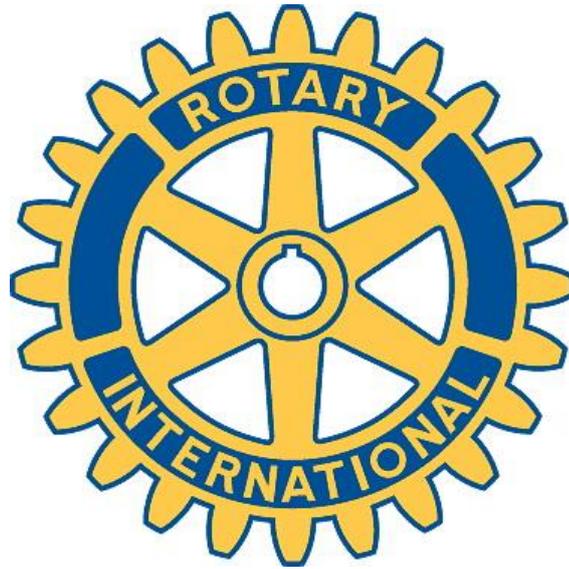


January 2019

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club



Christmas and New Year  
Special!

*Season's  
Greetings*



## PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

There's a well-worn saying about the older one gets the faster time goes by; clearly that's not possible but it certainly seems to be the case. What happened to 2018 in fact what has happened to the last three years? My Bramhall and Woodford Rotary life began with the first meeting of 2016 and induction followed later in March with nomination for Vice President at the end of that year. And look where we are now, half way through my term as President and so far I seem to have survived reasonably unscathed! OK there is the bit about the Chain, but like both of my two year old granddaughters, the more you ask them to do something, the less they are inclined to comply!

I guess like many before me, I dived into the Presidential role all set to change the world but y'know as time passes I realise that change for changes sake doesn't necessarily lead to progress. Why break something if it doesn't need fixing? So to put it another way, I feel in the role as President whilst I am keeping the seat warm for the next person I have been adding the odd tweak here and there which I hope will be of benefit.

The one area that does bother me is securing new membership. During the last 18 months we have tried a few initiatives which may have helped to broadcast the Rotary name but have not really borne fruit. I am delighted to record that we have inducted new members during 2018 and I am sure all of them will be strong assets for the Club, but we need more. It's not an easy challenge but one which we all need to embrace to secure the long term future of the Club.

At Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club we do a lot of good things for others, the community and ourselves. Our combined efforts raise substantial funds which are donated to worthwhile causes but we also manage to put smiles onto the faces of many people. Locally we have a good brand so let's all continue into 2019 with enthusiasm to maintain and enhance the things we do well.

Best Wishes to Rotary Members for 2019

Steve Littlewood

President

31 December 2018

## 2 January 2019 Committees

The 1st 2019 meeting of Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club took place with 18 members.

The President welcomed those present with a Happy New Year. John Thewlis, read out the apologies from those unable to attend and they were: Andrew, Bob & Sue, Bruce, Chris, David, Dev, Jennifer, Julia, Kate, Pam, Ron and Sarah.

John Sykes, Club Secretary undertook EGM to elect Club Officers to serve for Rotary Year 2019/2020 and the following were unanimously elected to the office:

President: Michael Lacey

Vice President: No nomination

Treasurer: Sue Preece

Secretary: John Sykes

It was also resolved that Michael Lacey to hold post of Treasurer and Vice President until 30th June 2019

Following EGM members gathered into their respective Committees to conduct business and report.

**John Thewlis (Club Service Committee)** outlined programme over next 4 months

Wednesday 9 Jan Santa Float Quiz. Meeting to start at 7pm for 7:30pm Buffet Meal costing £5 per attendee. Maggie informed that in response to her emails to all supporters, she has had confirmation from 8 groups so far. Each Quiz Group to have 6 individuals. It was resolved that decision would be made on the night

Wednesday 16 Jan Radicalisation and Manchester Bombing. Meeting open to friends & partners

Friday 25 Jan Chads The Thrill of Love-----Brian informed that Ticket Sales were OK

Wednesday 13 Feb Pat & Pam Job Talk. Life in Italy

Wednesday 27 Feb Talk on Cheese making Open to friends & partners

Wednesday 15 May Duck Race Briefing by Maggie & Ian

### **Gill (Social)**

Wednesday 20 Feb Meal Out at Middle Eastern Rest in Cheadle. Details to be circulated

Friday 12 April Presidents Night. Details & Menu to be circulated

### **Maggie (Ways & Means)**

Saturday March 9 Planning Fashion Show

### **Harry (International)**

Sale of Bulbs realising in excess of £100 for Rotary Charity

Planting of Bulbs Bramhall Park on Saturday 10am  
Lend with Care: £99 has so far been returned

**Bob Stevenson (Community)**

Presented Report on Dragons' Den update

Wednesday 13 March

Venue: Woodford Community Centre, Chester Road, Woodford  
Bar Facilities

? Catering for Rotarians 6:30pm To be discussed at COUNCIL

Dragons' Den Panel 3 Local Entrepreneurs chosen by Ian & Maggie and 2 Rotarians Bob Chairman + 1  
M/C President Steve

Programme, Name Badges: Harry

Facebook, Press Releases & Posters: Ian & Sarah

WWMC PA Systems: To be checked by Bob, John Thewlis and Michael

Time Keeper: Sue

Reception Committee: David, Dennis, Neil, Satish

APPLICATIONS TO GO LIVE JANUARY 7 2019 on BW web: Michael

Any further enquiries, please contact Bob Chair of Community Service. Bob will be informing  
Members of any new developments or changes to the schedule outlined

**Ian (Communications)**

Still looking for Sponsors for The Duck Race Sunday 19 May 2019

Requested someone from Club to uptake task in running School Choirs Competition by liaising with  
schools

**Michael (Treasurer)**

Charity Account is in healthy state

Total Collection by Santa's Float-----£10,024

Woodford Collection-----£ 2,919

President Steve thanked all club members for their contribution in FUND RAISING and Final Toast  
was called at 10:24pm

Satish (Any mistakes or inaccuracies I apologise)

### **30 December President's Drinks**

No report received for this which was held at 78 Degrees Gin Bar between 12.00 and 14.00. Despite it being perfectly clear in his diary and on our web site Michael arrived at about 14.15 to find the bar empty. Bad enough but at least he beat Kate by 2 hours!!

## 20 December Harvey's back at last!

After months in hospitals (since May 31st) we were at last able to welcome Harvey back again. A small group had an excellent and enjoyable lunch at Turquoise in Bramhall. It was great to see him mobile, albeit still with a walking stick, and considering his long ordeal to see him so cheerful. We look forward to seeing him back at the club in the New Year.

Michael



## 14 December Xmas Party at Bramall Park Golf Club

These notes are being made on the morning after the night before (when no notes were taken).

We assembled at the golf club on a really cold evening – just the short walk from the car was enough! After a bit of milling around and having a drink and meeting some of the regular guests (mostly with Bob Stevenson or John Meeus) it was time to be seated and listen to 14 year old Lottie singing. There was considerable trouble with the sound system but not enough to stop her amazing talent shining through.

Then came the meal, which at least our table found very enjoyable and well up to standard. It was good to see the meal choice reminder at the table in a nice large font!

After the meal there was a complex quiz which was won by Bob Stevenson's table – well done – especially on the aromas (who knew what myrrh smelt like?).

As a small fund raiser we had a reverse bingo which was won by Kath Batty.

At last it was time for the dancing, which I imagine was great fun, but as a non dancer with a tired wife we left.

Well done to the organisers, to Lottie and to President Steve for keeping his speech short!

Michael



## 5 December Committees

1. The President reminded the meeting that it would be the last meeting at The Ladybridge Club this year. Gifts were presented to Jackie and her staff and thanks given. We were then treated to a traditional meal of turkey with trimmings which seemed to go down well.
2. Bob Preece read out apologies.
3. John Sykes reported that he and Steve Littlewood (Pres.) had attended a District meeting. In recent months the district had lost 13 members but recruited 29 new members (overall membership now at around 1700 members) with word of mouth remaining the way new members are recruited. It was reported that District is looking to reorganise to improve the quality of the meetings and to improve connections with the Clubs.
4. Details of events and activities at Handforth Dean arranged by Wilmslow Rotary Club have been circulated to members.
5. Presentations were made to 3 past Presidents - Harry Hill, Gill Preece and Bob Preece.
6. The Treasurer reported that the accounts were in a healthy state and the accounts were formally proposed and adopted. He explained that members no longer exchange Christmas cards but those whose wish to donate to the Charity account. The donations receive Gift Aid and if donations are over £500 it enables us to claim gift aid on donations raised from collections - which can add considerably to the sums raised.
7. Bob Preece reported that the programme has been organised to the end of March.
8. Ways & Means Committee - Maggie shared a note of thanks received from Debra for the donation made to them following the Fashion Show. The float on Sunday raised a record amount. Maggie asked if people could still fill the gaps on the road for Woodford for the last weekend before Christmas. The previous weekend 250 hampers had been packed and now gone out for distribution. Logistics for The Fir Road market were then discussed and all seems in hand.
9. Bob Stevenson reported that Dragon's Den is to be on 13th March at Woodford Community Centre and there will be 8 teams. A planning meeting will be held on 28th December.
10. International Committee - Harry reported that another trip to Uganda is being contemplated. £180 has been reinvested in Lend with Care and a £18 donation made.
11. Social Committee - Gill had circulated an email about the Christmas Party and responses were needed by Friday 7th December.
12. Communications - Ian reported that he was submitting an article for the January/February edition of the Inside Bramhall magazine reporting on the Fashion Show. We had received 2000-3000 views on the Facebook page of the float.
13. A.O.B. - President's Drinks will be on 30th December between 12 noon and 2pm at Bar 78 in Bramhall.
14. Next meeting 2 January 2019.

Pam Withers

## 29th November District Foundation Seminar

Four of us went to the District Foundation Seminar After dinner, Stan Bowes (Chairman) introduced three presentations.

1—Rotary Peace Fellow Ealaheh Pooyandeh —(Manchester Breakfast RC). She worked as a volunteer with Tehran Museum Pease Museum in education, international peace programmes, disarmament of chemical weapons, with Iranian Youths and veterans of Iran/ Iraq war. Later she became a staff member, a very impressive speaker.

2---Anthony Pemberton-(RC of Wigan). His resume was read by a RTn in his absence. He is an Outgoing Peace Fellow 2019, degrees in Spanish and Arabic. As a great conversationalist Anthony has worked in war torn regions. He is now going to Australia for further study.

NB; RI grant 50 M Sc. Peace Fellowships a year worldwide and very few UK applicants receive one. His detailed research impressed D1285 and later RI.

3---RC of Wigan's Global Grant project in a small town in Romania. This 3 year project finished last September. They converted a school classroom into a state of the art Science Laboratory, with the help of the local authority, by providing fixtures and fittings. NB; Rotarians cannot construct buildings, only furnish them.

The Romanian science teachers came to Wigan to learn about modern science education. The difficulties that the RC overcame resulted from member's tenacity.

The meeting was closed with a few words from the DG and Stan Bowes. All of us Bob S, Satish, Najib (Lamplighters) and yours truly agreed it was an excellent seminar.

David Rose

## 17 November and 1 December 2018 – Hamper moving and packing



On the first date we moved all the hampers and contents to the scout hut in St Michaels Avenue to be kept there until the packing day.



Then on 1<sup>st</sup> December everything was moved over to St Michael's church hall where an assembly line was created enabling the production of 250 hampers! As well as several member of our club there were lots of people from other Rotary clubs and community groups. Ultimately the hampers all went to people who were lonely at Christmas.

## 14 November 2018 – Global warming and cheque presentations

On arrival at Ladybridge Park, Michael, Steve and I found the car park pretty full, which boded well for the evening. In the bar area, there were more people than I can remember seeing for some time and a very full program for the evening was in prospect.

President Steve was kind enough to welcome your scribe back, following a three month absence in the United States, and our other guests for the evening, Andy and Rachel Stevenson (Reverse Rett) and Sarah Sturmeay (Pure Insight). They were both to receive cheques for their respective charities. An excellent buffet followed, with Beef & Ale Pie, Lasagne, Salmon. This was followed, after a short interval by Apple pie and custard, or strawberries.

Following the meal, the guests were again welcomed, and we learnt that Gil was travelling, Sue was unwell and Andrew on holiday. Other members were expected after the meal. It was a very good attendance indeed.

Brian outlined the next Social event, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November which will be a James Bond Night at Parrswood Grosvenor Casino. We had a look at the menu and an email is to be circulated. Rapid response is requested. Brian also confirmed the CHADS play for the 25<sup>th</sup> January.

Michael told us how our team had come 4<sup>th</sup> equal out of around 20 teams at the Walthew House Quiz.

Bob Stevenson pointed out the leaflets on the tables telling us about Swanbourne Gardens Respite Centre, who are to be the recipients of our Woodford Collections.

Bob Stevenson then introduced Andy & Rachel who spoke to us about their experiences with their own daughter who suffers with Rett Syndrome, and their amazing work in fundraising, millions in fact. Parents take home an apparently healthy baby girl after its birth, but after a year or two, problems start to appear. The baby cannot speak, sit, walk and has multiple disabilities. There is real hope, however, and there is research going on in Scotland and treatment of the underlying gene problem. Important too, is the management of the symptoms, the most serious of which is breathing difficulties. An 'oversized' cheque for £700 was presented, with Harry of course there in his role as official 'snapper'.

Coffee was taken, followed by the second cheque presentation with Satish introducing Sarah



Sturmeay, of Pure Insight. Pure Insight were not only the recipients of the monies raised at our 2018 Duck Race, but they also assisted at the event. Sarah spoke about her own childhood experiences and counted herself lucky to have had support but that others were less so. Children leaving care at 18, from Care Homes or foster care may have experienced 30 or 40 moves during their childhood. They may have experienced abuse, neglect, trauma before moving into care.

On leaving care, without ongoing guidance on how to exist in the adult world, many become homeless, fall victim to substance abuse and suffer mental health problems. Pure Insight provides

mentoring and support, including a 'fast track' service.

Sarah read out a story from Lucy, aged 20 which graphically described how her father, with issues of his own, didn't want her, how the parents of a friend she was staying with, ordered her out on to the street. The story went on at some length but hopefully will have a positive outcome, as with help and support weekly, she is now at university and hopefully will succeed.

The main speaker of the evening was Stan Bowes, a former District Governor of Rotary and his subject was 'Global Warming'. Stan was appointed Environment Officer in Rotary.

The subject of 'global warming' and 'climate change' seems to have a sharply polarising effect – those totally against the proposition, or totally in agreement. I was expecting, along with many in the club I noted, for this to be a talk from a 'believer', to try to convert disbelievers in the audience. It quickly proved to be very far from the case.

Stan showed us huge list of newspapers, books and websites he was expected, as Environment Officer, to read. Stan showed us a collection of slides including 'Riders Almanac' of 1794 which advised readers in January - *planting seeds in the 'warm, rich soil' and tending the vines, and pruning your apricots.....* The next slide showed the January Ice Fair on the river Thames in 1684. This was a massive difference in temperatures in just a hundred years.

Reports from 1922 titled 'Changing Arctic' reported temperatures 'so warm as never seen before'. In 1912 'Encroaching ice threatens Canada', whilst in 1938 global warming was hailed as 'Beneficial to Mankind'. 1969 the world was warned of a current cooling threat followed by much the same in 1975 – 'The Cooling World'. 2004 the headlines were 'Ice Age Britain' but just two years later 'Waterworld Britain' and the threat of much of the coastline being underwater in the future.

Stan told us that following the purchase of the science magazine 'Focus' by the BBC, anything other than 'global warming' seemed to be suppressed, in contrast to a counter view before. New Scientist forecast that due to global warming there would be a large increase in many forms of crime. There has been much misreporting to bolster the global warming proposition by the IPCC (International Panel for Climate Change) and Stan outlined a number of these, which included 'Polar Bear numbers in decline' whereas since 1975 their numbers are up between 67% to 200% and culling is now taking place.



Stan then looked at data sets and suggested that they had been manipulated and do not in fact support global warming. Reference to 'the hottest year on record' has on challenge, been restated as 38% chance it was the hottest on record (or perhaps a 62% chance it was not !!)

A slide followed showing pronouncements made over the years which included – 'Civilisation will end within 15 – 30 years unless immediate action is taken' George Wald, Biologist, Harvard University. 'By 1995 between 75% and 85% of all species of living animals will be extinct' Dr Dillon-Ripley, Look Magazine. 'The world will be 11 degrees colder in the year 2000. This is twice what it would take to put us in an ice age'. Kennet Watt, Swarthmore University

Deforestation has been much talked about, but Europe has more forests now, than in the past and the areas of the Amazon being cleared annually, 'about the area of Belgium' is in fact a tiny area compared with its sheer vastness. It just sounds worse than it is.

Stan's final message was, that there may indeed be slight global warming, but we must all look after our environment. We must plant trees, and to not 'use a stick' but a 'carrot' instead. We must be kind to our environment.

Several members made points, one concerning glacier's retreating to which Stan pointed out that they have been receding for 20,000 years since the last ice age.

Many members expressed the view that it had been one of the best Rotary evenings that we had had for some time. I'm glad I made it back in time, although for sheer content, much of it technical, it was perhaps not the easiest meeting to report upon !

**Chris Monkhouse**

## 7th November 2018 - Fashion Show at The Deanwater

On Wednesday 7th November, we hosted our 10th Fashion Show, Something New and Something New to You. Over 100 guests arrived at The Deanwater Hotel and were greeted with a welcome glass of prosecco or a soft drink and a selection of delicious canapés. After a short wander around the dozen stalls in the bar area selling everything from frilly knickers to scented candles and fabulous pop up cards, the ladies settled down at their tables in the ballroom to listen to our young singer (only 14) for the evening, Lottie Gibson who has appeared on Britain's got Talent. Lottie looked beautiful and sang beautifully despite the fact that she had only been asked to step in a few hours earlier when our original singer Lola Garrod of The Voice had become ill.

We had three catwalk shows from Modiste, What Lyes Beneath and Debra. The Debra Show was a first for us, showing designer clothes brought in to the charity shop. It was also a first in that we had a couple of gentlemen on the catwalk who certainly added some merriment to the evening.



All three shows were very ably introduced and commented on by Ian and three of our Rotary ladies, Kate, Denise and Maggie modelled for all three shops. Gill and Sue did a sterling job selling a huge number of raffle tickets for the £200 prize donated by Clarins and many other prizes donated by local shops and private donors. Sarah presided over our new venture, a water or wine raffle.

Ally, the manager at Debra in Bramhall Village Square was delighted to find that we had raised £1264 for Debra and hopes to come to the club very soon to be presented with her cheque.

Even better than the brilliant amount of money raised is the fact that all three shops have already benefitted from customers going to their shops, either having been to the show or seeing our Facebook coverage of it. Ally reported that a lady had spent £60 in Debra by 10 the next morning and she'd sold £100 worth by midday with ladies ringing to reserve clothes seen on the catwalk.

I think we fulfilled all three of our objectives, raising money for charity, raising the profile of village shops who support us and showing ourselves to be a fun loving organisation bringing entertainment to the public.



Maggie Hill.



### 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018- Committees

Maggie and Pat Holmes were suitably dressed for a Halloween Party, the rest of us were boringly dressed.

Just 17 people managed to make it to the meeting, the rest were otherwise engaged. Numerous excuses - Seattle; France; working; grandparent duties or ill. We wish the ill a quick recovery.

During the interval between main course and pudding we cleared away some business

Harry advised that Walthew House had a quiz on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November and was looking to form a team. He also advised there is a talk tonight (Thursday) at Bramhall Hall about the Leighs of Adlington; who had an association with the Hall.

Satish reported that Harvey was doing well; he can now walk around the house unaided but requires assistance if going outdoors.

Michael gave an update on the state of our General & charity accounts – both are ok; your reporter failed to note the exact amounts.



As secretary I reported all received emails had been sent to appropriate people; I advised that RIBI have a suitable music licence in place which covers Santa's sleigh during December.

After pudding the various committees got together and then reported back

**Club Services** -Bob P – The speaker for 21<sup>st</sup> November about adoption of a local railway station has had to cry off and the meeting will now be a talk by Pat Holmes and A.N Other (I think)

**Social** – No one from social present so no update

**International** -Harry - £70 recently received into our Lend with Care account, which brings it up to £168 available. Harry will be researching 2 or 3 suitable recipients. The RI International Convention takes pace in Hamburg in July 2019 – Harry and Sue planning on going.

**Community Service** -Bob S - From meetings that Pres Steve has attended the Thursday Club looks promising; consideration being given to offer help with transport for the people involved.

Bob has been in contact with Swanbourne Garden and is awaiting their reply to suitable item(s) we might purchase with the Xmas Collection money.

Three charities are under consideration as the main charity for the Duck Race.

**Ways & Means** – Maggie – Fashion Show planning going well; ticket sales have improved; a few more prizes for the raffle would be beneficial -several people offered to contact the local establishments where they were known.



Garden Centre collection – we each need to fill a minimum of 3 shifts.

9<sup>th</sup> December – we are manning a Rotary stall at the Fir Road Xmas Fair.

Sleigh Rota is now being filled out – contact Maggie if you can help. Rotary night will be 11<sup>th</sup> December; collectors required.

Xmas hampers – the donor will need help to pack the hampers (200 of them). Provisional date 1<sup>st</sup> December Saturday at St Michaels Church Hall.

Our application to hold the Duck Race 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019 will go before the local council meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December at Lumb Lane.

Harry highlighted the need for a presence at the meeting based on recent experience. Offers received from Steve; Harry; John M; John S.

Meeting closed at 10:12 John Sykes