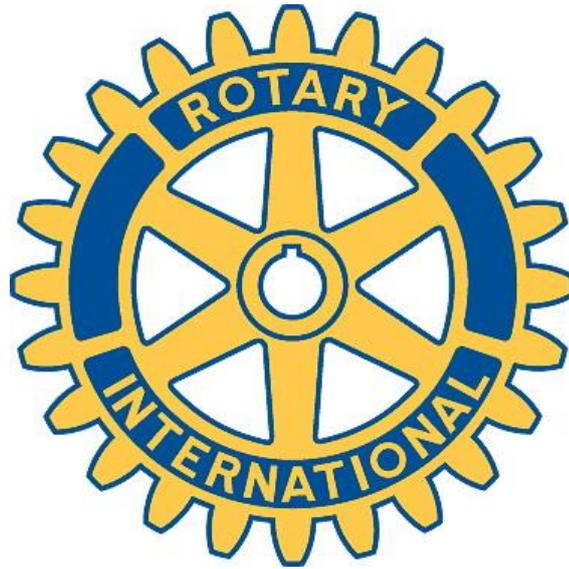


**April 2019**



**Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club**

**9<sup>th</sup> January to 27th March**



## **PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS – MARCH 2019**

I think it has been a really good first calendar quarter to 2019 with so much having taken place.

The Float Quiz, CHADS, meals at Silk Road and Bombay to Mumbai. Dragons' Den required much planning by Bob Stevenson and his team which was worthwhile as the result was a superb evening with some good causes receiving deserved donations. In addition we have acquired details of contacts at several other charities/organisations which may be useful in the future.

We have had some good speakers, notably Figen Murray who gave a heart wrenching and moving presentation. A lively and entertaining Faye Kitching took us into the world of cheese making.

Importantly the new Vice President took office in January and I know he is making plans already for his year as President. For my part I am looking forward to seeing Michael in action, not least to discover what I should have been doing! I wonder whether he will wear the chain!

The Duck Race and family Fun Day is fast approaching with much to do beforehand and on the day. All of us need to contribute as much effort as we are able to ensure that we have an event which is bigger and better than before. At the risk of using a cliché: the more we put in the more we get out.

Steve Littlewood

## 27 March Bombay to Mumbai



As posted by Harry on Facebook:  
Rotary isn't just about defeating Polio, promoting world peace and helping others - we also have an active social calendar. Last night we descended on Sandeep and Donya at the sensational Bombay to Mumbai in Bramhall and they coped admirably with twenty unruly Rotarians. Be warned guys, we will be back!



## 20 March Eddie Tarry – Probation Service

19 Rotarians welcomed Eddie Tarry and his wife Ann at the most recent Club meeting. Eddie is a Community Engagement Manager for Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service and Young Offenders Institute at Styal Prison. Also joining us was guest Khan Moghal from Manchester Breakfast Club.

Prior to the main speaking event, a soon to be engraved rather large trophy was presented to the Club, following an unexpected triumph at the annual Walthew Blind Bowling event that had been held earlier that morning at Parrs Wood.

The opportunity of wearing a wide variety of spectacles that simulate different forms of sight problems was a personally humbling experience. The event was well organised, good-humoured and thoroughly recommended for anyone able to attend during a weekday next year.

Eddie's presentation, "Living in Styal" gave attendees a fascinating insight into daily life inside the local female prison. Compared to bygone years when prison was merely a means of retribution, Eddie and his colleagues provide support and opportunities to help reintegrate women back into the community and hopefully stop the possibility of reoffending.



The talk covered the process that a woman would go through on her arrival to the prison, security issues and the type of accommodation that inmates live in. There were plenty of pictures in the presentation to enable attendees to have a clear picture of the environment that the women live, work and hopefully engage to change their lives.

Amongst this positive work that goes on every day, unnoticed by the general public or the media, is the Recycling Lives project that Eddie proudly described for its approach that has effectiveness at its core, rather than profits.

Eddie's decades of experience was evident from his well chosen anecdotes. Finally, a seven minute DVD clip illustrated an offender who was released after a lengthy sentence and had successfully changed her life around.



Next Wednesday is our Social night: 27th March 7.30 pm - 21 diners are booked to enjoy a 7 course tasting menu at Bombay to Mumbai. Sandeep has agreed to £25 per head.. Please purchase your own drinks at the bar and pass your dining fee to Andrew at the end of your meal.

Wednesday 3rd April is Committees night where we are due to be joined by a fellow Rotarian from Bulgaria and his son.

Ron agreed that he would staff the next Blind Run.

## 20 March Blind Bowling

The following is from an email from Harry:

This year's Walthew Cup took place yesterday (20th). It was a very enjoyable event and raised a bit of cash for Walthew House. Twelve teams competed, including two from Lamplighters and one from the e-club. I confidently expected to come last as usual, but we came within ten points of the "professional" team and thereby took the Cup! Doubtless my absence from the team helped enormously!

Cheers,  
Harry



## 17 March Worker Bee Market

A few snaps from Sunday when some very cold Rotarians began to publicise the Duck Race.



## 13 March Dragons' Den

After four years of saving up, the Club's second Dragons' Den extravaganza took place at Woodford Community Centre on the wet and windy evening of the 13th March.

Eight local charities lined up to plead their cause before a hard nosed panel of 'Dragons' in the hope of winning big money prizes - or at least a modest amount; the actual amounts being: 1st prize - £2000; 2nd prize - £1000; 3rd prize - £500 and the remaining participants £300.

The 8 charities were:

North West Stroke Community Choir,

Helping the Homeless into Housing,

Over the Rainbow for Motor Neurone Disease,

The Mill,

Special Needs Activity Group,

Lee's Sunshine Fund,

Ebony and Ivory Community Organisation

Kiera's Kingdom

They were each given five minutes to present their case with a further few minutes for the Dragons to quiz them, the Dragons being: Sue Day from Modiste, Ed Mascarenhas and Mike Messenger from Ed's Hair, Leighton Snow from Leighton Snow Independent Estate Agents and our very own comedy duo - Sarah and Steve - although they weren't very funny. The event was MC'd very professionally by Ian whilst Sue ensured the participants kept to their time limit with discrete rings of her bell.

Each charity put forward an interesting and compelling case, making the job of the Dragons pretty demanding. Light relief, however, was provided in the interval when the Stroke Community Choir and Ebony and Ivory put on an impromptu sing-song in Swahili, getting the audience to sing along. (I'm not sure what they were singing but thought I deciphered the word 'reesmogg', to which you can provide your own English translation!)

After serious deliberation and a vote by the members present, the esteemed Dragons failed to come to a definite conclusion and so 2nd and 3rd prizes were amalgamated and both Kiera's Kingdom and the Stroke Choir each received £750. The main prize, and clear winner, however, was Lee's Sunshine Fund, presented by Thelma Ridgway and dedicated to reducing young suicides. She spoke most movingly from experience as the fund is named after her son, Lee, who was a suicide casualty.

It was a very well organised and enjoyable evening, with thanks and a hearty "Well done" to all those involved.



**First Prize £2,000**



**Second and third shared £1,500**

It was a very well organised and enjoyable evening, with thanks and a hearty "Well done" to all those involved.

John Thewlis



**Speaker's eye view**



**"Combined" choirs**



**Only at a Rotary Event!**

## 27 February Committees

One advantage of writing the bulletin for Committee Night is that as secretary I have most of the words needed for Council minutes on Monday.

Steve opened the meeting with a surprise presentation to Michael of his Vice President chain of office. Michael now has the opportunity to wear two chains – Treasurer and VP.

Only eighteen members present, and Bob read out the details of those not present – excuses were, holiday, shopping, baby sitting and a friends birthday party.

An excellent meal from Jackie as usual; the pork was delicious.

**Secretary** – nothing to report

**Treasurer** - £2,000 in the general account; charity account now risen to £6,500 thanks to inputs from bulb sales by Harry, coin sales from Ian, and a mysterious £1,400 donation from Sainsbury's. Steve reminded council members that we should have some ideas for donations to charity for Mondays Council meeting.

Committee meetings were short, and we then got feedback

**Club Services** – Programme organised up to July, well done BobP. Bob commented that our speaker last week (the cheese lady) was very well received and we could do with more speakers of a similar vein – light hearted.

**International** – Harry took the opportunity to plug Walthew Cup March 20<sup>th</sup> and Gardening this Saturday. Neither of which are International but so be it.

Harry has been contacted by a Rotaractor from Kasisi who is in the UK would like to meet with Harry in Winchester and then visit us in Bramhall. He is waiting for further information from Carol in Kasisi about the projects she has highlighted. Lend with Care - £80 received and £60 allocated.

**Social** – Meal location for March 27<sup>th</sup> was subject to a vote by show of hands - Bombay to Mumbai was the choice. Presidents Night – meal details will be out in about 2 weeks. May8th will be a Brian treasure hunt and June will be Presidents BBQ.

**Ways & Means** – Further meeting of the Sleigh group who have decided that the team leaders will be asked to define the route they will follow and to identify which roads they will not go into (turnaround etc) and the published route details will show these in some way.

Event in Linney road – small presence required for a stall.

Village Square on Good Friday we will be combining with others for this Easter event.

Fashion show – still ongoing discussions with 2 newly opened shops in Bramhall, but no definite commitment from them.

Duck Race – Six sponsors recently signed up which is great, though not for large sums. Maggie thinks that support from Barclays may be doubtful this year.

Steve felt that although our safety record for the Duck Race was excellent, there was something more we could do. He had approached Harry, who had agreed to be Safety Manager on the day. Ian already ensures that participants such as the fairground have the necessary insurance paperwork.

**Community Service** – All arrangements are in place, brochures being printed. Note – no food available; there will be a bar for tea/coffee/drinks. Smart casual wear.

**Communications** – Copy to “Inside Bramhall” being prepared for next Monday deadline.

## 20 February Cheese Making

This meeting turned out to be different from our normal speaker meetings. We were advised that a product was going to be made & we could taste & buy thereafter.

We all met for our dinner ably prepared by Jakki & served by her & Claire. Salmon, Lasagne, Chicken Curry, Chips, Potatoes, Peas, Carrots & Salad.

The President then introduced our 'new member' Chris Monkhouse & Dev. Pam Lacey & Oriane Stevenson as well.

Apologies were given to us by Bob Preece. Gill working away & Andrew, Ron In Madeira at his timeshare. Pam on a Hospital visit.

Harry stood up to sell the park getting £2000 from Tesco if a number of us turned up on Saturday to do some heavy digging.

Satish mentioned the concert at BHS at 7.30pm invited people to attend.

Bob Stevenson gave a summary on Dragon's Den. 8 organisations had been selected. We needed Rotarians to be present at Woodford Community Center to help with the final votes.

After the meal we had our normal coffee break whilst our speakers prepared for their presentation.

Then Faye Kitching introduced herself & her sister Theresa as

Cheese  Making Demonstrators from Chipping Preston. Before them was a vast number of cheeses & associated items & a cheese making spot.

Faye then proceeded to tell us about 96% Fat Free milk - 98 Fat Free-Skimmed Milk. Milk can be used from Cows, Sheep, Goats, Buffalo, Camels & Donkeys.

Leagram Organic Dairy( Producers of High quality, traditional hand made cheeses) only use



Pasteurised Milk. ( Heat heater used- 4 hours in a steam jacket). Their cows milk comes from one organic Farm as does their sheep's milk. Goats milk comes from a small farm in Cheshire.

Once pasteurised they add a 'starter culture' then the milk begins to grow. When the starter culture has done its work & colour has been added a vegetarian rennet is added, which sets the the milk into junket( sometimes eaten as a sweet desert, similar

to blancmange.)

Once set they turn into Curds & Whey. The cutter they use is over 120 years old. Once cut they have to separate the curd from the whey. This is very hard work. Once the whey has been drained the curd is rubbed ready to be worked.

Once ready the curd can be milled ready to add salt( approx 12% of the total content) all mixed in by hand for an even mix. The curd are then put into into 15kg, 9kg, & 400g moulds. The moulds are placed into their hydraulic presses & left for 24 hours.

The cheeses are then allowed to dry, before they are waxed, all done by hand in their little



waxing trolley. After waxing the cheese are turned on a regular basis to keep an eye on even flavour. The cheeses are subsequently graded, to make sure the cheese smells & tastes correct, but also to see if the cheeses have reached maturity & are ready for market. Leagram also make soft curd cheese, Red for Sheep, Yellow for Cow, & Green for Goat. Using their cut board the cheeses are cut into different shapes depending on what a customer wants. Wedges for Farmers Markets, is cut by hand ready to be vacuum packed . Leagram make 1 ton of cheese a month ( Cathedral make 150 tons a day). The whey is largely sold as cattle feed.

Rotarians were then given-an opportunity to sample,& buy various cheeses. Leagram has built up a strong recommendation through their father & the family tradition is being continued, with for example Fayne being invited to judge the Nantwich Show

Questions were then asked before our President Stephen closed the meeting , so we could sample & buy Leagram Products.

A very enjoyable & worthwhile meeting for all ! Bob Stevenson



## 13 February Trademarks

We welcomed 5 members of RC Wilmslow Dean, who were on a safari covering the clubs in the old District 1050. Many regretted its passing as nearby clubs do not seem to interact as well since.

David Rose led the meeting as pressie Steve was unavailable. Luckily David has lost none of the skills acquired over his Presidency!



Whilst awaiting food, we learned that Harry once again wanted human diggers in Bramhall Park the following weekend, and that Pat H was doing well after her recent hip renewal. No more left to be done Pat!

Pam W was our speaker for the evening. Pam was a Trademark Attorney, and her talk focussed on the area of patents, and particularly on Intellectual Assets, including trade marks, designs and copyright. This is an area that few of us knew much about, so it was particularly interesting to note that aspirin and Hoover have lost their protection, whilst CocaCola and Apple's image rights are still fiercely protected. This is an area that can mean a great deal to the value of a particular brand.

Pam was thanked for a most interesting talk after many questions.

A resume of most of our Club's activities followed in order to give our visitors a rounded view of what we actually did. So Maggie summarised Ways & Means, Satish our forthcoming Dragon's Den (23 applications finally, to be whittled down to a final 8), Harry - International, Bob Preece - Club Services, and finally Brian on our Social Activities.

Brian Shelmerdine wrapped up the evening with a prognosis of forthcoming club demise, for all clubs in the old 1050 – not especially ours - unless we all manage to introduce new members. He was nevertheless, very pleasantly surprised to find out how active we were!

On that reassuring note the meeting concluded just before 10.30. Dennis

## **6 February Committees**

There had been problems with the kitchen at the Ladybridge Club but even so 22 hardy Rotarians turned out for committees on a cold miserable February night despite there being no dinner available!

### **Treasurers Report – Michael Lacey**

Michael was on holiday but sent in his treasurers report to council. General account is healthy and could accommodate some unplanned spending. Charity account has £4,789 and there is no planned /committed expenditure at present. Although not essential, we do like to keep £1,000 in the charity account for any sudden needs.

### **Club services – Bob Preece**

Speakers have been booked up until May. President Steve complimented Bob P on creating such a full programme for the future and in organising the many interesting speakers.

### **International – Harry Hill**

Lend-with-Care: They have informed us that Zimbabwe is prohibiting trading from shacks and this will probably affect the very small traders. Harry has checked and advised that we have only one person we have lent to with the princely sum of £30 outstanding.

RC of Kasese, Uganda: Sue has been in correspondence with Carol and she has requested our support for two of their Rotary projects. One involves the building of a house (cost of £1,000) for a poor elderly widow in the village of Lhuhwahwa. It was agreed that we would make a contribution of £500 towards the cost of the house. The second project involved approximately £5,000 costs, over a period of four years, to support young twin boys who are approaching their secondary education. The boys have a degenerative muscle wasting disease and require residential accommodation along with ongoing physiotherapy. Harry agreed to contact Carol to get more information as we think this project might be suitable for a Rotary Grant.

March 23rd: Harry and Bob S will attend a Global Grant seminar

Social – Gill Critchley

Gill was away on holiday and Brian was absent

Wednesday February 20th – Dinner at Silk Road

Friday 12th April – Presidents Night Pinewood Hotel, a disco has been booked.

### **Ways and Means – Maggie Hill**

Santa Sleigh: The team reviewing the Sleigh rounds have had a successful first meeting. They intend to change the leaflets giving the order of the float rounds and the maps and the team leader instructions in order to improve clarity and detail.

March 17th: B&W presence will be provided for the Bramhall Worker Bee Market in Linney Road. It was felt that this would help to promote the Duck Race.

April 20th: The club will participate with the Easter Bunny festivities, again it will provide us with publicity.

The spring fashion show maybe a problem as the shops are changing but options are being explored.

Duck Race: venues and Scouts have been booked and large ducks have been bought. We may need to buy some more marquees. It is of concern that we do not yet have sponsors for the Duck Race, despite Ian's best efforts..

### **Community – Bob Stevenson**

Bob made an announcement to the club to request understanding. Thirty five years ago he was successfully treated at Christies for the removal of a brain tumour but recently he and his family have noticed that his speech and word retrieval skills are not always as effective as he would want. After extensive neurology investigations the good news is that there are no new tumours. However, the scar site from the old operation is ageing and now causing problems with his speech and this becomes even worse when he is tired. Hence Bob asked for patience and understanding if at times he appears to be struggling for words or if his voice is slow and sounds slightly slurred, he assures us it is not due to excessive drinking!

Swanbourne Gardens have been advised of the available budget from the Christmas collection and are putting together a wish list for us to purchase.

March 13th: Dragons Den. There are currently eight applicants with a further two weeks to go.

April 14th: Meal packing is set to take place Glossop. Six packers signed up at £50 each paid for by the Club. More packers are required.

### **Communications – Ian Dobson**

Issues mainly covered by Ways and Means. Sue has volunteered to take over the organisation of the local school choirs for this year's Duck Race.

President Steve is away for the meeting on February 13th and so ex-president David will chair the meeting. He was meant to do the bulletin but a request was made for someone else to do this for him. The meeting ended at 9:30pm.

Sue Preece

## 16 January 2019 Figen Murray

Bramhall and Woodford Rotary.

I'm uploading this and would be grateful to others who were there last night if they could add to this too. I think she deserves more than just my words on last night, a team effort would be nice! Thanks in advance guys



What an extraordinary evening we had at Rotary last night. I was completely blown away with our guest speaker Figen Murray as were the rest of the club members and guests. I really don't know where to start. It's true to say that it was an evening that

should not have been missed. I had previously said to Harry that I was dreading this evening as it is going to be incredibly difficult to listen to a lady talk about the death of her son. But in actual fact it wasn't, it was inspirational, it was more than that, it was completely overwhelming. Hearing Figen Murray talk so passionately in graphic detail about the events, the aftermath and the emotional devastation herself and her family faced in the light of the Manchester Arena Bombing gripped us all. Her son Martyn Hett had his life tragically and savagely taken that night in the terrorist attack on 22nd May 2017. Figen Murray and her family's life changed forever. Her story will stay with me forever. As note taker I hardly wrote a thing because I was utterly mesmerised by Figen. However, what I did write is 'I think very important and after meeting Figen at Rotary, the ultimate message that she is so desperately trying to get out there; Forgiveness. The Power of not being angry. The Importance of not feeling bitter. (It is self-destructive to carry bitterness around for the rest of my life)

It goes without saying that this was very upsetting last night, and typing these notes is hard to do. I'm so grateful that I got to meet Figen and to hear her story, and to learn about Martyn Hett. The boy with the Deidre Tattoo.

Food Good.

Guests. A few! Fiona Calder. Fiona Bates. Cath Spencer. And maybe some more??? Help!

Kate



Brian Dougal added:

I always knew Figen would give a memorable talk, even though I only knew her socially and had never heard her make a formal presentation. Shame so many key members of the club were out of the country and missed it ?

Leaving the terrorism aspect aside, it was so relevant she could speak to society's inability to stop the pendulum in the middle and avoid extremes. After the 1st World War returning soldiers with appalling psychiatric damage from gas attacks and being buried alive in trenches were regarded as "wimps" to be despised. Now apparently just hearing a talk by someone of alternative views causes misery. Hence why Figen had to give up counselling – as she said, how could she empathise with "snowflakes" (term not used to an unknown audience like Rotary of course) with what she has gone through ?

Kate - everyone I know who hears her speak ends up lost for words. Don't feel bad at not being able to capture the essence of her talk. Nobody can. I assume that's why the Home Office is getting her in front of as many vulnerable groups as possible ?

For clarity the ex-Round Table WAGs were:

Fiona Bates (Mark – hampers), Helen Calder (soon to be married to Peter Glover), Fiona Renwick (Peter the excellent Float driver), Cath Spencer (Terry). And Jan of course!

## 9 January - Float Quiz Night

No write up but these photos are a good memory jogger!



