

December 2020



Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

**1st October to
31st December**

Harry's Homilies 1st Jan 2021

January is traditionally a time for looking back and looking forward – after all, it's named after the Roman god Janus who was two-faced in a very literal way. 2020 was a memorable year but mainly for the wrong reasons, and everyone knows all about them. Nonetheless BWRotary has been remarkably successful in keeping members in touch and our trademark cheerfulness and irreverence are undimmed. We've even managed to raise several thousand pounds for charity mostly by making small changes to our usual events, including Santa's Float.

Today is the first anniversary of welcoming the “rump” of Hazel Grove Rotary Club. It is gratifying to read in today's emails that our new members feel welcomed by BWRotary, which is as it should be. We are a very congenial lot, we Rotarians! Several have expressed regret that they haven't been more active since they joined but rest assured that when things get back to normal we will crack the whip!

So what is the next challenge? It has to be the Duck Race, pencilled in for the middle of May. It's our biggest money maker by a country mile and it is very gratifying to give a significant sum to (usually) a local charity. Unfortunately whether it goes ahead is not dependent on the Club but on outside factors around Covid 19. Will enough people have been immunised to contain its spread or will we be in Tier 7 by then? At this stage, with some of our more mature members already in receipt of their first dose it seems likely that most if not all of the most vulnerable people will be protected by May, but that does not automatically mean that large crowds will be allowed to congregate. Like the past nine months we will need to make the best of what we have.

And there lies our strength: a shrewd combination of imagination and careful examination of what we can and can't do at any particular time. Santa's Float is a case in point: Stockport MBC was cautious to the point of paranoia about allowing events but a mix of innovation (buckets on sticks), a blinder of a risk assessment (one of Jennifer's fortes) and probably our long history of running events safely and sensibly meant that we were one of very few highlights of the local festive season.

But enough of preaching and prating! The days are getting longer (just!) so let's turn our minds to helping Rotary in this New Year. Ideas for fund-raisers or social events (ideally both together) are always welcome as long as they are safe and legal. Don't forget the law allows us to meet for voluntary and charity purposes even in Tier Four if basic measures are taken such as masks and social distancing, so let your imaginations run riot and see if some bright ideas pop up.

Happy New Year!

Harry

7th October - Committees

President Harry started recording the meeting just after 8pm, then called for a volunteer Bulletin Reporter, yours truly volunteered. 25 members present which was a good number and particularly good to see John Meeus.

Great start to the meeting with our first Induction-via-zoom for Mark Ewing. Harry advised that Mark has a long term interest in charity work and was a good pirate and a “good basher of balsa” (I think I heard that correctly, but I don’t know what it means). A Rotary pin had been delivered to Mark earlier in the day which he was proudly wearing. Mark will serve on the Ways & Means Committee. Mark gave a short reply in which he said he was very happy to join our team. Mark was welcomed by those in the meeting.

Then a further surprise, the PHF’s in the club (Harry had been excluded from the decision) had agreed that Maggie should be awarded a second Paul Harris Fellow and she proudly showed the new badge with an inset jewel. Well-deserved Maggie.

Secretary (John)

- Any received emails had been sent to Council or the whole club as appropriate.
- By email, Council had agreed to the purchase of a Billboard for Bramhall High School. This demonstrates how to conduct CPR and was purchased from CPR Group working with the North West Ambulance service. Harry, John & Jennifer are visiting BHS on Thursday for a photoshoot.
- Council had also agreed to a donation of £250 to RC Manchester-Beirut support fund

Treasurer (Sue)

- General account £2,746, Charity account £3,396. Full report to follow
- Sue thanked all members who were contributing to the charity account in-lieu of paying for a weekly meal. This is contributing £300 each month

Ways & Means (Maggie)

- Certificates have been issued to the winners of the Scarecrow event and thank you letters sent to all participants.
- Santa Sleigh – planning going ahead based on the assumption that rule changes do not prevent it happening.
 - Almost all previous participants want to take part this year: the scout groups are OK to do the rounds so long as their risk assessments are accepted; the 11th Bramhall Guides will definitely not be joining us.
 - Pete has been doing some remedial work to strengthen the sides of the float.

- Children will not be allowed on the float this year which gives scope for some embellishment.
- Leaflets – scouts will not be able to deliver this year so some discussion on what we should do. Any suggestions to Maggie & Ian.
- Planning for the traditional collection routes but some discussion about how to collect door to door. Talk of 2metre long poles with the bucket on the end.
- Saturday 5th December will be a Pantomime costume themed collection in the village
- November 29th 12-5pm Sleigh scheduled at Heald Green shops in conjunction with Cheadle RC.
- No light up Bramhall event this year so Maggie is working with Bramhall Together Trust on a Quiz Trail around the village.
- - Maggie in contact with Woodford garden Centre on their policy re indoor collection at Christmas.

Community Service (Steve)

- Steve and his team have been working hard to find people who need assistance and seems -to have hit gold. They are in touch with Handy-Ladies-Feeding-the-Community (provide 100 meals 3 times a week) and also the Stockport Coordinator for Adult Care. Meetings planned with both groups over the next week.
- John Meeus advised the CHADS were planning a production in February, where we interested. Answer yes. John volunteered to organise with CHADS.

International (Ari)

- Discussion the Lamplighter regarding supporting an overseas student have been put on hold due to the pandemic.
- Looking to hold an International zoom meeting with RC of Kavala with whom Ari has previous involvement.

PR (Ian)

- Following a plea for District for reports for the website, Ian has sent them a write up of the Pirate event.
- Publicity for the float will be going into I Love Bramhall

Social (Sue & Michael)

- Following the success of the taster events Sue is planning further events for the next 3 months – October – Chinese; November – Indian; December -Cheese & wine.

AOB

- Secretary reminded Council members that the next meeting was next week; then got the day entirely wrong. It is Monday 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9:18

Report by John Sykes

14th October - Katy Willis Hope For Justice/Modern Slavery

As usual the congregate-at-the-bar started at 7.30pm and the general discussions were centred about health and checking members welfare.

President Harry started the meeting at 8pm by which time there were 26 Rotarians, 1 speaker, three guests; Iain Bates formerly of Stockport Green Spaces, Sheila who has joined us before and my wife Wendy. No birthdays to celebrate but a Golden Wedding anniversary for Michael and Pam.

Harry introduced our speaker, Dr Katy Willis, a GP in West London, and a volunteer for Hope for Justice charity. The charity's mission is to bring an end to modern day slavery, identify victims, rescue victims, and restore their lives. They were formed in 2008.

Katy advised this was her first Rotary meeting, and also that this week is Anti-Slavery week so very appropriate timing.

Katy quoted a situation of a salad picker working in East Anglia, sleeping three to a room, paid £83 per week and was charged £80 per week for accommodation.

The numbers are horrific-

- In 2013 it was estimated there were 13,000 in slavery in the UK; the NCA think that number underestimates the problem.
- £150b in profits made from slavery
- 1 in 4 children across the world are victims

Top countries for slavery UK, Albania, Vietnam

Where are they – food supply chain, car wash, cleaners, sex trade are the main areas.

Usually they are brought into the country with the promise of a job, once they arrive their passports are taken by the gangmasters, bank cards are withheld and they are subjected to psychological fear and forced to live in appalling conditions.

In 2019 Operation Fort arrested 8 Polish nationals as gangmasters, they identified over 400 victims and the investigation had started back in 2015.

Spotting the signs –

- Looks unwell and has unexplained injuries
- Avoids talking to strangers
- Gets dropped off at work at different times

- Has very few belongings
- Someone else does the talking for them.

What can we do?

- Spot the signs
- Use your voice to report any suspicion
- Support Hope for Justice.

The charity is entirely supported by public donations, they receive no government funding.

Think we are immune?

Sarah reminds us of a prosecution about 18 months ago of an Indian Doctor and his wife who had kept a boy/man a slave in their house for 25 years. The Doctor was a member of RC Ealing, Sarah's former club.

In thanking Katy, Harry repeated his comments from his email "Tonight's talk is on modern slavery – I'm sure the talk will be better than the grim reality". It was a fascinating insight into what is going on around us.

<https://hopeforjustice.org/aboutus/>

Reporter John Sykes

21st October - Chinese meals tasting

Our mass descent to the Rainbow 88 restaurant last night at around 7:20pm, looked more like a raid by masked Rotarians with intent. It took me sometime to recognise some of our members so well hidden behind their masks. It was probably bewildering for the customers of the restaurant to see so many masked people waiting for half an hour or so to receive their parcel of food. I was the last one to walk out of the Restaurant at about 7.55 pm.

The English are often accused of not speaking foreign languages. This is not strictly speaking true, particularly when it comes to ordering foreign food. The love of food from different parts of the world turned the English population into Polyglots, albeit with a very limited vocabulary specialising in foreign food. Some Foreign restaurants, particularly Indian and Chinese tried to simplify their menus by giving each dish a number. Although this method does not help us practice our language skills by pronouncing the dish names, is saving us the embarrassment, through lack of confidence, in case we pronounce some foreign words incorrectly. However, none of us will have any difficulty in pronouncing the following Chinese dish, Fooking rice (Fook-Good luck in Chinese), although our faces may turn red with embarrassment if we shouted it loudly or in front of other people! It has been said that there are no rude words, only rude people!

There were 22 meals ordered last night and around 25 attendees to the meeting. Harry introduced our host Linda to the club and praised her amazing Charity work and fund-raising activities. Linda has raised £300,000 for Charity!!!

For most of us, the Chinese menu was all "Greek to us" !! or double Dutch in my case (I am Greek!), until Linda eloquently explained the order of eating our variety of 9 dishes and the back-ground information to each dish. She is a remarkable lady with an interesting life story to tell and a charming host. She was born in Fleetwood and been in the restaurant business with relatives or on her own since she was a child. Her Restaurant Rainbow 88 was named after her. Her Chinese name is Rainbow or Colourful Piano. The Restaurant has recently celebrated its 21st Anniversary. We wish Linda and her Business Partner well and many more successful years in business.

There was a mix of 9 dishes comprising of starters and main courses. Linda started us with Pickled vegetables, followed by golden delight crisps, Vegetable Rolls, steamed fluffy bun, soup, spicy beef, vermicelli, chicken, salt and pepper fish. Most of us assumed that we will be sampling a small number of different dishes and so had our dinner in advance of the sampling. However, this did not deter us from enjoying all 9 dishes. In my case there was plenty of food left from yesterday's tasting, for tonight's meal too. Thank you, Linda for brightening up our meeting and for your generous contribution of £5 per persons (22 of us) to Charity. This is in addition to £2 contributions each member made on top of the price paid for the meal.

A wonderfully pleasant evening with scrumptious food. Also it was a sign of a good host to notice the romantic moments of Sue and Bob holding hands under the table at her restaurant. For me this was a knock out touch by Linda!!

Full marks to Michael Lacey for organising it and for his imaginative and very amusing quizzes.

I am sorry for not attempting to spell the names of the Chinese dishes and instead describing them or giving them numbers!! Numbers 1-9 as they do in Chinese restaurants.

This type of event has now become a regular feature in our club and is at par with having a night out at a restaurant with friends.

Ari

28th October - Rob Crier - This is me

There was a bit of excitement in our household when Joan my wife heard that Robert Cryer was the speaker last night. She wanted to listen to his presentation too.

There were 25 attendees of which one was a guest, Sheila. Apologies received from Mark and Rodger Adkins. The job of archivist was up for grabs and it was offered to Chris Monkhouse.

My introduction of Robert: Robert is a charismatic and charming man. He is kind, a deep thinker, has a wicket sense of humour, is self-deprecating and approachable. He reminds me of Michael Palin in his travel programmes, full of fun, optimism and keen on adventures and also in his Monty Python sense of humour. Robert is optimistic yet pragmatic, adventurous when it comes to cycling and horse riding, and has the scars to prove it. He was a great help to a number of aspiring young doctors from Greece and from other parts of the world. When I first joined Rotary, I noticed that before Robert came to a decision that may affect his other half, he would always refer to the expression "I will consult management" first!! He has not used that expression for many years now. He is now a "conformist" Robert". Robert's style of presenting and communicating can be summed up as Laconic. His sense of humour at times like "Monty Python". A very interesting individual of high intellect and full of humanity. Robert is half Scottish and proudly wares his kilt on important occasions.

Robert thanked the Club for welcoming him and other members of the HG Rotary club. He said he has been unable to participate in the club's activities because he is shielding.

Robert has been a Consultant at Stepping Hill Hospital for 30 years from 1971/72 to 2001.

He was born in London to a middle class family. His mother was a doctor and his father a school inspector. He has another older brother who is 3 years older than him. His early recollections of his childhood include cutting the lawn with a pair of scissors and falling off his tricycle at the age of 4 or 5. When the the second world war started in 1939, Robert mentioned, how well organised the Authorities were during the evacuation of children and women out of London to Leicester and also on food rationing. He also described in great detail the effectiveness and the destructive power the German bombs and rockets had on London. After each bombing children would collect bomb shrapnel made of aluminium, which was rather valuable.

He attended a prep school and remembers his head master telling him "I am wise and you are intelligent, this is the difference. He gained a scholarship at St Paul's school. St Paul's school was founded in 1509. During the winter term they were

trained in boxing, an activity that Robert seemed to like. He also joined the Cadet force.

He followed his studies at Peterhouse college at Cambridge University. This is the oldest college founded in 1284. Jet engine inventor Frank Whittle graduated from that college! Robert did take up rowing whilst there, which he enjoyed. He said he found the pre-clinical part of his studies and organic chemistry difficult to follow. He graduated and continued his training at St Mary's medical school. This place was founded in 1845 and has since been subsumed by Imperial College. Whilst there he did mountaineering and became the treasurer of the mountaineering club. He qualified in 1961. He referred to his experiences at the different hospitals where he trained and his assessment of the Hospitals his colleagues and senior Consultants. Some of his comments were complimentary and some not so.

He compared the facilities at the hospitals in his early days as a junior doctor to that a modern slavery. Junior doctors were working very long hours, living in sub-standard accommodation and were paid very little. He progressed through the ranks to the position of Medical Registrar at St Mary's hospital and eventually to a Consultant. He thought the exam pass rate for Consultants at 10%, was intentionally set at unrealistically low rate, so as to benefit financially the Royal College of Physicians!!! He applied and got the position of Senior Registrar at St Bartholomew's Hospital. A hospital founded in 1173 and existed for over 900 years. An ex-Minister of the department of Health, Virginia Bottomley tried unsuccessfully to close that Hospital.

Our doctor members will have followed Robert's scientific references better than me and people that love history can check the history of the hospitals Robert mentioned in Google.

After a number of questions asked by members, Harry thanked Robert for his interesting and entertaining presentation.

Any other business:

After an initially disheartening email from the District regarding the Xmas float, Harry said that we are now hopeful that this event will proceed, assuming that the Local Council will give us permission to go ahead.

Ari Tsalikis

4th November - Committees

Another month, another Committee Night, and it was a bit of an odd one in some respects!

It was a first attempt at Breakout Zoom Sessions, which Michael and Harry had put a lot of effort into, to sort out how it all worked. Most of us managed to assimilate the additional instructions without too much trouble, but not everyone! About 19 of us took on the challenge! Steve, wary of this new-fangled device, decided to have a private Zoom session for his committee prior to the main club meeting. Despite this, the Community Service committee was assigned to a Breakout Room and met all over again! Quite a lot of the meeting was dominated by the new Covid Lockdown measures, which were producing great uncertainty and were possibly forbidding some of our planned Christmas events and fund raising. The fireworks outside and the US election saga hardly impacted on our deliberations!

The meeting started with the information that George had had a fall at home, necessitating hospitalisation. Happily, he is now back home and we wish him a speedy recovery. Sarah was poorly and we hope that she too will be soon back to normal.

The nominal 10 minute Breakout sessions over, we reconvened at 8.30pm as a full meeting.

Secretary John had nothing to report.

Treasurer Sue advised us that we had about £3400 in our Charity account. This had been supplemented by £107 from Maggie for Covid masks bearing seasonal designs. We had received £750 in sponsorship for the forthcoming Christmas float, of uncertain future. Our General account contained approximately £2800, and it was noted that the recent Chinese taster meal event had contributed £110 to the restaurant's donations to the new Christie hospital. Great!

Maggie, was having a taxing time in her Ways and Means role. Much of the planning was dependent on the end of the current lockdown and permission being granted to hold fund raising events, which by their very nature involved close proximity to contributors.

The village panto trial organised with Bramhall Together Trust already had 40 shops taking part from mid November. Hopefully, this can be resumed after the lockdown period ends so that the participating shops can reopen. A static collection was planned for 5th December with attending pantomime characters. The Float rounds were presenting a big problem at the moment. Can we give out sweets? Will we get permission to actually have the Float out? We need a Street Collection licence first. The Handy Ladies were planning a drive through viewing of our stationary float at Manchester Rugby Club, and once again there is uncertainty as to whether this will

be allowed. Similarly, collections at Bramall Hall and at Notcutts in Woodford may not be possible. At all times we must ensure the safety of all involved, members of the public and of our own club.

Steve reported on Community Service deliberations. He has attended, with others, a Zoom meeting of TAP (Teams Around the Place), which gathered together many disparate organisations focussing on helping people. Steve gave a short presentation about Rotary but was not allowed to sit in on the rest of the meeting! We would like to have a clear statement of the objectives of this umbrella group. One of the participating organisations, Home Instead Community Services, a commercial operation, had been in contact with Steve asking to address the club at a future meeting.

Ari, International, had been busy looking into how other clubs worked. A future Zoom meeting with the Greek club RC Kavala West was to be arranged. There will be a talk on December 5th about the Ashanti development Project. It was intended to follow up contacts in Uganda with the help of Ashok, and the existing fruitful relationship with Kasese will continue.

Ian, Communications, had obtained contributions about Rotary in the Inside Bramhall and SK7 magazines. The next contributions were needed by 10th November. Thelma Ridgeway, Lee's Sunshine Fund, had produced a video available on YouTube. Ian had circulated details to members.

Bob Preece, Club Services, updated details of the future programmes. See our website for further information. After a discussion, it was decided to enter two teams into the forthcoming "Toilets Quiz" with RC Winchester in aid of Kasese.

Michael, Social, confirmed that the November 25th meeting would be a virtual meal with Bombay to Mumbai, and the December 23rd meeting would be a festive cheese and wine tasting! Can't wait!

The AOB was brief. Ian was congratulated on raising £2700 so far from the sales of coins and other items.

And so ended a rather convoluted and at times disheartening meeting at 9.40pm, possibly keeping some from their beds!

Dennis

11th November - Forensic Science - Caroline Eames

24 members + guests and our speaker on Forensic Science Caroline Eames.

Birthday good wishes were sent to Kate for her special day on 14 November

Dev told the Club about a request for help he'd had from the [Cracking Good Food charity](#). They are looking to provide 250 Christmas lunches for the homeless between 23 and 29 December.

Volunteers will be needed for cooking, packaging, delivering or individuals can make donations. Each meal will cost £15. More details to come...

Bob P introduced Caroline Eames who has been a Forensic Scientist for 33 years. She now works for [Cellmark Forensic Services](#), one of three private companies which do the majority of work in this field in England.

This was Caroline's first talk on Zoom...but we couldn't detect that!

Caroline always wanted a career in Forensic Science since growing up she read stories of [Keith Simpson's detective work](#) in the Saturday Telegraph.

Caroline explained that the role of Forensic Scientists is to look for evidence which is key to each case to determine the guilt or innocence of individuals. They have to keep an open mind and avoid jumping to easy conclusions.

Caroline's field of expertise is examining crime scenes and the evidence they can provide such as footwear marks, fibres, hairs, blood, oils etc. She looks for forensic opportunities - at what's there and what isn't there. Thinking laterally, looking for what's out of place. It's very painstaking work.

We were reminded that every contact leaves a trace and that since DNA profiling had become more and more precise (for example blood stains as small as 1mm across can now be used for identification) the chances of getting 'the wrong man' have diminished greatly.

Forensic scientists concentrate on small sections of DNA, the bits that are most variable between individuals, to build the profiles.

The national DNA database started in 1995 and now has over 10 million different profiles on it. It currently provides police and investigators with around 2000 matches a week. And results are usually turned round in 24 hours.

The practice of DNA profiling had led to much more rigorous procedures for the scientists as DNA samples are easy to contaminate.

Caroline was keen to point out that her work is not as glamorous or speedy as television portrayals such as Silent Witness or CSI. Cases take weeks if not months.

And crime scenes (she has visited over 350) are often unsafe, wet, cold, smelly...and maggot infested! (Ewww...)

Caroline talked us through a number of fascinating, if grisly, cases from her career. She is now working with the East Midlands Police on a number of cold cases from the early 1980s.

This was a fascinating talk which can be heard in full at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14FkBkOg2soKyRxO-U57UqIN202c4gye8/view?usp=sharing>

Probably the most surprising thing we all learned is that DNA analysis shows that the parents (usually the father) of around 1 person in 20 are not actually their parents. Ulp!

Bob P reminded members about the fundraising 'Toilet Quiz' for Kasese taking place next Thursday evening (19 November). Please contact him if you'd like to take part.

On Wednesday 18th there will be an informal get together on zoom from 7.30 pm instead of a Club meeting.

Sarah

18th and 19th November - just a chat and Toilet Quiz

On the 18th we did not have a “proper” Zoom meeting, but quite a few turned up just for a natter.

On the 19th we joined in Winchester Rotary’s “Toilet Quiz, described here by Sue:

I am sure all participants thought the same - what an unusual quirky topic for a quirky event, the purpose of which was Winchester RC's aim to raise money to build a toilet block at Kasese Muslim Primary School in western Uganda. Aptly, the quiz was held on Nov 19th which also happened to be World Toilet Day. I am sure you all knew about that! There were lots of people taking part (the technical headaches must have been awful!!) and we were able to get two teams of four from our club, we called ourselves Nor'westers Team 1 and 2. We were assured that the three essentials for life were food, drink and toilet!!

There were three rounds of ‘toilet’ based questions which obviously is a ‘niche’ subject and three rounds of general knowledge questions. As you would expect, B&W teams were both suitably competitive and delighted that at the end they both scored the same marks! During the enjoyable evening we learned that flush toilets were introduced to Great Britain in 1857 and that the British Toilet Association (BTA) was established in 1999. A representative from the BTA asked the questions. He explained that the BTA has a wealth of knowledge on toilet related issues and practices and every day it handles a constant stream (pun intended?) of enquiries from people who have a desire to improve the current provision, as well as reduce the number of toilet closures.

We all need to use the toilet several times each day when we are away from our homes, at work, on holiday or simply commuting from place to place but we take take facilities for granted. They are not always so readily or hygienically available in developing countries such as Uganda and this can have a very negative impact of children’s education. Just having access to clean, hygienic toilets when we need one is simply about our basic human rights and it fulfils an important requirement for our health & well-being, equality, social Inclusion as well as privacy & public decency.

The lack of proper toilets in schools threatens the education of millions of children in the developing world, who are at risk of getting sick due to poor hygiene, and subsequently miss school. The risks are even higher for girls. In developing countries such as Uganda, the lack of separate toilets for girls and boys is among the top barriers to girls’ education. When a girl reaches puberty, access to a separate toilet can be the decisive factor of whether she continues with her

education. For children in developing countries, every moment of schooling can have a large impact. While researching this subject i learned that one additional year of schooling can increase a woman's income potential by up to 20 percent in developing countries and so what began as a fun and quirky quiz was really very serious. It was raising the much needed money to have life changing impact on the children at Kasese Muslim Primary School in western Uganda.

The Nor'westers Teams 1 & 2 both scored 18 out of a possible 30 points, the wining team scored 22! The prize was, as you would expect, a large packet of Cushelle toilet paper! Nick, our contact Rotarian from Winchester, also had raised sponsorship to complete 'dry' October and in doing so had raised £2,000 plus - he must have been a big drinker!! The quiz and donations raised another £400 so overall it was very successful. There was sufficient money to start the building of the much needed toilet block.

Sue Preece



2nd December - Committees

A goodly number of members met for what proved to be a marathon of a committee night. Harry started the meeting by wishing Ashok happy birthday. Harry then surprised himself and us all by opening the committee rooms successfully, which worked very well.

On our return, Sue informed us that the general account stood at approximately £2700 and the charity account around £3800, details to follow. John our secretary informed us that the EGM will be held on 6th January and he looks forward to a deluge of nominations for the posts of VP, Secretary and treasurer.

Maggie introduced the main item, the Ways and Means report. The pantomime trail is going well, 40 businesses having signed up although some restaurants may not participate due their closure. The challenge is to sell the trail sheets which will be on sale at 10 shops. We were reminded that the 1st prize is £100 worth of vouchers, to be drawn on 23rd December.

The float has had a face lift by Maggie with more lighting and fun objects. We were reminded that there will be no sweets and collectors will be limited to two rotarians and 4 adults from the charities- no children. We have use of the solicitors van and will be able to park the float at Moorend as usual. Much discussion of detail followed which Jennifer will summarise in a Dos and Don'ts list. It was suggested we use QR code technology for donations which Michael will investigate. Maggie will continue to dish out and receive back all the "stuff" each night including money, despite Harry having done his best to burn the place down while Maggie was out. He was very disappointed not to make the BBC1 6 o'clock news given the 3 fire engines, two paramedic vehicles and two police cars which attended. Michael commented that the route maps are on the website and it was agreed we would use Wendy Green for publicity.

Steve summarised the earlier discussion before the formal meeting about supporting Pure Insight's Christmas appeal. It was agreed that Dennis would obtain more information on the needs and response so far and then firm up a proposal to council. There has been general support to make a financial contribution. It was agreed that a donation of £200 would be made to Stockport Mind to finance mobile phones for volunteers to make calls to vulnerable people. Handy Ladies are still waiting for approval from Stockport for their drive through event on 12th December. 13 members have offered to help Handy Ladies with distribution of Christmas lunches. Dev has asked for similar help with a charity with which he is involved. Please contact Dev directly.

The question was asked if we were being asked to make donations in lieu of Xmas cards as usual. Michael and Sue commented that as members had been so incredibly generous this year in donating some £4500, it was not necessary.

The next social night will be another wine and cheese night on 23rd December, details to follow. A quick response was requested by Sue. There was general support for another foodie night in January. Michael suggested it would be Eastern Europe's turn, either Shaam or Turquoise.

Ari reported on international matters. There will be a zoom meeting with Kasala on 10th February and we would hear about the Ashanti project next week. It was agreed that, as fund raising is very difficult at present, that the international committee could borrow from our funds as required, paying back when life returns to normal.

Ian had no communications news but had raised a further £120 through coin sales.

Bob has recently issued the latest programme which is complete through February.

The final toast was made given at 9.55pm, a record for a zoom meeting?

Bruce

9th December - Barry Coates - The Ashanti Project

Barry Coates of Leigh Rotary Club had been invited to give Bramhall & Woodford Club an update on their new Ghanaian Water Project. The ZOOM meeting was temporarily chaired by Michael as Harry was engaged in Float collection. Maggie & he were to join the meeting later. Ari introduced Barry as an accomplished Water Engineer. 18 Rotarians were present to hear Barry. He had been in Water Industry for 39 years and was responsible in setting up Water Aid, Aqua Box to name two into Rotary. Barry went on to say that he and his colleagues had achieved a successful ASHANTI Development Project in GHANA some years ago. His Team decided to set another similar project to benefit rural small village Jansa in Ashanti region. He outlined few statistics to note:

- 1) 743 million people in world no access to clean water
- 2) 2.1 billion people no access to sanitation
- 3) 1.8 million children die every year because of poor water supply, bad sanitation and malnutrition.

He and his team liaised with Rotary Club of Kumasi in Ghana and decided that Jansa village which consisted of 540 people (45 families) would be the one to adopt for the Project. It had a Water Borehole but was ½ mile away from village. 20 ladies visited the borehole each day with their water containers to fetch water supply for the households. 200 litres of water is needed for each individual. On occasions older children were also needed to fetch water. Nearby was latrine in need of repair. Plan:

- 1) Erect a new mechanised Water Borehole supplying water to several sites in Jansa
- 2) Erect new Toilets
- 3) School set up + Supplying Laptops
- 4) Medical & Childcare facilities
- 5) Midwifery provision

This would release women to undertake basket weaving on an industrial scale and they could also be able to plant crops for sale in market. Children would be healthy and reduce water borne diseases, better nutrition and reduce child mortality. They would be able to attend school

The cost of Project had been estimated at £13,700 but they have managed to raise so far only £5,200 by Wigan Cluster Events & Donations, from schools, churches, companies dealing with Ghana, grants and contributions from Rotary Clubs in the area.

Barry was thanked by Chairman Michael for an excellent humanitarian project and applauded by members present. Harry & Maggie joined the meeting around 8:35pm

A Final Toast at 9:10pm Satish

16th December - Stockport without abuse , SPARC and Pure Insight

We heard from the three charities which benefited from the Pirate activity a few weeks ago. They got £1,000 each and all had put the money to excellent use.

December 23rd - Zoom Cheese & Wine evening 2020

The Zoom bar opened as usual and one of the conversation topics was the most recent COVID restrictions, most of us were planning to have a very quiet Christmas as families chose not to mix indoors as a protection for us oldies. Satish was the first in B&W to get his vaccination last Saturday. There were 27 participants and several Zoom visitors, mainly family of Rotarians. We all enjoyed seeing Ron who popped in at the start of the meeting to say hello. Earlier in the day participants collected had their individual bags from Sue & Bob's house. We were all advised to eat dinner beforehand but the bags contained lots of goodies!

six wine samples of approximately 50 mls each

six different tasty cheeses

small packet of pretzels

box of melba thins original (100 gms)

one Bendick chocolate mint

one paper Christmas hat

one cracker joke.. compulsory reading!

The dress code was 'be happy' so we had lots of sartorial variety, everything from black tie, glamour to jeans and sparkly Christmas jumpers. The cheese & wine event began with our resident wine expert Sarah talking us through her very interesting wine choices

1	Villa Maria 'Cellar Selection' Albariño 2018 (white) Gisborne New Zealand Majestic £14.99
2	Kaapzicht Bush Vine Chenin Blanc 2019 (white) South Africa Waitrose £13.99

3	Von Der Land Zweigelt 2019, (red) Austria Majestic £11.99
4	Tsantali Organic Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 (red) Greece Waitrose £9.99
5	De Bortoli All Rounder Semillon 2002 (honey coloured) Australian Deen Vat Series Majestic £12.99
6	Taylor's Late-Bottled Vintage Port 2015 Waitrose £15.99

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The Cheeses were all bought from Waitrose in Cheadle Hulme

1	Vintage Applewood (cheddar) £13 @ kilo	Smoke flavoured vintage tangy cheddar cheese
2	No 1 Vallage - Waitrose best-selling £15 @ kilo	Very similar brie in taste and texture
3	Bettine Cranberry £15.50 @ kilo (goats cheese)	Mild but delicious goats cheese

4	Black Bomber Cheddar £19 @ kilo	Extra mature cheddar with a strong taste
5	WR Kaltbach Gouda £21.50 @ kilo	Refined for 6 months, fine spicy caramel notes & slightly crumbly texture.
6	Bishops Stilton £16 @ kilo	Rich, savoury, spicy with a buttery texture, Strength 5. matured for a deep and complex flavour.

After thanking Sarah, Sue & Bob for their efforts in creating this event we had three rounds of a Christmas quiz, one being to identify the title of film music, but most Rotarians couldn't remember the answers as they had had too much wine to drink and cheese!! A most enjoyable night was had by all and it certainly helped us all to get into the Christmas spirit.

Sue Preece

December 30th - Just a chat

With us all in tier 4 lockdown not much was happening so we met (which we don't usually do on the Wednesdays before and after Xmas) just to compare notes on our quiet Xmas holidays.