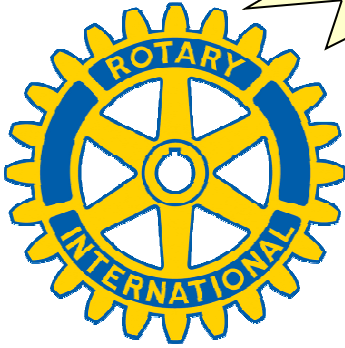


Rotarian

Oct/Nov
2012

Free inside—leaflet
about the sockets on
your computer



Bulletin

The trailer after it's won-
derful refurbishment



Gill gets a much
deserved award
for community
service



The gold
medal entry
for beach
volleyball

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



Sparks fly as the Christmas float gets a much needed refurbishment



Some of the team members stuffing envelopes at Walthew House. A two-hour effort saved their staff many hours of work.

Brian's Blog

Hello and welcome! Let me start by saying I think we are off to a superb start this Rotary year!

The charity side of our activities already features an outstanding refurb of the float (now NOT just a "Xmas float") and brilliant work by Sue, David and the International committee to help people in various middle-Africa countries. On the Social front an excellent start was made with a highly enjoyable Charter Night to celebrate the club's 26th birthday.

I cannot repeat too often how happy I am with the new council. I am very confident this is the team we need to keep B & W Rotary an active, vibrant club. Appropriate and relevant for the times in which we live. However keeping it so requires constant re-invention. Indeed one of the bigger challenges we face is deciding what must go and what must stay!

Evolutionary change is Good – Revolutionary change is Bad.
Or to put it another way:
Evolutionary change is Welcomed – Revolutionary change is Feared.

I first heard this statement 20+ years ago on some management course and its wisdom has stayed with me. Whilst in business it is sometimes necessary to impose change, in a voluntary organisation such imposition would be completely unacceptable. On the other hand some other D1050 clubs decided NOT to change, and paid the price – they had no new members and have had to close. So the challenge, as I see it, is to identify & make only those few changes actually needed to make us appeal to those we hope to recruit, without alienating any of those who are already here.

For my small part, I am trying to make the meetings more FUN. None of us has to come to Rotary, I want people to look forward to Wednesdays. The most fun you can have with your clothes on ???

Meeting Reports



25th July Peter Prydderch - A numbers game

President Brian started the meeting by announcing that he had been involved in a road traffic collision. (Have you noticed that the Police no longer refer to accidents?)

Fortunately there was no bodily injury but he had felt the need for some alcoholic treatment prior to coming to the meeting. (I think Dr Hill may have prescribed hot sweet tea).

Our speaker Peter said his name meant ginger haired but like most of us the original birth colour had now changed. He started by talking about Fibonacci numbers. This is a sequence 0,1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34 where the previous two numbers are added together to give the next number. This sequence is repeated in nature as he illustrated with a series of pictures of different petals in various plants. Eg Iris 3, buttercups 5, delphiniums 8.

If you take the series $1/1, 2/1, 3/2, 5/3, 8/13, 13/8, 21/13$ you arrive at a constant of 1.618 which is known as the Golden Ratio. This can be used to draw the spiral curve of a snail's shell.

By a bit of fallacious argument with quadratic equations Peter appeared to show that starting with $x=2$ you could finish up "proving" that $x=1$

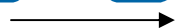
The Romans used letters for numbers, never had a zero and didn't multiply but used addition.

If you add the last two digits of your birth year to your age the answer will be 111. (I think this only works for this year 2011.)

A discussion on large numbers involved the number of grains of sand in the Sahara Desert and the number of molecules of silica in each grain, terabytes which if related to paperbacks would result in a pile of books five times the height of Mount Everest and billions which if measured in seconds would take us back to 1951, in minutes to when Jesus was alive and hours when we would be back in the Stone Age. Mention of logarithms brought back memories of childhood, slide rules had engineers dreamy eyed and tubular slide rules amazement that examples of this technology



Continued



were now fetching £1600.

Number theory seemed to leave most people with fried brains as there were very few questions. Dennis in his vote of thanks revealed that Peter was a keen walker, railway modeller and an expert on meat pies particularly hot ones which he tried to engineer would always be available at the end of his walks.

Returning to business matters Ian Dobson was still waiting for final confirmation that NFU will provide cash for the Christmas float. Harry Hill and his committee had not yet decided which charity to support at Christmas and welcomed suggestions for a charity for the Duck Race.

Ron Malabon

1st August—Committee Night

Gill was absent on duty transporting people of limited mobility to the Olympics. (Later her duties were explained with her working 12 hour shifts –at least – and little support. Not a happy bunny)

Bruce the elder advised he had had a fruitful meeting with the new Barclays Bank manager and promised to keep W & M advised of possible sponsorship for next years Duck race.

David Poizer advised Friends of Bramall hall were to receive a grant from a parishioners legacy and Vida told us she is hoping to get matched funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Committee reports

Sales/social—Vida on her feet to sell off two sets of bowls in natty knitted covers and a Stress Button Machine.

Treasurer (Mr Secretary standing in) - Circa £3k in Charity account. Little in general account but to be expected this time of year. There may still be some subs to be paid – those who haven't paid will be contacted

Ways and Means—Float stripped, cleaned and ready for painting Thurs/Friday. Unit to be transported to Lynton Trailers on Monday for work on body (thanks to contact of Tony B). When complete it will be returned for fitting out so still lots to do. Materials for body will be sourced from another of Tony's contacts. Funding now secured for NFU

Community Service—There has been no contact from Parkside playground team

Harry has had many 'begging' letters but nothing felt to be suitable for us to contribute to – committee feel it should be more local based and will welcome suggestions from members. There is a problem in finding 'needy' parties to assist and Harry will make a determined effort to find a way to find them. Members offered Wellspring, Seashell trust and Adswood School for further consideration.

A suggestion to maintain the embankment outside HSBC to be considered

Committee suggests Walthew House as recipient of Christmas collections

International—Programme for concert on-going and further reports at next committee night

Communications—Ian suggested we read an item on Walthew House in the Stockport Times. With regard to the Bulletin there were a number of promised items missing and Gordon has to do a lot of chasing up – not fair. Discussion followed and it was felt the current format was ideal and GJ was doing a great job.

Social—12th November is booked for Houses of parliament @10.50– all going need to book own accommodation and transport

AOB—It was pointed out that only 18 members contribute to the Blind Run rota – should be more!!!

Trevor

Aug 8th Hazel Jenkins JP

With the absence of the Senior Officers except for Michael L he was, therefore, destined to chair the evening likening to Pooh Baah of the Mikado fame and taking the many parts of President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer and Secretary and stand in Gentleman of the Cloth to say Grace.

The guest speaker for the evening, Hazel Jenkins JP, gave us an insight into the procedure of the Magistrates Court in Stockport where she has sat on the Bench for the past four years. Previously on the Magistrates Advisory Committee for fifteen years. Her introduction was assuring in that there were no faces that she recognised professionally!!!. How very diplomatic.

There are 140 Magistrates in Stockport, all living within a 15 mile radius of the Town, consisting of a cross section of the Community

representing a proportionate balance of gender, ethnic minorities and faiths. They are all between the ages 30 and 70 and are expected to have a knowledge of the district they represent. The qualities of appointment are good character, understanding and communication skills, social awareness, maturity and sound temperament, sound judgement and a reliable commitment to position they hold. They are expected to sit 26 times a year in rota., for which there is no salary but legitimate expenses are reimbursed.

The Bench consists of three Magistrates that hear all criminal cases and some civil cases. Sentencing, where it is within the remit of the Magistrates Court , must be by majority verdict. Sitting in front of the Magistrates is the Clerk of the Court who is knowledgeable on and advises the Magistrates on legal matters. To the left and the right, facing the Bench are the legal representatives of the prosecution and defence. To the rear are the Probation Officers the Press and members of the public. The Dock is to the left and Witness Box to the right or vice versa.

The powers of procedure and sentencing of the Magistrates are restricted to and dependant on the nature of the offence. Summary cases can be tried and sentenced, or otherwise, to a maximum period of six months. Other Summary cases are sent up to the Crown Court. There are various types of Court including Remands, Breach, Criminal, Justices Simple Speedy Summary (aka CJSSS), Domestic Violence , Problem Solving and Private Prosecutions.

Hazel finally gave a few words on shop lifting on which I am not permitted to report but it involved frozen chickens, aluminium foil and deep pockets!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Unfortunately time did not permit further address on the details of these individual Courts. However Jim Thomas gave a vote of thanks, nearly as long as his introduction, which was well deserved by Hazel who gave an excellent address on a subject which was greatly received by the members. All of course hoping that they will never have personal experience of the subject.

There followed a brief report from John Thewlis regarding the float and a round of applause and congratulations to Sid & Sally who were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary the following day

John Meeus

Long jumper Greg Rutherford wins Olympic Gold..... and sponsored by a Rotary Club



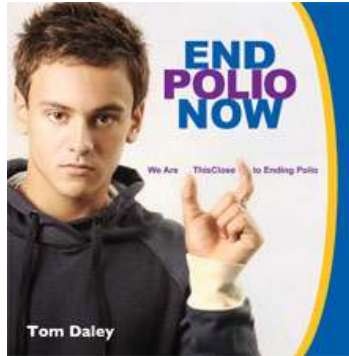
For Greg Rutherford his Olympic dream finally came true when he took a leap and landed a gold medal at the London 2012 Games. Amongst his emotional thank yous on BBC TV was a special mention of the Rotary

Club of Bedford Park in West London which had supported him in his training. The club had first met Greg in 2008 shortly after his Beijing dream had come to an end. Plagued by injuries, he missed out on a podium place. The Rotary Club saw someone with great potential and, being keen supporters of sport in the community, decided to support him through sponsorship and mentoring.

Club member Brendan McNulty said "seeing him win a medal on Saturday was very humbling. We are immensely proud of Greg. As a club, we think sport in the community and gold medals inspire young people to get out on the track, on a bike and on the hockey pitch and help people to be fitter". The club rallied around Greg to raise the much needed sponsorship through dinners and other events. The support went beyond money and Greg found a club full of friends and supporters who believed he could find the podium place he deserved.

Olive

Tom Daley does his bit for Rotary



Famous Tom Daley dived his way to a Bronze Medal in the recent London 2012 Games but found time during his training to have a publicity shot taken for the Rotary Club of Plympton (near Plymouth) to promote their End Polio Now campaign. Various size posters were produced and displayed around Plymouth and at the training facility used by Ghana's Olympic team. Images were also printed in the local press and onto club and district websites.

Olive

More on The Tenacious

On Songs of Praise this teatime it showed Tenacious being sailed out of the Thames and film of crew going aloft and hauling the sheets in.

As those who did the trip on her will no doubt know Lord Nelson is setting out in October around the world with some very long legs - Southampton to Rio. Rio to Capetown etc. One leg is from Auckland to Ushuaia with a stated 60 days voyage. This is the route of the old sailing ships on the grain run from Oz home and was a testing place in the Roaring Forties. I would like to have done this leg but I'm too old and scared. I reckon David Dewhurst would have been up for it though.

Cheers shipmates **Sid**

15th Aug Peter Richardson



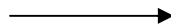
Our “Mysterious Objects” night was cancelled by Caroline on the day preceding this meeting as it appeared that we were low on numbers and felt it wise to preserve for another evening. Thus into the frame steps the most recent member to join our club, Peter Richardson, to give the traditional “Job Talk”

which has now really developed into a potted history of the member.

VP Sue got the ball rolling with the announcement that she had written 300 words to justify our club being awarded thousands of air miles for use for reciprocal trips between ourselves and a Rotarian from Uganda. After the meal Gill gave us all an insight into the joys of being a “GAMESMAKER” at London 2012. Restricted now by Gordon on reporting space I summarise only her experiences as being dull, hard work with very few joys and significant costs for the whole experience. The only part of the games Gill was able to see was an hour and a half of swimming where Phelps won yet another Gold medal.

Peter started his address by taking us back to his first work experience when he started his career with AV Roe at Moston as an apprenticed Aeronautical Engineer. This led on to becoming a draughtsman working at the Chadderton and Woodford factories of the company that through various gestations became what we know today as BAE Systems. Bearing in mind we were in an intense period of the “Cold War” and Peter found himself working on air defence systems. He progressed to working on a monster missile internally referred to as the 48/35 because it was an astounding 48” diameter and 35’ long. These were designated for the V Bomber formations, then our front line nuclear delivery capability. Weapons research was moved to Lostock and Peter now very much at home living in Bramhall, threatened to leave, but was effectively bribed to remain in what he refers to as the “laugh and giggle” department that came up with weird and wonderful ideas for fighting the Korean War. He moved forward and up the greasy

Continued



pole and became personnel and training manager. At that time the company recruited 40 to 50 trainees per year including graduates. Peter specialised in development of presentational skills which was widely required throughout the company.

At the tender age of 55 he was offered a redundancy package linked to early retirement and grabbed it with both hands. As is often the case in these situations where essential skills are too readily dispensed with, Peter found himself offering his services on a consultancy basis to the company and he expanded this, his own new business into wider fields including the “Workers Educational Authority” through the Prince’s Trust and to the public through Ridge Danyers college. After deciding to take it a bit easier at 60 he moved to pastures new, but continuing the use of his presentational skills by becoming a guide at Bramall Hall. Sadly Peter lost his wife Thelma to cancer in 2007, but he has been supported by a great group of friends including those made at Bramall Hall. Peter has a great talent for drawing and painting and we were privileged to see a good number of examples of his excellent work, which have often been on display and sold at Bramall Hall, aiding their fund raising process. Peter will no doubt be an active and fully participating member of our club.

Tony

Great news from NFU Mutual

Date: Mon, 13 Aug 2012 10:26:53 +0100

Subject: Re: Fw: Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

Hi Ian,

I have arranged payment, directly into you account. £500 will arrive at the end of August, September and October, totalling £1,500.

I hope the elves have a successful and enjoyable time preparing for Santa's grand tour of Bramhall and Woodford.

Regards,

James T J Smith ACII

Senior Agent

22nd August Friends of the Gambia Association



There were many **FIRSTS** this evening, the doors to the dining room were locked, Brian donned his tin gong after taking his position at the top table, dinner was delayed because the salmon wasn't yet cooked probably the result of Rev. Rabone's ditty about angling! Even the desserts

were delayed with an unusual one that Lorraine had won at auction. A large cake iced in blue, much to the annoyance of Alan N, with St. Ann's Hospice written on top. Her idea was for a donation for each piece, but Caroline was quick to point out our large donation. Lorraine won the wooden spoon medal.

Another **FIRST** was Vida, yes, Vida at the back of the pudding queue (see photo opposite), she also deserved a copper gong.

Various announcements were made while waiting, apologies included Harry mentioning next weeks marbles evening , to which D.Walker exclaimed "Bowls"- I think that's what he said!

J. Thewlis reported that the float had returned to base and was in good nick. He invited us to a "light show" the next morning at the stables.

Jill has received a letter of thanks from St. Ann's and wants to organise a big cheque along with Bruce F.who had already charmed the pretty Barclay's manager to come one Wednesday. . He certainly deserves a gold medal for his efforts.

Yet another **FIRST**, coffee was served in the dining room because of the delays.

Back on schedule at 9.35pm, Jill introduced Bob Isdale to talk about his non Rotary charity FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION www.fotga.org.uk

Twenty years ago he went to Gambia on holiday and on return contacted FOTGA and is now Chair and Project manager. It was started by tourists who saw the need for child education and spon-

sorship of children and building projects ensued and now includes humanitarian ones.

Bob showed a few basics about the country surrounded by Senegal, boundaries set by the Brits the distance of cannon- fire, a population of 1.7M. His amusing cartoons illustrated the touristic Banjul region, Sun, Sea, Sunshine and Local Taxis and local women attaching to wealthy old male visitors and vice versa, and actual conditions.

He then showed a wide variety of completed projects including primary schools, nurseries, clinics, horticultural developments and wells in addition to humanitarian aspects like paying for basic foods, medical treatments, tailoring equipment, recasting aluminium and child education.

Jill visited Jeddah Lower basic school last year to meet her long-standing sponsored child. Our speaker is fundraising for his next main project to build and equip a small hospital to serve a poor population of 80,000 in an area distant from medical help in Bak-indik, and totally overlooked by tourists.

Jim asked "how he attracted a project", the answer is check the need and get local and governmental support to guarantee sustainability, and then construct quality buildings.

Tony informed Bob about contacting A2HW for free hospital equipment.

Jill proceeded to thank Bob for making a 200 mile round trip from Grantham on his excellent presentation.

I forgot to record that earlier Sid thought the talk was "Friends of Gambling"-no wonder he left before the end!

The closing time of 10.27pm was a national record according to Dennis Omega.

David Rose



On this day

October—1st Disney World Florida opened (1971); 2nd John Logie Baird sends first TV transmission (1925); 3rd Tea rationing ends (1952); 5th First Monty Python show (1969); 8th Microwave oven patented (1945); 13th Prime Meridian through Greenwich decided on (1884); 14th Winnie the Pooh first published (1926); 18th Tom Smith invents the Christmas Cracker (1847); 20th Big-foot filmed (1967); 21st Battle of Trafalgar (1805); 22nd First parachute jump (1797); 26th Mrs Beeton's book of household management published (1861); 28th First snow globe produced (1878); 29th Fortnum & Mason opened (1707)

November—3rd Birth of the Earl of Sandwich (1718); 8th X-Rays discovered (1895); 9th Fall of the Berlin wall (1989); 10th Stanley finds Livingstone in Tanzania (he's still there, I met him) (1871); 12th World Wide Web invented (1990); 23rd First Juke Box (Edison cylinder operated) (1889); 29th First video game (Pong) (1972); 30th Trade Descriptions Act came into force (1968)

A true story.....

Diane Park, a member of the Rotary Club of Keighly in West Yorkshire and who has visited the B&W Club on a couple of social occasions in the past (a relation of ours) had the privilege of carrying the Olympic Torch through her town in July. Afterwards Diane took her torch into a local primary school to talk about its meaning and significance. She explained that there had been 8,000 torchbearers carrying the flame 8,000 miles during the Relay and the design of each torch included 8,000 holes – one for each of the Torchbearers. One little 7 year old girl then asked her “can you show us which hole is yours?”

Olive

From this issue onwards —

I will be editing reports so that they more easily fit into the available space. The font size has also been increased to facilitate ease of reading. Reports not submitted will simply be marked as such.

29th August Bowls Evening



What an enjoyable evening. This date being a 5th Wednesday there was no formal meeting, however your Social Committee offered an opportunity to sample Crown Green Bowling, courtesy of David Walker and Cheadle Kingsway Sports Club.

For once the weather forecast proved accurate, rain during the day but clear by late afternoon.

The sun was shining as our small group gathered at 6.30 for some tuition into the finer points of the game. Like many sports the basic requirements look easy; you send down a small ball called a jack and then aim to send your larger bowls to finish as near to the jack as possible. Easy peasy! Now factor in that the green is not flat; it has a high point in the middle, hence “crown green” and that the bowls have a “bias” – they are weighted on one side and so can be made to curve left or right. We are all now versed in “thumb and finger peg”

Our efforts resulted in a spread of several yards between the bowl and the jack and the need for a yard ruler to judge the nearest to the jack. Great fun never-the-less.

By 8 o'clock we headed to the club house for food, plenty of it due to less than expected turn out. Plenty of chat, excellent food then head for home. No S@A, so no fines. No talk of winners either as we were almost all rubbish at the game (excepting Wendy and David W of course who are regular players).

Thanks to David W for organising and to the Club Steward for excellent food. You missed a great social fun night.

John Sykes

5th September Committees

When we arrived at the bar a pop group was rather loudly tuning up making conversation somewhere between difficult and impossible. So we entered our room a bit early and Pres. Brian asked if anyone wanted to say Grace, which was followed by a few mutters of “grace” and that was that. The usual excellent food was punctuated only by Caroline’s apologies report (no guests) and Vida explaining that Geoff’s absence was due to a visit to A&E after a fall whilst dog walking.

Committee reports:

Secretary, PR and Community Service all had nothing to report. Treasurer said there was around £3,000 available to spend in the charity account and that the general account was healthy.

Membership (Sue) – David Poizer is seeking to entice a married couple to join.

Ways and Means (John Thewlis) – The float is now in Poynton. He reminded us that it is a generic float and that we should all keep our eyes open for other uses. The next actions will relate to the rotas for the float and Xmas collections. We are considering using the float to lead a torchlight parade (maybe with a hog roast and fireworks)

International (David Rose) - Will propose at council a £1,000 donation to Friends of The Gambia. David and Geoff have booked to go to the peace conference in Berlin.

Club Services (Caroline) – We were given a gentle reminder to remember to organise our allotted evenings. Anyone having trouble doing so should let Caroline know. The December programme is changing a bit and details will be sent out next week. Note that the Christmas Thai meal is on Saturday December 8th at the tennis club.

Social (John Sykes) – The houses of parliament visit will be extended so that after the regular tour we should have a chance to see “live” action in the chamber. The theatre visit will take place in early February.

AOB: Pres. Brian reminded us not to call Gordon re IT matters. John Meeus raised a point about equality and diversity which no one (probably including John) understood at all.

Michael

Computer Sockets

USB

USB sockets are now a standard way of connecting devices to a computer. You can find these on the front or back (or both) of your computer and if you don't have enough of them, you can always add a cheap extension called a USB Hub. There are 3 'standards' or speeds (USB1, 2 and 3). Older computers use USB1 whilst most now use USB2 but USB3 is appearing more and more. The sockets are identical. There are typically four different shapes of socket:



1/ The two sockets on the right are USB whilst the one on the left is known as Firewire (used for faster data transfer such as video cameras). Plugs only go in one way round so if a plug is being difficult, don't force it, turn it over and try again.



2/ Mini USB is often used on cameras to save space. When connecting these to a computer, a standard to mini USB adaptor lead is used.



3/ Micro USB is even smaller and reputedly the new standard for phone chargers



4/ Square USB is sometimes used on printers and scanners. Again, a standard to square adaptor lead is used to connect to your computer.

USB hubs come in many different shapes and sizes and typically offer 4 sockets in the same way that a mains extension lead will expand a single socket to 4.



USB sockets are 'backwards compatible' that is, a device designed as USB2 will still work in a USB1 socket but will be slower.

Network (Ethernet)



These connect your computer to the broadband modem or router. Think of a router in the same way that a USB hub expands the number of sockets available. Using a router means you can connect more than one computer to your Internet.

A modern router will have Wi-Fi incorporated so you can connect other devices (laptops, printers, media streamers) wirelessly. Increasingly, modems and routers are supplied in the same case.

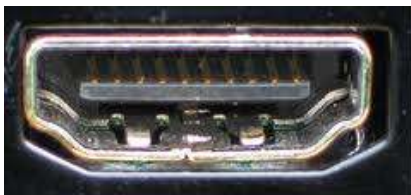


Monitor



Older (VGA) socket.

Newer DVI socket



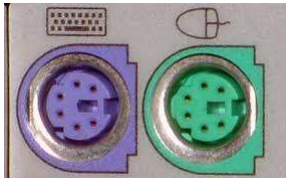
Newer still—HDMI Socket like the ones found on your flat screen HD TV.

Audio

Most PCs use 3.5mm audio sockets that accept a jack plug of the type commonly found on portable headphones. These are usually colour coded: green for stereo audio output and pink for mono microphone input. Some PCs include extra surround-sound channels coded black (stereo rear speakers) grey (stereo side speakers) and gold (centre speaker and subwoofer). Some include a blue socket, which is a line-level stereo audio input.



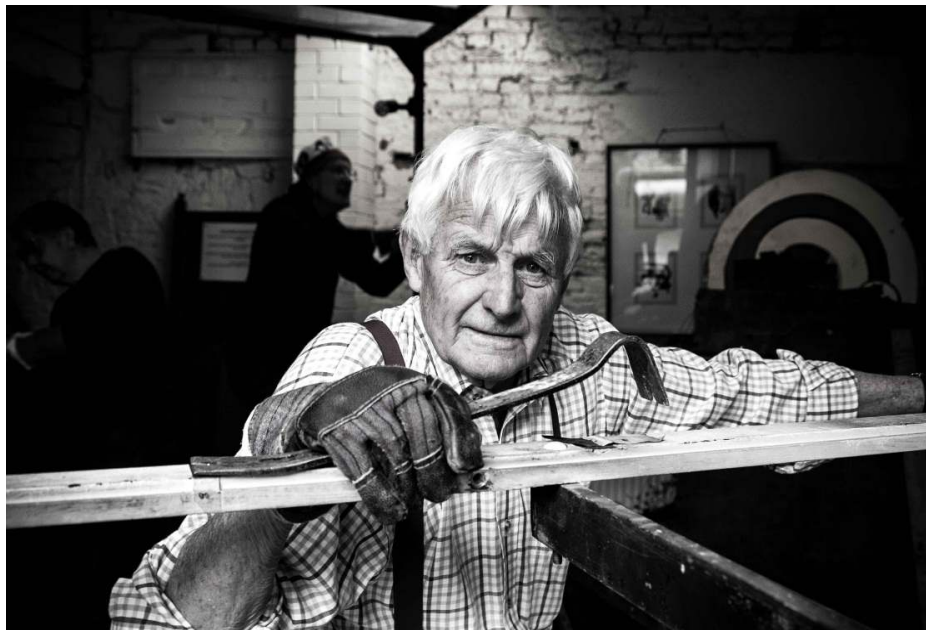
PS/2 Mouse & Keyboard



Not used as much now
as most mice/keyboards
are USB



Spotlight on a Rotarian
Sid Davies
A life of Adventure



Sid..... a Merchant Navy sailor, aviator, yachtsman, author, businessman, raconteur of incredible stories of his WW2 experiences and of sailing the world - but most of all a proud Welshman!

Born in 1926 in the granite quarrying Welsh village of Penmaenmawr Sid lived just yards from the sea where small coasters came to take the setts to pave the streets of Britain. With views of Puffin Island and Anglesey to the left and the Great Ormes Head to the right it was a beautiful place to live and grow. Boyhood was a happy time with his 2 brothers. His father was Clerk of the Quarry nearby and his brothers grew up to be an entomologist and the other an army major and then surveyor of Conway. Sid tells me fondly that Penmaenmawr has always been a holiday place and during Victorian times it welcomed people like William Gladstone, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Darwin and even the composer Edward Elgar to its sandy beaches and beautiful mountain backdrop.

Continued →

A Welshman to the Core

A Welshman through and through Sid has spoken Welsh all his life and continues to speak it regularly and also enjoys reading Welsh books. He has a strong faith demonstrated by his often attendance at the local Woodford Church and he reads the Welsh Bible every day and says “it improves my soul and keeps my language alive”.

Training for a life at sea

He left school at age 14, and as he had never contemplated a career other than the sea, at 15 joined the HMS Conway in 1942. The Conway was a training ship moored in the Menai Straits off Bangor and was considered one of the “wooden walls of England”. It trained officers for the Royal and Merchant Navy and many famous names such as the poet John Masefield, the naval frogman Buster Crabb, Ian Duncan Smith MP and rugby coach Clive Woodward all trained on the Conway. It was an enjoyable time but once trained young Sid went straight into working at sea during WW2! He joined the Brocklebank Line of Calcutta Steamers as a deck officer apprentice. Brocklebanks was then the oldest shipping line in the UK and he worked on these ships for 4 years. Because of the war the sea time Sid required for a Certificate of Competence was curtailed and his time on the Conway reduced it even further and so he became 4th Officer at aged 19.



Sid's War

By the end of the war in 1945 he had served on ships sailing to the Bay of Bengal taking equipment to the armed forces fighting in the Burma Campaign, he had been part of 4 Atlantic convoys to the USA helping to bring back food and munitions to the UK, and he had also sailed the Mediterranean to Italy to help take tanks and planes for the Italian Campaign. There had been some exciting times, but he had been remarkably lucky, despite Brocklebanks losing 19 of their 26 ships during the war.

On his very first voyage, as a teenage sailor, a war time incident occurred that I will let his own words tell you about.....

“We took 19 days to sail from Loch Ewe to Gibraltar, the convoy being routed west of the Azores and down to the African coast. One or two attempts by U-boats to attack the convoy were seen off by depth charges dropped by our escorts. In Gib we transferred Christmas stores to a sister ship which had been limpet mined by Italian frogmen. Later when sailing as Commodore ship from Gibraltar we joined 30 ships entering the Straits from the USA. Off Oran in Algeria we ran into a westbound convoy at night. We collided with an unknown vessel with the resulting hole letting in seawater which caused a chemical fire in the plywood drums stowed above bombs and shells. Wearing gas masks we jettisoned 200 tons over the side through the hole and made a temporary patch of timber over the hole in the hull.

Unknown to us U407 was awaiting us off the coast of Libya to attack, but the cruiser HMS Birmingham steamed across her path and the U-boat fired torpedoes and struck her bow and killed 27 of her crew. HMS Birmingham with her foredeck at sea level and her stern in the air joined our convoy and was placed in the middle and was barely able to maintain the slow speed of the convoy. When south of Crete German torpedo planes attempted to attack but the anti aircraft cruiser Delhi stationed herself to the north of the convoy and shot down several planes causing the rest to abandon the attack.

Further east a periscope was sighted and all the ships went to action stations. My post for surface action was sightsetter on the 4.7” gun on the poop. I wore earphones to receive orders on range and deflection. The ship zigzagged which resulted in the earphones being pulled off my head just as the gun fired the first shot. As I had no earplugs the bang made me stone deaf for three weeks and I’ve been told that my poor hearing in old age is probably due to this. After temporary repairs we sailed on to Bombay where proper repairs were carried out”.

To this day Sid is very proud to have served in the Merchant Service which suffered more casualties than any of the three services, and for his

Continued 

war time exploits he was awarded the Atlantic, Italy and Burma Stars as well as the 1939-45 Star and Victory Medal all of which he still wears with pride every Remembrance Day.

After the War

The years after the war saw him working on ships trading on the Indian coast which had European officers and Lascar crews and then in 1947 he moved to the Anglo American Oil Company's huge tankers trading worldwide including the Caribbean, the US coast, the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean. Before he left the Merchant Navy he rose through the ranks to 1st Mate and he saw most of the world except for Australia and New Zealand, which he was fortunate to visit many years later, but he says his very favourite port was always "home"!

A Change of Direction

In 1952 two very important things happened to change the course of his career - and in fact his life. Firstly, he was found to have a mysterious dark spot on one of his lungs and secondly he married his "beautiful, blond haired, vivacious and Welsh speaking Sally"! He had originally met Sally in about 1947 and she had lived in the village of Penmaenmawr too and he saw her each time he returned home on leave. Later she had moved to Liverpool to train to become a radiographer and on one of their meetings there she asked him if he had ever had a chest x-ray – and the results of this was to change his future. She saw immediately that there could be problem on one of his lungs. A lesion was diagnosed, but fortunately, it later turned out that it was scar tissue from a bout of TB that he hadn't known he'd had at some point during his war years. This condition now had to be monitored so it meant him leaving the navy, but on the plus side he was able to marry his Sally that year, so it couldn't have been all that bad! But was this the end of Sid's sailing days? Oh no!

The Timber King

Ever the practical one Sid soon made a new career in timber. He started as a trainee/labourer in a timber yard in Widnes and then progressed during the next 13 years to clerk, sales rep and then sales manager and came to live in Bramhall. He was then offered the post of general manager in a company in rural Shropshire which made farm buildings, cedar bungalows etc. and they moved to Wem and then to Whitchurch. During this time

Sid and Sally's two boys were born, Christopher in 1953 who now is in the DIY business and a lock smith, and Nicholas in 1957 who is an Historic Building Consultant, and they both live in Wales.

Roscoes DIY

Then yet another career opportunity came up for Sid. He had known for some time of a timber merchant who had a small business on a 3 acre site in Cheadle and Sid was offered the managers job there. At about the same time Sid had read in a Canadian timber journal about a timber merchant who had originally sold timber to farmers who then never paid their bills so the merchant had decided to offer his timber to the general public and subsequently had never looked back. It sounded like a great idea and Sid reached an agreement to develop this concept and so the famous Roscoes DIY store was rebuilt. Most people will remember Roscoes situated by the M60 motorway and it was the first large DIY timber yard in the country open to the general public. It had a fantastic reputation as the friendliest and most helpful do-it-yourself shop in the area. In fact, it was so successful that at one point W.H. Smith's wanted to buy it but the Roscoes owner refused to sell because the business was so profitable. Sid managed Roscoes for 20 years and it of course brought the Davies family back to live in Bramhall.

The aircraft pilot



Resourceful Sid had new ideas about running a successful business. He's proud to say that he never wrote a letter in the 20 years he managed Roscoes. He employed good dependable people who after a little while were happy to run the business themselves with Sid managing it at arms length. This gave Sid the opportunity to start another life challenge. He had always been petri-

fied of flying and had always had to bolster his courage with a couple of double brandies before boarding. The only thing for it was to learn to fly the plane himself. He 'grasped the nettle' and learned to fly at the flying school at Manchester Airport and he obtained his pilot's license in 1976!

For the next 7 or 8 years he flew an air taxi occasionally as co-pilot-cum-steward to places all over Europe, the UK and Ireland. His license would only allow him to fly an empty plane hence the stewarding! At one point he even decided to buy a share in an eight-seater Sundowner single engine aircraft and again flew to various places in the UK and near continent.

The sailor again (you can't keep him away from the sea)!

One of his nephews (obviously having the Davies genes) was skipper of various large yachts belonging to millionaires and from the mid 1960's to 1985 Sid accompanied him on many voyages as his navigator and watch-keeper and over the years they circumnavigated much of the world under sail. They sailed into fantastic places, remote atolls and islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

Retired (no way!)

When Sid was 58 the owner of Roscoes offered to buy Sid's shares. A deal was struck and Sid retired. However, as you would expect Sid didn't really retire! He promptly flew off to New Zealand for 5 months to oversee the refitting of his nephew's yacht. They then sailed the yacht back to the Mediterranean for 2 glorious months calling in at exotic places like the Cocos Keeling Islands in the Indian Ocean – a fascinating and historic group of 2 coral atolls and 27 islands situated 1200 miles west of Darwin - and also stopping at the Chagos Archipelago near the equator, which comprised 60 tropical coral islands about 700 miles south of the Maldives and reputed to have the clearest seawater in the world.

2012

Sid has slowed down slightly these days although I wouldn't put it past him to try something like sky diving or bungee jumping any day soon. This year he and Sally have just celebrated 60 wonderful years of marriage. He of course especially likes anything to do with boats so they both enjoy cruising. He says he feels lucky to have had good health that has enabled him to have a life that he always wanted. They often return to their beloved Wales, have been enthusiastic dog owners and with a twinkle in his eye Sid often refers to the fact that "he is Chairman of the Battered Husbands Society". The only thing in life he regrets is not learning to fly a helicopter, but feels it's perhaps slightly too late now!

Sid the Rotarian

Sid is a founder member of the Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club. 25 years ago a neighbour asked him one day “Sid, Poynton Rotary Club is going to form a Bramhall club and we need about twenty prospective members. We have nineteen – so how are you fixed?” Sid modestly says “being the twentieth choice sums me up!!” He says he thoroughly enjoys the fellowship that the club provides. A nice Rotary highlight for him was the journey he did a few years ago with 5 other B&W Rotarians on the SV Tenacious sailing ship from Southampton to Cherbourg helping disabled young people to learn to sail. He says he greatly admires the good work that Rotary does, particularly in Polio Eradication and Disaster Aid, as well as the hard work his own club does for local charities.



SV Tenacious

Sid says “there’s never been a person in the B&W club that I haven’t liked. I have however never sought office, being content to do whatever I am asked to do, and leaving it to the younger ones who have much more energy than me”.

Olive

A man's home is his castle - in a manor of speaking.
Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
Practice safe eating - always use condiments.
Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.
Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.
Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Ian's press release regarding the float refurbishment

Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club have joined forces with NFU Mutual to give Santa a new float for his visit to the children of Bramhall.

For the last 40 years or so Father Christmas has been a regular visitor to the streets of Bramhall ably supported by members of the Bramhall Round Table. Unfortunately this group has recently disbanded and the escort duties have been taken on by the Rotary Club. Unfortunately the vehicle was suffering from fatigue so the vehicle used by Santa has now been fully refurbished with the help of the Bramhall Branch of NFU Mutual and will be on tour around Bramhall as usual during December.

Rotary club President Brian Dougal said that it is absolutely fantastic to see such a change in the float as he well remembers his twenty years in Round Table assisting Santa on the old one.

Nick Priestley, NFU Mutual's local Manager, said that we are proud to support the community through ensuring the continuation of the Christmas visit of Santa to Bramhall.

The float has been redesigned in such a way as to be available for other events, not just at Christmas time .

19th Sep Gary Keown, BBC

Caroline introduced Claire Matlock (manager) and Sarah Dauncey from Barclay's Bank in Bramhall who were due to present a cheque to representatives of St Anne's Hospice, but no-one was able to attend. Both were delighted to realise that they would have to make a return visit. A third guest was Nick Priestly of NFU Mutual, who provided funding for the renovation of the float; and the fourth guest was Ian Loutit, in whose extensive garage the float now resides.

John Sykes announced that his Roll a Pound game at Charter Night had raised £28, and he was given a huge thank you from everyone for organising such a fun evening. Vida searched in vain for six amazing brains to take part in the District Quiz Night. She failed to sell the latter by reminding us of last year's hot pot, which she said was water with eight pieces of gristle in it. Harry praised

his team of helpers at Walthew House, who stamped and stuffed around 1200 envelopes in two hours.

Geoff Hunt's suggestion of a tour of Frances House on their open day, Nov 3rd, met a good reception. Ian Dobson proudly pointed out that we had received good publicity in the Cheshire Independent, and that photos of the "new" float outside the NFU Mutual office should be in this week's Stockport Times.

We learned that the evening's speaker, Gary Keown, is a Paul Harris fellow, as well as having the grand title of BBC Global News Sports Editor. A contemporary of George Entwistle, newly appointed DG (Director-General) of the BBC, he joined the BBC in 1969. A Liverpool lad, he has worked for Radio Merseyside, BBC Breakfast, BBC Working Lunch, and was the Business editor for North-west Tonight. His career also includes work as the news editor for Radio Manchester and Radio Sheffield, and as the editor of Look North. He took his present post, responsible for delivering World Service sport to 250 million people each week, in January.

Gary was very rightly proud of the job he and his team had done in bringing the Olympics to 90% of the population. He admitted the task was scary but hugely exciting and suggested that their success was due in part to BBC Sport moving to Salford, where the most advanced technology meant that every aspect of the Games could be covered in many different ways - via cable, internet, and Red Button, etc. The team's motto was "Never Miss a Moment", and the means of achieving this had been planned since 2005. We enjoyed footage of BBC commentators deeply involved in the events before them, and so brilliantly capturing the atmosphere of the sports on which they reported, as well as some amazing footage of successful athletes set to moving words from Lord Seb Coe. Gary told us that they had received 106 million requests for videos, and the response to the Olympics had definitely changed the way the BBC choose which sports to report in the future.

There were many enthusiastic questioners, but Bruce Farrow was eventually able to propose the vote of thanks, saying that this was the best talk he had heard since joining Rotary. The BBC, he said, had united the nation during the Olympics.

Maggie Hill

26th September A talk on a walk



David Rabone gave us a brief but sombre grace and then President Brian in an attempt to curry favour with Jan said she could go first for an attack on the food!

Much hilarity ensued when chilli balls were on the menu (I won't bore you with the details!) David Rabone told us that Henry had

had a fall and although he was not badly hurt (thank goodness) he does agree that he needs to obtain more help in the house et cetera. A new system has been introduced to the serving of the coffee; you now serve yourself by using the powdered coffee and using just the amount of coffee you like and the result is just what you want! Super.

The speaker was Jim Clare introduced by Caroline. He is chairman of the Stockport Heritage Trust and gave us a talk on a walk we could take around Woodbank Park. He gave us all a booklet to look at and refer to as he talked us through the park. We could purchase this booklet at the end of the talk for £2.00 and he has many others about different areas in Stockport where you can take a walk and learn a bit of local history at the same time. I think the walk would be very good for Rotary members to undertake maybe at Christmas or maybe some time during the 'sunny' summer months. All the money he raises from the sales of these booklets and other material concerning Stockport's history goes towards the maintenance of historical records and objects the Trust has collected and will eventually be on show at St. Mary's church in the marketplace.

He was thanked for his most interesting and informative talk and then we proceeded with Rotary business. Harry and Brian have been meeting the canal people with a view to our club maintaining the towpath in Poynton from the Boar's Head to the Miner's Arms. The first work on this project will take place on 19th October and

will involve work with saws! A plaque will be placed on this stretch of the canal to tell everyone that we are doing the maintenance and this will be good publicity for us. Harry says we will do something every month for this project and the canal people will come to give us a talk on 28th November. Our Woodford footpath will be cleared on Friday, 5th October and volunteers were asked for.

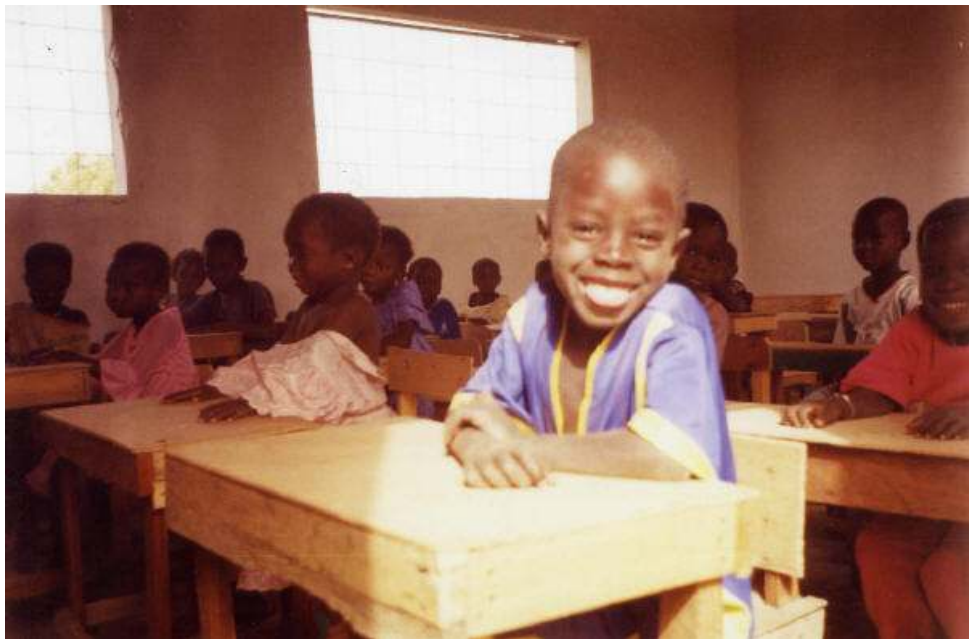
John Thewlis reminded us that Christmas was coming soon than you think and we should study the rota and make sure that we can do at least two shifts.

Sid fined us all for not watching a football match and we have to pay £1 because we were let off last week!

John Meeus told us what happened at a post Chinese function he went to the previous evening and nearly cost him £500 but happily it was only a joke!!

Bob Stevenson reported that six members were attending the District Conference this weekend. Bruce Farrow asked if we would like a tour round Media City and we all said YES.

Vida



Children get a chance to go to school thanks to Friends of The Gambia
(www.fotg.org.uk)

Those wonderful Church Bulletins.
These have actually appeared (with all the bloopers)
in church bulletins.....

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The measure of life is not its duration, but its donation.

Peter Marshall

Too many have dispensed with generosity in order to practice charity.

Albert Camus

Oops—In the last issue, I wrongly said that Bob Stevenson was pictured with Kalyan Banerjee. I should have said that he was with RI President, Sakuji Tanaka. I will of course, pay my fine.

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 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
01/10/2012	AN Other	J Hubbard
08/10/2012	J Sykes	D Rose
15/10/2012	S Preece	B Preece
22/10/2012	D Allport	G Jackson
29/10/2012	D Poizer	D Walker
05/11/2012	V Chattington	R Malabon
12/11/2012	H Hill	B Farrow
19/11/2012	N Loveland	J Meeus
26/11/2012	P Richardson	G Hunt
03/12/2012	J Sykes	J Hubbard
10/12/2012	S Preece	D Rose
17/12/2012	D Allport	B Preece

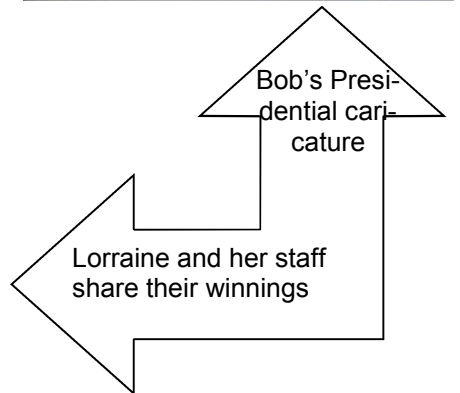
Charity sees the need not the cause.

German Proverb

Diary & Job Rota

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

Date	Diary	Speaker Host	Bulletin	Sgt @ Arms
03/10/2012	Committees		D Burstow	R Malabon
10/10/2012	Julie Shaw (BBC) Humanitarian Projects	J Thewlis	H Hill	M Hill
17/10/2012	Talk by a blue badge guide	B Bissell	G Critchley	B Dougal
24/10/2012	Lacey/Loveland	I Dobson	J Edmunds	C Egan
31/10/2012	5th Wed			
07/11/2012	Committees		B Farrow	P Richardson
14/11/2012	Monkhouse/Newsome	J Thomas	A Newsome	J Meeus
21/11/2012	Xmas float and collections briefing	D Rabone	T Saville	G Hunt
28/11/2012	Meeus/Rabone	B Stevenson	J Hubbard	J Knowles
05/12/2012	No meeting			
08/12/2012	Xmas Party			
12/12/2012	Light hearted talk on public speaking		C Monkhouse	D Allport
19/12/2012	Angela Rowley @ Bramhall Hall			
26/12/2012	No meeting			
02/01/2013	Committees		T Sheppard	T Burch
09/01/2013	Richardson/Rose	N Loveland	J Sykes	M Lacey
16/01/2013	Saville/Sheppard	D Rose	B Preece	S Preece
23/01/2013	Stevenson/Sykes	G Jackson	S Davies	D Poizer
30/01/2013	No meeting 5th Wed			
06/02/2013	Committees		D Walker	V Chattington



Bob's Presidential caricature

Lorraine and her staff share their winnings

Claire Matlock and Sarah Dauncey from Barclay's Bank, Nick Priestly of NFU Mutual and Gary Keown BBC Global Sports Editor





Fancy dress optional? A superb effort from members at the Charter Night.