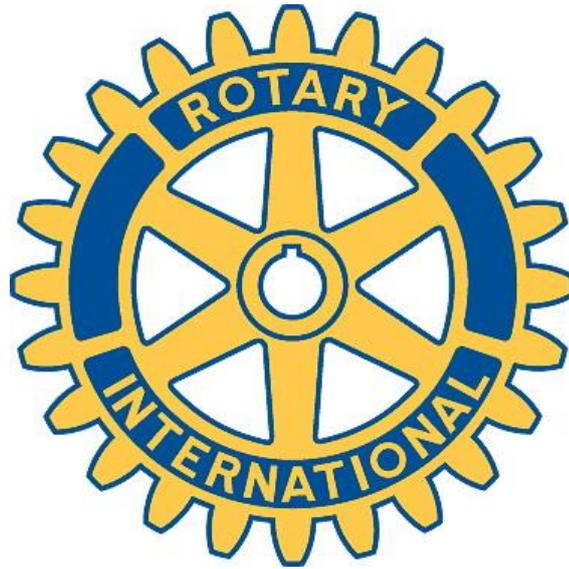


December 2019



Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup>  
December

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

For most of us Christmas was a time of joy and celebration. But in all our hearts we felt deeply for Steve and Lindsey whose daughter-in-law Natalie died leaving their son Ian with a baby and a three year old to look after. We can only imagine their pain and our heartfelt condolences go to them.

Meanwhile life went on and in Rotary lots of good was done and lots of social activities took place.

Next month we welcome a whole bunch of new members from the closed Hazel Grove Club. Let us show how Bramhall and Woodford can welcome them and how quickly “them and us” can disappear.

With all best wishes for 2020 and beyond

Michael

## Dec 29<sup>th</sup> – President's drinks

Held at Michael's house – our annual event where the President offers hospitality. This is traditionally on the first Sunday in January but as Michael and Pam always do "Dry January" they decided on the last Sunday in December!!



## Nov 30th to Dec 17th – Santa’s float

The float was out and about in the evenings and also at Bramall Hall and the Fir Rd market. Record amounts have been raised and hundreds of children have had their special moments with Santa (not to mention a dog and a couple of young ladies in their 80s!).



## 17th Nov to 22nd Dec – Collections at Notcutts Woodford Garden Centre.

We rattled our cans and collected money for Bloodbikes and The Samaritans. Two fantastic causes.



## 13 December – Christmas Party

Held at Bramall Park Golf Club once again, we had a great night with good food, good wine, good company and two members received surprise Paul Harris Fellowship awards.



#### **4 December SOS – Committees**

A welcome to the meeting With Bob buying drinks for the 19 members on the night celebrating being awarded The Paul Harris Award.

Walking into the meeting room we were greeted with a festive feast, missed by some members doing a stnt on the Santa float.

Sue and Bob now back in the Country from Australia . The last holiday of the year for them. Or is it ?!!

Dennis cancelled his walk as close to Christmas offering one after Christmas with his family .

Harry was waiting for last members that would like to go to Sofia in April to let him know .

Maggie wanted follow the star flyers to be distributed. Ways and means talking about hampers being delivered with John Meeus fitting them in his car like a jigsaw puzzle

Maggie pleaded for helpers in Fir road on the Santa stall at the market.

A Santa sleigh round in one day making a record amount of £860.00

Woodford being slow on collecting due to folks paying with plastic.

A good final meeting of the year

Pat

## 27 November SOS – Stamp out Stigma

Unusually the meeting began with a short presentation by representatives of SOS, (Stamp Out Stigma), a charity linked to Beacon Counselling. Bruce Bissell introduced us to Helen Regis who works for Beacon in Youth Services and Katie and Jess two young ladies very actively involved with SOS.



Helen told us that there had been a void in Beacon's services to young children in Greater Manchester, predominantly Stockport and so a youth group was created to ask young people exactly what they needed. SOS now works with children in Primary schools and Secondary schools and with Young Carers to bring their problems into the open and show that there is no shame in having problems. Most importantly, the message is that they are not alone. They cover problems which the children have with stress, body dysmorphia, learning disabilities, self harm, OCD, eating disorders, anxiety and suicide.. The group organised an event in Manchester to which 250 school children and staff were invited to discuss mental health issues and how to deal with them. The idea was to change the way in which mental health problems are viewed and change the existing services for young people. Part of the event was a ' Question Time' like discussion which we saw on a video, where role models such as footballers and celebrities spoke openly of their struggles with life situations. They also gave advice on how speaking to parents, doctors and councillors helped them to get through

difficult times and the reluctance to ask for help through fear of letting down parents, partners and team mates.

We saw one young man explaining how difficult it was for young people growing up in environments where violence, drugs and gangs are the norm as they don't know of any other way of life.

Katie spoke passionately of how she would like to change the help available to young people who she believes are now under greater pressure than ever in school and university. She hopes that a new kind of literature, written by other young people will persuade more youngsters to seek help in coping with mental health issues.

There was a lot of interest from the club members and quite a few questions followed. Andrew suggested that maybe some of us could help with the project. Sarah suggested that social media might be the way to get the message out there as well as literature.

After the presentation 20 of us, including Chris who had only been back from his travels for a couple of hours, enjoyed the usual lovely meal.

Michael thanked everyone who had helped with the sweet packing on Monday, the float cleaning on Wednesday and Sarah for organising an excellent wine tasting evening the week before.

Bruce announced that after quite a bit of chasing by Satish and himself Bramhall High School had agreed to enter two teams in the 'Youth Speaks' Competition for which we will pay the £60 entry fee.

Satish hopes we will include Cheadle Hulme and Hazel Grove High Schools next year.

Michael suggested that we should perhaps make more use of the card reader at Woodford as many people do not carry cash now.

Finally, Harry in sponsoring Peter Daniel as a new member of our club, was suitably scathing about his gardening skills involving holly bushes. Thank goodness Pete was not put off. Michael inducted him with far less formality than ever before in our move to a more modern approach to Rotary.



Pete responded by asking whether Winston could have an honorary position in Rotary as he is far more famous than his owner. Pete will take his place on the Ways and Means team - well actually he's been there for quite some time already.

Maggie.

## 25 November Sweet Packing

2,000 bags and leaflets. 6,000 sweets. 15 or so people and a bit of help from Santa.  
A fun session!



## 20 November Wine tasting

Under Sarah's expert tutelage we enjoyed a wine tasting of seven European wines. Bob Stevenson was awarded our highest honour, a Paul Harris Fellowship.



## 14 November Autumn Fashion Show

This was held in The Silk Road restaurant and the clothes were by Modiste. Entertainment was provided by Laura Jayne Hunter. The event raised over £650 and we rounded this up to £1,000 for our donation to the North West Air Ambulance.



## 13 November Dragons' Den winners return

Peter is selling Christmas cards

B&W ( table of 6) rotary had an enjoyable evening at the final Hazel Grove Rotary Quiz. It was a close run contest but our team stepped up to the mark and managed to maintain our position as winners.

Walthew House is helping blind people to go round a running track

Reminder . Nov 20. Michael's house 730 pm. wine tasting. Cheese/ pate etc to accompany the wine

Dragon's Den update. These are the causes Rotary chose to support



### **Keiras Kingdom**

Help support people with chronic illness and mental health issues  
Provide emotional and practical help and social care issues ( benefit claims )  
Until recently they have provided drop in sessions at Walthew house. As the numbers attending have dropped this has now been scrapped in favour of home visits which are on the increase. Qualified counselling is also available

Part of the work involves signposting so that people get referred to the appropriate agencies and education as to what services are available. They provide valuable support as they can accompany people to services if needed.

Michelle and Hannah, who gave us this feedback, are training others to provide support. There are 3 volunteers currently. They have had 3 fundraising events this year and their finances are healthy. They have raffles and sell donations on eBay to raise funds. Some of the feedback they have received describes them as 'outstanding'. Some of the clients they have helped have now become volunteers themselves.

### **NW stroke association choir**

The choir has 30 ish members made up of stroke survivors and medics. The choir provides a support network for the members and they see themselves as belonging to a family. Some attend in wheelchairs and on crutches. One lady who had lost the ability to speak had joined the choir as she discovered that she able to sing. They sing at various venues including hospitals around Manchester and stroke units. After life changing events this gives not only a strong sense of motivation, purpose and achievement for the members but gives hope to the patients they are visiting. They are hosting a singing workshop in Holmfirth. They use social media to promote the choir and continually fundraise throughout the year to cover expenses and travel.

### **Lees sunshine fund**

Thelma gave a passionate account of progress. She has made lots of new contacts and been in touch with Michelle from Keiras kingdom, the Mill and Crisis Line. She has been able to promote and advertise Crisis line in Stepping hill hospital Emergency Dept. She is collaborating with Figen Murray who is helping and inspiring her towards her objective in creating a charity to raise awareness of suicide on young people and providing support for bereaved families. She has set up a youth centre in Romily – families in crisis. Thelma is undertaking training in mental health and suicidal awareness. She is speaking at schools, parent teacher events and using social media to advertise this.

Denise

## 6 November Committees

Committee nights are often well-attended and this was no exception as 24 of us turned up, including our latest would-be Rotarian Pete Daniel.

Prez Michael again appealed for a Vice-president and I hear whispers that a cabinet reshuffle may see Sue relinquish her Treasurer role and step into the V-P post. Sec John S handed out a couple of Rotary poppy badges and Dennis reminded us of his planned “yomp” on Werneth Low on Nov. 15th.

After dinner the chairpersons gave their reports. Actually that's not quite true as neither Sec John nor Treas Sue had anything to say.

No such reticence from Maggie at W+M! She had made around £40 selling pocket money toys at the Methodist Church Hall abetted by Michael when the rugby finished last Saturday. As usual, Fashion Show tickets are slow to sell but there will no doubt be plenty of people there on the night. We will have 70 Christmas hampers to distribute for our anonymous donor, slightly fewer than last year, and most are already spoken for.

Our new Christmas venture to tempt people into Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme, the shop window display contest, has got off to a good start. Shops pay £10 for a star which must feature in their display, and members of the public can vote for their favourite either online or at Crookilley Crafts in the Village Square.

This year's Woodford Collection is much less onerous and the fewer collecting slots should be easier to fill. Santa's Float rounds are all mapped out but not all participating groups have yet responded. I'm sure they will. Friends Alan and Nick are again taking a chunk of the driving slots, but we do need more Team Leaders.

Sainsburys are again providing Santa's sweets and the cost will be covered by our sponsors.

Bob P of Club Services is being very successful at organising our meetings: there is barely a gap in the schedule through to March. However, we need a few more members to attend on a regular basis to return to profit.

Club Services: Bruce reminded us that next week's meeting will see the three top beneficiaries of Dragons' Den speaking to us on how they are using their rewards. He has been trying to get Bramhall High School to respond to an invitation to take part in “Youth Speaks” but isn't getting a reply. Satish will try as well. Meanwhile, “Stamp Out Stigma”, a group of young adults who have come through mental health problems, are hoping to tour schools with an event which will give pupils hints on recognising and dealing with mental illness.

International: The trip to Sofia to see Rotn. George Lekov is likely to be from April 21st to 28th. Flights on Easyjet from Manchester to Sofia currently cost £77 for the round trip. I will communicate with George to see if this suits him ask, it's a long story!) is back in England in March and April next year. He will be staying with us for a week or ten days so we are looking for suggestions for places to take him which

will inform, educate and entertain.

Ian was uncharacteristically brief, merely observing that BHS want to know when the Duck Race is.

And last but not least Denise reminded us of Michael's cheese and wine do.\*

Harry

\*Ed's note – actually Denise and Sarah's wine appreciation event to be held at Michael's house!  
and his club. Lendwithcare paid around £300 to us this month and I reinvested it.  
Finally, a young Ugandan chap Faruku whom Maggie and I met in Salisbury earlier  
this year (don't

## 26 October Peace Seminar, Bradford University

Whilst being aware of it for some years, this was my first visit to the event, accompanied by Harry, Dennis and John Sykes. The start was early, for me, and not yet light as we headed over the Pennines in atrocious weather. Fortunately, being Saturday, the traffic was light. On arrival at 'the postcode' we negotiated an unmanned barrier and were actually reasonably early. Michael's request for a brief report makes me wish I had actually taken some notes and so I hope others may fill in any points important to them, that I have missed.

The morning started with an introduction by the Professor followed by presentations from the ten students. Bradford is world leading in Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies and hugely supported by Rotary. The first to speak was Hassan Fahimi from Afganistan (who bore an uncanny resemblance to Michael MacIntrye – see below !!)



His qualifications already include – BA Law; MA International Law; completing MA in Peace and AFE; Austria. Much of his presentation focussed on the Taliban.

Each of the students already had impressive qualifications and spoke very well. Other nationalities included – Guatemala, Iran, Malawi, Japan, Turkey and the US.

After an excellent lunch, we were introduced to a concept new to me, and I understand arranged by the students themselves. This was a 'living library' with each of them a virtual 'book'. This was in the form of breakout sessions, with up to sixteen attendees to a student. We pre-booked sessions with the three students that most interested us.



The idea was to be interactive, but in the case of Hassan, he talked about the origins, beliefs, funding and present views the Taliban, in Afghanistan. This was fascinating. Whilst Taliban have ‘relaxed’ their restrictions regarding the education of women, their stipulations on how this can be achieved mean there is little actual change.

In another session, Julia Coffin from the US had a table covered in photographs, from which we were asked to select a couple that we found disturbing. We were then asked three questions – “I chose this image because ...”; “This image makes me feel....”; “I think my reactions to this might be to do with ....” See image below.



This overview does not do justice to the splendid seminar and I can genuinely see why to many, it is a ‘must’ in their annual calendar. If in the UK this time next year (!) I will certainly go again, and I would recommend it to you all.  
Chris

## 23 October Manchester Water Supply

7.29 Mr President called the meeting to order and sat on the top table with Mr Meeus and our guest, Mr Andrew Bunch. Your writer has been wrestling over the years with the possibility of changing the times in the report to the widely accepted continental format. Looming Brexit has not helped but the decision has been made to stick with the twelve hour clock! The burning question of the evening was "Where is everybody?" (# and \*)

7.33 Food. Mr President introduced a slightly contentious table order of Top then a melee involving everyone else. Mutterings were heard.

7.58 Mr Malabon gave apologies (#) although some were not mentioned. He also greeted our speaker guest Mr Andrew Bunch and Mr Pete Daniel. And that was it!

8.00 Bits of business included Maggie asking (pleading?) For all members to start selling fashion show tickets. Please put yourself about as soon as possible as there is just two weeks to go.

8.06 Mr President told us a golfing tale involving the purchase of a push club trolley which has cured his tennis elbow. Yes, really! There followed a lively exchange about tennis elbow.

Mr Hill launched a successful sales pitch about beanie hats sporting the Rotary logo . You can order yours by contacting Mrs Hill. Lots of colours to choose from, all one size and priced at £6.20 and £7.20 (for Thinsulate). Great for your night out with Mr Claus.

8.15 Sweet. Note: reverse fun shambles.

8.30 Coffee

8.55 Mr Meeus introduced the presentation on the Manchester Water Supply by Mr Andrew Bunch who was a project manager, hydrologist and engineer with United Utilities and retired in 2010.



Up until the Industrial Revolution the people of the Manchester area took their water from the local rivers. Then came the building of reservoirs. With the increase in population there came a greater demand for water and more local ones were built. Then in 1890 Manchester created the Thirlmere Reservoir and in mid 1930s the Hawswater one. Currently meeting needs and demands. Liverpool and Preston have developed similar in their areas.

In order to satisfy demand United Utilities draw water as necessary from reservoirs, then rivers and finally, if really necessary, bore holes.

Our speaker touched upon the recent problems at the Todbrook site which led to a description of the causes, effects and remedies of the four main problem areas, namely overtopping, settlement, piping failure and conduit/valve failure.

We discovered that the Rochdale Canal was built from two locations which were due to join up but were some 5 feet apart when they 'met'. Oooops!

We were then regaled with some amusing anecdotal tales of his experiences from his time in the job from inspecting tunnel waterways to considering the protected Great Crested Newt population.

Very interesting and eloquent.

Interesting and probing questions were ably answered by Mr Bunch.

9.37 Mr Meeus gave a vote of thanks not only for the presentation but also for donating a marquee tent to the Club.



9.41 Final toast.

(\* Only 13 members plus Speaker and guest were present! In some 10 years the writer does not recall being with so few a number of members for a speaker presentation.)

Ian

## 18 October Walk around Marple

Our ramble round Marple. So many of my best Rotary moments are the informal gatherings and activities such as this.

Harry



Editor's note: I like the name of the boat in the background!



## 16 October “Bowled over” at Parrs Wood

Low lighting, rippling\* muscles, groans of agony and shouts of ecstasy...yes, it could only be the B & W Rotary annual pyramid bowling evening at Parrs Wood.

Andrew, Bobs P & S, Bruce, Denise, Harry, Michael, Peter, Sarah and Sue (and Quackers) took to the lanes.

The joy of pyramid bowling is that everyone makes a contribution as long as they get some points on the board (ahem!)

Andrew’s “team” slightly shaded a win helped along by Nine-pin Preece and Bullet Ball. Demon Denise was the backbone of her team. But “well bowled” everyone!

The Club travelled back onto ‘home soil’ for dinner. We were joined by Maggie, Pat, Pam Lacey, John and Wendy Sykes for a marvellous meal at Bombay to Mumbai. Fabulous food flavours and textures (apart from Maggie and Bruce’s swampy saag, which actually tasted rather good) at what is fast becoming a Bramhall favourite for many in the Club.

Michael’s spreadsheet of selections and Denise’s efficiency with the dosh made paying the bill (almost) a delight!

Thank you to Denise for coordinating an enjoyable social evening.

\* should read ripping – bring on the Voltarol!





## 9 October Darryl Quantz-Public Health & Environmental Degradation

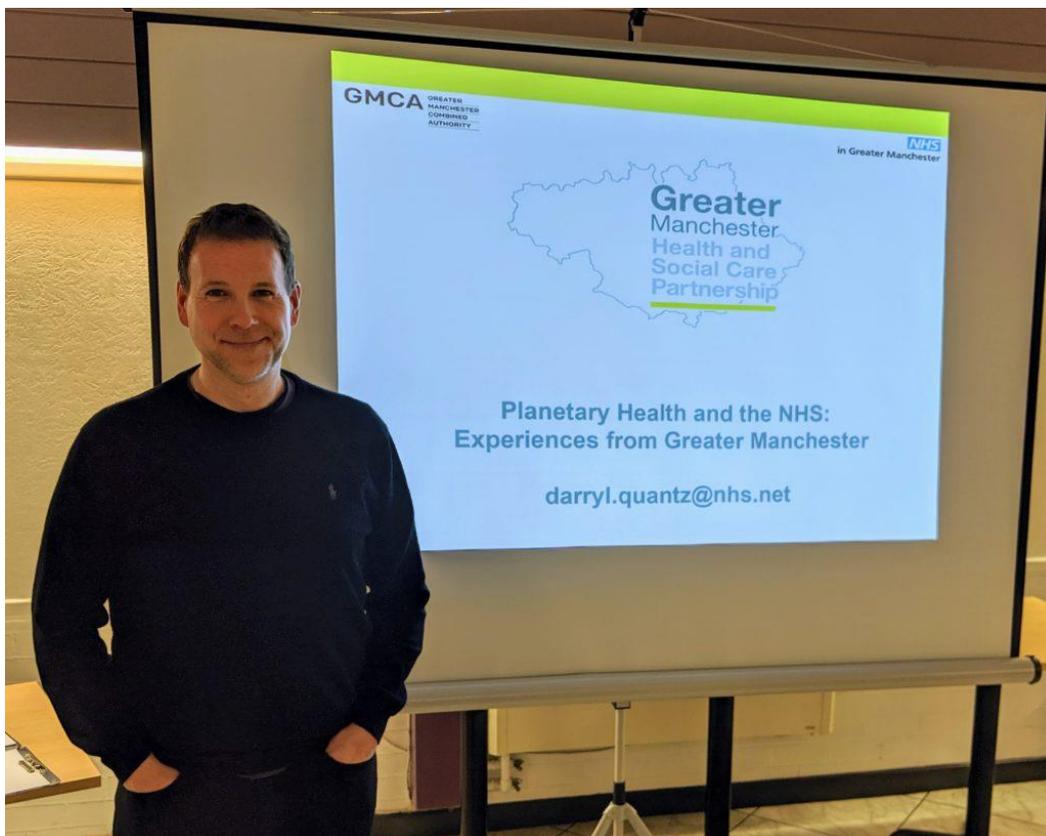
A disappointing 15 members plus 2 guests sat down the usual plentiful feast, made more bountiful than usual by a number of non-apologies. No doubt John T. will have his hand out when they next appear as he could be heard grumbling we'll make a loss....we'll make a loss....and gave a few choice descriptions of the perpetrators which are available on request. Denise joined us after the meal.

In other business Dennis reminded us of the walk on Friday 18th, Satish reported that Harvey was on a cruise and that he would be meeting Satish and Michael for lunch on his return. Bruce enlisted Peter, who received rave reviews for his stint last year, to be santa at Swanbourne Gardens Christmas party....yes it is that time already!

Maggie confirmed the next fashion show to be on 14th November at the Silk Road. There will be a singer and cost £22 but the manager has offered a great deal on food and drinks and in addition agreed to sponsor forthcoming events with cash and a rotary menu which if taken will contribute to his sponsorship. Well done Maggie, who is prepared to depart from tradition and accept early sale of fashion show tickets.

After coffee, Bob P. introduced our speaker Darryl Quantz, a Canadian, a consultant with Greater Manchester Health and Social Partnership. His talk was entitled Planetary Health etc.etc. a title which Michel suggested could be improved. Darryl started by asking some elementary questions to name some Canadian provincial capitals to which we recorded abject failure. Having established our level of competence, he handed out some young children's toys which were eagerly accepted.

Using some busy PowerPoints he described the many facets of the role of public health ranging from



addressing inequalities to increasing life expectancy. One of his more interesting slides was a chart of the tram network in Manchester showing life expectancy at each tram stop. There are certainly some tram stops I won't use! His main topic was the role of Public Health in tackling the impact of climate change and environmental degradation. He frightened us with some statistics, for example that climate change will cause quarter of a million deaths- no time frame given. He described Manchester's response to our sick planet, the declaration by Andy Burnham of a Climate Emergency. He proposed a number of actions we could take to help by changes of lifestyles...air travel, electric cars etc. but was perhaps a bit wide of the mark, given the audience he was addressing, when he suggested we reduced the number of children we have. Several children however were offered up. Two more important changes being considered by GM is the extension of the public transport network and the creation of a clean air zone, like the traffic restriction zone in central London. Finally he commented on the NHS footprint and the waste incurred by that organisation which was warmly endorsed by some of our members.

There followed as lively a discussion as I remember. Many points made but I think our president probably topped them all by suggesting we radically cut the population of the world. We didn't discuss how this might be achieved although, in certain parts of the world, there is a clear attempt to do so. I made a slight scientific challenge to the data being trotted out and was met by probably an acceptable response, given the current hysteria, that he had listened to a podcast. Ah well....

Michael thanked the speaker and Denise reminded us of bowling 6.30pm start followed by a meal at Bombay to Mumbai at 8.00pm, all welcome. An email will follow.

Bruce

## 2 October International Evening

35 members and guests, including 8 students from Manchester University and Manchester Metropolitan University, attended the evening. Michael welcomed everybody and indicated the splendid international meal at the back of the room consisting of curry, chilli, lasagne, apple pie, strawberries and cream (no fish and chips or steak and kidney pie!) prepared by Jackie and her helpers. Before starting the meal Michael asked if anyone wished to say anything. Satish rose to the occasion and said he had lost his Rotary badge at the previous meeting. If anyone has it, could they please return it to replace his “homemade” version with the “proper” one!

Fortunately the level of the meeting became more cerebral, intellectual and interesting when the students started to provide their input.

Harry and the co-ordinating student from Manchester University, Anna Llewellyn, had put in a lot of effort into organising the evening. Anna had an interesting international background herself having been born in the UK to British parents but lived many years abroad including East and West Africa and India.

Harry took over the role as Master of Ceremonies and said that each student would present a “thumbnail” sketch of themselves indicating their background, why they came to Manchester and their aspirations. The seven postgraduate students presenting, in no particular order, were:

- Palak, from India studying Education Leadership
- Yiqi Zhang, from China studying Urban Development
- Ankita Phalle, from India studying Peace and Conflict
- Huan Liu, China studying International Education
- Yeo Jie Xi, from Malaysia studying Early Years Education
- Dianita Hapsari, from Indonesia studying International Relations
- “Louis” Kenisuomo, from Nigeria studying Engineering



A number of general themes and issues emerged from the student presentations, including:

\*The students were very bright, articulate, highly motivated and wanted to improve their own abilities to make a significant contribution back in their home countries.

\*Because the students were at postgraduate level they generally had work experience, for example, as teachers or in industry. This experience had identified key needs in their own countries for which they recognised they needed academic study and theoretical frameworks to gain better understanding. Much of this was around leadership, strategic planning and management control in organisations in both the public and private sectors.

\* In their own countries, the students had frequently seen the differences between the people living in the large cities and rural villages, especially in regard to better educational opportunities in the cities. The students all felt a need to improve delivery of better educational opportunity in rural communities, where there were limited resources available.

The evening included a general question and answer session. Questions were raised around a number of topics. For example, in one case difficulties to overcome to obtain a visa to study in the UK and having to provide considerable Facebook and photographic evidence! There were several examples of having to get to grips with social and cultural differences, for example, being called “Love” and what you are supposed to answer to “How are you?”! Most of the families back home were amazed with the new found culinary skills of the students!

In general, the students said they had chosen to come to study in Manchester because of the World Class standing of the academic institutions, academic standing of their teachers and the courses on offer. On arrival they had found the locals very amenable and friendly and had adjusted to the Manchester weather!

Michael rounded the evening off by thanking everyone involved in the enjoyable event. Ian when asked if he had anything to say was left speechless!

