appeared as well as individual scarecrows well before the start date. Once the event started officially more and more scarecrows

popped up on a daily basis and the excitement grew in the village. On the two Saturdays prior to the judging the village was buzzing with families following our scarecrow trail, which had to be reprinted twice.

The owner of one card shop reported that he was as busy as on the Saturdays around Valentine's Day and the manager of Boots said that on one Saturday every single customer had mentioned scarecrows.

A really warm and friendly atmosphere began to develop in the village (I don't think it was my imagination or even wishful thinking), as everyone began to talk scarecrow, even to people they had never seen in their lives before. Numerous shops reported people standing outside and laughing out loud or even popping in to make a comment. I saw a lovely little girl talking to one of the scarecrows and even residents from the care homes were being pushed around the scarecrow trail in wheelchairs so as not to miss out on the fun.

The antics of our own scarecrow, Billy, caused great hilarity both out on the streets, especially when I was moving him around at 8.30 am every morning, and on Facebook.

As you can tell, I had a great time organising this event and I really do think that it showed us in the very best light to both the public and the traders. I am sure we can build on this experience next year.

Maggie.



Not the Battle of Britain—9th September

A reasonable turn out of about 22 and no guests if my memory serves me right. A very god lengthy and meaningful grace by Harry.

As ever an excellent buffet, but maybe a bit more greenery or other raw veggies would be nice. I wonder why there are and what happens to the left overs? Or was a number of no shows the cause?.

Then to the meeting. Maggie (Scarecrow Angular Elbow.) Hill gave a detailed account of duties to be carried by all those turning up for Saturdays big event. We were all aware of the jobs allocated but it was just as well as questions were asked (such as. Which Church was referred to????!!!). The look on Maggie's 'School Mam' face should have been caught on camera. None the less all were answered satisfactorily.

Ian (Our own correspondent) Dobson, safely back from Pure Radio at the 'front line' in Stockport, gave a lengthy report on where the Scarecrow Day had been, was being and will be advertised (he didn't get to the subjunctive). Maggie then came back with a couple of minor points which, not to be out done, was followed by Ian on similar minor points.

It was now 10-15 and the evening closing time was fast approaching. Everybody seem to forget it was a Speaker Meeting. However not your bulletin reporter, as he was sitting next to him, and was very aware of his patience getting extremely shorter by the minute. Apologies were given to John Thewlis for using up his time on his, I have no doubt, excellently prepared talk on the Battle of Britain. This was very well timed in view of the fact it was 75 years to the week it reached its climax. We look forward to hearing it in the future especially by your Bulletin Reporter as he is able to remember it audibly and visually.

John M

Things you didn't know your computer could do 15th September

Twenty four Rotarians heard a Jewish grace from David before enjoying the usual copious buffet. Dennis, giving a passable impression of Vida although a wig would have made him more convincing, ran through the apologies, mostly down to holidays. We had a brief review of the very successful Scarecrows on Holiday event held on the village on Saturday. Ian reviewed the publicity and had us listen to his radio interview. We later watched the TV coverage. The creator and hero of the day, Maggie, then gave her views on the day, as ever too modest, a refreshing change from Ian! It was agreed that positioning the scarecrows outside Barclays had great visual impact and next year, help would be given to shops which were unable to relocate their scarecrows. Gill commented it was a fantastic day and thanked Maggie. She thought it was a great start and would have an even greater impact next year. She also thanked Peter for his cut-outs which were very popular with children. It is believed the day would raise well over £1000. Ian distributed leaflets telling the story of Billy Bow, our roving Rotary scarecrow.

On to the main event of the evening, a presentation by Michael and Gordon, the IT version of Morecambe and Wise (I'll leave the reader to decide which is which) on "Things you didn't know what your computer could do." Michael talked about the options for free storage of data in the cloud. Surprisingly we learned that the cloud probably in New York or Silicon valley but I thought there are many more clouds in the Lake District. Michael suggested the best options were Flickr which gives 1 terabyte free or Google which gives unlimited storage. Michael gave examples of photos, music and books storage including clever stuff involving finding photos using image recognition, although emigration to the US is required to get access to the really clever stuff.

Gordon then demonstrated even cleverer stuff that you can do

with word documents using the Ctrl and other keys. He then gave a demonstration of how it is possible to improve crap photos using the free program Picasa. I did feel however, that there was a tacit assumption that we had all left our Brownie 127s behind. Gordon offered full teaching notes on all his stuff. Thankfully we were not examined on understanding or recall at the end of his talk.

Gill thanked our two gurus and suggested they repeat the talk at a future meeting. I assume it was her way of saying this lot really need to hear it over and over to gain any understanding! Harry gained agreement to the destruction of the 3 knackered banners and requested volunteers to dig the garden at Bramhall Hall on Saturday morning at 10.00am. John Sykes said there was a training event for Community Emergency Support soon.

The meeting closed at 10.35pm

Bruce the younger

Alan Terence Newsome 11 Oct 1936—6th Aug 2015



Long-time member Alan Newsome passed away on the 6th August 2015 after a battle with prostate cancer. He is survived by his widow Pauline and two sons.

Alan was born on the 11th October 1936 in Wombwell, South Yorkshire the only son of Joesph and Sarah Jane. Alan attended Barnsley Grammar school and was recognised as having great potential and won a scholarship to Wadham college Oxford to study modern languages. Before attending university Alan served 2 years in the Army, in compulsory National Service, which took him to many places including Berlin. His language ability meant he became a ra-

dio operator and over the course of his National Service he learnt Russian and practiced his German. His experiences in the era of the Cold war characterised his reading materials for the rest of his life. He had every novel of Len Deighton, John Le Carre and Frederick Forsyth as well as many other authors and he always enjoyed all the Bond movies.

After National Service he went up to Oxford where he rubbed shoulders with many luminaries including Melvyn Bragg! A great sportsman he thoroughly enjoyed the sporting opportunities it provided and gained a Blue in two matches, as goalkeeper, against Cambridge at Wembley. Alan also partook in a "quintet" band where he played the drums.

After graduating from Oxford Alan took a well deserved holiday to Spain where he met his future wife Pauleen. It was love at first sight for both of them and 18 months later they married at St George's church, Stockport. They were to have 2 sons Marc and Paul. Alan and Pauleen went on to enjoy 52 years of married life together.

Alan spent most of his working life with ICI (now Astra Zeneca) and with his job came a great amount of travel, both in Europe and further afield. Alan lived and worked in Israel, Austria, Germany and Yugoslavia as business manager. Later he even worked in Africa. I think his passport had more visa stamps than Judith Chalmers but he loved living and working with different cultures and really gave him the opportunity to use his linguistic talent.

Alan also worked for seven years in the ICI offices at Millbank, London and living near Guildford in Surrey where he made many friends.

Following retirement, Alan was invited to work with Business in the Community which had strong ties to the Princes Trust and met Prince Charles on his visit to Burnley where Alan was working at the time. Alan's retirement also saw him continue to maintain his sporting connection and he became a member of the Old Trafford cricket club as well as taking up golf at the Bramhall Park golf club. Alan admitted that he couldn't play the game that well but he enjoyed the exercise as well as the nineteenth hole where he regularly got a "down in one".

Alan's connection to working with communities continued when he joined the Rotary club of Bramhall and Woodford. Alan's ability to play Father Xmas was well known amongst Rotarians and he also took part in the Duck Race in Bramhall Park, where he would marshal and ensure the ducks successfully navigated the river. He remained an active member for many

years until his diagnosis with prostate cancer in November 2013.

As a husband Alan showed love and commitment to his family and was committed to making them happy. During his last days his only concern was for Pauleen's wellbeing and not his own impending mortality. He was a kind father to both Marc and Paul and was always keen to ensure they were looked after. In particular Alan was always keen to see his sons do well in sport and this meant he gave up week-ends to take them to cricket or hockey matches. Above all he was generous natured and made sure his sons and wife were well catered for and supported throughout his lifetime.

Alan enjoyed his life to the full and of the many places in which he lived, Bramhall was his favourite, and this was reflected in the work he did with fellow Rotarians. His generosity of spirit and warm nature will be remembered by his family and others. His life was full of adventures abroad and his final years gave him the opportunity to enjoy everything he had worked for.

May he now rest in peace.

New Member Initiative

NEW!

On the 20th September, Maggie & Harry hosted an 'open hour' for some prospective new young members who might not be tempted to join if they came alone but who might if they came as a group. They were Andrew Turnbull, James Barrand, Alejandra Solis and Kate Nicholson. Andrew has already been of great help to us and spoke eloquently about the welcome we had shown him.

Maggie supplied some of her excellent cakes and Harry his superb coffee. No doubt we will hear more.

Gordon

A discussion on Polio

Amongst the blooming depressing news at six on the TV there was just one happy note – that Polio was officially eliminated in Nigeria , leaving only Afghanistan and Pakistan as still having the disease.

Made me quite proud to be associated with Rotary and to know that my fellow Rotarians Harry and Michael and spouses had made their big contribution to this success.

Thought of John M too and his travels in Nigeria and his efforts in Rotary.

We are indeed blessed.

Sid

Indeed it is excellent news. My 5 years of ‘travels’ in Nigeria, included my first introduction to Rotary. About two hundred potential members turned up for the initial meeting all very wealthy Nigerians, it was difficult to find parking for all the Mercedes! I was fortunate I had a driver! However they practically all agreed to become members until they realised what they had to do to become worthy members. The number decreased rapidly, when they found out, as they were only willing to be ‘cheque writers’ and wear the badge. There was then an ‘auction’ as to who would bid for the purchase of all the regalia. Meanwhile Round Table were spending their collective weekends building a timber school house in a one of the many deprived areas of Lagos. It was not the sort of Rotary I wanted to join . I was therefore gratefully relieved when I returned home and helped to form Bramhall Rotary in the format as it is intended. Polio Plus had just started and for thirty years we have been able to continue, in our own way, to help Polio Plus and will, I hope, continue to do so until it is finished once and for all. I just wonder how much effort Rotary Nigeria put into Polio Plus. A lot I hope, there was plenty of scope amongst those Mercedes owners.

Regards to all **John M**

Assistance at Genie Networks for Deaf Children event 27th Sep



My daughter, Lynn organised a 'Vintage Carnival' in aid of Genie Networks and managed to plan the weather perfectly. Four Rotarians responded to the call for help and many thanks go to Harry, Maggie, David Rose and Bruce the Elder for their invaluable assistance in manning some of the Rotary stalls which aided towards the raising of approximately £850 towards the assistance they give to families with children who have hearing impairment.

Gordon

Committees 7th October

No report received

14th October Hack Back Owls

What an extraordinary meeting!

A good membership turnout, the support of (mainly younger) friends - and the evening highlighted by a unique presentation by Anita Morris of HACK BACK CIC and her winged companions. Well done to Ian Dobson for finding us this exceptional speaker.

Anita prefaced her talk by explaining that HACK BACK CIC was a social enterprise - like a charity but not bound by its rules. Her own background in industry and her training as a psychologist, together with her introduction to Cheshire Falconry, had enabled her to create therapies using birds of prey to help disadvan-

tagged people who had mental health, behavioural problems, learning difficulties and dementia. Originally funded by her husband's redundancy money, funding clearly remains an issue and some programmes have been funded by Rotary clubs!?

Anita then introduced us to the real stars of the show – her three

beautiful owls. These were: Mango the Barn Owl, Idris the Spotted Eagle Owl (a bit stropky she explained) and Murray the Burrowing Owl (from South America and named after Andy M when he won Wimbledon). Each owl was allowed to fly freely round the room - one at a time - while Anita gave us the background details of each bird. However, they were well trained and always returned to her on demand.

Fascinating stuff, provoking lots of questions, photo opportunities and requests from brave volunteers who wanted to “hold” a bird – our own “Harry Potter” moment.

As the HACK BACK leaflet says “our sessions are exciting, fun and memorable” ... and we can certainly vouch for that. A big THANK YOU to Anita and her feathered friends for giving us all such an outstanding evening's entertainment and teaching us a valuable lesson at the same time.

Apart from future programme reminders, and a short (?) report

from Ian D. on the successful show of support by club members to the AVRO Heritage museum with car parking help on the recent valedictory Vulcan bomber Woodford fly-over, there was little time left so Gill called the meeting to a speedy conclusion and we all “flew” home.

Geoff. Hunt.



Bramhall Hall Restoration and gardens

After 15 years of leading the gardening volunteers Vida is handing over the reins to Harry. They and others will be gathering on Saturday 21st No-



vember at 10am at the Horse Box Café to prepare some of the land for winter and your help is needed. Stockport MBC is required to get local groups and individuals to volunteer in the Hall and Park as part of its obligations within the HLF grant. It's important to get Rotary in at the outset if we are to have a significant place in dealing with the most important establishment in our area. The opportunities for publicising Rotary are legion and will be seen by thousands of visitors each year and it has therefore been suggested that we formalise our arrangement to maintain part of the grounds. A timetable of future gardening sessions will be published in the new year (which may include



the footpath) and it is hoped we can all take an active part in laying the foundation for the building's future. If you are interested in taking part in this great venture, please contact Harry.

International Concert 18th October



David Rose organised what turned out to be an excellent afternoon's entertainment from the KEMS (King Edward Musical Society) Band, the Moss Hey Primary

School choir and Helen & Neil Grundy of the BBC Phil with their wonderful Alpine Horns. The highlight of the afternoon was a narration by Scott Thomson entitled Bandland which told a story about the different instruments in the band. The children present obviously enjoyed it as did their parents. The exuberance of Danielle Mallas, music director of Moss Hey was plain for all to see.

Sue says it so eloquently:

Today's concert of international music for all the family was a great success so well done! At the end of the programme you graciously thanked everyone who had contributed and been involved but it was you who deserved most of the credit. The concert would not have taken place without your determination and hard work. I am sure we will have made a reasonable amount of money but more importantly it was a very happy family orientated event, with an informative programme of music which raised money for Rotary's 'End Polio Now' campaign and also contributed to B&Ws presence in the community.



As told to me by my Dad about 70 years ago!

There was a young lad called Tom who was living with his Dad on a small boat on a river. Tom loved it, but his Dad was worried about the lack of facilities so he built a small wooden toilet hut on the river bank. Tom hated it- he much preferred to nip into the trees, so when he saw the opportunity he pushed the hut into the river. His Dad was furious but Tom didn't own up to doing it. So his Dad told him a tale about a young lad called Abraham Lincoln who for fun chopped down his Dad's Cherry tree. When his Dad asked who had done it young Abraham said 'I cannot tell a lie, I did it!'. 'That young man grew up to be President of The United States' said Tom's Dad. 'Now' he said, 'Did you push the shed into the river Tom?' at which Tom said 'I cannot tell a lie, I did it'. Tom's Dad gave him a hearty smack. 'Why did I get that?' cried Tom, 'Abraham's Dad didn't smack him!' And Tom's Dad replied 'No, but his dad wasn't sat in the Cherry tree at the time!'

Peter

Presentations to schools—End Polio Now

David Rose and I have been busy touring local primary schools presenting an assembly to Key Stage 2 pupils (i.e.: Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 - children aged between 7 and 11). We have now completed four events and two more are planned for November. The purpose of the assembly is to help the children to better understand the aim of Rotary International in general, and Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club in particular, as well as highlighting our involvement with the 'End Polio Now' campaign. I created a Power Point presentation with lots of photos and short video clips to maintain the children's interest and we have been delighted with their response. Primary Schools are such happy places; in nearly all the schools we visited the children filed into their assembly hall, sat quietly on the floor and were very well behaved. It became quite usual for the head teacher to ask if I would like their technical support team to help me, and without

exception, the 'technicians' were generally about 9 or 10 years of age and all were very competent!! We aimed to make the presentation as interactive as possible so the children were encouraged to ask questions. Although lively and inquisitive few knew much about polio and none thought that they had been vaccinated against the disease!



We explained that Polio is spread by poor sanitation and contaminated water and usually affects children. The virus attacks the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis, usually of the legs, within hours.

The fight against polio has been hard won but we are nearly there and Rotary's involvement in this fight should be a great source of pride for all Rotarians. Nigeria has been removed from the list of polio endemic countries so now there are just two left, Pakistan and Afghanistan, where transmission of the paralyzing virus has never been interrupted. Nigeria, like the rest of the world, is switching from the oral polio vaccine, given in two drops into the mouth, to an injectable, inactivated form of polio vaccine (IPV).

It has been a privilege to present these assemblies and hopefully the local children will now be better informed about RI and polio. Never ones to miss an opportunity, we highlighted the excellent work of B&W Rotary and the great possibilities offered by Rotaract and Interact and lots of other Rotary youth activities.

Sue

25 years ago

These notes cover the period July to October 1990 extracted from Volume 4 numbers 2, 3 and 4. The editor was pleased to announce that we had gone green by printing the Bulletin on both sides of the paper. Discussions took place on our future fund raising (at this time we did not have a ways and means



committee). On an exceptionally hot July evening in the upper room at Millington Hall it was noted that jackets were removed and some even took off their ties!! A talk revealed that heart disease caused 48% of all deaths. The message was don't smoke, take reasonable exercise, eat fish, eat red meat sparingly and only have three units of alcohol a day. It would be interesting to know from our medical experts what is the major killer today. Kelvin Death had brought back a large candle from the Hyannis Port Rotary club. This was lit at many subsequent meetings as a friendship, if not a twinning, with the American club. A ballot was held to determine which European country to twin with and Holland was the final choice. The editor had been handed a Rotary Information Service booklet entitled "The Effective Club Bulletin". He was concerned that as it must be of high ethical standard and not packed with gossip or personal jest his next edition would only contain the diary and no more contributions from Sid. 5th Wednesdays were "away nights" and we enjoyed a big band night at the Fiveways Hotel.

The sponsored train trip to London was deemed a success as we made a profit of over £1000 despite the train not stopping at Cheadle Hulme on the return journey!! It was noted that the club had moved to being all married men since the one bachelor's fall. Transport for the blind (now called the blind run) started taking four people to Walthew House.

Ron

District Conference Southport 23rd – 25th Oct

A group of 12 of us (well 14 including Billy and Bella) set off to Southport for the District Conference on the last weekend in October.

Friday was just a short session listening to the adventures of Ken Robertshaw of Halifax Rotary who canoed the length of the Mississippi to raise funds for the Theodora Children's charity who organise Giggle doctors who are specially trained entertainers for very

poorly children. The Veena Ensemble were a couple of Indian doctors playing the Veena – a stringed instrument made from Jack Fruit which resembled the Sitar; that was definitely an acquired taste – and not mine!!

Saturday was the main conference day and we were entertained by several good speakers. A very polished young girl from Australia called Brittany who spoke very confidently about Rotaract and being a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar in Germany. John Miles from the Rotary club of Leatherhead taking about the Guildford Eye Project which provides cataract operations to the poor in India and Africa. Jean Best a Rotary Peace officer who talked about conflicts in schools and on the streets with young people in this country and abroad and PDG Brian Stoyel from Saltash Rotary Club talking about working with young people.

For me the talk of the day was given by Dr Eva Hodel who is a lecturer at the Liverpool School of Tropical medicine undertaking research into antimalarial treatments and antiretroviral treatments. She announced that almost 3000 people a day currently die from malaria, many of them very young children. There are new developments in the processing of antimalarial drugs and also in the detection of the virus once it has entered the body



through a mosquito bite but is not yet evident. I think a lot of the talk was overly clinical for some but the underlying message was that hopefully one day malaria will be under control much in the same way as polio has been all but eradicated.

On Sunday we were entertained by Dave Scott talking about defeating Sectarianism, he managed to approach a serious subject with great humour. Lee Burke from the Petty Pool Outdoor Centre and Dr Erinma Bell who talked about Community action to end gun crime.

We also had a talk from the RI representative Michael Duben from Ontario Canada. He had brought his wife, Shelley and children with him for a first visit to the UK which they have thoroughly enjoyed. Shelley turned out to be the most humorous of the two and was pointing out the differences she had found in the two languages. She was very excited to be trying Black Pudding for the first time thinking that it might be something like a Dark Chocolate Sponge cake but was then very disappointed to find it was pigs blood and fat!



Billy and Bella came into the conference centre with us and were on stage for most of Saturday, this caused great amusement to most and again was a good talking point for us at Bramhall. I think we have given other Rotary clubs

something to think about.

Thanks to Michael for organising the accommodation, two very good meals and the evening's entertainment programme.

Next RIBI conference is in Bournemouth at the beginning of April next year with the next District Conference in Llandudno next October. All welcome !!

Gill

The Battle for Britain 21st Oct

Let me start with an apology: I took careful, even detailed notes of the meeting and I have put them somewhere safe. What follows therefore is what my ever-failing memory can provide.



The meal was well up to snuff, and the only item of real interest in the first part of the meeting was Brian's proposal that we should pull out of our commitment to keep the Woodford footpath clear. This had been raised in council previously and Brian asked for a vote of members present, which gave a clear majority to stop doing it. Subsequent debate by email suggests that this may not be the end of the matter.

After the break we were given John Thewlis's "alternative" view of the Battle of Britain. Popular history describes the air battle over (mainly) south-east England as a victory for the RAF. John put forward the idea that this is simplistic, particularly since the number of planes lost by the RAF and the Luftwaffe were only a handful different.

John then broadened his outlook by considering the German options for invasion. This comes under the heading of Battle FOR Britain, as against Battle of Britain. The Germans amassed barges at various points on the continental coast opposite the south-east of England. What became clear, fairly early in the war, is that this flotilla was utterly incapable of mounting a sustained coastal invasion. Not only were the barges scarcely seaworthy but they would take an impossibly long time to disgorge tanks and other heavy machinery particularly while under heavy defensive fire. Oddly, from a modern perspective, this knowledge was not communicated to the public, so Capt. Mainwaring and his LDV (Look, Duck and Vanish) brigade were on alert throughout the war.

Another strand to John's history involved the changing strategies of the Luftwaffe as the war progressed, changing from targeting airfields, to industry, and then to towns and cities (the Blitz). He looked at the popular mythology of the cheerful Cockney whistling a merry tune as the bombs fell, and suggested that this too was a propaganda exercise. I can readily believe that!

Harry



Treasure Hunt 28th Oct

A new event in the Rotary calendar was held last Wednesday. Brian, ably assisted by Jan and Aston organised a Treasure Hunt around Cheadle Hulme High St, starting and ending at the John Millington and taking in three of the public houses on the way!



There were 10 Rotarians and partners and a couple came along for the meal afterwards. Andrew brought his two children and they had a lovely time searching for clues whilst eating bags of chips en route. Nice to see an event which could include children.

All gathered in the John Millington for the revealing of the answers and "prize giving " whilst refreshing the palette with some hearty grub and ale !

Thanks to Brian for organising the event. I hope we will see a few more on the next social gathering."

Gill

Some of the tips I gave at the 'What you didn't know you could do with your computer' evening:

Word

1. To enhance one word in a document, click the mouse somewhere in the word and, pressing and holding the Ctrl key down, press b to embolden the word, i to italicise it and u to underline it. Then let go of the Ctrl key.
2. Double click in a word to highlight the whole word and then you can just type a different word to replace it.
3. Triple click in a paragraph to highlight the whole paragraph. You can just start typing to replace it or you can place your mouse pointer in the middle and drag the paragraph to another place in the document.
4. To start a numbered list (like this one), simply type, as I did, 1. at the start (or 1/ if you prefer), type your first paragraph and then press the Enter key at the end. Your paragraph will be automatically indented and a number 2. (or 2/) will appear. To end the sequence, press the Enter key twice.
5. To split up your document, go to the start of a line by pressing the Enter key, type the minus sign three times then press Enter again. You will have a line across your page. Try it with the = key or even ~.

All MS documents

The Undo button  (the tiny blue arrow), undoes the last thing you did. Repeated clicking undoes backwards until you can't go any further. Or, you can click on the tiny black arrow at the side of the Undo button to see a list of things you've done and select how far back to go. **Gordon**

The Vulcan Flyover 13th November



Harry took some fantastic pictures of the Vulcan flyover while some of our members acted as car park assistants to raise money for the Avro Heritage Museum. This will result in greater co-operation between us as we seek to increase our membership amongst the new families of the Woodford housing development.



As a side effect of this, our Facebook page advertising the event had more visitors than ever before.

More pictures of the beautiful owls.



Club Officers and Committees 2015—2016



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

Club Services—John Thewlis , Vida Chattington, John Knowles

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

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

Social— Brian Dougal

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

Communications—Ian Dobson, Gordon Jackson

Membership—Bob Preece, Geoff Hunt

Foundation— Michael Lacey/Sue Preece

District Representatives— John Sykes

H&S—David Burstow

Child Protection—David Rose

Bulletin—Gordon Jackson

IT Guru—Gordon Jackson

Audio Visual systems—Gordon Jackson



The object of golf is to play the least amount of golf.

Diary and Job Rota

Date	Diary	Bulletin
04/11/2015	Committees	N Loveland
09/11/2015	Council at Sunrise	
11/11/2015	Fashion show @ Deanwater 7pm	J Shaw
18/11/2015	St. Mary's in the Market Place (Rev. R Scoones & John K)	J Sykes
25/11/2015	Visit to the new Avro Museum	
26/11/2015	Bag packing at A Sweet Thought	
28/11/2015	Light up Bramhall	
02/12/2015	Committees	D Rose
09/12/2015	Informal meeting at club	M Lacey
16/12/2015	No meeting due to Christmas dinner	
18/12/2015	Christmas dinner at Bramhall Park golf club	
23/12/2015	No meeting	
30/12/2015	No meeting	
06/01/2016	Committees	D Allport
13/01/2016	TBA	B Preece
17/01/2016	Visit to the BBC 10.30 Media City Salford	G Critchley
20/01/2016	No meeting? (replaced by BBC trip)	
27/01/2016	No meeting 5th Wednesday	
03/02/2016	Committees	S Preece
04/03/2016	Theatre Evening	
15/05/2016	Duck Race	

AND HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS



Blind Run

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

Saturday prior to the Blind Run – Phone Joan and confirm she is going

Monday – Collect around 1.10pm to allow time to arrive at WH before 1.30pm

Pickup – 3.30pm at WH

Let Ron Malabon know if you get stuck.

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

Please carry your mobile phone in case of problems.

Date	Driver
02/11/2015	No blind run
09/11/2015	J Meeus
16/11/2015	G Hunt
23/11/2015	J Knowles
30/11/2015	J Shaw
07/12/2015	J Sykes
14/12/2015	D Rose
21/12/2015	No blind run
28/12/2015	No blind run
04/01/2016	D Allport
11/01/2016	B Preece
18/01/2016	V Chattington
25/01/2016	R Malabon
01/02/2016	D Burstow

Your shadow is confirmation that light has traveled nearly 93 million miles unobstructed, only to be deprived of reaching the ground in the final few feet thanks to you.



Rapt attention for the storyteller at the scarecrow festival



Rotarians declined to attempt the Zumba so it was left to the experts to show how it was done whilst the handbell ringers demonstrated precision and co-ordination





Charter Night at Turquoise was well attended (we used three tables)



Wendy Green of 'I Love Bramhall', Mary Robinson MP and Dorothy (but no tin man) judged the scarecrow entrants



Quite a few went to the District Conference in Southport

