Rotarian





October 2010



A tranquil evening

August 18th 2010 Rotary walk

Yule's tidings

With almost 3 months of this Rotary year gone, what has been achieved?

We have support Shelterbox in its relief work in Pakistan. Gordon has spent a month in Tanzania, returning with a some great ideas of how our club can make a difference to some lives there.

Although, after much hard work and through no fault of those members involved, the rugby event had to be postponed, the W&M team got straight back on their horses and started to organise Rocktoberfest.

There has been the usual mix of summer attendance levels, with Gordon's Tanzania presentation gaining a record 50 attendees. Dennis' summer walk was also well attended for an outside meeting.

District Governor, Margaret Hutchinson, enjoyed her visit to such a thriving club.

An excellent start in all aspects of club life. What's next?

Sue & I are looking forward to Charter Night and the District Conference – I hope they will both be well supported by the club.

Rocktoberfest from W&M, Stockport Lamplighters' walk, bucket collection at Stockport Rugby Club and more.

We are also in the early stages of organising a 'Bicycles for Africa' style CS project and a fundraising concert by an internationally renowned pianist.

So plenty to look forward to ... enjoy it!

Graham

Secretary's soapbox

Hopefully by now most of you who regularly browse the web will have seen the "new look" web site (same URL of course: www.bwrotary.org.uk). You may even have tracked its progress over the past couple of months prior to it "going live" on 1st Sept.

There is now a significant amount of Flash video type large-file-size material on the site, so if there is anyone out there still using a dial-up modem connection, their feedback would be very useful. I have attempted to keep the slow stuff optional wherever possible. For the near future the most significant changes are likely to be via the several offers of photo collections, these will be added whenever I get them. Please note the Version History page which should give a dated account of what changes have been made. The onerous task of course now begins – keeping it up to date!

My new "thin style" White Book seems to have been well accepted, thanks to all who have said so. I don't want to over do it however so please let me know if some types of items which would be of use are being left out.

As you may have suspected, I panicked somewhat in my early days as secretary due to the shear volume of tasks to be done. It seems the Rotary year end/start brings the kind of workload boost I suspect company accountants recognise from the financial year end/start ? Fortunately Gordon had left me all the files I needed (even if finding the correct one often took ages). In general I am not much enamoured with conspiracy theories but none the less my initial reaction was definitely that Gordon had planned a trip to one of the few places on earth out of mobile phone coverage just to give me a hard time. Anyhow I am now pleased to report that the workload has calmed down!

Which brings me to the final point I want to make for this Bulletin. One or two people have indicated to me that I should adopt a more serious tone & manner, in my role as Secretary. Sorry but NO, I am not going to go all boring, Rotary rules & regs'y. In fact I suspect, from knowing those I have for some time, that the club has become rather too "worthy" of late, and a bit more fun needs reinserting. Anyone who wants a Rotary hierarchy style Secretary only has to say – that's not me but I'm very happy to return to the back benches any time I'm asked !!!

Brian.

Meeting Reports



Ian Dobson: Job Talk on 21 July

Welcome bottles of wine were provided he now had the club cheque books and by Geoff Hunt and David Rose to celebrate their birthdays (unspecified).

Tony Burch began proceedings by referring to the Charity Fun Day at Stockport Rugby Club on September 11.which required a big club effort. He was followed by Bruce Farrow who said that a big sales effort was required before the event.

Bruce Bissell detailed the apologies including Dennis Allport absence as his son-in-law has cancer. Geoff Hunt who had visited Dennis said that Dennis needed time to support his daughter's family in the circumstances. Chris Monkhouse had been visited by David Rose who said that he was in good spirits and was hoping to attend the Club meetings in the next few weeks. John Meeus had felt it necessary to attend an ambassadorial reception.

Sid interrupted by saying he was disappointed that no one had asked him how he was. The response was a concerted and insincere. Ahhh!

Secretary, Brian, had nothing to report and Treasurer, Michael, reported that

reminded members that subs were due.

John Thewlis reported that Ways and Means were organising an October Fest on 15 October including German beer and food. He added that Dev was helping to organise a charity ball at Stockport Town Hall on 2 October to raise funds for the treatment of lung cancer and other lung diseases. Dev wants our club to be involved. A discussion took place on our possible involvement including whether we should make a donation or should be involved by booking tables. It was decided that council would discuss the event and make a decision at the earliest opportunity.

President Graham presented a name badge to our newest member Trevor Saville.

After a delicious meal President Graham introduced Ian Dobson who was to give his job talk. Ian started by saying that following an idle school career in the north Midlands, he failed all his exams and began his working life in the meter department of English Electric, Stafford. Realising that this was not for him, he re-sat and passed his exams and got a job in banking with his time in 1940/41 as a van boy in the the Co-op Bank in 1966.

Comparing himself to the Captain Mainwaring type of banker, he progressed through Chief Clerk in 1978, assistant Manager in Preston in 1981, then to Head Office as Costing Manager. He then mentioned various special projects including IT until retirement in 2007.

He referred to various incidents in his career such as moving a massive amount of coinage so heavy that it taxed the ability of the carrying taxi to move it. On market days in Stafford a large quantity of notes had to be carried half a mile in a suitcase by a three-man team armed with a truncheon and whistle.

The highlight of his money moving exploits was transporting half a million pounds of "surplus" money in a van to the Birmingham branch of the Bank of England. Whilst there, he saw their stock of several millions of pounds, which was very impressive. The Preston branch covered part of the Lake District and Lancashire and Ian looked after the B&B accounts.

During his time at Head Office in Balloon Street, Manchester, a routine bank health check revealed that he had cancer and his right kidney was removed. In retirement his interest are gardening, dancing and Rotary.

Mention of the Co-op launched Sid into entirely irrelevant reminiscences about Penmaenmawr Co-op branch.

David Rose thank you speech included a number of the obvious puns. As International Chairman, David Rose referred to Gordon's fascinating emails about his adventures in Tanzania.

Harry said that he and Maggie would be having a party at home on 14 August to raise funds for Indian charities. Details would be available next week.

Graham reminded us that next week it was the annual District Governor visit by our first lady DG, Margaret Hutchinson, and he encouraged us to make her welcome. He had asked her to concentrate her talk on matters relevant to our club.

Under AOB, Geoff Hunt reported that Dennis had said that the Bulletin was too thin as he lacked copy and the President asked that this be noted, particularly by Bulletin reporters.

Sergeant at Arms, John Knowles, wittily fined a number of people, for once sparing your correspondent.

David Poizer

Committee night – 4th August

Bob Stevenson was acting President in the absence of Graham. Brian Dougal was secretary.

I had been informed just minutes prior to the meeting did I know I was doing the Bulletin. I replied if I know what it involves I'll get on with it and asked if it was a stand up part, which to my great relief it wasn't. By the end of the meeting my arm was nearly dropping off with about 8 sides of A4, some even in shorthand.

Bob opened the meeting on the dot of 8pm, which got the meeting off to a very prompt start (Bob loves being late to make a big entrance)!

David Walker gave apologies for several who were mainly on holiday or Ian (how dare he) was dancing!! I think that means having fun. Geoff had to have a surgical procedure to remove something from his head and somebody had the audacity to say there was nothing in there anyway. Personally, I have a soft spot for Geoff so he gets my full sympathy, which he will receive at be taken to Council. the next meeting.

When dinner was announced by Bob we were told the right table could go first, now that does depend which way you were looking

Bob and Bruce had attended a memorial service at St. George's Church and had Diane been made very welcome. There had

been a short and poignant ceremony at the Art Gallery. It was felt that the link with the British Legion was an extremely useful one and good liaison for the future.

Club Services – Dennis Bissell (AKA) Allport: Next week would be open to partners. There would be a walk at Nelson's Pit on 18 August, ending at the Boar's Head where food would be available.

International - David Rose. It was agreed to send two Shelter Boxes to Pakistan as soon as possible.

Social - Harry mentioned that 90 people were attending the Indian Night to be held at his house, and Maggie would be doing the cooking. A raffle would be held and items such as tea towels would be available to buy on the night.

Community Services – Vida. There was to be a Stockport walk costing f_{4} . Ten stewards would be required - I think Vida got her 10 men! Vida made an enquiry regarding the budget - this is to

It was nice seeing Sid win the raffle. S&A Vida fined people who did not turn up in the Park. John was fined for insulting Geoffrey and quite right too. Dennis was fined for being an impostor in Bruce's absence.

Another day, another daladala

Wednesday 11th August

A record was set for the club at this meeting when Gordon presented an account of his trip to Tanzania - 46 members and guests were present for the meal and this number increased to 48 for the talk. There were few absentees and many wives came along just to listen to Gordon!

Following an excellent feast prepared by Lorraine and her team, salmon, turkey with trimmings, peppered sirloin steak, apple pie with custard - despite the numbers the usual suspects could have as many extra courses as they liked - we settled down to Gordon' presentation.

Gordon's mission in Tanzania was to help to repair electrical equipment in hospitals scattered around Mount Kilimanjaro. The sad situation at present is that even when useful equipment is given to these hospitals, it is not properly maintained and falls into disuse. Gordon's intentions were not only to repair kit during his trip but to see whether he could initiate the setting up of a training programme for technicians in Tanzania. He had in mind the creation of a sustainable local base of technical staff who would be able to maintain equipment for themselves in the future. He also wanted to see whether it would be possible to set up a single point of entry, with а workshop, for

equipment which was donated to Tanzania so that local staff could be taught how to use it safely with proper manuals and usage protocols.

Gordon gave us his first impressions of Tanzania - chaotic, noisy bus stations, overloaded buses, green and fertile countryside, crops of bananas, plantains, maize, corn, rice and beans, and of course the dependence on international aid and the corruption. He then outlined the objectives of his visit which were to support a charity, Engineering World Health.

Engineering World Health (EWH) is funded by corporate sponsorship and by its participants. It sponsors students who spend time, typically a few months, supporting hospitals in Tanzania (and elswhere in the world) by helping to maintain services. Gordon's job was to help a colleague, Larry, to support these students in Tanzania and help them to tackle maintenance tasks they couldn't do themselves. The students are volunteers (cf. VSO) who want to help a developing country. Generally they are not engineers and are prepared for their work simply by a four week course in Swahili and basic enginering.

had in Gordon was based at a centre, MSble local TCDC, which is a Training Centre for rould be Development Co-operation in Eastern ent for and Southern Africa. He made trips He also daily, usually by daladala buses, which ould be clearly made a big impression on him, I of entry, guess in more ways than one, along medical some pretty scary unmade roads, to about 10 hospitals near Kilimanjaro. Nearer the end of his trip he also met the Head of EWH and visited Rotary Clubs at Mount Meru, Usa River and Arusha.

On the positive side he was able to fix a leaky dental drill and a dental drill which had seized up, an operating theatre light, other bilirubin lights, an anaesthesia machine, a portable X-ray instrument, an X-ray developer, another X-ray machine, 3 incubators, a food blender, a kettle, an autoclave, a water heater, an electro-surgical unit, several suction pumps, a steriliser, pulse oxymeters, a portable generator, a centrifuge and two more heater sterilisers - a pretty impressive amount of work by anybody's standards.

On the negative side Gordon was very worried by the lack of proper standards of hygiene in some of the hospitals he visited. He described repairing kit in an operating theatre whilst it was being used, for example, and some of his photographs of operating theatres showed just how primitive they really are. He was also concerned about the inexperience of most of the students who hadn't had the training, and weren't given the repair equipment necessary, for them to tackle the jobs they were asked to do.

Gordon's meeting with Melissa, the Head of the Engineering World Health Charity led to some worrying revelations. For example, she didn't know that the students they were

sponsoring were not engineers and were often not really up to the technical side of the job they were asked to do. Indeed she was not aware of the limitations of the tool kit the students were supplied with. She also told Gordon that in Tanzania technicians were not interested in working in hospitals, once trained they tended to leave the hospital and often Tanzania. Although EWH is starting Biomedical Engineering Programmes in Rwanda, Honduras, Ghana and Cambodia, they do not believe that Tanzania is ready for this. However, the Rotary contacts Gordon made will be helpful to EWH.

In conclusion, Gordon was pleased that he had been able to help to repair so much kit. Moreover his visits to Rotary Clubs in Tanzania were very productive and may lead to co-operation with EWH and with an educational programme possibly at a university. However, he was disappointed that hospitals were not thinking in terms of properly trained technicians for the maintenance of their equipment. For this reason, he does not believe that time is ready for the Medical Technician Education programme he had in mind at the onset of his trip notwithstanding the proposals for a degree programme which the Tanzanian Rotary Clubs may be able to support. On the positive side, he believes that a single point of entry for equipment has been identified and can be established, and he thinks that there is a real future in cooperation between EWH and Rotary in Africa.

Finally, during his visit to the Usa River visit to Tanzania which clearly had its Rotary Club Gordon visited an Orphanage which really impressed him. Perhaps we, and other Rotary Clubs, should be thinking of sponsoring a project at this orphanage where we can be certain that we will know how any money we raise will be spent.

So well done Gordon. He gave us an Jim Thomas enjoyable and instructive account of his

ups and downs, and not just in a daladala. We were all very impressed by Gordon making this trip in the first place, and learnt much from what he had to say about his trip. The evening ended by Neil fining all and sundry including our poor guests!

A Breath of Fresh Air August 18th

This outdoor evening had been arranged for us by Dennis as a 2.5 mile stroll through Higher Poynton starting at Nelson's Pit and then a gentle walk along the Macclesfield Canal towpath and then back via the Middlewood Way. Then, most importantly, finishing at the Boar's Head pub for refreshments.

For the record, in 1870 Nelson's Coal Pit employed 34 men and boys. The men worked in pairs: the "getter" hacking the coal from the seam and the "drawer" shoveling it into tubs. The "getter" earned about £1.95 a week and the "drawer" $f_{1.10!}$

Only a quarter of the club members showed up on the evening, boosted by friends and relatives to some seventeen

(and one Springer spaniel), and we set off in fine spirits as the showers of the afternoon had cleared and we had a sunny evening with fine views over Lyme Park and the peace and tranquility of the canal. Just the ducks, a few fishermen and friendly narrowboat people for company.

We returned by the Middlewood Way mainly dry underfoot with just a few muddy puddles to skip over - arriving back for an invasion of the Boar's Head. Having developed a thirst, the poor bar staff were fairly overwhelmed by our arrival....so much so that they ran out of Black Sheep bitter which was a pity. Our pub food was ordered and the chef must have thought all his birthdays had all come at once as normally meal orders are few and far between - but the grub was good and eventually they even found another barrel of Black Sheep!

nice change from the normal routine. We Pit car park is well worth a visit. Such a lot should do this kind of thing more often when hopefully it will be better attended. Many thanks to Dennis for his usual impeccable organisation.

Altogether a very pleasant evening and a By the way, the Visitor Centre at Nelson's to learn about the coal mining industry which took place in the area only 120 years ago.

Geoff. Hunt.

Talking newspapers

With the absence of President Graham and Vice Pres Bob on August 25th the chair was very ably taken by relatively new member and Secretary Brian, possibly against the rules and regulations of Rotary but it just shows how well the Rotary Club of B&W can break them successfully as Brian held the meeting very well and kept the 27 attendees in good order. He also gave quite an obscure Grace post modernism I think summed up as 'If its alright with you its alright with me'.

Secretary Brian continued his high level profile by announcing that the Top Table will be served first at the Buffet Table of Beef, Salmon, or Tagliatelle or all three on one plate was noticed. Nice to see Chris M back even though on crutches (just for queue jumping of course).

Following dinner there was a little business carried out. Our Secretary completely overawed by his exalted position could not report on anything.

Treasure Michael assured that the General Account was satisfactory and the Charity Account was in a good holding position with funds available.

There being no other business of reportable consequence the speaker for the evening was introduced by Michael, Mr Vincent Knowles, an antique restorer by trade but retired some 12 years from professional work in that sphere and was now and, has been, since retirement, engaged in the Talking Newspaper on which he gave a humorous but very interesting discourse. We knew it was going to be a short talk in that he commenced with Julius Caesar and then leapt forward a couple thousand years and referred to the Town Crier in the Thomas Hardy novel Trumpet Major as typical examples of talking news through the centuries. However now, in Stockport, it is a more sophisticated operation carried out in Mathew House since 1969. Four readers take articles from the local newspapers and other sources and records the information on CDs, which are delivered to those persons

with sight difficulties by the following Michael L gave a well deserved vote of day. The listeners can choose from the CD what they want to hear from the sport, fashion; local news published the previous day.

Originally there circulation was as high as 350 to 370 CDs but now had reduced to about 120. This is attributed to improvements in eve technology, which is no bad thing, other forms of media advancement and unfortunately diminishing local newspapers.

Throughout the country there are about 500 independent organisations with some 2500 volunteers. There is no public funding and volunteer subscribers fund the entire operation.

thanks for what was an illuminating and interesting talk especially to our members who help so much with those who are sight challenged in one way or another.

The evening finished with Sid extracting money for the Slush Fund as Sgt at Arms and your writer assuring the Ways and Means Committee that he would approach the German Consul to help with an Oompah Band providing it did not strain the relations between Belgium and that country which had been tested severely over the past 150 vears.

John Meeus

Committee night 1/9/10

No visitors, no guests and not too many members. We were informed by Bruce the younger that a few people were 'cruising'. Oh yes???? After a few ribald comments, we settled down to the business of the evening.

Michael stated that the Charity Account had f_{2700} in and the General Account had approximately, exactly, £2859.96. A sum which was considerably reduced by commitments to $f_{,330}$.

John Thewlis announced a few items and the fact that the lack of an oompah Brass & Abba will be staying with band had led to the renaming of the Oktoberfest to the Rocktoberfest as we could probably get a rock band.

Vida had nothing on sales but asked for support for her taking part in the Stockport Rotary walk. Response was good.

I stood in for David Rose and amongst other things, asked for f_{400} for a 'Builder box' for the Tanzanian orphanage I had visited. Meanwhile, Harry's party had raised f_{1700} for the Lucknow orphanage which was excellent news and Mike Yates will deliver it personally.

John Meeus told us about Charter Night, Theatre Night and the fact that Poynton club.

There were no takers for the District Arms, Bruce the younger, extorted Conference despite the president's more money from us. appeal.

Gordon

A bottle vintage (?) Cava was won by David Rabone whilst the Sergeant at

eBay Sales

Over the past few years, we have made a little extra money as people have generously donated items for sale on eBay. A few changes recently mean that I must ask the following:

1/ Please don't assume that anything will sell. If you do wish to donate an item, check eBay first to see how much other people are getting for the same item. eBay and PayPal have got greedy and fees are now so high that they take 10% to 15% of the sale value. Once the ever increasing cost of postage is taken into account, your item has to be worth quite a lot before the effort of selling makes a profit. Every item also attracts a 'listing fee' to advertise it so if it doesn't sell, we lose money.

2/ Make sure the item is working. If not, offer it on freecycle or take it to the tip. I can no longer take anything that 'just needs a bit of tweaking to make it work'. Tweak it yourself or bin it.

3/ Original packaging adds to the value but if you don't have it, please include a box that your item can be posted in as, after messing around with my garage, I no longer have room for the old cartons I used to collect for this purpose.

Your favourite tweaker

Gordon

Letter to the editor

Rotary Recommended Tradespeople

A big "thank you"!

Saturday afternoon – arrived home at 4pm after visiting the Summer Fair at the David Lewis Centre to find that the garage door wouldn't respond to the key fob. Strange!

We entered the back door and found ourselves in the middle of an electricity blackout... with a half-cooked casserole in the oven, dishwasher and washing machine packed up in mid-cycle and, worst of all, no computer or telly! This kind of thing always seems to happen at the weekend doesn't it?

We rang our own electrician but he was unavailable - sorry but he had taken his daughter swimming and they were then out to dinner – so we scrambled through the Yellow Pages/Thomson Directory. Became fed up with speaking to answering machines but made eventual contact. The chap said there would be a call out charge of \pounds 170 but that the first half hour was "free"!? I may be desperate but....

Then we had the bright idea to check the Rotary Tradespeople List and picked up a recommendation from Dennis Allport for an electrician called Mike Shanley in Marple and we gave him a quick ring to explain the problem. We received a friendly response and he had us check the fusebox together with his instructions over the phone, but to no avail. He told us not to worry and that he would be with us within 20 minutes – and he was.

We found him to be mature, friendly and above all communicative. He had the power back on within 10 minutes and a thorough check of all the appliances in the house revealed a faulty oven and grill – now out of bounds until we can get a replacement.

Mike spent over an hour with us, gave an excellent service and charged 50 quid. We will be switching our loyalty. It just proves the system really works, so a big Thank You to Dennis.

Geoff. Hunt

BLIND RUN

Note that the Blind Run is now on Monday afternoons, with a pick up in time to arrive at Walthew House by 1.30 pm and returning to pick up the passengers at 3.30pm

Mrs Joan Goodall, 3 Poise Brook Drive, Offerton Tel: 456 2076 Pick up 1.15 pm

Cathy Denison, 47 Chester Croft Rd., off Spath Lane East, Grove Lane, Bramhall Tel: 439 7559 Pick up 1.15pm

Ring the above up Saturday or Sunday to check that your passengers still need a lift. If you can't get through, go round anyway at the appointed time. Let Bob Batty or John Sykes know if you get stuck. Please swap with someone if you can't do your appointed run. If possible drivers should have their mobiles and other driver's number in case of any delays.

September 20 September 27 October 4 October 11 October 18 October 25 November 1 November 8 November 15 November 22 November 29 December 6 December 13 December 20 December 27 2011 January 3 January 10 January 17 January 24 January 31 February 7 February 14 February 21 February 28

J Meeus D Rose J Sykes T Sheppard **D** Burstow **B** Farrow N Loveland D Poizer **B** Stevenson J Sykes D Allport V Chattington D Allport G Hunt G Jackson No Blind Run expected N Loveland D Poizer **B** Stevenson J Thomas **B** Batty V Chattington

B Farrow

G Jackson

G Hunt

D Poizer **B** Stevenson D Walker **B** Batty V Chattington J Meeus R Malabon **D** Allport D Rose D Walker B Batty **D** Burstow **B** Farrow M Hurst J Knowles R Malabon J Meeus D Rose J Sykes D Allport **D** Burstow M Hurst

J Knowles

Job rota

Date	Speaker host	Bulletin	S at A
	1		
September 22	Charter Night	B Farrow	
September 29	No meeting: 5th Wednesday		
October 6	Committees	D McKeith	D Rabone
October 13	D Jenkins	J Sykes	D Rose
October 20	G Fallowfield	J Fallowfield	D Poizer
October 27	J Knowles	V Chattington	D Schofield
November 3	Committees	I Dobson	J Thomas
November 10	M Hurst	G Hunt	B Stevenson
November 17	D Allport	M Lacey	N Loveland
November 24	H Barker	G Jackson	S Davies
December 1	Committees	R Malabon	D Burstow
December 8	J Thewlis	B Bissell	H Hill
December 15	D McKeith	B Batty	G Fallowfield
December 22	Christmas Dinner?		
December 29	No meeting: 5th Wednesday		
2011			
January 5	Committees	J Fallowfield	B Dougal
January 12	B Farrow	A Newsome	J Meeus
January 19	D Rabone	T Saville	J Sykes
January 26	D Rose	D Poizer	C Monkhouse
February 2	Committees	J Knowles	V Chattington
February 9	T Burch	T Sheppard	J Thomas
February 16	D Schofield	I Dobson	M Hurst
February 23	G Hunt	B Stevenson	M Lacey
March 2	Committees	D Allport	N Loveland

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

Diary

 15^{th} Sept. Barclay's Bank (Farrow) Charter night - Bramall Park Golf Club 22nd Sept. Sept. 29th 5th Wednesday - no meeting (but dine with Meeus?) October 6th Committees October 8-10th District Conference October 13th James Harper -Beacon (Bissell) October 15th October Fest.. (drink plenty while raising money) October 20th Manuel Silva (Fallowfields) October 27th Hill/Hunt November 3rd Committees November 10th Hurst/Jackson November 17th Jenkins/Knowles Theatre night-Players..'We love you Arthur' November 19th November 24th Lacey/Loveland December 1st Committees/EGM December 8th Malabon/McKeith December 17th Christmas Dinner - Bramhall Golf Club December 22nd ? meeting December 29th 5th Wednesday- no meeting Forthcoming events: 1) Presidents drinks - Sunday 9th January 2) President's night - 4th March - Deanwater 3) Thanks for life - 3rd week February 4) Christmas concert - Bramall Hall- December? Unallocated events: 1) Visit to Total Fitness (Meeus) 2) Feeding the world (Bissell) 3) Job talks (G. Fallowfield)(D Walker)(T. Saville)(D. Schofield) 4) Social Quiz (Meeus) 5) Curry night with Hazel Grove 31/08