



Rotarian

Oct/Nov
2011

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

Bulletin



Wirral
Winners of the Mercian Cup



Get chore luvverly balloon race tickets 'ere



Robert's Writings

Time has moved on and I believe we had all had a good summer. An excellent event was staged at Stockport Rugby Club and a good figure was raised. However, the only things missing were people. Nevertheless, we all learned a lot from the event which an benefit us in the future.

Since then we have all enjoyed the 25th Charter with praise indeed from our guests. Gill Critchley read the Charter and Tony gave the toast. The DG gave the thanks and President Bob gave a much deserved sapphire pin to augment John Meeus' Paul Harris Fellowship. Your truly gave the thanks of B&W without, for the first time, attempting one joke. A good evening was had by all.

The next event for us will that four of us will be attending the District Conference in York.

The India GSE team will have arrived by the time you read this and many of us look forward to meeting them.

I believe at this early stage of the year, the objective of enjoyment will be met with equal 'Service Above Self'.

Not to be missed

October

National seafood month; Black history month; Breast cancer awareness month; International school libraries month; World blindness awareness month
1st Start of National conifer week; 3rd World architecture day; 4th World animal day and Start of World space week; 7th Jeans for Genes day and National poetry day; 8th World hospice and palliative care day; 9th World post day, Seed gathering Sunday and start of National curry week; 10th World mental health day and start of Humphrey's pyjama week; 12th World Arthritis day and International day for natural disaster reduction; 13th World sight day; 15th Global hand washing day; 16th World food day and start of National ethical investment week ; 17th Child poverty day and start of National parent's week, National baking week and Energy saving week; 21st Apple day and Trafalgar day; 22nd International stammering awareness day; 24th United Nations day; 31st Start of National Adoption Week

November

Make-a-will month; 1st All Saints day; 2nd National stress-awareness day; 5th Guy Fawkes day; 8th World town planning day, start of National school meals week and World kindness week; 11th Armistice day; 13th Remembrance Sunday; 14th World diabetes day and start of Global entrepreneurship week; 18th start of National maintenance week; 19th World toilet day; 20th Universal children's day; 21st World hello day, start of anti-bullying week and Road Safety week; 23rd National freelancers day; 25th National gutters day; 26th Buy nothing day; 27th Start of national tree week; 30th Computer security day

Secretary's Soapbox

The summer's over and all the Rotary hierarchy are coming out to play. In the case of District and RIBI types, sometimes that seems like them playing at being EU Commissioners, judging from the levels of bureaucracy they produce. Mostly it does no harm and presumably gives them a feeling of purpose in their lives. So on that level it is clearly a good thing.

Unfortunately there was one great document on "How to get more younger members in Rotary". The acronym LOL was literally true for me as I contemplated its self-contradictory nature! I really can't see us making much headway with all this baggage around?

One change being made by District this autumn is a new method of maintaining their distribution lists of office holders within the clubs. I really like their new method and have started using it myself within our club. It does not use Yahoo, it requires slightly more work oneself, but it DOES send out emails people can actually read.

Elsewhere in this Bulletin you will no doubt read the fantastic news that the DG has blessed us twice with his presence within a single month. It really is such an honour, I was quite overwhelmed at the Charter dinner.

A welcome mixed message (= threat) from Gordon this time. "Make sure I get it NOW, but DON'T make it too long, I've got plenty already". Fine by me.

So finally, swapping to VP info.

Bob has made huge efforts to fit his France trips around Wednesdays, so I have only been in the chair once so far.

I will sadly not be at the District Conference but I will be at the first stage of PET's (District's President Elect Training) on 20 Oct. Expect to meet the new brain-washed-brian after that.



21st August – The Mercian Cup

The day started brightly with a good turn-out of Rotarians setting up in preparation for one of our biggest fund raising efforts of the year.

Imagine FM, our local radio station were once again on hand to promote things and their DJ, Chelsea did a good job of keeping things moving with the enthusiastic help of our own Ian.

The Mercian regiment trailer was the focal point of interest for many with L Cpl Alan Redford MC being the star of the day. Gordon Smith, Roy Porter and Alan Kennedy from the Cheshire Regiment Association also attended to lend experience to the proceedings.

Rugby matches were being played all day with the runners-up plate being won by Rossendale but the final winners of the Mercian cup were Wirral who beat Stockport. Their player Luke Harris won the player of the tournament award.

Meeting Reports

3rd August - Committee Night

VP Brian found himself unexpectedly in the hot seat as President Bob was nowhere in sight. He asked for a volunteer for Grace and Sid responded with an English version of a Welsh Grace. Brian asked why there was wine on the tables and your reporter admitted he had reached his 80 birthday over the weekend. This was the cue for a tuneless rendering of Happy Birthday.

By now our President had arrived and repeated the Birthday wishes to myself and to Sid who was 85 last week, making me feel young again. Whilst this was happening the usually forgotten table near the entrance made a dash for the sumptuous repast leaving Vida well down the queue.

Copies of the Bulletin had been distributed and our new editor was warmly congratulated, particularly for his simplification of how to "cut & paste". David Poizer gave the apologies including one from Henry Barker who was attending a District "Resilience Meeting". Dev then arrived making attendance 24. President Bob said 4 couples were going to the District conference in York - more would be welcome to join them. "Dell-Boy" Jackson then showed the Club a projector screen he had acquired for the Club, price £3-19-6d. He also sold David P a forty year old exposure meter for club funds.

Tony Burch said he was no longer able to store our clobber at his works. This varies from some small items like the Charter to large items like the gazebos and spin-a-wheel. No offers were immediately forthcoming but it is an urgent problem as over the years we have lost several important items.

Sales rep, Vida had some banners available if anyone was visiting another Club during their summer holidays.

Club membership had no report but it was confirmed the meetings on 17th and 24th would be at the Ladybridge Club, with the DG maybe attending the latter.

Ian Dobson reported he had managed to get reports in two local papers of our new president and some "Rotary publicity badges"

suitable for local notice boards. He had also acted as a "Sat-Nav" to an Irn-Bru delivery lorry driver, who in return gave him a bottle which was auctioned for £3.00



Trevor, Tony & Bruce outlined progress on the Rugby event. It was difficult to replace the £3000 sponsorship from Barclays but Bruce had secured £500. There was good support for the 21st but still some slots for selling balloons. It is necessary to explain that although 3 parties are involved the money we raise is going to the welfare of troops from the former Cheshire Regiment. (See Tony's E-mail of 4th Aug.) who suffered severe casualties during their recent tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Community Service Chairlady Vida said they would be recommending the Together Trust as the Christmas collection charity for this year.

David Rose as International Chairman produced his ketchup bottle full of coppers to remind members to fill theirs. He, Sue Preece and Geoff Hunt hope to go to the Peace Seminar at Bradford on October 29th - details on page 26 of Rotary Today (for those who took it home and haven't binned it yet!). There was no further news of the concert in Oct..

Social Chairman John Meeus said the response so far to 25th Charter Night was rather disappointing particularly from former members and asked everyone to consider bringing guests. He also circulated a list asking for ideas for future social events. Sid told a joke about hairdressing, Dev drew his own raffle ticket and John Meeus used his imagination to extract 50p from most members before the final toast.

Bob Batty
(Ironically about 62 years ago a school friend's Father who was President of Buxton Rotary invited us both to a meeting at Collinson's Cafe. I can't remember the subject but do remember how absurd it seemed for these "pillars of the local society" to be singing Happy Birthday to each other !)

Reasons to support Rotary Foundation

There are as many reasons to support The Rotary Foundation as there are ways to do good in the world. By contributing to the Foundation, you help support the Foundation's six areas of focus, which help to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. By giving US\$100 a year through the Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY) initiative, you become a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member. Contributions to EREY are the primary source of funding for Foundation programs. Here are a few ways your contributions are making change possible:

5. Fighting hunger

In Romania, orphans and sick children have eggs, milk, and meat because of a Foundation grant that benefits local farmers. The farmers are able to buy everything from animal feed to packaging materials. There is one stipulation: They must donate a portion of their products to children's hospitals, schools, and orphanages. In Alaska, USA, the Rotary Club of Anchorage East is also fighting hunger by distributing food to low-income families through a mobile food pantry. Projects such as these help address the areas of focus of maternal and child health as well as economic and community development.

4. Reducing child mortality

The Rotary clubs of Jaela-Kandana, Western Province, Sri Lanka, and Madras Northwest, Tamil Nadu, India, are helping to reduce child mortality by providing improved sanitation facilities for 15 families in a small community in Sri Lanka. With a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, the clubs have built 14 toilets, helping to prevent diarrhoea and other diseases related to poor sanitation. According to the World Health Organization, 1.8 million children die of diarrhoea every year, making it the second leading cause of death among children under five. Proper sanitation can reduce the rate of child mortality in many communities by up to a third. Water and sanitation is the third area of focus.

3. Promoting peace and conflict resolution

Watching civil war tear apart his homeland of Côte d'Ivoire instilled in Rotary Peace Fellow Kouame Remi Oussou a passion to resolve conflict. He is now working for the United Nations Development Programme in the Central African Republic, a country that weathered periodic internal fighting before a comprehensive peace accord took effect in 2007. Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders in promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and conflict resolution. Help support the Rotary Peace Centres. Peace and conflict prevention/resolution is the first area of focus.

2. Basic education and literacy

Education helps rebuild lives, whether it's in small rural towns or in war-torn countries. For example, a literacy project sponsored by U.S. Rotarians in conjunction with the International Reading Association (IRA) is helping Sudanese refugees rebuild their communities by equipping them to teach future generations. The Southern Sudan Teacher Training Initiative provides refugees of the country's decades-long civil war, who are known as the Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan, with teacher training materials, guidance, and support to help them teach students in kindergarten through eighth grade. "People returning from refugee camps to rebuild their lives in Duk County are hungry for books and school supplies," says John Dau, a Lost Boy, humanitarian, and founder of the John Dau Foundation.

1. Eradicating polio

Around the world, Rotarians are taking millions of steps in walkathons, diving into icy ocean waters, and participating in other fundraisers to help Rotary fulfil its promise to rid the world of polio. Si Burgher, of the Rotary Club of Bloomfield, Indiana, USA, raised almost \$1,600 by having his shaggy eyebrows shaved. Rotary launched its PolioPlus program in 1985. Since then, eradicating polio has been the organisation's top priority. End Polio Now and help fulfil its promise.

Your contribution to ***Every Rotarian, Every Year*** helps make projects such as this possible.

10th Aug, Climbing Kilimanjaro



Brian suggested that as there were no clergy present we could give God a rest! Therefore our food

failed to be blessed. We were provided with wine by Sid to celebrate his Birthday and we all wished him well. 8.15 p.m. came and there was no food in sight and when it did finally turned up Brian left my table to the very last!!! How very mean when he knows I need feeding at regular intervals. When I did manage to make it the food was, as usual of a good standard.

Ron read out the apologies and welcomed our guests. Suddenly John Knowles appeared as if by magic (or was it divine intervention) and Ron dashed over and made him pay immediately for his meal.

Michael gave us a lengthy explanation as to how a pound could become worth more for the soldiers based on an idea of Dennis' capable brain. We can encourage people to give us their pounds without entering the balloon race which means we don't have to pay the balloon company so much money. Sounds good to me and we can even gift-aid it.

After our usual intermission our speaker, Barry Grigg who was accompanied by Karen Smith from HSBC gave us an account of his ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro. He went there to raise money for Donna Louise Hospice Trust in Stoke-on-Trent. The bank's headquarters for this region are there. He had hoped to raise £30,000 but in reality made £42,337. The hospice gives respite care and end of life support. It had only been able to open four days a week due to lack of funds but now

thanks to the money raised they were open seven days a week. The climbs are organised by Kili4kids and of course provide work for the locals who do all the carrying and guiding so there is a two-fold benefit both home and abroad.

He went there last October with his group and found it pretty tough. They had some training the previous two months on Snowdon which he said was harder to climb than Kilimanjaro. Apparently there is a track right the way up but the worst thing about it is the altitude and many people suffer from altitude sickness. He didn't quite make it to the top as they had to come down fairly swiftly in order to catch their plane back to U.K. He would like to go again so that he could reach the summit. Apparently it took four days to go up but only one to come down. He passed several pictures of the trip round for us to appreciate the terrain and what they had to go through. There were eight in his group but the whole place is positively swarming with people going up and down - some on stretchers on the way down!

Several people asked questions and we found out that the bank matched every pound raised hence the enormous amount raised. Our club had made a donation to it. John Meeus gave a vote of thanks.

There was a short report from the Ways and Means Committee but we were threatened that we would be hearing loads more from them next week! Bruce Bissell told about the programme changes, David Rose says he has made £4.00 from filling his tomato ketchup jar up. I gave away banners to anyone who wanted one to take to other clubs when they visit. The Raffle was won by Sid who relinquished it to the speaker and Graham Yule was the Sergeant-at-Arms and fined pretty well everyone. We were allowed home at 10.30 p.m. precisely.

Vida

17th August W&M Planning Evening

There were 28 of us there this evening. The main purpose was to cover the detailed planning by Ways & Means ahead of our Family Fun Day to be held at Stockport Rugby Club next Sunday to raise funds for the welfare of troops from the Mercian Regiment, recently returned from their tour of duty in Afghanistan. For the record, the battalion of c550 experienced a very torrid time, having sustained 97 casualties, 12 of these were fatalities and 20 were amputees.

Before dinner Vida distributed B&W banners “before District 1050 disappears” –prescient or what? President Bob nearly didn’t make the meeting because of toothache and then reminded me I was bulletin reporter half way through the evening. To my horror, he also announced me later as S@Arms but happily Michael Lacey rose to claim the honour.

Ian Dobson reported on two articles about us in the Stockport Express, namely a picture of Graham Yule handing over the gong to Bob and a short piece on the Rugby event on Sunday. No Ian..... you can’t claim purchasing the paper on expenses!

Ways & Means Report: According to chairman Trevor Saville, “everything is in hand” and we are now dependent on the weather - cue usual requests to our ministerial colleagues to intercede with the Almighty. Oh, if it were that easy! Rotary wives have also been asked to help.

The committee has clearly worked very hard to cover just about every contingency (we hope) and the whole membership has been very supportive. This is a 10 a side rugby competition involving 8 teams and has been organised by Stockport Rugby Club who have been ex-

tremely helpful for this worthy cause. The winners receive The Mercian Cup and thanks are due to Bruce Farrow for all his hard work in organising this with the Regiment and the Royal British Legion. We have tied in with Imagine FM and there will be lots of activities to engage the local populace. Now all that remains is to get stuck in and make it a success.

The report led to a general discussion of how we can organise a future signature fundraising event which is less labour intensive for the club and which at the same time will raise significant funds for charity. I offered to inform Tony Burch of other major signature events currently being carried out in the District as a standard for comparison.

The W&M committee already have a number of ideas in the pipeline.

Any Other Business: Bruce Bissell informed the club that in future the club’s inventory would be stored at Hillbrook Grange, Bramhall and we would pay them a fiver a month for the privilege. This has been agreed by Council as Tony is no longer able to store everything on his work premises. Bruce will remain “in charge” and is the contact when items are required in future.

And finally..... John Meeus won the raffle and donated the wine as the 23rd prize in the Charter Night raffle – upon which he asked members to produce the other 22!

Michael, as the true S@A, then cleverly fined just about everybody for the most innocuous sins – and we all departed promptly dead on time at 10.30pm.

Oh, by the way, I checked and Vida was second from last in the queue for the food. Is this a record?

Geoff.

What's on at the local theatres in our Area

Cheadle Players (Tickets £7.50, performances start at 7.45)

Zack 01/10/2011 - 08/10/2011 Comedy By Harold Brighthouse

Snake in the Grass 19/11/2011 - 26/11/2011 Thriller by Alan Ayckbourn

Black Comedy 21/01/2012 - 28/01/2012 Farce by Peter Shaffer

Therese Raquin 10/03/2012 - 17/03/2012 Play by Emile Zola

Ladies Day 12/05/2012 - 19/05/2012 Comedy by Amanda Whittington

The Brookdale Theatre

“It Runs In The Family” by Ray Cooney – 12th-15th October

“Hansel and Gretel” (panto) by Ray Wood – 28th November to 4th December

The Plaza Stockport

Saturday 1st October at 7.30pm, **The New Foxtrot Serenaders**

Featuring Simon Gledhill at the Mighty Compton (it's an organ)

A celebration of the Modern Day Crooner – tickets £10.00

Thursday 13th to Saturday 15th October at 7.30 (Sat. Matinee 2.30pm)

Plaza Youth Presents - Oklahoma!, Tickets £8.00

Wednesday 19th October at 7.30pm **Peter Allis – “The Voice of Golf”**

Anecdotes, stories, reminiscences etc. – tickets £20.50

Friday 21st October 7.30pm **Chris Farlow**

Live music - tickets £18.00

Saturday 22nd October at 7.30pm **Katie Setterfield**

A tribute to Dusty Springfield – tickets £16.00

Tuesday 25th October to Saturday 29 October at 7.15pm, Sat. Matinee 2.15pm

The Stockport Operatic Society Presents - My Fair Lady Tickets from £13.00

Sunday 30th October at 7.30pm **C'Mon Everybody** Live music - tickets

£16.00

*The pantomime this year is “Jack & the Beanstalk”
starting 9th December to 8th January 2012.*

24th August – Visit of the District Governor



The meeting opened with an unusual Grace, or “Thought for the day” from David Rabone. Bob welcomed our Speaker, the District

Governor, Ian Priestley and his wife Kim, members of Marple and Goyt Valley Rotary. John Meeus re-circulated the list requesting further ideas for social events. David Rose, International, mentioned a leadership course for 14-21 year olds in Mumbai on 28-30 December. Accommodation costs \$150, airfare unknown. Bruce said the new site for equipment storage was Hillbrook Grange. Gordon showed pictures of last Sunday’s Mercian Cup Day, he also circulated three different centre pages of the bulletin for members to choose their preference. Michael said that we have received £2,000, so far, from Sunday’s Mercian Cup Day, expenses were £1,000, final figure later. Vida’s Box Brownie camera raised £5 from John Thewlis. As he was seated next to Vida, I can only guess what pain was inflicted to elicit the bid.

Rotarians may grow old but their appetites never diminish, the usual excellent meal was gratefully received and many sneaky second helpings were observed. Following coffee Bob introduced District Governor, Ian, who thanked us for our hospitality. Ian showed a picture of Paul Harris, who together with a few friends, founded Rotary in 1905. It is now 1.2 million worldwide. Ian passed on greetings

and a flag from RI President Kalgan Banerjee.

Ian stated that Rotary was well under way to match the Bill Gates figure of \$200 million, to eradicate Polio. He also emphasised the importance of contact with schools in order to promote Rotary aims and projects, and complimented us on International activities especially Bikes For Africa. He urged the new membership target of 10% per annum be pursued. The entries, for the Rose Bowl Best Community Service project to be submitted by next Wednesday.

Ian encouraged attendance at the annual conference in York where the reputedly inspirational, Kalgan Banerjee, is the main speaker. His theme - “Reach within to embrace humanity.” Evidently Newcastle Rotary have had boxer shorts made, displaying this logo!

Brian Stokes talks on eradicating Malaria - a possible new worldwide Rotary project. Evidentially, mosquito nets made, in the countries affected can be produced for \$3-4 as opposed to \$38 from the UK! Another speaker, Alistair Humphries, completed a UK to Australia bike ride, 46,000miles in 4yrs, and raised money for Hope and Homes.

Ron eloquently gave the vote of thanks for an interesting and informative talk. John Knowles donated his raffle prize to Ian’s wife Kim.

S@A John Meeus fined the speaker, Ian, for keeping us on our best behaviour. David Rabone was fined for embracing Gill, Graham Yule for suggesting using the camera as a plant holder to promote photosynthesis. Other misdemeanors included a fine for those who removed their jackets without permission.

Regards Neil



Vida's Autumn Gardening Tips.... *Your garden can save you money!!*

ATTENTION!!! Here is a way to save you lots of money and have a colourful garden next year. Now you're all ears, aren't you? Speaking to one or two people at the President's BBQ I discovered that some of you don't know that you can keep begonias from one year to the next – it's simple, when they've died down the tops fall off and the corms are left looking wizened, shriveled and brown and a little hairy. Make sure they are dry and then wrap each corm lovingly in some newspaper, even back copies of the News of the World will do! Pop them in a carrier bag and put them in a frost-free place such as your attic, loft, or garret, BUT don't forget they are there when around March you peep into the bag and see little pink shoots coming out of the wizen old things – miracle. You then plant them in tubs preferably in the greenhouse and very soon you will have wonderfully colourful plants once more at NO COST.

I keep all my geraniums as well but these do need to be kept as plants either in your conservatory where they will continue to flower through the winter and you won't have to buy those expensive poinsettias to brighten up the dark days. Big plants will be fine in a frost-free garage and you don't need to water them more than once during the winter months.....even more money saved. Oh I am good to you.

I would go so far as to say that the work you do in the winter is as important as the work in the summer. Everything you do now, from protecting plants from the frost, to cleaning the windows of the greenhouse to allow more light in during the short days, is going to pay dividends come the flowering season. Now is the time to plan, to redesign, to rethink.

The cartoon below appeared on the website www.slagoon.com and charts the daily misadventures of a lazy shark and his wife together with all the other dysfunctional characters in 'Sherman's Lagoon'.

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

by Jim Toomey



	B&Q	Amazon	Pet Shop C. Hulme	Pet Shop Bramhall	Cost/Kg or ea	Pet Shop Bramhall (bulk)	Cost/Kg or ea	Woodford Park	Cost/Kg or ea	Home Base	Cost/Kg or ea	Costco	Cost/Kg or ea
Seed Mix	2Kg £ 2.49	5kg £ 1.60	2.5kg £ 1.25	2kg £ 1.25	£ 1.60	25kg £14.00	£ 0.56	2kg	£ 1.83	4kg	£ 1.37	12.75kg	£ 0.54
S.Flower Mix	2Kg £ 2.49	5kg £ 4.00	2.5kg £ 2.4	2.5kg £ 2.4	£ 4.00	13kg £16.46	£ 1.27	1kg	£ 6.99	50	£ 0.26		
Fat Balls	25 £ 0.24	12 £ 0.33	100	0.2	£ 0.23								
Peanuts	3.6kg £ 3.33	2kg £ 2.00	2.5kg £ 2.4	2kg £ 2.4	£ 1.63			5kg	£ 5.00	4kg	£ 3.75	12.75kg	£ 1.41
Niger Seeds		1.8kg £ 3.05	1kg	3kg	£ 2.17			1kg	£ 6.99				

Wild Bird Food—A Price Comparison

We like to encourage wild birds (or at least, slightly miffed ones) into our gardens by putting out a range of bird food and I noticed that there seemed to be quite a price difference between shops so I asked Olive to act as undercover reporter and look at several sources. Her results are surprising and can be seen in the table on the left. I have extracted the best value pack sizes from most places but have taken no account of quality. I have shown the bag size on which the calculations are based and the resulting cost per Kg or per item. The figures in bold are the lowest costs.

The best overall value is to be obtained at the pet shop in Bramhall even taking into account the lower price of the two items at Costco because of their joining fee and the additional cost of petrol to get there. The downside is that you need to buy much larger bags from Bramhall which takes some shifting (hence the extra ‘bulk’ column).

The highest prices seem to be Woodford Park although part of their sales profit goes to the RSPB.

Peanuts are about to go skinless (anyone know why?) so prices will be rising.

The following are all genuine school exam quotes:

"Queen Victoria was the longest Queen. She sat on a thorn for 63 years. She was a moral woman who practiced virtue. Her death was the final event which ended her reign".

"Queen Elizabeth was the Virgin Queen. As a queen she was a success. When she exposed herself before her troops they all shouted "hurrah!".

"Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada".

"One of the causes of the Revolutionary War was the English put tacks in their tea. Also the colonists would send their parcels through the post without stamps. Finally the colonists won the war and no longer had to pay for taxis. Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand". Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

Olive

Low Cost Software

For anyone with a computer, Microsoft Office must be close to the top of the wish list. The full “Professional Plus” version can cost about £430. The software includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook and several other programs. A bonus is that it can be installed on two computers.

As a grandparent you can purchase it for £38.95 plus P&P from Software4Students at <http://www.software4students.co.uk>

Other software is available from the same site. Note that, to be eligible, the software must not be used for a business.

The procedure for purchase is:

- On the Software4Students website, click on Microsoft Office 2010 Professional Plus (or whichever software you want).
- Click on Check Out (right hand side of page).
- Click to Register.
- On “Please Create Your Profile” page, enter personal details (a three-step process)

A drop-down list will appear, which should include your grandchild’s school.

Enter your email address and a password. Click Register and Continue.

- You will need to choose how the software is delivered, either as a download (for which you need a broadband connection) or as media (I would always choose to receive the media)

Please note that Microsoft cannot assist with the installation of this software onto your computer. I can but I charge £5 payable to our charity account.

Gordon

Bramall Hall Events Calendar

Christmas Craft Fayre 25 October 11am to 4pm

Visit this beautiful historic house and browse among a huge array of stalls selling handcrafted items from jewellery to cakes and many unusual gift ideas. FREE - Children and Rotarians must be accompanied by a responsible adult. 0161 485 3708

Witch's Potion Trail 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 October 1pm to 3pm (for children aged 12 and under)

Follow the clues around the Hall to find the ingredients for the witch’s potion. If you are successful you will get a “devilish” treat. Trail clues included in the normal entry price: Adults £4.05, children £3.05 Drop in

Tudor Living History Experience - Family Day Sunday 20 November 11am to 4pm – last entry 3pm

Experience Tudor life at Bramall Hall and watch as the Hall comes to life with the sounds, aromas and people of the past. Adults: £4.95, children and concessions: £3.95 Drop in Tel: 0161 485 3708

7th September Committee Night



September means the start of the school term and seems to be the start of holidays for many Rotarians, such that only 18 members were present for committee night. We also had the pleasure of the company of Mal-

colm Evans, the last President of B & W Round Table; of which more later.

Lorraine again put on a splendid meal for us with some even going back for a second sweet course; for which they were duly fined by the S @ A.

Early risers to put their message forward were Trevor – guess the country and town of the furthest balloon released at the Rugby tournament? There was much speculation as to wind direction on the day; then Trevor helped out with the information that cards had been returned from Barnsley, Driffeld and Bridlington.

Trevor also highlighted the forthcoming Choral Concert at St Michaels Church which is in aid of End Polio Now. Date is 15th October; tickets are £7.50; contact Trevor if you want tickets. When David Rose gets back from holiday we should get more information.

John Thewlis reminded us that Christmas tin rattling was not far away and he would be circulating the rota for Woodford Garden Centre. A suggestion that he start with last year's rota with date amendments was taken up.

New entries in the White Book were the Hazel Grove RC Quiz Night; also a number of Charter Nights for other Rotary Clubs.

President Bob confirmed that Club Council had approved the joint ven-

ture with Round Table for the Christmas float and invited Malcolm to outline the arrangements.

In summary these are:-

The event takes place over the 2 weeks prior to Christmas. Based on contacts developed over previous years Malcolm has 13 charities that will provide collectors (the 14th session is open for Rotary to take on board) There are four people drawn from RT and Rotary required for each session – driver, team leader, assistant + FC. The driver needs experience with towing a caravan, the team leader acts to ensure the collectors stay close to the trailer and don't get too far ahead. Malcolm has some former RT's who are willing to drive. Times are 6 to 8pm weekdays, 4 to 7pm at weekend plus weekend sessions at Sainsbury's of 2/3 hours. Takings, after deduction of expenses are around £5000 (= £350 per charity)

Committee reports followed:-

Treasurer, Michael – away on holiday.

Sales, Vida - special offer coming on apples

Community Service, Vida – path clearance organised for September, quiz team assembled.

Communications, Ian – excellent article in Stockport Express on the Rugby event, written by Ian, plus an excellent letter by Gordon putting the other side to recent letters complaining about Chuggers (Charity muggers)

Social, John – Charter Night deadlines – menu choice and cheques by Monday morning 19th September.

Tim as S@A managed to fine everyone by some means or other.

John Sykes

14th Sep - The History and Art of Beekeeping



President Bob began by casting aspersions on the clerical qualifications of David Rabone, a move he was to regret later. John Thewlis reminded us that it would soon be Christmas collection time at Woodford Garden Centre again and, in order to

facilitate 'volunteering' for this year, he was going to reissue last year's rota so that members would have to consciously opt out. Gill Critchley detailed the usual long list of absentees including David Burstow who was reputedly picking hops in Kent - presumably from a safe and approved platform! Trevor Saville plugged the sweep on the location of the furthest and nearest balloons launched during the recent Fun Day. Later he asked for the latest figure for the money raised at this event. Treasurer, Michael, said that, although not final, the amount would be about £2,800. Trevor commented that, although the figure was disappointing, he complimented and thanked the Club on the magnificent effort they had put into organising and running the event. Vida then advised us that she had organised the path clearing team. In addition, following her approaches to the local Council they had now supplied further crocus bulbs to replace those dug up by the Gas Board after the Club had planted them in recognition of the Rotary Eradication of Polio Campaign. Harry Hill, who had been lurking around with a very large camera like a paparazzo, then gave an entirely uncalled for lecture on his telephoto lens. He went on to say that he was now in touch with the charity Childline who run the orphanage in Lucknow to whom he had been trying unsuccessfully to give the money raised by his house party. He hoped that this would enable the money to be transferred at last. John Meeus reminded the meeting of the need to pay up and choose

menus for the forthcoming Charter Night on 23 September. President Bob, who was obviously in a hurry to complete the meeting, then proposed the Final Toast and on being corrected changed this to the Loyal Toast.

After the break, Trevor introduced the speaker, John Goodwin, who gave a very interesting talk on "The History and Art of Beekeeping". This proved to be a very complicated subject on which John was obviously an expert, much of which escaped your correspondent. However, the following points were noted.

The male drones are totally idle and are waited on hand and foot by the workers who are infertile females.

Bees 'dance' to guide other bees to sources of nectar and/or water needed to make honey.

Historically beekeeping had been a wealth creating activity and is to day being used to provide a very useful source of income in third world communities.

Beekeeping became very popular in the Second World War as keepers were issued with scarce sugar rations intended for the bees.

Bee colonies are moved en masse in special lorries to areas where they are used to pollinate commercial crops.

Cheshire honey - made from clover - is considered to be one of the best.

John was thanked for his very informative talk by Trevor.

Under AOB Vida offered apples at one pound per bag and continued to suggest bizarre uses for the obsolete banners she wants to dispose of. John Thewlis announced that Gill Critchley would give her job talk on 28 September and 16 November would be a Curry Night.

Our speaker drew the raffle which Treasurer, Michael, won.

Finally Sergeant-at-Arms, David Rabone, managed to fine most people including the President for his opening insult. David Poizer



Bramhall Choir sings in aid of the Mercian Regiment

The Bramhall Village Community Choir recently organised *The Big Sing* in Bramhall Park to raise funds for the B&W Rotary Club for the Mercian Regiment and everyone who came to listen enjoyed a couple of hours of great music under the leadership of national award winner Vocal Coach Neil Firth.

Neil started the Choir about 12 months ago after a number of people in Bramhall had mentioned to him that they loved singing but had nowhere to go where they could just sing with friends for fun and without the pressure of auditions.

The Bramhall choir is a mixed voice acapella, which is 3 part harmony sung without accompaniment – no musical instruments are used at all. They sing uplifting and “feel good” songs and any adult can join, at any age, whether they can read music or not, and there are no auditions and no pressure to sing solos.

Neil says “the best environment to learn in is one that’s relaxed and enjoyable. If people enjoy themselves they will come back to rehearsals every week and continue to bond with their fellow choir members. The more fun people have the more likely they will be to recommend us to their friends and family which will help us continue to grow our numbers”.

If you want to know more about the Bramhall Choir you can email Neil at neilfirth@thevocalgroup.com. He’s always looking for new members and they meet on Friday afternoons at 2.00pm at the Bramhall Methodist Church hall. The next ten week term starts on the 30th September 2011.

Olive

As an added note, at the rugby match, Neil presented us with a cheque for £300 which they had raised at the above event.



28th September Gill's Job Talk



Although Lorraine was away, her ‘stand-ins’ maintained the excellent standard of the buffet, the President chose the top table to lead the rush for food and unusually, Vida was down at third in line. Bruce read the apologies, of which there were quite a

few, and welcomed Harry’s guest Lindsay Taylor. Reason for absence included an unusual one, from John Knowles, who was

involved in a training course - ‘Funerals for Curates’! Brian briefly mentioned ‘Shelterboxes’ and not much else apart from further attempted ‘illumination’ of the subject of ‘.dat’ files coming through to people from Yahoo Groups but to many it is a subject still shrouded in mystery ... your reporter included! The President thanked Graham for his regular Conference updates and spoke of the forthcoming GSE (from India) events centred around Macclesfield. *Sid stood up and told us that he got home safely on the bus the other night, which was surprising really as he hadn’t driven a bus before* Gill, our speaker for the

evening, told us that she had become involved in a charity sponsoring mentally handicapped children in The Gambia. Gill is sponsoring one and will go out there to teach in November. This is a very worthwhile project as these children are otherwise badly treated and are without hope. Gill had asked what else could be done and was told of three projects, each needing around £500. Sue had expressed interest in going out to help too. Gill asked if consideration could be given to supporting these projects by the Club. Bob promised to put it on the agenda for the next Council Meeting and would come under David's Committee. The President thanked John Meeus and all involved in organising an excellent Charter Night which was described by one guest as the best he had ever been to, and also drew very favourable praise from the DG. Graham stood and referred to communications expert Andrew Thorp who was our speaker at the Charter Night and his use of the term 'mojo', meaning self belief and 'get up and go'. Graham told us that he had been struck by this and how he thought we should be telling people what involvement in Rotary could do for them. He suggested that we 'drag' prospective members along to events and involve them.

Sid was then called upon to introduce our member Gill, who was the evening's main speaker. Sid told us that he thought that Gill and the other lady members had given the Club a new lease of life and that Gill, having started and developed her own business, was just the type of person we needed. Gill then started, Dave Allen style, sitting on a stool with a glass in her hand. Hers had not been a conventional career path, rising steadily through the ranks, but one punctuated by a 'numbers of wrong decisions and bad judgements'. It all started in Liverpool in the Beatles era, close to 'Penny Lane' and got engaged outside 'Strawberry Fields'. Gill took her 11+ almost a year early due to timing of her birth-

day and became the youngest at her senior school. She worked hard and was second in her year and excelled in the sciences gaining good 'O' Level results but unfortunately the Church School she attended, and at which her parents wanted her to stay, didn't have A Levels in science and so she took English and History but remained interested in science, and medicine too. Instead of going into medicine however, Gill went into banking with Barclays, rising to a Chief Cashier and then going down to London to train as a Foreign Exchange dealer and was the first outside London. Only six months into that job and she had to leave with the arrival of the first of two children which kept her at home for the next six years. Her husband's move from his job with Everton to a new one with Manchester City, brought them from Liverpool to Manchester. Gill told us of her work with the 'Platt Lane Improvement Fund' to improve the Clubs grounds. This involved a raffle which took place at pubs in the area and she was accompanied by 'a player' to these. Gill was later fined by our Sergeant at Arms, for telling us that she 'had had lots of players in her car'. Gill saw a course advertised in Macclesfield on medical terminology and took a job as a medical receptionist, the link between patient and doctor. She also taught English as a foreign language and also served on Ward 9 in Macclesfield Hospital. In 1999 she and her husband parted and she needed full time work and became a medical secretary in Macclesfield Hospital which was followed by two years as PA to the Medical Director of St Anne's Hospice. A change was sought and this resulted in teaching 'horrible rich kids' from abroad. Another course followed - 'Teaching Colloquial Medical English' to foreign doctors who otherwise would not know what a 'tummy' or 'belly' was. A speedboat accident in Sardinia put Gill in a spinal brace and an airlift home. During the long convalescence she had time to focus on what she wanted to do in life and realised

that no training was being carried out on medical terminology, just typing, for secretaries. Gill then set about writing her own course and realised that just teaching it at night school was not enough and so why not offer it 'on-line'? Gill took the gamble four years ago and it has gone better than she could have imagined with 92% passing. Gill is in touch with not only all the local hospitals but many throughout the UK and does live face to face events too. Gill talks on anatomy as well, but simplifying it using everyday language – at which point Bruce Bissell asked “Is it too late for Harry...?”. Gill has other projects planned too. In her spare (!!) time, she is involved in marshalling outside event like the ‘Three Peaks’, the Gambia Project’ previously mentioned, teaching French Jive, Travel, Cycling and has taken up Bridge.

A number of questions followed, showing the interest her talk had generated. The importance of getting terminology correct was highlighted by very similar sounding words having opposite meaning – hypo and hyper being an example. Harry gave an illustration relating to his days as a House Surgeon and an operating list pinned on the wall, with one patient due to have ‘a spacious cyst removed ...’!! Bob Batty told us of a newspaper report of the gift by the

Club, to Harry’s surgery, of ‘resurrection equipment’!

The vote of thanks, ably performed by Sid, in his own inimitable way, focussed on Gill’s varied and interesting career and he marvelled at how she had created this business and commented that the Country could do with a million more like her.

Ian reminded everyone that the photos of Charter Night were now on the net

Gordon has heard of a conference in London on the subject of repairing medical equipment in underdeveloped countries and is watching this with interest. He has also presented our banner to the RC of Sorrento and told us that a G&T was £9.50, and a small bottle of sun lotion was £25

Harry has been in touch with India Childline and has identified an orphanage but in a government owned building so there is a question mark over funding, but will keep this under review.

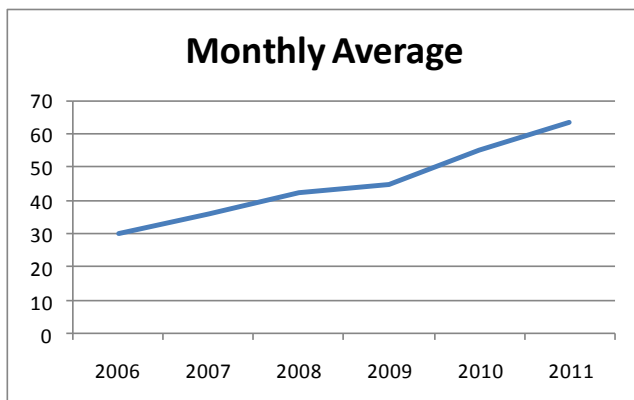
Graham announced that the evening he and David are responsible for on the 12th October will be at the Oriental Buffett in Stockport and priced at £10.45 for as much as you can eat. Email to be circulated.

Ron, our stand-in S at A fined everyone in sight for real and skilfully concocted misdemeanours and the evening finished in remarkably good time at just after 10pm. Chris

Email use in the club

Michael receives figures about the email traffic sent via bwrotary and they show a steady increase over the years as shown in the graph:

This has nothing to do with the number of jokes, honest it doesn't (well—just maybe).



Recommended Trades People (September 2011)

This list is provided for the use of members of the Rotary Club of Bramhall and Woodford. Naturally, neither the Club nor any member can be responsible for any problems that may arise. Please send any further recommendations to Gordon.

Decorators:

A & S Beavers, (0161 612 6605). These two young brothers do fantastic tidy work.

[Rose, Sykes]

Cris Calow Decorating Services for outdoor work (480 1816), 32 Aberdeen Crescent, Edgeley. [Batty]

Electricians:

C & H Electricians, 1st Floor, 198 Wilmslow Rd., Heald Green, SK8 3BH (0161 437 5718)

[Batty]

Mike Shanley, (0780 1329 173 and 0161 449 9794) [Allport]

Plumbing: *Ken Davies*, (07831 183 018) [Allport]

Building: *Mark Davenport*, 12 Ladythorn Crescent, Bramhall. (0161 439 4051) Also does **Joinery**. [Hill]

Kevin Wright, ACE Guttering & Drainage Services, (490 1789, 07860 820414). Handyman, gutter cleaning [Hunt]

Paul Hawes, Patios and flagging. (01565 723 980, 07968 100595). [Jackson, Preece]

Ian Cottam, Plastering, 07889 530 994 [Batty]

Paul Ford, Home improvements, bathrooms, bedrooms and general maintenance. 07748 844 897 [Hunt]

Joinery: *Mark Smethurst*, 3 Garthland Rd., Hazel Grove, SK7 4PD (0161 483 9690)

[Batty]

Flooring: *Stockport Flooring Co.*, Stanley Green Trading Estate, Cheadle Hulme [Hurst]

Tree Surgeon: *Rod Barnes*, Tree Services Poynton, 141 London Rd., Poynton, SK12 1 LG (01625 878 116) [Allport]

Carpet Cleaner: *Nu-Life Carpet Care*, 480 7284 [Rose]

Refrigerator and cooker repairs: *Mike Clegg*, (07773 090876 and 0161 449 7050)

[Allport]

TV Aerials: *Teleaerials*, 49 St John's St, Lees, Oldham (0161 624 6681) [Allport]

Plastering: *Alan Lawrie*, 20 Conway Drive, Hazel Grove SK7 5NB (0161 484 0298, 07749 060 988) [Lacey]

Sean (aka Liam) Kelly, 41 Westwood Rd, Heald Green, Cheadle, SK8 3JW (0787 346 4642) [Lacey]

Computing help: *Nick* (0800 612 4565), PCSOS24-7. HELP@PCSOS247.com

[Davies]

Party/outside Catering: *Coco Deli*, Gill or Emma, 86 Station Road, Cheadle Hulme SK8 5AE. (01614858143) [Saville]

Mobile cosmetic car repairs: *Bump-a-car*, 33 Courthill St., Offerton, Stockport, SK1 4EA. (07795 842 717, Ivan, or 07855 824 118, Adrian) [Monkhouse]

Tyres *Milesmore Tyres*, *Doug*, Marcliffe Industrial Estate, 1 Macclesfield Road, Hazel Grove, SK7 5EG [Rose]

Spotlight on a Rotarian - President Bob Stevenson



Bob tells me he joined the B&W Club about ten years ago after some “friendly pressure” from Tony Burch. He had been originally a Round Tabler but felt that Rotary was what he was missing after being “thrown out of Table” because he was too old and at a time in his life when he wanted, or indeed even needed, to help others and give something back to society.

He was born in Clifton, Bristol nearly 15 birthdays ago. FIFTEEN? Ah yes, I remember, he was a Leap Year baby! The eldest of 3 boys he admits to being “a bit of an entrepreneur” during his young teenage years by taking care of 3 gardens after school and weekends (at 3 shillings an hour!), as well as a local car park attendant and looking after 3 paper rounds. Leaving school at 18 he started working as a Trainee Career Entrant for the Royal Insurance Group. Although he qualified to become an Associate and then a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute, he then went on to get a degree part-time at the Open University in Decision Making and Politics. He remained with the Royal Insurance Group for 25 years eventually becoming an inspector. Then at age 43 Bob bought a thriving Insurance Brokers in Wilmslow and renamed it RLS Insurance Brokers which he sold in 2008. He now works part-time as Development Manager for another insurance broking firm.

Bob’s main hobbies are keeping fit, politics, a Member of the Together Trust and of course – Rotary! He married Oriane in 1975 and they have 2 grown up children – Francesca aged 30 who is a primary school teacher in Italy having just spent 2 years teaching in Thailand and Michael aged 32 who is a solicitor in Poynton. Bob and Oriane love their holiday times and especially enjoyed their World Tour a few years ago. Since then they have travelled to many places abroad and have particularly enjoyed South East Asia, Sydney, and various places in China that had the WOW factor for them.

I asked Bob about his Rotary highlights..... being put in charge of the GSE group from Brisbane shortly after he became a member which turned out to be a most enjoyable time; he finds the activity events particularly enjoyable and appreciates the social interactions with a grand group of like-minded people. He really enjoys the fellowship and the feeling that “the little bit I do when multiplied throughout the membership brings benefits to others”.

Olive

An update: I visited Sam Harris at the Manchester University International Society to discuss ways of tackling his school house project in Pirin, Bulgaria. He has now sent me an email that on his last visit, he started to put in place some of the improvements that were suggested.

Gordon

Blind Run

The blind run is on Monday afternoons with a pick-up time of 1.15 to arrive at Walthew House (112 Shaw Heath, Stockport SK2 6QS) by 1.30pm and returning to pick up passengers at 3.30pm

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

Cathy Denison, 47 Chester Croft Rd, Off Spath Lane East, Grove Lane, Bramhall., Tel: 439 7559

Ring the above to check that your passengers still need a lift. If you can't get an answer, go round anyway at the appointed time. Let Bob Batty or John Sykes know if you get stuck.

If you cannot do your appointed duty, it is up to you to find a replacement and notify the other driver.

If you have a mobile phone, please carry it with you together with the other driver's number in case of delays.

Date	Driver 1	Driver 2
03/10/2011	G Hunt	R Malabon
10/10/2011	B Preece	S Preece
17/10/2011	G Critchley	V Chattington
24/10/2011	D Walker	N Loveland
31/10/2011	B Farrow	B Batty
07/11/2011	D Poizer	D Rose
14/11/2011	J Sykes	B Stevenson
21/11/2011	B Farrow	G Hunt
28/11/2011	B Batty	G Jackson
05/12/2011	R Malabon	G Critchley
12/12/2011	B Preece	S Preece
19/12/2011	V Chattington	D Walker

From Bob Batty:

Seen in Stockport Market "Sheepskins for sale 100% real wool".

In the Telegraph of 6/8/11—A report of a pony and trap driver over the alcohol limit who went through a red light. He said his horse was colour blind! His solicitor in court was John Dobbins!

Note in car handbook." After use, airbags should be replaced". How do you test them?

Diary & Job Rota

If you are unable to attend, please nominate a replacement.

Date	Diary	Speaker Host	Bulletin	Sgt @ Arms
05/10/2011	Committees		J Knowles	D Walker
12/10/2011	Walker/Yule	T Sheppard	G Critchley	I Dobson
19/10/2011	Burch/Meeus (Gatley visiting)	V Chattington	G Yule	G Hunt
26/10/2011	Batty/Burstow	J Thomas	N Loveland	B Preece
02/11/2011	Committees		D Allport	G Jackson
09/11/2011	Dennis's Diversions	S Preece	H Barker	D Burstow
16/11/2011	Curry Night (Thewlis/Thomas)		H Hill	
23/11/2011	Dobson/Dougal	G Critchley	B Batty	G Yule
30/11/2011	No meeting (5th Wednesday)			
07/12/2011	Committees		B Dougal	I Dobson
3rd-16th Dec	Christmas Float			
14/12/2011	No meeting due to dinner on the 15th			
15/12/2011	Christmas Dinner			
23/12/2011	No meeting			
30/12/2011	No meeting			
08/01/2012	President's drinks			
09/03/2012	President's night			
Nov/Dec	Woodford Christmas Collection			



The Usa River (pronounced Oosa) orphanage in Tanzania has received the books we donated together with two laptops taken by Dr Larry Fryda



A good day was had by all



The tomboola drum is out of intensive care and ready for use

HSBC climb Mt Kilimanjaro



Dennis receives the Wingate Cup for his 10 years producing an excellent bulletin



Our fire team doing their great work



Baxter Bear travels with our DG



An elite band of members celebrate the 25th Charter Night at which John Meeus received a well deserved sapphire to his Paul Harris Fellowship (Harry took the photo)

Meeting apologies to apologies@bwrotary.org.uk by Tuesday noon please
Website: www.bwrotary.org.uk

Email to all members (who have email): bwrotary@yahoogroups.com

Email to council members only: bwrotary@yahoogroups.com

Items for inclusion in the Bulletin to Gordon (will also accept huge amounts of money)