

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

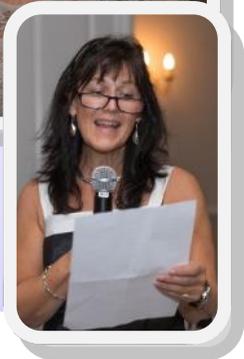


Charity No. 1025767  
District 1285  
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# Bulletin



Peter was on hand to help the mayor reopen Bramhall Hall and our 30th Charter Night was a big success



**And the winners are:-**

*Shops and Offices.* Bramcote Dental Practice with Mary Poppins *Individual and Family.* Jacob and Ellie Raistrick with The Lion Clubs, *Schools etc.* Valley School with Paula the Paralympian *Tableaux.* Corry's with Themselves (and owls).



## *Bob's Bulletin*

Last Rotary year we obtained some funding from district to help us support Pure Insight's Café Zest project to help Care Leavers and in October Jo Trask came to the club to explain how it was progressing. I was a little concerned when, at the last moment, Jo said she wanted to bring along a few of the Care Leavers including two young mothers together with a baby and young child. I had visions of a rather chaotic meeting, but in fact everything went well and Jo's talk was very interesting.

This year's Scarecrow festival was a great success thanks in part to some well-deserved good weather. Congratulations to Maggie and everyone involved. I certainly enjoyed helping to judge the event particularly as many of the entrants were so creative. The event raised a lot of money for Polio Plus. Over the years the club has been a good supporter of what is one of Rotary International's main causes. This is something that all Rotarians can very proud of, particularly when one considers that 31 years ago, before Rotary took on the task of polio eradication, there were 1,000 new cases of polio in the world every day. Today there are less than one per week. Earlier this month in support of Purple4Polio, which is to raise the public's awareness of Rotary's work, we planted 5,000 purple crocus corms in front of the newly refurbished stables at Bramall Hall. As a result of our good work the Council said they would supply us with another 5,000 to plant! I look forward to seeing the results of our work in the Spring.

As this year was the club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary we decided to make Charter night a special one. The presence of some past members, the District Governor, the president of the RC of Poynton and a guest speaker all helped to make the event at the Pinewood Hotel a very enjoyable occasion. Congratulations to Brian and all those who helped with the organisation.

A few dates for your diary – our fashion show on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> and RIBI conference April 7-9<sup>th</sup>. Katherine Jenkins is appearing at the Bridgewater Hall and Rotarians who have registered for the conference will get first choice when the tickets go on sale.

**Bob**

## Committees 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug



The evening got off to an excellent start as we entered the room to find wine on all the tables – courtesy of young Sid and his recent birthday.

Vida announced the absentees, and declared there were no guests, a surprising conclusion for many as Kate's friend Pam sat there quietly.

Brian passed around a sign-up sheet for the bowls, and gave a very meagre description of the game for those who knew even less about it.

Paper copies of the latest excellent bulletin were circulating. Apparently Olive thinks it is one of the best ever editions. Michael, apropos of nothing, told us he had gone gliding. 'John M had met with the mayor of Stockport and he expressed an interest in coming to one of our meetings as a speaker or just as a visitor. Also Waitrose staff. John to send John T the details.

After coffee the various committee chairmen gave their reports – all extremely succinctly!

Membership, David & Secretary John S - had nothing to report. Treasurer, Michael - said the house account is fine, our goody-two-shoes members had all paid their dues. The charity account contains an unusually low £2k. No news from Barclays. Maggie, W&M's - informed the scarecrow event planning is going well, 70 sold (inc re-sold's). Looking for a "celebrity" to judge. Book is nearly finished. There will be another fashion show on Wed 9 Nov at the Deanwater.

Ron, CS – the Blind Run is restarting (good to hear it being correctly named, no silly PC stuff!). Looking at Seashell Trust a former Gatley Rotary thing. CS still want to repeat the Dragon's Den despite no support from the rest of the club. Looking to involve local 6<sup>th</sup> forms in speaking events once term starts.

Sue, International – loads of purple crocus bulbs arriving but

nowhere to put them. Apparently Bramall Hall has an eminently suitable weed patch – sorted Kasese wash block is finished. RIBI run some clinic thing in Jaipur and are looking to repeat it in W Uganda.

Ian, publicity – concisely said more entertainers are needed for the scarecrow event and thanked Gordon for the Bulletin (yep, that was it).

John T, house – admitted that there are lots of gaps in the programme. And there are (were) no plans for anything remotely interesting. But after discussion next week's cold buffet will include Geoff talking about his time in the police and Vida will demonstrate pole dancing (I could have misheard that?).

Finally Brian, social – thanked everyone for completing the Bowls signup. This year is our 30<sup>th</sup> Charter (as fact which has taken many by surprise), surely the need for a bigger do? A typical round of inappropriate discussion followed no doubt boring for most of the club. Date and format to be decided by the relevant few people by next week.

President Bob reminded us of the council meeting on Monday and then ended the meeting pleasantly early.

**Brian**

### **Borrowing Magazines Electronically**

The following is from an update recently made to the u3a website. If you are already signed up with Stockport library electronic service and have your number then it is dead



easy to follow the link and set yourself up. Once done you can download free magazines (including Amateur Photographer and Computeractive, Autocar, New Scientist, BBC good food, Good Housekeeping etc) to your PC or tablet. Truly wonderful, just go to: <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/newsroom/zinio>

Cheers

**Michael**

## A Night Of PURE..... 10th August

Mr President rang the bell at 8.08 (Yes 8.08) because the first time ever mayhem ensued when we were overtaken by the plethora of visitors including two very young youngsters. Some of the ladies went gooey! Whilst all 23 members 1 visitor, 5 people from PURE plus two children were eager to get started we had a 25 minute insight into the role of PURE Café Zest led by Jo Trask and involving all the visitors

PURE Insight offers support to young persons who have been in care but have left the system because of age. The age range they help is 18 to 25 year olds. The Café Zest opens its doors each Wednesday (5-8) to anyone who has experienced care and offers



a hot meal. It does not have a specific place and the location is available on the closed Facebook site. The staff try to encourage activities that create interest as well as sustainability. Mike gave us a brief bit of background from his point of view and expressed appreciation for the support and backing that he gets.

Lisa and her daughter Bobby-Lee said it was like a family environment. They live alone and have a mentor (present but no name heard) who helps her with everything. Tears flowed. Kayleigh and Amelia came from outside the area when pregnant. Everything is now OK because there is lots of chat advice with people listening.

8.25 Food. A Buffet for a change as Jackie had toddled off to Spain on holiday. The table lottery system seems to be working well although it was noticed that Mr and Mrs Hill were sitting together yet again. It is not the first time in recent weeks and is something that did not happen under the old scheme. Ladies

continued to be gooey as the youngsters left us!

8.57 Mrs Chattington rose on her pegs to offer apologies from 4, welcomed visitor Amanda plus our guest speaker from PURE, Jo Trask.

8.59 Mr Lacey informed us about the free download of magazines service offered through Stockport Libraries.

9.00 Mr President Preece reminded us, on behalf of Mr Dougal, about the crown green bowling at Gatley next week which will start at 6pm. Charter Night will be on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Posh frocks preferred but not necessary.

9.04 Mr Dobson informed everyone about the Scarecrow Spectacular piece in Inside Bramhall magazine.

9.05 Mr Thewlis said that we will return to the past tried and tested way of having two self-organised meetings a month with pairs being established on a random basis, rather than alphabetically, starting in September

9.08 Pudding or perhaps Sweet

9.20 Loyal Toast. ....funny old day!

9.39 After a 10 minute break (check it out – actually 19 minutes) for coffee Mr President formally introduced Jo Trask and promptly gave her a cheque for £2150 being a donation from the Club matched by one from RGBI.

Jo was very eloquent and gave us lots of information to digest and think about.

PURE Insight started about three years ago because of local government cuts, particularly to Social Services, and knowing that young persons, leaving care at 18, came to a virtual brick wall. Education and care stops and they are thrown into an unknown world. They need security and advice and, most of all,

they are lonely.  
Café Zest hits the right note.  
Normally 20 – 25 young persons turn up each week, there is no set venue but there is an open door policy. They choose to come and the volunteers feel proud to see people returning week after week. They usually arrive hungry.



PURE Insight are starting to make up food parcels and are hoping to develop this with the Tesco driven FareShare scheme. They use some of the gifted food to make a meal then give out the recipe and ingredients.

The weekly meetings are lively as well as instructive and helpful. The volunteers try to engender a trust between people, something that perhaps was lacking in their previous experience. PI ensure that they can make things happen. They give advice regarding money and medical education - registering at a doctors or dentist for example A nurse is there each week to chat to. They have links to Beacon Counselling to help alleviate the trauma of the toing and froing of the care system.

Jo related stories about young persons throughout, in particular the security of having a suitcase for their belongings. We have donated suitcases previously and it was good to hear how much benefit and security was derived by the young persons from having one.

Questions and answers followed.



10.25 Mr President offered a vote of thanks to the speaker..

AOB:- None for a change. The writer thinks that everyone was somewhat stunned by what had gone before.

**Ian**

## And from Jo Trask at Pure Insight:

Dear Bob and friends,

I just wanted to Thank you for extending such a warm and open invitation to myself and the young people we work with.

It was a real privilege to share our passion for supporting young people leaving care with you and your collective response was wonderful.

Thanks again for the cheque, and the offer of support with Christmas gifts, but mostly we look forward to working together.

Best Wishes



Jo

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### Food Packing at Warrington

**Recipe**

*Take plastic bag*

*Add*

*one sachet of vitamin  
supplement*

*one small scoop*

*freeze dried lentils*

*one cup of soya*

*one cup of rice*

*Check weigh to limits of 384 to 395grammes*

*Heat seal plastic bag and place in box*

Serves 6

Repeat for next two hours or until 12,000 meals have been packed.

Seven members of the club reported for meal packing at a school near Warrington on Friday afternoon. The event was organised by the Rotary Club of Warrington. Their President



Irene Russell had taken part in a similar event in the States and was so impressed she wanted to repeat it in UK. The event took place over Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August with the aim to pack 100,000 meals over that period. Apparently this is the first ever such event in the UK. From the fact that we were told to slow down towards the end of our session makes me believe that the target will be achieved.

Saturday's session appeared on BBC TV Local News at 5pm with attendance of the Mayor of Warrington, so great publicity. That bag of food provides 250 Calories per person, considering that a normal intake in the UK is 1,500 calories, the recipients are not going to get overweight, but this will be their only meal of the day.

Stop Hunger Now gets food and life-saving aid to the world's most vulnerable people, and works to end global hunger in our lifetime. Established in 1998, they have provided over 225 million meals in 74 countries. They are based in Raleigh, N.C., and operate throughout the U.S. and through affiliates in developing countries.

Five people form a team around the packing table with a sixth person on the heat seal machine. Periodically we swapped places, just for a change of activity.. There were 10 packing tables in all so we were among many friends. As each box of 1,000 meals was completed a gong was sounded and a cheer from all taking part.

The meals we packed will be heading to a series of schools near Nairobi.

The packing team:

Gill Critchley

Ron & Pam Malabon

Dennis Allport

Kate Nicholson

Pam (Kate's friend)

John Sykes

Apologies if anyone

Has been missed



**The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed that two cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) have been detected in Nigeria.**



The cases, which were reported in the north-eastern state of Borno, are the first in the country since July 2014.

Although this is a setback in our fight to rid the world of polio, we are confident that Rotarians across Great Britain and Ireland will redouble their efforts and continue to show the incredible levels of dedication, commitment and resilience which have brought us so far over the last three decades.

**Eve Conway**, Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland President commented: “This is disappointing news, but Rotarians are determined to keep up the fight against polio and to reach our number one goal of ridding the world of this crippling disease. We shall continue our advocacy work and our efforts to raise awareness and funds to end polio now and forever.

We have just launched the Purple4Polio campaign in Britain and Ireland and urge support of this campaign as we strengthen our efforts to reach a polio free world.”

Nigeria had gone over two years without any cases of wild poliovirus and as eradication nears completion, the poliovirus is expected to fight back. However, WHO remain confident that Nigeria can end polio. The Nigerian government and the polio programme are working quickly to respond to the outbreak using proven tactics that will prevent further spread of the disease.

**Michael K. McGovern**, International PolioPlus Chair, commented: “This response will include emergency vaccination campaigns to boost immunity in impacted and at-risk areas, and reinforced surveillance activities to ensure we detect all strains of polio. Because polio knows no borders, steps will also be taken to protect surrounding countries, to ensure all children are vaccinated and to reduce the risk of the spread of the disease.”

To read Michael K. McGovern's full statement, visit the Rotary International website, or to find out more about the news, visit the World Health Organization website.

## 12th Aug Bowls (crown green not ten pin)

A fine body of sporting Ladies and Gentlemen members of B&WRC, and guests, turned up to play another evening of 'Woods' (I think that's what is said in the bowling world), at the Bowling Club on Kingsway. Kindly arranged by one time member David Walker and brother Graham.



The games were called to commence at 6.30 p.m. and such was the promptness of the event your writer was chastised for turning up at 6.38 by which time five named teams of four players each, had been selected by, I have no doubt, some arcane bowling club method. However the late arrived 'Billy no mates', was allocated to three,

obviously, semi-professional players whose expertise was demonstrated in a matter of moments in the first few 'throws'. Or whatever it is called. Your writer not having played the game for some three years, and then disastrously, was given a quick instruction on the essential methods of 'throwing' the bowl and the all-important 'bias' which enabled the player to achieve a left or right curvature of the 'throw' which is controlled by the position of the finger or thumb of the right hand, or left hand if you are of a 'sinistral' inclination. This method is also adopted when 'throwing' the smaller white bowl, known as a 'Jack', to which one endeavours to hit with the bigger black bowls. Whichever method is used, it is quietly passed to the other three members of the team. However this secretive piece of protocol was not passed to the writer until about the third 'round' of 'throwing' and only then when he was 'throwing' the 'jack' for the first time and was chastised again for not passing on the essential words "finger" or "thumb". This of course had put the writer at a considerable disadvantage, only hitting the jack three times.

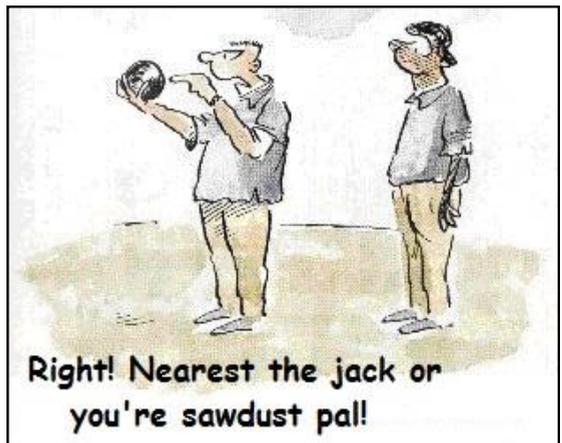
The overall competition finished at about 7.45 and all players assembled in the pavilion in front of an audience of two who applauded loudly. Only three of the competing teams claimed to have been champions. One of course being the writer's team. As the final score cards were not available for scrutiny the result will never be known. None the less it seemed that everybody had a most enjoyable sporting evening. All then repaired to the Club House for an excellent buffet supper. President Bob thank everyone for turning up and making it a successful evening. Ian had nothing to say, which was very unusual, other than to request entertainers for the Scarecrow Festival.



In conclusion the writer thinks the game of bowls could be considerably improved if the green was levelled, a curb was put round the perimeter, to stop the bowls going into the gutter, the bowls being round, instead of elliptical, and the dent in the side filled in!!!!

Thanks once again to David and brother Graham and the Bowling Club for allowing the use of all the facilities. A very enjoyable evening and a good example of how Rotary can enjoy itself.

**John Meeus**



## **Geoff and Vida—A Double Act – 24<sup>th</sup> August**

Eighteen stalwarts turned up on a warm summer evening to hear Vida and me singing for our supper. Most of the remaining members had managed to get out of the country in time.

I was also on duty as bulletin editor and, in the absence of volunteers, am stuck with combining the two roles for the evening... unprecedented in my Rotary experience, so this report will be short, sharp and to the point!

Prior to the usual excellent dinner, Gill expounded on the Stop Hunger Campaign. It seems several members attended a "cheap meals 2016" meal pack managing 102,000 meals of dehydrated food in two days. Well done them. John Sykes has produced an article which no doubt will be found elsewhere in the next club magazine. Seems all attendees had to wear a hairnet which Ron modelled for us. Very fetching Ron.

Gill also mentioned her visit to the CLINK restaurant at H.M. Prison (Styal) – a high-end dining experience – and a straw poll indicated that we might warm to a club evening meal there, possibly on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Brian reminded us of our 30<sup>th</sup> Charter Night on Wed. 12<sup>th</sup> October which promises to be a special treat. Ian regaled us with entertainment details for the Scarecrow Spectacular on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

After a coffee break, Vida gave us an abbreviated version of her genteel upbringing and career in her own inimitable style, finishing by accusing me of "poaching" her from Cheadle RC while at a district conference in the IOM. John Thewlis was a witness to that dirty deed so I am guilty as proved!

I then gave an anecdotal and (hopefully) amusing insight into my fourteen years in the police service – seven in Manchester and seven in Bermuda – and the contrast between the two. As

I joined the police as a cadet sixty two years ago the life I led was unrecognisable from today's policing but it was fun and reminiscent therapy for me. I left Bermuda for Bramhall with my family in 1971 and the following year one of my "trusty" prisoners assassinated both the police commissioner and the Governor, both racially inspired via the black power movement in the US. He was convicted in 1975 and hanged in 1979. The last hanging in the world under British Law.

The rest of the evening was spent in discussing the programme for September meetings. President Bob managed to prolong the confusion until 10.30pm by which time we had some form of consensus on how we will occupy our time next month.

**Geoff.**

### **And from Chris in the colonies**

Many thanks for the bulletin report. I am truly sorry that I missed the evening - I would have liked to have heard the two talks. A week or so ago, I visited the Police Museum in Manchester. Whilst in Australia, visited two prisons, two gallows and I have a pic of Mary standing on one after being sentenced to death, as Ned Kelly, after playing him in a mock trial at Melbourne Gaol.

The family are taking us to see a rounders game, or I think it is known as 'baseball' over here ..... Last night was spent watching the Seattle Seahawks overpower the Dallas Cowboys on their 80" HD tv. Never seen a sport like 'football' - very, very short bursts of activity as players, some weighing over 300lbs smash into each other, with a lot of standing around talking in between, all managed by a set of quite incomprehensible rules. They all seem to enjoy it, though. They gave me a book 'Football for Dummies' so I may be able to get some inkling of what it is all about.

Over here, our 'football' is of course known as 'soccer' (I've never been too sure what that was all about, either!)

## Committee Night 8th September

Twenty two members and one guest enjoyed a good meal before we got down to business. The guest was Kate Puc from Francis House to whom President Bob presented a cheque for £12,000 from the Duck Race.



Our treasurer Michael explained that the cheque was not as large as we would hope for as we still await the contribution for Barclay's Bank. Supplementary Cheque to follow. Kate thanked us for our efforts in raising such a large amount of money; also invited us to the next Open Day at Francis House – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 10am to 4 pm. No children or families will be in residence. Vida reported that Geoff & Kate were ill, our best wishes for a speedy recovery to them. Otherwise people were either on holiday or had not apologised.

### *Committee Reports.*

**Vice Pres** – advised that RIBI were looking at alternate membership plans and that Corporate Membership was under discussion  
**Secretary** – John reported that his inbox was not yet clear of Rotary emails after his holiday, so expect more to be circulated. He also made a plea for volunteers for the Community Emergency Support Team.

**Treasurer Michael** – Charity account now at a low point of around £1,000. Michael also gave an explanation that since our bank, CAF, were proposing a £5 per month charge on each of our two accounts he was looking at alternate banking arrangements.

**Ways & Means** – Scarecrow festival can be the only discussion right now. The extent of coverage around Bramhall has been increased; there are about 90 scarecrows entered. Saturday 17 September is the important date. A provisional job rota was read

out and since there were no screams of protest from those present about job allocation the list will be circulated shortly. Vida will lead the dancing to the Ceilidh Band. The Billy Bow book is now in 7 local shops.

**Community Service** – Ron is planning to visit Seashell Trust to discuss with them how we might help and take on the activities previously undertaken by Gatley Rotary. Foot path clearance taking place Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 o'clock. Only a small number of volunteers so there might need to be a further session in a couple of weeks' time.

**Youth** – Andrew has been able to talk with the District organiser of Youth Speaks which was very informative.

**International** – Sue had received a very comprehensive report from Kasesi on the money we sent via Winchester RC for the clinic there. Slight delay in delivery of crocuses, but they are coming.

**Communications** - Ian emphasised that parking in Bramhall would be free on the day of the Scarecrow festival, a good selling point to encourage visitors. Details of the Scarecrow festival have appeared in SKBramhall and also feature on the first page of a local trade phone directory. Ian asked that if anyone has any ideas for improvement to the Duck Race then get in touch with him now.

**Club Services**- John T reported that the pairings for speaker finder were now in place. John has a list of possible speakers if required but thinks that they would require payment.

Social – Brian Gill provided information on dates (see listing)

**A.O.B** – John M reported that on a recent visit to Bramhall High School he was invited to meet the new Head teacher who was very keen to visit us and to speak to us. Now that's a change! Despite all the activity Bob closed the meeting at 10.30

**John Sykes**

## Board games 14th Sept

It was Andrew and Harry's turn to provide the entertainment for the evening and they decided on a board games evening. Everyone was asked to bring a game which they could share with others. After the coffee break, the tables were arranged in groups of four and games were chosen from the pile.



Vida set up a bridge table, I set up a game called Pitwits, a clue solving game - Sid was just pipped at the post by Harry. Kate and Pam were definitely the noisiest table with a version of Frustration, Connect 4 was a popular choice with the strategists and John Sykes brought along a novel game of

3D snakes and ladders.

Although Twister was on offer, no one felt agile enough to take it on- maybe next time.

A good time was had by all and the promise of a return Pitwits challenge was thrown down.

**Gill**



## Pyramid Tenpin Bowling and Curry Evening 21<sup>st</sup> Sep



A splendid evening was organised this week by Gill Critchley and John Meeus in the form of Pyramid bowling.

This inventive idea brought a brand new concept to Tenpin bowling as we know it. Of course the game itself hasn't changed in respect to throwing the bowling ball down the lane, although without naming names there were a few Rotarians that preferred to bowl down the gutter.....

Gill had this fabulous idea of using a pyramid score chart numbered 1 to 10, knocking off scores each time we bowled. The team with the lowest score at the end of the game wins.

The team that took the winners title was none other than Gill's team. How you might ask!!!! Well of course we are all asking that question too!!!

Regardless of the winning outcome it was indeed a superb night which everybody thoroughly enjoyed. Lots of smiling and lots more laughing.

We had a most enjoyable meal at Khandoker curry restaurant for a very reasonable price and it was absolutely delicious with very good service. I thought the staff looked after us very well and would recommend this as somewhere for us to visit again!

I would definitely say that this was a successful even-



ing and would love to do it again as we all had so much fun.  
On behalf of fellow Rotarians, a big thank you to Gill for making  
the ordinary Wednesday rotary evening an evening of bowling  
and curry fun.

Thank you Gill.

Gills team won with a score of 71 points

Andrews team 72 points..... Ahem!!!

Michael's team one hundred and something..... I forget!

**Kate**

Old bikes should be retired.

Geometry holds clues for the meaning of life; look and you will  
see the sines.

You can't beat a pickled egg.

If a leopard could cook would he ever change his pots?

See one melée of unruly people and you've seen a maul.

Do hungry time-travellers ever go back four seconds?

Useful words for everyday use:

*Arachibutyrophobia* morbid fear of peanut butter sticking  
to the roof of your mouth

*Muliebriety* the state of being a woman

*Aposiopesis* a sudden breaking off of thought

*Crytoscopophilia* the urge to look through windows

*Properispomenon* a word having a circumflex on its  
penultimate syllable

*Velleity* a mild urge or desire, too slight to  
lead to action

*Slubberdegullion* a worthless or slovenly fellow

*Ugsomeloathsome* disgusting

How do you pronounce *ough* in a word? As in *through*, or  
*though*, or *tough*, or *plough*, or *thorough*, or *hiccough*, or  
*lough* of course! Simple, isn't it?

## Quiz Night 28th September

Vice President David Rose opened the meeting with a rather charming ditty about scarecrows. Our now new adopted family. Vida informed us of apologies of absent members, some still on holiday embracing the sunshine, leaving us with 18 members present .

Brian then filled us in on Charter night, who was on the list and who hadn't chosen their menu along with inviting old members. It being a rather special night, the thirtieth for our club .

Michael was delighted with the £1500 raised from the Scarecrow Festival and that could amount to £2000 when all accounted for.

We then had our meal, that went down well with Kate and Andrew getting excited about the cheesecake.

Harry with international news discussed about the up and coming "Mega campaign" in India ,on end polio in January. asking if anyone would like to volunteer and also telling us a bit about his last trip.

Ian was sorry to inform us that NFU had pulled out of helping with the Xmas float, Maggie was pleased to say we were getting support from Emma Long from Biz Space of £2000 . John Sykes organised a quiz with Maggie's table winning and the other two teams close behind.

On the last note Harry was asking for volunteers for bulb planting in the park and John S Asking for volunteers for the emergency team.

**Pat**

## **Committees 5<sup>th</sup> October**

David Rose in the chair as Pres Bob is on his way home from Australia. David opened the meeting by advising us that according to the Jewish calendar we have just entered year 5,777. He then used an appropriate Jewish prayer, in Hebrew and English, to wish for a happy year ahead.

Only 18 members present, but it turned out that the others were mostly on holiday varying from USA, Singapore, Spain and Cornwall: Geoff is not well, so best wishes to him. Steve was taking his wife out to celebrate her birthday; some commented that he could have brought her to our meeting. Kate was probably still stuck in A&E getting her son's mouth sown up following a fall.

It being a Committee night much activity. Michael reminded committees that there was only £1,000 available in the Charity account, so don't ask for money.

**Community Service** – Call for envelope stuffers for Friday afternoon at Walthew House – 6 offers of help. Blind run duty for next Monday sorted out. Considering a local Young Careers charity as the beneficiary for the Xmas collection. More details available at Council on Monday

**International** – International chair currently living up to her committee as she is in Singapore on her way back from Australia. Harry still considering the invite to India to assist in the Polio vaccination programme, anyone interested in joining him?

**Social** – Charter Night – all meal choices now received. 21 club members attending, 49 people in total. Date for your diary – Nov 29<sup>th</sup> meal at The Clink in Styal; more details to follow.

**Ways & Means** – Fashion Show well in hand, three shops parading their wares, a few other stalls also attending. Proceeds

to Action for Sick Children who are currently targeting dental health. Need raffle prizes.

Woodford Garden Centre collection – currently waiting for confirmation on available weekends from WGC. Proposing 1 Rotarian + 1 friend for each session.

Santa's float – sponsorship in hand for sweets and expenses. Offer of a van received (based on a call in Facebook, so well done Ian) but drivers will be required. Proposing to shorten the weekend routes using "Santa Stops"; pit stops to be dropped; no collection on the night of our Xmas meal; Woodford Garden Village to be added to one route; one additional night added for a new charity to man.

**Club Services** – new programme for November & December out soon. The fifth Wednesday in November may be allocated for a meeting JohnT advised.

**PR & Comms** – Inside Bramhall contains photos and write up about the Scarecrow extravaganza, and all without Ian's input. Certificate of Appreciation and a very nice letter received from Francis House for our donation to them. Also a reminder of their Open House during the day of 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Meeting closed according to my watch at 10.05 which was fantastically early, unfortunately my watch had stopped and it was 10.20 when we closed.

**John Sykes**

Q: How do witches tell the future?

A: With horror-scopes.



## Letter from America (anyone remember Alastair Cooke ?)

A little background to start. As most members will already know, our daughter Suzi and her family have lived in the Seattle area for the last ten years or so, love it, have done very well and are now citizens. Andrew works for Microsoft at their headquarters in Redmond, Suzi works for our business running all merchandise matters and customer orders for our 18 sites - all of which are connected to her in 'real time'. The 8 hour time difference is actually quite useful in that it effectively extends the company working day. This role does require a number of trips back to the UK for buying and meetings and that's where we come in, "the babysitters"! The kids are 11 and 13 and of course need to be ferried around for a mass of school and social activities.

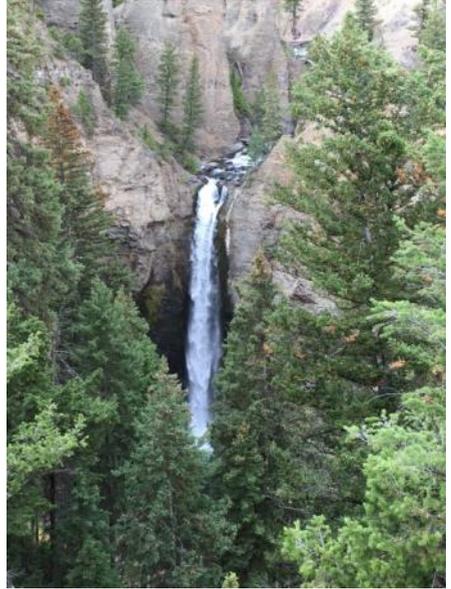


Our trip this time started off with a few weeks here in Seattle in the Pacific Northwest but we made time for a 'holiday' too, to look at some more of this simply stunning country. We have now visited 33 states in 38 years of regular trips to the US. We wanted to fill in a few important gaps, namely Montana, Wyoming and Idaho and so the plan was hatched to drive to Montana and have a look at where George Armstrong Custer and the 7th Cavalry met their fate and the Battle of the Little Big Horn when they encountered Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull and between 2000 and 5,000 Indians who had had enough of being bullied. For a time, 'indians' were referred to as 'native Americans', but this political correctness seems to have been overcome and they are now referred to as Indians again. All they wanted to do, was to continue to live their simple (in a good way) lives, as they had done for generations. The white man had other ideas and what was done to them was



appalling. Custer paid the price, to the last man. It should of course have been the politicians (nothing changes, does it ..). Don't start me on the forthcoming elections .....

The Americans do these memorials, including one to the Indians, and visitor centers (note spelling!) so very, very well, including film. As a bit of a 'western' aficionado I found this visit and battlefield tour totally fascinating - to be actually 'there' after reading about it for so long.



From there, we drove to Cody, Wyoming for a couple of nights. Whilst there we visited The Buffalo Bill Western Museum (Smithsonian) which was, I think, the best and most interesting museum that I have ever visited, and I have been to a lot. At night we stayed there at the museum for a live country music dinner show which was the best I have ever been to (is this sounding a bit repetitive?)

Cody (named of course after Buffalo Bill) is at the eastern entrance to Yellowstone, which contains, I think, the largest concentration of geothermal activity on earth. The park is quite large at around 9,000square kilometres. We were there for 4 days, and needed all that. We were assisted massively in our enjoyment by an app I purchased, called 'Gypsy'. This was on my iPhone and using gps it knew exactly where we were and gave us a running commentary on the history, geology, flora and fauna. It really was like have a knowledgeable tour guide in the car with us. "You are approaching a car park, don't go in this first one, the second one is bet-



ter...". We really missed him when we left the parks.....

Just below Yellowstone is Grand Teton N.P. and we spent a couple of days there, smaller, but more dramatic. We stayed in Jackson, often called Jackson Hole, but this really refers to the valley in which it sits. It is a big ski area in the winter, but a hugely expensive place to stay, at around x3 the normal rate. Mary and I are actually skiing at the moment, yes, 'Spending the Kids Inheritance' or S..K..I. !!



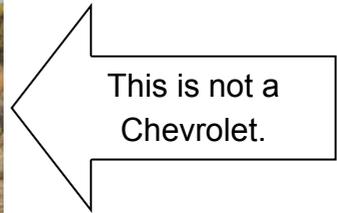
The return route took in Craters of the Moon N.P. which is a huge larval outpouring which looks quite 'black' and recent. Well, it was really, just 2,000 years ago. We then visited an 'Interpretative Centre' on the old Oregon Trail where tens of thousands took their wagons across America in the mid 1800's and often died on the way.

Suzi lent us their spare car, a vast Chevrolet Tahoe seven seat SUV 5.3 V8. christened 'Martha' by the kids. Think Range Rover on steroids, a beautifully equipped vehicle with superb high up visibility perfect for a 3,000 mile road trip through stunning scenery but bit thirsty though!! We are very fond of Martha !

On the way out, I spotted 'Grand Coulee Dam' on the map, and so went and had a look at that, and glad we did. One of the first records I ever owned, in the late 50's I guess, was the Lonnie Donnigan song of the same name but Woody Guthrie may have written it. It was, in its

This is a Chevrolet





day, the biggest man made structure on earth. The story behind it's construction in the 30's we found very interesting indeed.

So that's it really, if anyone would like to hear more about the trip, or any component part of it, I would be very happy to do a talk with images at the Club one night. I am aware of course, that just a



collection of holiday snaps alone, are not generally of great interest unless you were on the holiday!

Future road trips are planned, unless of course, the pound keeps head-

ing south and we start having to rely on food parcels, and not letters, from America.



**Chris**  
Seattle, WA, USA



## Charter Night 1986 - 2016 Wed 12 Oct 2016 30th

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1986 the Rotary Club of Bramhall & Woodford received its Charter. On this date, 12<sup>th</sup> of Oct 2016, some fifty, members, past members, spouses, guests the District Governor and President of Mother Club, Poynton, celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of that event in great style at the Pinewood Hotel, Heald Green.



The reception gave an opportunity for a great deal of reminiscing between past and present members before an excellent dinner. Also, and unlike, the Charter Night of thirty years past this was more of an informal, formal evening. Of course it was a black tie for the men which inevitably gave the opportunity for the ladies to show off in their finery.

Thirty years ago the event was attended by some ninety to hundred members from National, District, Mother Clubs and surrounding clubs in the area. Following dinner there were some nine or ten speeches! It was very pleasing that thirty years on there were only three, and possibly not speeches, but very meaningful addresses which summed up the existence of the Club's past present and future.

President Bob brought the assembled company up to date with membership. Emphasising the fact that although the Club had only 31 members it had a much better age and gender balance which was considerably different from years past, in that 30% of the members were female and there was a much younger element in the latest members intake. He followed by highlighting the success of the Club in its major projects raising some £30 to £35K each year. Including the Duck Race a major community project attracting many thousands to Bramhall Park. The Santa

Float involving local groups such as scouts, guides, youth clubs as well as a great delight to the young and sometimes not so young children. The newest project, the Summer Scarecrow festival which creates great activity within the businesses, shops, schools and other youth groups. And not least of all the Autumn Fashion Show. All these activities and the Community Service programmes help to secure the Clubs success and existence in the area not only in the present but the future.

The District Governor followed with a very refreshingly and comparatively short address which summed up the Club's part in the whole movement on the International, National and local scene. Mentioning Polio Plus, shortly it is hoped to be 100% successful. In Rotary Foundation, projects in Africa and the Disaster Box scheme. He also paid allegiance to his own club, in Saddleworth, and the similarities to Bramhall with the aims and objects of RI. He wished the Club's continuing success which had been demonstrated in the past.

The final address was by the Founder President John M who referred to the beginning and the early days. In particular the failure in forming a club some ten years earlier as we were considered too 'avant garde' to be trusted as Rotarians!

However, perseverance was the word and with the help of the Mother Clubs, Hazel Grove and Poynton it was launched. The club started off with 30 members and five of them have survived the years Ron, Sid, Bruce, Dennis and himself. The Charter was duly received and a Secretary, Geoff Brown, a Treasurer, Ken Chadwick and the President were appointed. Following the Charter Night was the clubs first meeting and although everybody was now aware of what Rotary meant they were unsure of how to generate the projects. However the President made it quite clear that on that night, he might be President but was just the first amongst equals and that all that were there were dedicated to the causes of Rotary.

Over 30 years and some 100 members later and with some early struggles Rotary and in particular Bramhall had now been drawn into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and in one recognition of that the Club was celebrating its Charter with 11 women members who have all brought great benefit to the Club. Also, of course, the Club have always received unstinting support from the wives and partners and friends of Rotary in all its endeavours.

The members may have been considered young revolutionaries at the beginning but have proved their worth. The Club should be very proud of the many successes it has had and the good it has done for those less fortunate. It was hoped that Bramhall had helped to dispel the public's view of Rotary, changing some of the old formalities. We have of course, had some less successful moments the train to London. He did I not mention the organiser's name!!! However some members may well remember, with mixed emotions, the building of the great bridge over the Ladybrook which will remain as an everlasting testimony to this clubs service in the community.

He finalised making reference to all of the members over the years and those who are sadly no longer with us, who have above everything else, given unstintingly of themselves and lived up to the Rotary motto of: SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

The final speaker of the evening was Gay Rhodes a member of the Stockport Ladies Speakers Club and a professional speaker on the national scene who gave a very enlightening and amusing talk on That Certain Age. A very humorous talk based on actual observation of life which the audience recognised, as being so often and so true in their own.

President Bob gave the final toast Rotary and peace the world over.

**John Meeus**



## Climbing Kilimanjaro 19 Oct

On a somewhat chilly evening 19 Rotarians and 2 guests enjoyed Jakki's usual feast. John Thewlis read the apologies (the "sick, lame and lazy" to use his words and once again it was impressive to see how far flung our members are when on holiday (or in Gill's case allegedly working in Scarborough).

After the coffee break President Bob performed the induction of Pam Jones, sponsored by Kate. Female membership now accounts for just over a third of the club.

The main talk of the evening was given by Manhar Taylor whose wife, Ramila, was also present. In August of this year Manhar fulfilled a lifelong ambition by climbing Kilimanjaro – Africa's highest mountain. He first dreamed of it as a small boy and first saw it at the age of 11 when he moved from his birthplace, India, to Tanzania and went to a wedding, the route to which passed the mountain. After many attempts he finally got another person to agree to the climb, and set the date. By then the one other had become five and they were joined at Heathrow airport by another seven, forming the climbing group of twelve. There are five permitted routes up and five down. Manhar gave some detail (illustrated by wonderful slides) for the 8 day journey which culminated on the evening of day 6 (25<sup>th</sup> August 2016) with reaching the 19,341 feet peak. The journey down was quicker at two days, and was followed by the consumption of Kilimanjaro beers and what looked like vast mounds of chips on the photos. Throughout the 8 days the climbers carried their day time needs but the thirty porters carried everything else (tents, sleeping bags, cooking gear, water etc.). The venture will raise around £10,000 for their three chosen charities, one for the blind, one for Huntingdon's and one for Cancer. Well done indeed!!



There followed some questions and a brief vote of thanks from Gordon.



Harry put out calls for planters and stuffers and, uniquely in my experience, Ian said nothing!

Maggie circulated rotas for the Float and the Woodford collection and these will be sent by email

soon.

The meeting ended a little early and a fine time was had by all

**Michael**

## CLARIFICATION

The current member list containing email and telephone numbers is printed when there are changes. A copy of this is sent to Brian for inclusion on the members' area of our web site. All members receive a printed copy.

The blind run (for those members who take part), event diary and list of bulletin writers is printed each time a new bulletin comes out. A copy is printed for each member whether you have opted for a printed bulletin or not. These are also sent out as an email to everyone.

**Gordon**

## Talent spotting on 26<sup>th</sup> October

As a talent spotting evening it may not have been a big success, but as an enjoyable Rotary evening it certainly made the grade! The idea was to let members tell jokes, recite or read poetry, tell anecdotes etc. However, there were no examples of vocal talent, or virtuoso instrumental playing, no juggling or acrobatics, not even some card tricks!

We started in the usual way with splendid food. It was good to welcome back Chris Monkhouse from his extensive travels, and he even recited a doleful monologue about cannibalism on a ship later on to leave us in no doubt about his presence!

There was a discussion about the change of heart of Barclays, which had promised a donation in aid of our Duck Race and in particular Francis House, the main beneficiary. President Bob would phone his senior contact in the bank, and if that approach failed, a letter explaining the circumstances would be sent to the Chairman of the bank.

It was agreed that a possible evening dinner at The Clink was not sensible in view of the price, a set menu with no choice and the requirement to get a minimum of 35 covers to “benefit from” the reduced price of £30pp. An alternative visit to Rainbow 88 in Cheadle Hulme on November 23<sup>rd</sup> was to be investigated by John Thewlis.

We were reminded of future meetings on 16<sup>th</sup> November (Owls) and 30<sup>th</sup> November (Head Teacher from Bramhall High School). November looks like being a busy month!

The talent part of the evening looked a bit like a damp squib at first, but once Sue had told us of her favourite books and Vida had read a poem by Pam Eyres about “My Satnav” (the driver’s wife!), renditions came in a steady trickle. Sid could not resist telling several Irish jokes, Ian gave a very poignant reading of a

poem about a POW Camp, several bawdy limericks were suddenly remembered, Dennis recollected the setting of a John Betjeman poem about the secretary of St Enedoc's golf course in Cornwall, after which Vida reminded us all that she had actually attended a wedding at the tiny Church of St Enedoc, which has no road going to it at all. There were insufficient flowers for the ceremony, but there were plenty on nearby graves, so.....

As you can tell, the contributions were varied and interesting, and I have not even recorded Steve's near death experience or the valiant (and I think successful) efforts of Jan Edmonds to be alcohol free for a month for charity.

We ran out of steam at about ten twenty and departed in to the sweet night.

## Dennis



Bramall Hall's reopening was quite spectacular



## KALAMATA

This has been taken from a diary kept during the war by Ken Humm an inmate of Stalag 18A along with my dad and over 30,000 others. Over 8,000 British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers were captured in or near Kalamata, Greece in April 1941. My dad was on the quayside about to board an evacuation ship when it upped it's walkways and sailed off.

**Ian**

*There is an old Greek barrack On a flat above the town  
surrounded by snow capped mountains which throw neat shadows down  
on a huge concourse Of men whose names it does not matter  
the thousands of unfortunates captured at Kalamata  
there are men of many nations and men of every creed  
who have served their mother country in her greatest hour of need  
for them the war is over for them the fighting done  
their thoughts are for their loved ones from dawn till setting sun  
their comforts are so very few and sickness very rife  
to get their few poor meals so now their daily strife  
such things are the penalties of prisoners of war so they do not  
moan of things gone before  
but there is just one thing that ranks in their mind  
why on that fateful night were they left behind  
the warships stood off shore monsters of British might  
they took a few of our wounded and sailed off into the night  
they do not doubt the reason which one day they will know  
why they were left there on that beach to be captured by the foe  
there is just one reason which one day they will like to hear  
why men died that night to keep the beaches clear  
so have a reason England to tell on our release  
until then we can take it so roll on day of peace.*

## 25 years ago

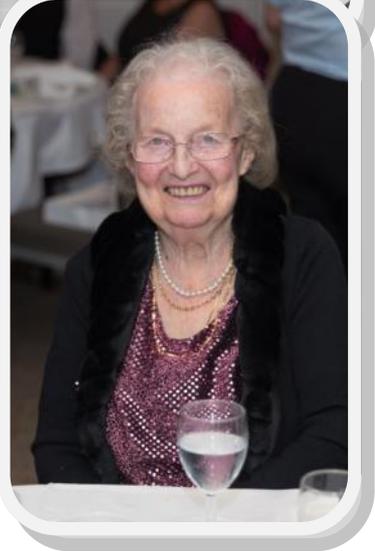
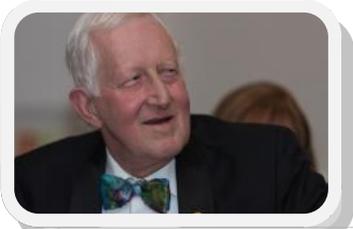
This covers the period August to October 1991 in Vol 5, Nos 2 to 5. One social meeting was to Cholmondeley Castle for an outdoor concert of popular classical music by the Manchester Camarata Orchestra.

We had a job talk by our honorary member Stephen Day who was then Conservative MP for the Cheadle constituency (as a new boy in Westminster). A talk on Forensic Odontology showed that whilst criminals can “lie through their teeth”, “their teeth cannot lie”. On 21<sup>st</sup> August Geoff Hunt paid his second visit to the club as a guest of David Dewhurst. There was a talk on falconry and the speaker brought along a Harris hawk which he had bred and trained. Graham, who used to live on Langdale Road now runs Gauntlet, a bird of prey centre next to Friar’s Roses at Knutsford and well worth taking the grandchildren to see. Rotary Adventure Fellowship was a scheme whereby “deprived” school leavers from around the world could be sponsored by their local District to spend 2 weeks in the UK. In our District 105 this meant one week on a canal barge and one week in Rotarian’s homes. A speaker from the RSPCA which was founded in 1924 said that there were over 200 Acts of Parliament relating to the protection of animals. It is illegal to release a fat dormouse (what about thin ones?) or a budgerigar into the wild. People have been known to keep pigs in the kitchen, horses in bedrooms and two brown bears in a cellar.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Charter anniversary was held at Millington Hall (now the John Millington). In those days of more formality we had toasts to Her Majesty, Rotary International, the Rotary club of Bramhall and Woodford and our guests together with a series of responses. Not forgetting the final toast!! We did later receive a letter from the DG saying how much he had enjoyed the light hearted banter during the evening. (A tradition which still survives).



**Ron Malabon**



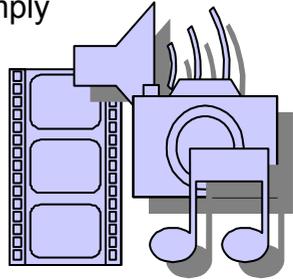
## A selection of web sites that may prove useful

If you like to sit in bed in the morning with your laptop/tablet and read the news, try <http://www.wrx.zen.co.uk/britnews.htm> which gives links to many of the most popular papers (and even the Daily Fail).

If you want to send large files or photographs, email often has a limit so use <https://www.wetransfer.com/> to send up to 2Gb for free.

To check on the validity of news reports/Facebook Posts/dodgy emails, go to <http://www.snopes.com/>

Although you may think that YouTube is simply full of awful 'funny' cat videos, it can be a source of superb entertainment. From old records (that you lost at parties), to all the episodes of Patrick McGoochan's 'The Prisoner'. Pretty much anything you long to watch again or listen to, can be found there. Add a cheap streaming device to your TV and you can watch it on there.



Looking for recommended tradespeople? Apart from our Rotary list which I keep for occasional production, try <https://www.ratedpeople.com>



Looking for entertainment for the grandkids? Try <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies>



Francesca & I have completed the TMB ( Trek Mont Blanc) in 5.5 days. Not as easy as I first thought. The winner raced it in 21hours non stop. I ran where I could but I'm not a mountain goat or related. However we met people from all around the world so really enjoyed the occasion.

Bob Stevenson

Ellie Raistrick gets a community service award for her fantastic work on the book 'Billy Bow's Holiday'



'We Are Characters' and Bramhall School of Dance helped entertain people at the Scarecrow Festival





Like mother, like daughter (again). It seems that hurling balls around runs in the family (as do striped tops). Gill celebrates winning the crown green bowls whilst she and Nicola displayed similar enthusiasm at ten pin bowling last year.

More terrible floods in Bramhall devastated businesses.



Mary Robinson MP joined Bob to spot scarecrows