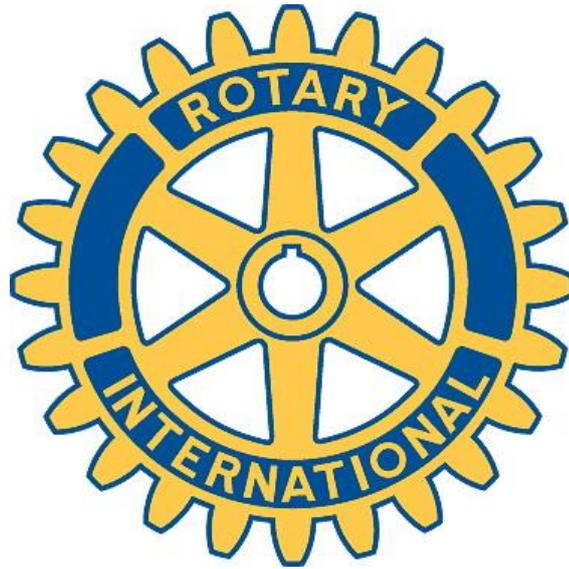


July 2019



Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

3rd April to 30th June



PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS – JUNE 2019

The last twelve months have just flown by. No sooner than have I got used to the idea of being President then the time has arrived for the chain to be passed on to Michael. So I guess now is the time for reflection: we have continued with our usual big and small fund raisers allowing us once again to provide donations to worthwhile causes. The Christmas Hamper project came into its own and we successfully involved several other Rotary clubs from our Cluster Group. Dragons' Den was a first class evening.

We have had a good programme of weekly events at the Ladybridge Club with some very interesting and thought provoking speakers. Social events have been varied with several outside excursions sometimes involving only a select few of us but nonetheless very enjoyable.

There have been several personal highlights for me but most notable was the President's Dinner at the Pinewood in April. I was delighted as most of my close family members were there and the memory of the "interruption" will live with me for a long time.

I am not proposing to mention individual members as I regard Rotary to be team effort. That said, I am extremely grateful to those who have provided some very wise counsel at various times throughout the year.

My thanks to all the hard working members, Club Officers and Committee Chairmen for the support given but more importantly for achieving another successful year.

Finally, my best wishes to Michael in his coming year as President and I hope he enjoys the experience as much as I have.

Steve Littlewood

30th June President's farewell dinner

Fifteen members/guests enjoyed an excellent meal at Silk Road in Bramhall to "celebrate" the end of Steve's Presidency.



Much less celebratory was the reveal of Gill's resignation. She leaves with no ill feeling – just too much to do on Wednesdays. We can expect to see her at events and meals though.

Michael



26th June Mental health – Andrew Turnbull

The meeting was opened by President Steve, as it was his last Presidential duty he was resplendent in Rotary Regalia. Much ribald cheering followed, but, the groundlings refrained from throwing missiles.

Apologies from members Michael L, John S, Bob and Sue P. And Bob S. all on holiday and Bruce who chose an an Eagles Concert in preference! Gill working and Kate



poorly, hope she's better soon.



Steve read the Charter and welcomed Rob Sweeting as a new member. Rob is a Chartered Accountant and has spent time with British Aerospace, he is currently lecturing in Venture Capital at Manchester University.

Following the usual splendid meal, Dennis introduced our speaker, Andrew. The subject of Andrew's talk was Mental Health, the causes of stress and possible treatments. He neglected the fact it was causing me stress to complete the bulletin and do justice to his talk. Andrew is eminently qualified. He has a Masters in Neuro Linguistic Programming and a B.A. Hons in Applied Human Communication, (understanding the structure of people's thinking, psychotherapy, hypnosis and Neurological factors,.... seventeen modules in all.) Andrew began by giving us these worrying statistics:- that twenty per cent of children have mental health problems, one in four adults have diagnosed mental health problems and that suicide is the biggest killer of men under forty in the United Kingdom. Possible reading- Victor Frankl's book Holocaust Survivor, which tells Man's search for a meaningful life despite traumatic experiences. We all experience different events and interactions in our lives that affect the way we think and how we behave. We interpret and deal with these in different ways. Some beliefs can be based on misinterpretation of past experiences and in accepting these beliefs, we forget they are merely our interpretation. E.g. a thirty year old male's partner did not like the fact he wouldn't admit to smoking Cannabis and wanted him to admit it and seek treatment. The smokers way of handling it was to lie as he didn't want conflict. Figan Murray's Mother had a very Christian attitude of forgiveness towards the terrorist who killed her son at the Manchester Arena bombing. Other people may feel bitter and seek revenge It must be rewarding for Andrew that his long hours of study have in many

cases explained the deep seated cause of his patients anxieties. His then skilful choice of appropriate treatment either, counselling, hypnotherapy or psychotherapy result in them having a happier life. It maybe a cliché but, 'if I have helped somebody along the way then my living has not been in vain.' It has helped that the younger Royals and some TV personalities have spoken openly of their mental health issues and their mechanisms to overcome them. Everybody has problems and if they can find an appropriate avenue to discuss them openly then they can potentially be helped. Good Luck to Andrew on this new and very worthwhile change of career.



I have attempted to summarise a very complex subject and its associated remedies. If I have neglected some aspects of a most interesting talk I apologise.

Neil

19th June Treasure Hunt

A small but perfectly formed group of 9 Rotarians and 4 guests met at the Victorian to take part in a treasure hunt around the centre of Bramhall. After a pleasant drink we received our instructions and question sheets from Brian, who had organised the event, very well as it turned out.

Groups of two or three then set off in no great rush to answer the three sheets of questions Brian had posed. Two sheets were of the "outside" and the third was for The Mounting Stone and No78 Gin Bar which had both indoor questions and the opportunity for more leisurely dinks – opportunities well used.

At the end we abandoned the plan to meet and eat in the Long Bar because there was a huge crowd of young people noisily enjoying themselves. So we all met in No78 and those who had not eaten enjoyed pizzas delivered to the gin bar from Pix Pizza.

Brian then revealed the answers to the questions and it turned out that we had all done well but my team were the winners by a whisker or two.

Another G&T and so to bed.

Michael



12 June Dr. Aravind Vijayaraghaven-Graphene

President Steve opened the meeting . Bob P filling us in with Members who couldn't attend, I think mostly holidaying.
The fashion show was a huge success, all sold out with a lot of new faces at the event with some lovely outfits from Caro and swim wear from What Lyes Beneath . Maggie had yet again done a splendid job of organising it all.
Dennis has a walk planned,I think for this coming Friday , and Saturday bulb planting in the park organised by Harry.

Brian's Quiz this Wednesday starting at 7.00 from the Vic in Bramhall.



Speaker for the evening - Dr.Aravinid Vijayaraghaven attended university in India and is now at Manchester ac U.K. He is a reader at the school of Materials.

Graphene is a single sheet of Graphite, it is also the first 2 dimensional material and can be extended in 2 directions.

There has been a studying Graphene for the last 60 years.

Carbon Atoms are Deposited on the surface of metal. Selophane is the best practical way of demonstrating Graphene, but only on a small scale, it becomes less pure used along with other materials and on larger scales.it is transparent and bendable, it can be Moulded and added to other materials.

Uses-: used to filter and used in Medical application. Nano Medicine and other bio- medical application.

It has been used in sports shoes making the rubber more flexible.

For every one present at the meeting the depth of the talk was very interesting, information can be found on the web sight.

Pat



11 June Spring Fashion Show

Harry's Facebook post:

Some pictures from last night's Fashion Show in Tre Ciccio in Bramhall. Organised by the Rotary Club of Bramhall and Woodford and featuring Caro and What Lyes Beneath, funds raised will go to providing child-friendly theatre gowns for patients in Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. Huge thanks to Tre Ciccio for hosting us, to Caro and What Lyes Beneath for providing their wares, and particularly to the models (Rotarians included) for making the whole thing ZING!





05 June Committees

Much to the delight of our juggler of catering numbers, Bob P, nineteen members and one guest attended this week's meeting. Our guest was an old friend, Rob Sweeting who very kindly came to help us on Duck Race Day, for which we are very grateful. Few of us managed to chat with him on the day as he was busy working his socks off in the ticket sales booth and so this was an excellent opportunity for him to relax and put his socks back on and us to have a proper catch up chat with him. Hopefully he will find time to come and visit us much more often from now on.

Brian made a welcome return. Indeed, so welcome was he, he was allowed to sit on the top table with Mr President no less, though as we will see later it was no advantage when it came to food time.

After Steve had reminded us all that we were entering the final month of his Presidency and the cheering had subsided, Bob gave his list of apologies. There was the usual selection of gallivanter and workers, one in Switzerland, two cruising, one in France. I'll leave you to guess who was where, not wishing to make life too easy for you. It should be noted that Steve perfected the art of bell ringing and achieved total silence with one ring. How did he do it?

Kate arrived a little late but better late than never I say and Denise joined us after the meal.

Steve took the lazy way out AGAIN and let chaos reign as everyone was allowed to make a dash for the food together. A good way of finding favour with every table... or maybe no table.

Dennis reminded us about the Rotary walking club which he is going to co-ordinate. He will be leading the first walk and then he is hoping that other members will lead a variety of walks of between 3 and 5 miles, ending with a meal or refreshments at a suitable venue. The most popular time for people to join the walks seemed to be Friday mornings though Dennis proposed that we should do an evening walk on the fifth Wednesday in July as there will be no meeting.

Harry appealed for help in planting some of the hundreds of Summer bulbs kindly donated by Notcutts, on the rock garden in Bramhall Park. Satish, Ron and Maggie agreed to help the next day. (I can vouch for the fact that dozens of dahlias, lilies, and gladioli have been planted.) There will be another gathering of Bramall Hall gardeners on Saturday but it is likely that it will be an indoor planning session unless the black clouds are blown away.

John M gave us a fascinating and well timed interlude whilst we waited for our pud about his experiences as a young boy in Petersfield when a broken down tank was parked in his village much to the delight of the children.

Steve's plans to have a speedy committee time were thwarted by Satish who asked for more time for the Community Services group.

After a little more time Satish reported that we had been invited to Swanbourne Gardens to see the sensory equipment which we bought for them in action, all £2,499.60 of it.

He also announced that the three winners of Dragon's Den would be visiting us to explain how they have used their winnings. It was agreed that they should come on three separate evenings in October or November.

Satish's Committee is eager to form an alliance with Cheadle Club with a view to helping with their dementia club. He is keen for us to visit other clubs including those further afield such as Bulgaria following a visit to our club by a Bulgarian Rotarian who was visiting his son at Manchester Uni.

Harry and Sue (International) agreed that a visit to Bulgaria combining Rotary visits and sight-seeing should be arranged.

Harry told us that our Lendwithcare scheme was still working well and all but £16 has been invested.

He spoke about an email forwarded by John S from Filip Rakszewski who wants to volunteer for a charity which builds children's playgrounds in East Africa. So far the charity has trained 60 apprentices to build the playgrounds and has built over 200 of them. We should consider whether to support his scheme.

We also heard that another International evening was in the pipeline which would hopefully include an evening with about 8 international students here in the club. This is always a lovely interesting event which we can all look forward to.

Brian told us of his next Social event, a treasure hunt around Bramhall in two weeks' time. It will begin in The Vic between 7.00 and 7.30 and last approximately an hour. The answers to the clues will be found on the streets and within various hostelrys. Harry seemed worried that the clues would be 'complicated' shall we say with Brian setting them so everyone should start studying Brian's train of thoughts now.

Ian was unusually quiet with nothing to report. Was it that he was trying hard to hold back the tears after being forgotten by Satish earlier when he thanked Maggie and Harry for their hard work on the Duck Race? Maybe one day we'll find out- if he ever comes back to Rotary again.

A.O.B. John M. Told us that we had had a request from the Poynton club to borrow gazebos and a marquee and the new Cheadle Royal group who helped on the car park on Duck Race Day wished to borrow our can toppling game. It was agreed that it was a sensible idea to share resources with other clubs.

This Monday's Council meeting will include incoming heads of committees as well as present ones.

Maggie.

24 May Duck Race Celebration BBQ



22 May Duck Race Debriefing

The meeting started at our new earlier time of 7 for 7.30. The change was agreed since most of us are no longer gainfully employed and don't therefore have to get back early from work. One enthusiastic supporter of the idea was Kate. She was late. (But not by much.)

Eighteen members attended and we were joined by Rob Sweeting (enthusiastic volunteer at the DR), and Kayleigh and Colette, fundraisers for Together Trust and Beechwood respectively.

There were several items of business before the debrief proper. Bruce was presented with a cheque for £100 after his granddaughter's duck won a race; we were told that Vida had won a third place prize; Bob S won a prize for selling a winning ticket; and we all benefitted from the gift of a box of chocolates for finding and returning a lost mobile phone.

Dennis suggested a club walking group which would meet once a month or so. This was warmly welcomed by a large number of those present though for me at least it will involve the purchase of some stout shoes or boots.

The final item before the DR debrief was introduced by Michael. Council has twice discussed the annual subscription and the weekly meal cost. Although we do not have to aim for a profit we must make sure we are not losing money at a rapid rate. Council recommended a 10% increase in subs (£110) with meals kept at £12. This gives a likely loss of just over £200 over the year. The suggestion was agreed unanimously.

At last (I hear you say) on to Duck Race business. Our charity guests spoke first. Kayleigh (TT) was very complimentary about our efforts. She passed on some comments from one of the bus drivers: consider a route from Davenport; what about a T-shirt or similar to indicate the drivers' involvement; and have better signage at Duck Bus stop. Colette (BW) said everyone enjoyed it. She was on duty at the stall-holders' car park and was underemployed. Satish commented that her husband Mark, who lent himself and his van, was an excellent driver and stacker.

Next Maggie took to the floor after chiding Mr President for pinching her best comments in his introduction of her. The volunteers were numerous and competent, not only from the two charities but also family members and other sundry folk (details on request!). The buses were well used and ran without a hitch. A driver had suggested decorating them inside to enhance the day's experience and also wanted destination boards on the front of the buses. A brief discussion centred around the likelihood of the buses having these built in just above the cab. An important point was that we should ask for low-level access buses to help those with pushchairs.

Set up was less smooth than it could be. Items were delivered but then went missing, losing a lot of valuable time. Gazebos were not all positioned as planned and some went up on the riverside which obstructed the view of the races. Setup at the upper site was delayed and disrupted by a power failure in the Hall (fancy not foreseeing that!)

More importantly four large ducks were moved out of the way and were not registered at the Tote tent. They all eventually entered a race but not the ones

they should have been in. A handful of people were allowed to place a bet on large ducks which were not actually present, something which is embarrassing and illegal.

Ian's PA system (absent last year) worked well although it was not clearly audible at the race start. Initially it was completely inaudible but moving the "Mute" switch greatly improved things.

Ian himself delivered a rather downbeat summary (typical banker if you ask me!) although Leighton Snow and Mathnasium were both full of praise for our efforts. I think his comments can all be addressed for next year (see below for overview.)

We then moved on to considering the changes and improvements we could make for next year. Sarah had sent her comments to Maggie: use walkie-talkies to send results to Tote tent; put results board outside Tote; give the boards a good clean; dismantling needs teams like the morning erection teams; what about a Facebook Live session; and what about a Go-Pro camera on a duck. This last has been done, says Bruce.

Most issues can be avoided by better and written communication (I'm summarising and paraphrasing). We need a large-scale map of both sites on which individual stalls can be placed. More Rotarians on the day would be useful to guide volunteers, and it would be enormously helpful if those likely to be present on the day are able to attend planning meetings well beforehand.

President Steve's feelings are entirely clear: this was yet again a fantastically successful event which everyone seemed to enjoy immensely. I wholeheartedly agree. We may know what went slightly adrift, but no-one who matters (the public) had the faintest idea. And with that we can look forward confidently to next year's Duck Race.

Finally, no meeting next week (fifth Wednesday), no "Blind Run" on Monday (Bank Holiday), and Committees on June 5th, 7 for 7.30.

Harry

15 May Duck Race Briefing

20 members plus Ashok Popat and Kaylie from the Together Trust attended the meeting.

Maggie reported that ticket sales for the fashion show were going well with requests so far for around 50 tickets. Ian said that over the last three years he had raised £1000 from the sale of donated jewellery and old coins. A vote was held on the proposal to start the meetings half an hour earlier. (The President's stomach is usually rumbling by 7.30). This was passed by an overwhelming majority, so from next Wednesday, 22nd, we will meet at 7.00 for 7.30pm.

Maggie then commenced her briefing. Every aspect of the Duck Race has been carefully planned but unfortunately, despite repeated requests, the Council have still not removed the fallen tree that completely blocks the lower field. They are saying it will be done but it may be at the very last minute. There are also two trees that have fallen across the stream which the Scout Master considers a hazard.

The Duck Race day starts 6.45 with Dennis and John M manning the gate for the arrival of the fairground and ensuring they keep to their allotted area. At 8.00 the van arrives with the contents of the Hillbrook garage and erection of the gazebos commences. John T is supervising the erection of the two marquees. At 9.00 the stall holders start to arrive and are directed to their allotted areas. There is not enough room for members to park at the end of the field by the fairground. Bob S is trying to get the gate to the guide hut behind NISA opened and ask if we can use that car park. We cannot use Brookdale car park. Chris is supervising the car park stewards. Bruce will again take on the role of Duck Master and start all the races. We have four ticket selling points and we need to sell as many tickets as possible to make up for the poor sales before the day. John M emphasised that we must be careful not to sell tickets for races that have ended. The times of the races are in the programme and ticket sellers need to keep a check on where the races are up to. The pony and carriage are now coming. Ian has meal vouchers for all the scouts. There are lots of volunteers coming but we are short of Rotarians to supervise them. Harry is Safety Officer but everyone should be on the lookout for any potential hazards. There are two first aid posts, one at the stable block and one at the scout tent. Caroline is supervising the upper site where there are 18 stalls in the walled garden and courtyard. Ian reported that we will have seventy three stalls in total, a fairground, eight food stalls, three ice cream vans, the AA, Mercedes cars and a fire engine. There are sixteen entertainers making a cast of four hundred! We need as many people as possible to stay on after 4.00 to clear up the park.

In view of the problem of the fallen trees, a plan B committee was formed consisting of Steve, Maggie, Ian, Harry, John T and Bob P. If the trees have not been moved by Friday morning there will be a meeting of the plan B committee at 2.00pm in the café.

Steve thanked everyone for the work that they had done, especially Maggie and Ian and looked forward to another successful Duck Race.

Bob

8 May Committees Kathryn Dobson – The Gambia school library

As mid-May is fast approaching, our annual Duck Race fever and last minute preparations gripped the Club this evening.

17 Rotarians, a guest and speaker Kathryn Dobson, enjoyed a delicious steak and ale pie, amongst other choices. A hearty congratulations to President Steve for making this culinary request!

Apologies from John T, Kate, Neil, Michael, Brian and Gill. May you all return safely from your travels and recuperate from your illnesses.

Advanced notice was given of a Treasure Hunt in mid June, courtesy of Brian.

Maggie promoted the forthcoming fashion show, planned for 11th June. Caro, a new shop in Bramhall village, will showcase their merchandise alongside What Lies Beneath.

To promote ticket sales, please also mention that we have a singer, Laura Jane, a welcome drink and a 2 course meal culminating with a warm chocolate tart and pistachio ice cream.

Please sign up your fashionista friends. They will be contributing to the Club's purchase of new child friendly gowns for Manchester Royal's children's dept.

As the Club exists to raise money for good causes, the next bit is in bold...

John M urged the following actions in order to address the unprecedented lack of Duck Race ticket sales:

Return ticket stubs to John M. ASAP

Email John M with additional slots when you or friends of Rotary can sell tickets.

Be enthusiastically proactive when selling tickets.

To help us and increase their own custom, the Dairyground Co-op are also offering Prosecco prizes for sales of Duck Race tickets this Friday only (see Facebook).

Keen horologists were delighted to learn that there is now, for the first time in 80 years, a sundial in proud place between the Archery Lawn and Bramall Hall. The necessity of sunshine in Manchester for a sundial to be of practical use was highlighted by members.

Harry also promised a fun-filled 2 hours of digging and weeding and a free hot drink for horticultural fans, skilled or unskilled. Inexplicably, Harry's offer is irrespective of religious affiliation!? Meet 10am Saturday, next to the stocks and sundial.

Onto our excellent speaker; Kathryn Dobson thanked her Club member father, Ian, for his support in enabling Kathryn to spend her year between Bramhall, teaching at York University, Japan and The Gambia GM.

Of the hugely impressive 71 countries that Kathryn has visited, the subject of tonight's talk was her considerable efforts to enhance library facilities in a school in The Gambia.

With a total population of 1.7 million people, The Gambia, in West Africa, is the continent's smallest country. Life expectancy is 59, contrasted with 81 in the UK.

The widespread poverty is partly explained by the country's poor soil quality but exacerbated by 22 years of President Jammeh's serious human rights violations between 1994 -2016. He attracted widespread criticism from the international scientific community for claiming he had cured AIDS / HIV with herbs, further endangering the lives of Gambians.

Kathryn has most recently spent 5 weeks in Medina Salam where the population rely on pumps and wells in the absence of running water or electricity. Due to her ongoing local efforts, Kathryn has now arranged collection and transportation of 24 boxes of books to the school's library, a rejuvenated former stock cupboard, lovingly transformed over weekends and evenings by Jane and volunteers such as Kathryn.

In her 23 years of going to The Gambia, Jane has set up a successful phonics programme to help very appreciative pupils acquire the English language skills necessary to significantly enhance their job prospects.

Kathryn's photos brought her Gambian experience to life for us; pictured amongst these were eight new, brightly painted and termite resistant metal bookshelves. They included a red one funded by our Club.

Kathryn's passion and determination shone through as she described the need for additional children's and adults' books, shipping costs and stationary to supplement the comparatively few educational resources there.

It was a fascinating reminder that, without Google Earth apps, many are still amazed at discovering their own country in an international context on an inflatable globe.

Of equal fascination was the simple joy of playing on the beach and swimming in the sea, a truly universal pleasure..

I just wanted to clarify that although it is the WYCE school and they are working in the village, all the fundraising I am doing is completely independent of the WYCE charity.

Post meeting clarification from Kathryn

It's a little confusing, but I just wanted to make it clear. If anyone in the club wants to make a donation of books etc they should speak to Dad (Ian Dobson) and if they are feeling moved to make a financial donation or read more they can see my facebook page which is regularly updated.

1 May Committees

President Steve opened the meeting with the very sad announcement the death of Wenda, Dennis's wife. After a period of silence for reflection, Steve confirmed that the funeral was at 11.30am on 13th May at Stockport crematorium. Support for Dennis was offered by many but we agreed to respect his wish for privacy at this sad time.

After the 18 members present gorged ourselves with the our usual favourites including with a great choice of puddings, John T. read out the various reasons for non-attendance and drew attention to those who had not communicated. Special mention was made of Kate who Harry described as a nice shade of pink following a holiday in the sun.

John Meeus urged us to fill the 50+!! empty sales slots for duck race tickets as there is just over 2 weeks to go. Maggie provided Easter eggs left over from the square as an extra sweet in return for a contribution to funds.

Committees:

Secretary - nothing to report

Treasurer - £1000 in charity account. Subs and meal charges will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Club Services - In Bob's absence John T. helpfully reported there was a programme.

Community Service - Bob S. suggested a visit to Bulgaria to visit the Sofia club with a view to twinning with the club. There was some support for this but it was noted to be a lot more expensive to visit there in October, than was suggested by the two visitors from the club. Bob thought it worth exploring with the international committee, a joint project in Uganda. Finally the idea of entertaining lonely elderly people with a lunch or other event has been discussed again. It was noted that after some contact with the Thursday Club in Cheadle, we made a donation of £500. Maggie made an



interesting suggestion of entertaining a few elderly people in our own homes, rotating between members on say a monthly frequency, but perhaps not offering a full meal. There was some support for this.

Social - Gill Said there would be no event in May but Brian would organise a treasure hunt on 19th June. The end point may be a pub! The annual BBQ would be held on 30th June at the Ryecroft Tennis Club.

International - nothing to report

Ways and Means - Maggie said that the Good Friday event in the square had gone well raising £342. Some good feedback had been received particularly about the pocket money stall. The next event is Paws in the Park on Monday 6th. The fashion show is being arranged for 11th June. There has been some consideration of which charity should benefit and, after a short discussion, it was agreed we should consider buying children's gowns for the children's ward at the Manchester Royal hospital. Preparation for the duck race is a full time occupation for Maggie. We are well supplied with helpers but short of experienced Rotarians to run things...PLEA!! Maggie has yet to complete the jobs rota. There is a need to clarify whether BHS is providing helpers. Posters and flyers are out but so far have only one offer of a van so may have to hire one. 120 ducks have been sold with the prospect of more. Maggie was reminded that the maximum number possible of ducks in any race is 18. Maggie was asked to organise meal tickets, if possible printing on them where they could be used.

Other business:

The usual plea from Harry from help in the garden at the hall on Saturday morning.

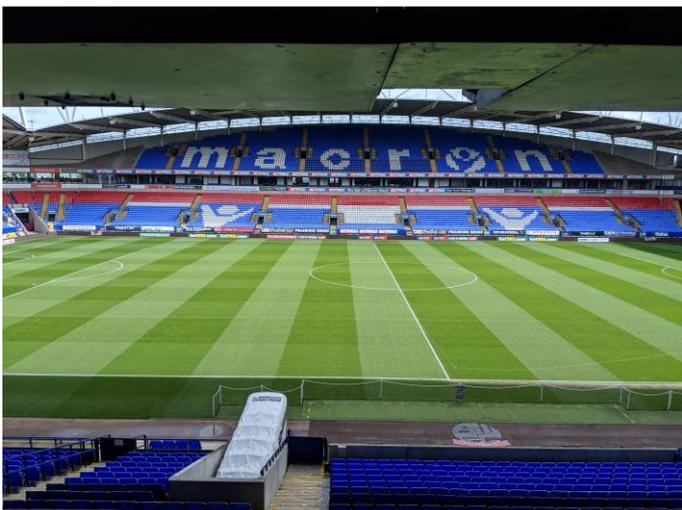
Sarah, John S and Michael attended the District Assembly, although after Sarah's comments, Michael decided he had not been at the same meeting! Sarah drew particular attention to this year's challenge that every member should try to bring one new person to one meeting in the year and that each club should aim to increase membership by a net one. Minutes of the meeting are promised on the district website...perhaps.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

Bruce

28 April District Assembly

This was held at Bolton Stadium. Michael, Sarah and John S attended. It was somewhat interesting in parts.



24 April Sam Addison – Global Sight Solutions

There were only 15 B&W Rotarians present, even our President Steve was absent due to sudden illness. There was a little confusion about who was to run the meeting but then David introduced Bob P as our stand-in. There were two guests, Sam Addison from the RC of Warrington and Rosemary Boardman, Assistant Governor for our District 1285. After our usual delicious dinner there were a few announcements. Maggie explained that the June fashion show was well under control and there were lots of flyers now available for the Duck Race. John M encouraged every Rotarian (and any kind friends) to populate the Duck Race sales ticket rota as there are another 60 slots to fill! Ian said that we have had lots of publicity for the day, and the Duck Buses, through local publications. We were pleased that Denise joined us after the meal bumping up our numbers to 16!! Bob P then introduced Sam who had come to talk to us about Global Sight Solutions.

The registered charity was founded in 1998 by Dr Sam Das MBE, former eye



surgeon and ophthalmic consultant at Guildford's Royal Surrey Hospital. He started the project in and around Kolkata (Calcutta) with a personal ambition to restore the sight of 1,000,000 people. He was aided by a generous grant system from Rotary Foundation and eventually this very worthwhile eye charity became Global Sight Solutions (GSS).

It is understood that there are an estimated 350-650 million people worldwide who, due to poverty, are just too poor to access the necessary medical solutions for themselves. Of that number around 50 million fall within a category often known as the avoidably, or preventably, blind. The vast majority of these 50 million people are in need of what is invariably a straight-forward 15 minute cataract operation. In the West each such operation can cost thousands of pounds but Global Sight solutions is can perform these operations at a fraction of the cost.

The charity, which provide free eye care to the poor, establishes eye hospitals in India, Africa and other economically emerging areas. Currently there are around 62 eye hospitals, but GSS are keen to open another 16 by 2020. Their aim is to increase the number of cataract operations undertaken each year from 100,000 to 175,000 by 2022 and to open 20 new hospitals by 2020. The eye project provides:

Training for eye surgeons

Microscopes and laser equipment etc.

Eye buses

Hospital transport

Mobile eye screening camps

Facilities for additional treatments

Self-sufficiency for all eye units

Cataract surgery, treatment of glaucoma, retinal detachment & diabetic retinopathy etc..

With your help we can enable the blind to see again and change lives. So what can we do?



Visit the Global Sight Solutions website which provides much more information.

www.globalsightsolutions.org

Fundraise for GSS as even a small donation of £5 can be used to restore someone's sight.

Use a shopping card, eg: Asda, which donates a small % to GSS which is another way to raise money with incurring costs to yourself.

Spread the word about this highly worthwhile charity which is supported by

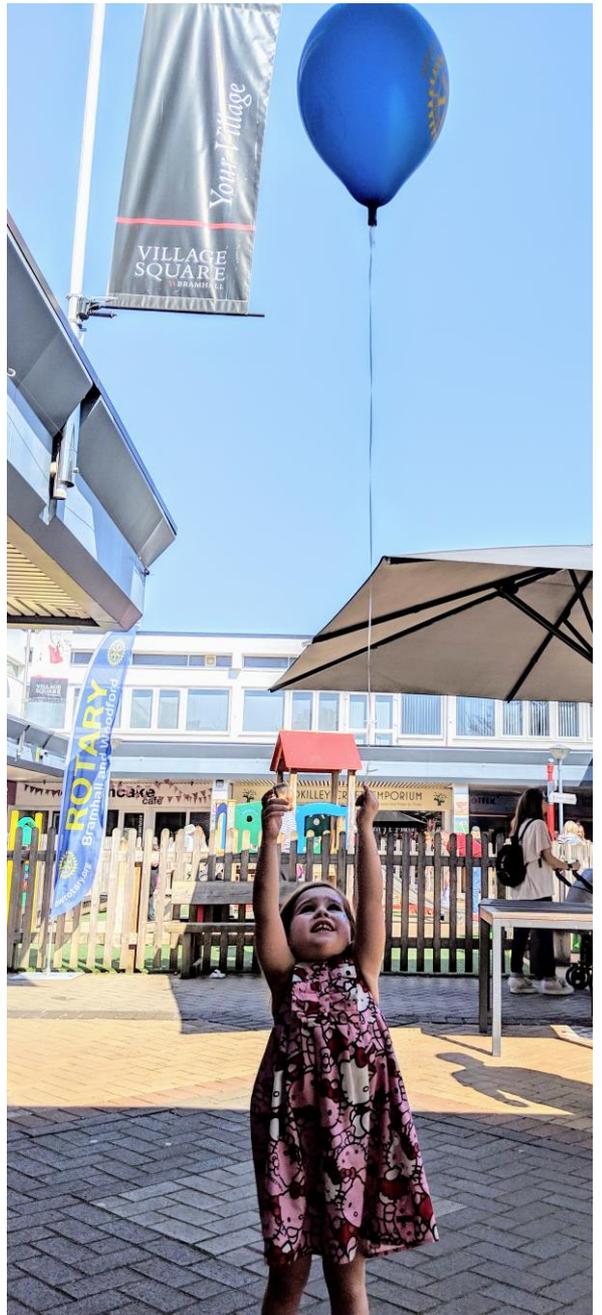
Rotary Foundation.

AOB:

Ian explained that two events originally booked for our Duck Race will now not be present - Dave Egerton band and horse carriage rides by the lake. For next week the bulletin writer is Bruce and the blind run is David. The meeting ended at 10:05pm.

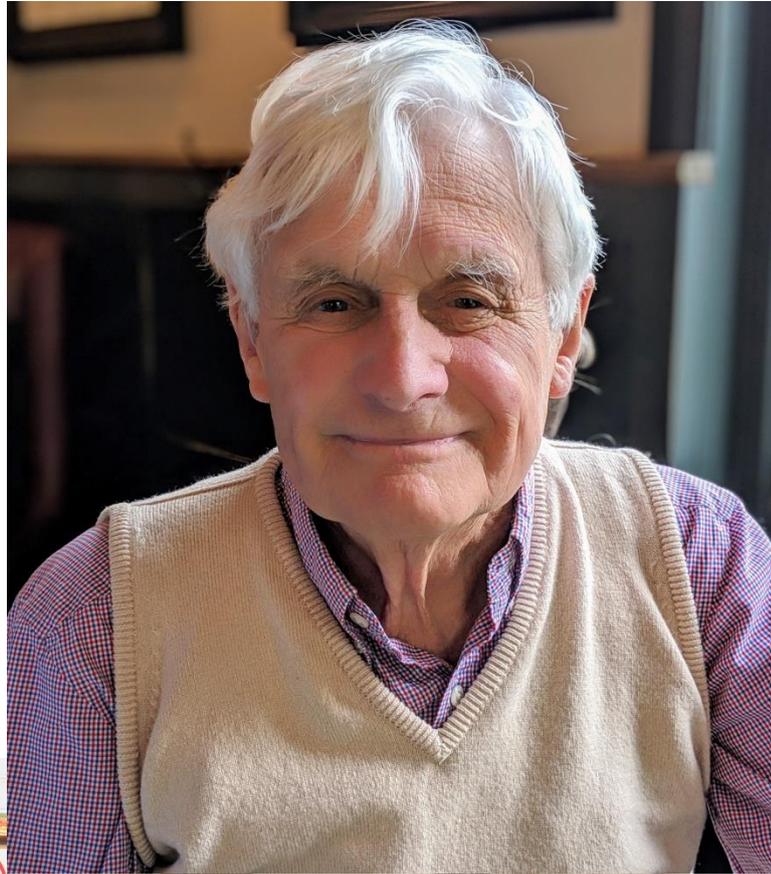
Sue Preece

19 April Easter Bunny Event



18 April Lunch with Sid

Michael and Chris enjoyed lunch at The Hesketh with ex members Sid Davies and Tony Burch



17 April Edward Leavy – Pioneering Minister

8.01 Mr President called the meeting to order and sat on the top table with Bob P and our guest, Mr Edward Leavy (Pioneering Minister). We all had to come to terms with a new seating arrangement which may be continued for future meetings. It was noted at this time that, after the shenanigans of President's Night last Friday, our erstwhile President was, once again, naked.

8.03 Food.

8.33 Mr Preece gave apologies. But only four. And that was it!

8.35 Bits of business included Mr Meeus talking about the Duck Race selling rota and selling tickets. Please put your name down as soon as possible. (About 60% of Club members have not as yet)

8.38 Mrs Hill said that the Fashion Show will be on Tuesday June 11th at Tre Cicchio. She was ably assisted by Ms Holmes in conveying the menu choices. Cost will be £22. Plus there was an update about the Good Friday event in the village square along with an appeal for help. 11.30 til 2.30.

8.45 Sweet

9.00 Coffee

9.08 Ms Geary arrived.

9.10 Mr Hill mentioned an Easter raffle being run by Walthew House and Mr Dobson read a congratulatory letter after our win in the recent Blindfolded 10 Pin Bowling challenge and passed a certificate to Mr President for safekeeping

9.15 Presentation on the Life Experiences of Mr Edward Leavy (Pioneering Minister)

This was one of those occasions when you had to be present to appreciate the content of the speakers presentation. Reporting through the medium of the bulletin will not do justice to the ground covered.

Grew up in Moss Side, father a pub landlord. Became an alcoholic. Got married, had two daughters. Still an alcoholic. Drink took control. Family left him. Walked into a detox centre where JJ became a friend and helped him for 3 years. He regaled us with tales of addiction and the excuses made not to give up drugs or alcohol. Now 23 years since he had a drink.

Had a few different jobs, wanted to learn to ride a horse, travelled across America alone taking AA meetings in La and other places.

He has a passion for the downtrodden and homeless. He has opened night shelters, drop-ins, started Chelwood Food Bank but his vision was to open a homeless drop in day and night centre in Stockport. He loaded us with some interesting statistics about the help given since 2014 when the Olive Branch drop in opened in Edgeley. There are currently eight homeless sleeping rough in the Stockport area. He said that everyone should be treated

“with love, compassion and kindness” and talked about “the madness of addiction be it drugs or alcohol”

He has been ordained as a minister but he did not talk about that aspect of his life.

Very interesting and eloquent.

A lengthy, lively and interesting eighteen minute question/answer session followed.

10.24 Final toast.

Ian

14 April Meal Pack in Glossop

Harry's Facebook entry was:

FEED THE WORLD!

This is what Rotarians do...Rotary packed 60,000 meal packs from 4 tons of raw ingredients to feed starving people in the third world on Sunday (14th April). The cost per meal is only 21p!

Glossop Rotary Club page Rotary International Rotary in NW England & Isle of Man



13 April Maia Choir at St Michael's

Not actually a Rotary event at all, but there was one of our members (Denise) in the choir and one (Michael) in the audience. It was a terrific performance.



12 April President's Night

Members, partners, friends, guests and fellow Rotarians from the Poynton and Lamplighters Clubs gathered at the Pinewood Hotel to celebrate the term of office of our President, Steve. The men looked dashing in their tuxedos; the ladies radiant in their evening wear.

Food, reverse bingo (with guest caller Ian Littlewood), and some background disco tunes led us all to the "main event" - Steve's speech and the legendary "interruption."

As is tradition, Steve had barely started to speak when he was stopped in his tracks and Harry, Michael and Gill posed the question "What do bankers actually do?" The answer in our President's case included running over your wife with a caravan and coaching a soccer team with a monumentally terrible goal difference.



"...Huddersfield Town you're going down"

The football theme continued as we were joined by the "Bard of Bramhall", John T, who, channelling Springsteen (or was it Dylan?) performed a unique and mournful lament for all Terriers supporters. With atmospheric backing from Harry on bongos!

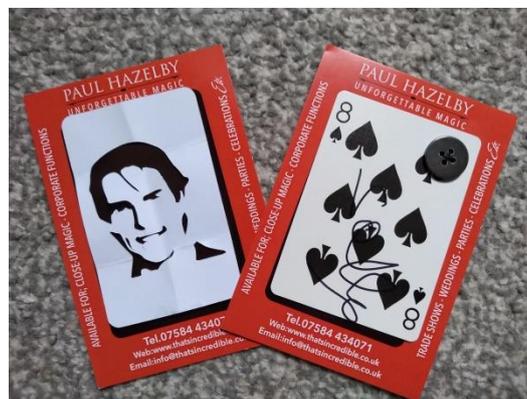
Steve's love of his Presidential chain was then commemorated with a special presentation by Maggie of an understated replica of said chain for Steve to treasure long after "his year" ends.



Proudly wearing his new 'gong,' Steve continued his speech introducing us to his three sons, Rick, Ian and Robert and their partners (two thirds of whom are called Natalie Claire and were not able to join us on the evening; hurrah for Hannah!). His self-confessed "ramblings" ranged widely from PP to the DMS to the preponderance of TLA in RI/RGBI.

Picking his top three events (in an as yet unfinished Rotary year) Steve highlighted the Hamper Pack, the moving talk from Figen Murray and Dragons' Den. He praised the Club for how we make a difference to our local area and for our team work and finished with thanks to Gill for the excellent organisation of the event.

Drinks, dancing and impressive close-up magic from Paul rounded off an enjoyable evening.



Sarah

3 April Committees



The meeting opened at 8pm with Steve (President) welcoming George & Julian Lekov from Sofia Bulgaria.

Another beautifully catered meal was then had- Salmon,Chicken Kiev,Lasagne followed by apple pie (hooray) + strawberries & cream.

Apologies were then read out . Dennis, John M, Chris M & Andrew (who is away).

Steve then asked George & Julian to take the floor.

George Lekov - VP Rotary Sofia 25 members number 15 started in 1933. Their biggest event last year a Ball where 40 attended from their own Rotary & others (Population of Bulgaria has reduced from 8 million to now 6 5 m. Sofia is in the middle of the Balkan

Peninsular neighbours Greece & Turkey  3hr flight son at Man University (Economics). George is a lawyer in his own small office. He said it would be nice to see Rotarians in Sofia.

Visit to exchange ideas & contacts. George presented Steve with his club banner.

Demographic problems in Bulgaria as population declines but Rotary Sofia has members from business & professions of all ages. The club made pedestrian crossings in the village where they meet & since then no accidents.

They support schools but want to learn how to raise money from our club initiatives & are looking for partners in other countries.George spoke of his country & its history & proud heritage- never part of Russia although part of the economic block .

Julian (his son) then spoke advising Bulgaria is a lovely country. 2nd year Student in Business & Economics at Manchester University & volunteers helping Oxfam (you will see him challenging people to help!) Julian is looking for an internship in Economics & Finance . Can any one help with this over the summer months.?

Steve thanked them & sent our greetings back to Sofia & directed George to start talking to Community Service after the Coffee break.

Coffee Break 15 minutes

Michael Lacey first to speak spoke about Inside Bramhall & the Domino effect that happened.

BobPreece spoke about Programme OK for speakers at the moment. However a valid suggestion if groups of Rotarians got together to organise evenings that would be appreciated ie Games or Qui z type night.

Bob S gave a report on the success of

Dragons  Den & the fact we need to keep in contact with all 30 entries particularly the top 8. 92 people attended on the evening. The committee had had a debrief & various items are worthy of considering next time we have a similar event. Bob S is to send a short report to District . Next time MEN / Radio ?

Other matters such as Swanborne & the footpath were discussed which are ongoing.

Harry - Lend with care now invested £1000. By diligent work this figure is up by £0.62.

Maggie & Harry have been on a trip to see . Very much into Conflict Resolution. He has been recognised by the UN. He is very Inspirational. Watch this space!

Global Grants discussed with Michael & BobS . Must be in by 20 /6.

Social (Michael standing in for Gill) Money for President's night pay immediately or at worst on the night a cheque , no cash please.

Ian for Maggie

Various matters with regard to the Duck Race were mentioned. Big band in walled garden. 96 large ducks have been sold. Beechwood want 20..

April 26th 1st day of selling Duck Tickets. Volunteers are rapidly required.. Tickets are ready . Posters are ready. Meeting with SBC arranged. Full day of events. Dancing , band ferrets etc.

President Steve spoke to end the evening to advise May 21st District Quiz . He has been to a number of other Rotary meetings recently. Last Thursday he was at the Poynton Club & found there were 5 members of Wilmslow Dean also visiting.

The meeting concluded at 10.35pm.

Minutes compiled by Pam W & BobS.

