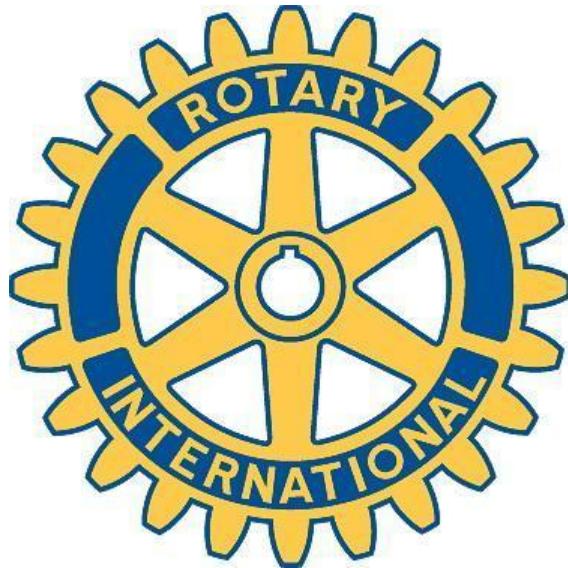


June 2021



**1st April to
30th June**

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

Sue says - July 2022

Hello everyone, I'm back again having been President in 2013-14! Harry is a hard act to follow but I know I will have lots of support. Harry steered the club very well through difficult pandemic times and members have been incredibly generous, so we were able to continue with our charitable donations during this most peculiar year. Sadly, the loss of two excellent Rotarians, Ron Malabon in April and Bob Stevenson in June, cast a shadow over the club but both will always be remembered for their generosity, compassion and commitment to Rotary values. Despite many problems B&W Rotary has continued to flourish this year and remains as strong as ever with 34 members.

Initial assumptions that the end of COVID was in sight have been proved wrong as the new delta strain is spreading and is hampering plans for a speedy return to face to face meetings this month at Ladybridge Club. However, our weekly zoom meetings are well regarded and we have had some excellent thought provoking speakers as well as recent outdoor social events. Michael & Pam's garden party and Harry & Maggie's garden picnic were well attended and very much enjoyed by all. The sun shone, the food was delicious, and the wine flowed ensuring a great fun time was had by all. I look forward to our garden party later this month and Ari's BBQ in August. As usual, the club is also busy with innovative plans to raise money, especially for the Motor Neurone Disease charity in memory of Bob Stevenson. An 'outdoor' fabulous fashion show, to be held in Bramhall precinct, is planned for 12th August and The National Festival Circus will put on three shows in the walled garden in Bramhall Park on 22nd August. Tickets are now available through our website. It is hoped that both events will generate much needed funds so that we can continue to support charities and local community activities such as the Handy Ladies.

Best wishes to you all and stay safe

Sue Preece

7th April - Committees

This was a meeting in which some of the committees had little to report, a result of the ongoing Covid lockdown.

The meeting started on a very sad note indeed as we remembered Ron Malabon, who passed away on Easter Sunday. Ron was a Founder member of the Club, and was always a stalwart contributor to all activities, always volunteering, always willing to take on a job. He will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathy goes to Pam and her family.

As is now our Zoom custom, we broke out into separate 'meeting rooms' for a few minutes to allow committee discussions to take place.

Our Secretary John had nothing new to bring to our notice. Treasurer Sue updated us on the reasonably satisfactory state of our finances, and Bob Preece summarised the forthcoming programmes. We took a moment to sort out who was buying the special gins for the meeting on the 21st April. Michael reminded us of the takeaway meal from Noks next week, with 25 participating to date.

Maggie and Harry had taken the Easter Bunny into Bramhall over Easter, and collected £100 in the process. Well done indeed! Maggie reported on the planning taking place for the Circus, which will be held in Bramhall Park on Sunday August 22nd, Covid restrictions allowing. There will be 3 performances in a marquee, seating up to 200 a time. Some potential issues such as additional stalls and car parking were aired.

Steve for Community Services reminded us that the superb Handy Ladies needed more delivery drivers to take meals to local disadvantaged folks. It was agreed that we should make a donation to Hillbrook Grange for our continuing use of their garage for storage of Rotary equipment.

Ari, for International, had nothing to bring to our attention, and Ian very usefully found links to help with the disposal of unwanted, clean, used medical equipment such as Zimmer frames etc.

We prattled on for quite a while, before President Harry called for the final toast at 9.25pm.

Dennis

14th April - Nok's Thai tasting

For what is expected to be our last zoom take-away tasting (for a while at least!) the Club returned to 'where it all began' Nok's Thai Street Food, formerly Chilli Banana.



Members and guests enjoyed a delicious selection of Thai dishes many of which will be appearing on the restaurant's menu when it opens again on May 18 (Covid rules permitting).

Reece 'guided' us through the menu as follows. First, starters -

- · Prawn crackers (new more traditional recipe)
- · Sweetcorn cakes
- · Pork skewers - Nok's special – we learned that although chicken skewers are popular in the UK, pork is more usual in Thailand
- · Steak Strips
- · Thai fish cakes

Then, mains -

- · Penang with duck
- · Hang Lay Moo - Nok's special
- · Garlic and black pepper prawns
- · Massaman with beef.
- · Sweet and sour vegetables with tofu
- · Drunken noodles with chicken

Accompanied by rice



We said a brief 'hello' to the Chef herself and husband Stephen (and chief prawn cracker cruncher, Lana).

We also wished each other a happy Songkran (Thai New Year), which is traditionally accompanied by what's been described as the world's largest water fight.

We ended with thanks to Michael and Sue, our Social Chairs, for organising our take-away tastings over the last year and looking forward to being able to meet up in person again soon.

Sarah

21st April - Herbert Chatters – Slightly Insane and Incomplete History of Gin in Britain

A total of 17 rotarians and partners attended for a very interesting gin enhanced evening spent with Herb Chatters, rotarian extraordinary.

We got off to a slow start as there was a technical glitch which prevented all attempts at screen sharing so we could not see Herb's slides on his gin story. After 30 minutes of trying Herb launched into a potted history of his life and rotary career instead and we benefitted from a fascinating tale. Many of us have moved round the country and world due to company and job moves but not Herb, clearly he has some nomadic genes.

He had a career in newspapers and publishing building up his own companies. Initially based in the Nottingham area he joined rotary at the age of 28 while remaining in Round Table till the age of 40. His interest has always been in community service and international. He was president of Worksop rotary club in 1986 when the end polio programme was launched and that has been his passion ever since.

He sold his business and moved to Scotland where he built another business which he then sold when he was 50 and retired to the Costa del Sol then moved to the Algarve. In each location he was very active in rotary but it was when in the Algarve he got really involved with end polio. After 10 years he moved back to Scotland and was actively involved in the 'promote the image of rotary' programme being responsible for the top half of Britain. In 2015 he moved to the Fylde area where he now lives, I think!

Then Harry received the gin presentation and we had a quick run through the slides which probably gave us a sufficient flavour. We had been supplied with tester packs of the two gins he has produced for sale to raise funds for end polio. From my screen it seemed that most had been consumed before we reached the presentation. We were introduced to Sarah Dewhurst gin mistress who had worked with Herb to create the two gins on sale, Passionately Purple Gin and A Taste of Honey. From each bottle sold £6.20 goes to the end polio fund. The creation of the gins sounded a fascinating task particularly having to taste gins every afternoon for 3 months while perfecting the right flavour. The purple gin is dry and honey gin sweeter using Salford honey, yes Salford! They have sold 2200 bottles and donated £14,000 to end polio. A new gin is about to be launched as a limited edition 'A Taste of Freedom'

Please place orders for the gin through Bob P. It is not sold in retail outlets because they take too high a mark-up to make it worthwhile.

A very interesting evening with a difference delivered at considerable pace and the odd joke too. Bob and Sue were thanked for organising the gin distribution.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

Bruce

28th April - Paul Williams - Bramhall High School

Our speaker on Wednesday April 28th was Paul Williams who has been Headteacher at Bramhall High since last summer, and who was introduced by Steve Littlewood.

Paul gave us a totally comprehensive account of his journey from discovering mathematics in his third year, inspired by his maths teacher Tony Edwards, and encouraged by his steelworker father, through , training posts and appointments in Leeds, Daventry, Cleethorpes and Market Rasen to arrival in Bramhall and the completely new experience of managing all aspects of a thousand pupil comprehensive school during the current covid 19 pandemic.

I can only give you snippets of the totality of this talk; you would need to view the video to get the full picture of his educational aims and philosophy, which would provide material for a full-length book.

Paul's aim is to make each pupil the best they can possibly be, and that best should be celebrated for each pupil irrespective of formal grades or achievements. He aims for respect, resilience, and excellence. The students are the heart of the school - he describes education as providing a champion for every child and he described the challenge of matching these aims with the conflicting emphases placed on education by successive Ministers of Education. Turning to his own experience of headship thus far he said it was like walking across a bridge which you were building as you went, and that it was OK to make mistakes as part of the learning process. Lockdown has thrown up unique challenges which have helped some pupils and damaged others, so that pastoral care is a very large part of his responsibilities as is delivering safe schooling as we emerge from the pandemic. Students are experiencing high levels of anxiety and uncertainty, financial hardship, social deprivation and restriction of normal activities - nor is life easy for teaching staff either. Finally he quoted Disraeli 'I have climbed to the top of the greasy pole'.

During the discussions and questions which followed he alluded to the school's many community activities: music, shows, work experience the school bulletin to 1000 homes, our gift of a laptop, interest in Rotary interactions such as Youth Speaks, the loss of a sixth form and A-levels to 6th form colleges. On the subject of discipline he reminded us that children today are exposed to all sorts of influences and information, good and bad, which previous generations were not, that not all parents share accepted values, and that the school has to make clear what constitutes acceptable behaviour. He welcomes interaction with us when the new normal arrives.

President Harry moved the vote of thanks and the Rotary Toast. During discussions before and after the talk we decided that what India needed was oxygen

supplies and oxygen concentrators rather than money, and we wait to see how this can be implemented by Rotary and government and we can help this process with money if appropriate. Robert C.

5th May - Committees

Another month, another committee night, again by Zoom as we are by now fully accustomed to. The pre-meeting chat was mainly about how the Club could support the supply of oxygen concentrators for India, now in the grip of a severe Covid crisis. A collection is planned for Saturday 8th May, and issues including the transfer of donations, the export of concentrators etc. Maggie had just about sufficient volunteers for the collection, on what is forecast to be a very wet day unfortunately.

The meeting went into its breakout virtual committee rooms until 8.30, when the feedback session started.

Secretary John had nothing to report, and Treasurer Sue advised us of the £2000 already sent for oxygen concentrators, leaving about £2,500 in the Charity account. A further £1000 would be sent to support Polio Plus from the profits of the gins tasting evening. About £2,800 was in the General account. In an emergency, the club could decide to allocate some of this to a charitable purpose.

Sue in her "Social" role told us that a social event would be held in Michael's garden on Saturday 22nd May.

Ari for International reminded us of the successful completion of the toilet block in Kasese and the ongoing support for a school bus. Further donations were being made to Lend With Care.

Steve for Community Service was to approach Bramhall High School suggesting a meeting to explore further cooperation with Rotary. Steve would ask the school if they were able to support our efforts to help the Indian Covid appeal. Five members were currently helping Handy Ladies deliver meals, and there was support for ongoing financial help should this be needed in the future.

It was still very much our intention to hold a circus in Bramhall Park on 22nd August, subject to permissions from the Council and, of course, a satisfactory outcome to the Covid regulations.

Bob P, Club Services, announced to a somewhat bewildered meeting that we hoped to have our first "normal" dinner meeting at the Ladybridge Club on Wednesday 23rd June! There were some flippant mutterings that some members would lose their bets on the renewed starting date, your reporter included! Planning for future meetings was well in hand.

Ian had placed Facebook ads for our Saturday collection.

Council would meet at 7.30 pm on Monday 10th May. The Final Toast at 9.10pm concluded the meeting. Dennis

Wed 12th May – Larry Fryda gave a talk about Teaching Hospital Equipment Repair in the Developing World

No bulletin report

22nd May - Drinks and Nibbles at The Lacey's

By a quick calculation it is approximately, roughly, around about 430 days since our last face-to-face get together of any sort. Anticipation of a great time with good friends was high!

The event started at 12.30pm with the garden looking resplendent with gazebos that the early bird volunteers had erected

Our hosts Mr & Mrs Lacey ably managed our covid restricted social gathering. But it was a pity that the weather was not entirely on our side at the start but the sun eventually came out as did Ms Geary's sunglasses. Drinks were served by Mine Host and all the food was finger food, served by Ms's Preece and Geary. Mrs Lacey was our brilliant master chef!

Being restricted to 30 members and guests the attendees were:-

Ms Ball and Mercer, Mr & Mrs Bissel, Mr & Mrs Dev, Ms Geary, Mr & Mrs Hill, Ms Holmes, Mr Johnson, Mr & Mrs Lewis, Mrs Malabon, Mr Mehta, Mr & Mrs Monkhouse, Mr & Mrs Preece, Mr Richardson, Mr & Mrs Stevenson, Mr & Mrs Tsalikis.

Your reporter decided to ask a few people for a quote to reflect their view of on this auspicious occasion.

Our hostess, Mrs Lacey, on being asked for a quote said "I'm hopeless at words, so 'No'" and Mr Lacey added that "at least the rain has kept off".

Mr Dev said "it is the first time at a garden party for at least two years and I am really enjoying it"

Mrs Stevenson said that 'it was so nice to get out and meet unmasked Rotarians.'

Mrs Hill, our newly appointed official Club Photographer, said "It was absolutely wonderful to see everyone in the flesh and as always Pam and Michael have been the perfect hosts. Thank you to them for offering their lovely garden as our first face to face venue."

Mr Richardson had created one of his wonderful caricature portraits which was presented to Mr Lacey to celebrate his year of presidency which had ended last June when we were in high lockdown.

The 'partying' carried on until the early hours (of the afternoon) with everyone leaving with a smile on their faces.



26th May - Dogs for Good- Vicky Blackmore

'Dogs for Good'

A talk by Linda Montgomery and Vicky Blackmore

President Harry opened the official part of the meeting with an update on John Thewlis who was now recovering in a general ward following surgery and a short stay in ICU.

Vicky opened the talk, handing over to Linda accompanied by 'Obi' – her dog, on the subject of the charity 'Dogs for Good'. Linda has been with the Charity, which started in 1986, for 7 years. In 2003 it became the first charity in the UK to train dogs to help children with physical disabilities, and autism.

Family dog workshops followed UK wide, also with access by telephone and on-line. Some 1,500 families have been helped. Dogs are also very useful in also helping dementia sufferers as well as people with physical disabilities.

It all starts with a puppy and there are around 80 in 'socialisation'. Socialisation is carried out by volunteers with puppy classes, learning all the basics resulting in a happy and confident puppy. Popular breeds are Golden Retrievers and Labradors.

Training in Banbury follows, where they learn the basics needed – obedience, pushing, pulling and barking (speaking). We were then shown a video on 'retrieving' where a dog was taught to pick up a crutch and bring it to its owner.

Linda, who has been a wheelchair user for many years, told us something of her own story. Linda had a great day when in 2014 she received notification that she had been 'matched' with a dog and also received a motability vehicle. Obi was two and was then trained intensively for her needs. Training together followed in Wakefield, then home training and finally qualification and a licence.

Obi helps with shopping, knowing Linda's favourite brands, lifting bread from the shelf for her. Linda commented that people often don't know how to interact with wheelchair users, but a dog breaks the barrier and greatly improves social interaction. Obi helps her dress and takes her boots off. Fetching the post is another daily task and we were shown an amazing video of Obi, on hearing the computer printer finishing a job, got up, went over to the printer, picked up the prints and took them to Linda !

Linda enjoys horse riding as physical therapy, accompanied by Obi, who assists with support, as she climbs onto the horse. There was also a photograph showing a lovely bond between horse and dog! Obi will also bring her a cardigan if he thinks the room is too cold. One day, when her leg was painful, Obi came and lay his head on it for a long time, giving comforting warmth.

All this costs money, and Linda shared some figures with us. These range from initial purchase of the puppy, which could be £950, then £907 in welfare. Training and other expenses result in a lifetime cost of £22,212.

Questions from members included one regarding how money was raised, and this is by 'Dog sponsoring and donations from individuals and organisations. It was also asked, by Bob Lewis, whether it would be better to have a single national organisation as there are a number of individual ones. The response was that there are specialisms – Physical assistance; Hearing; Autism and each will require different training.

It was also mentioned that 'reading to a dog' can be very beneficial for some children – they are good company that will sit and listen.

Another question concerned the 'drop-out' rate of dogs who don't quite make the grade. They place around 20 – 50 dogs each year, with around 1 in 10 that drop out during training. These are however, eagerly sought after as pets, for they are very, very well trained ! There is little difference in ability between male and female dogs.

Vicky then returned to their fundraising. There are organisations 'like us', pub fundraising, regular sponsors, legacies, trusts, Amazon Smile – but no central funding.

Dogs semi-retire at 9yrs, retire at 10yrs but do not every work beyond 12yrs. Obi is semi-retired now, with some arthritis.

Harry gave our thanks to the speakers, saying it was just lovely to not only see the dogs, but such useful dogs too. There was no further business and so the meeting was concluded with the Rotary Toast.

Chris Monkhouse

2nd June - Committees

On Wednesday 2nd June 2021 Dr Harry Hill presided over the last committee meeting in his current presidency. Attendance was quite low with only 14 of us able to join the meeting. The pre meeting chat was as lively as always, perhaps all the noisy ones were present. Those who were there were able to report on some members who were missing.

Harry told us that he had almost daily contact with John T's son, Andrew, who reported that John had had his tracheostomy tube out only to have it put back in the next day to facilitate some more surgery but that he was now out of ITU and looking forward to some real food. He'll be pinching chips as usual in no time. John says 'Hi' to everyone.

Sue is in regular contact with Orianne and was able to tell us that Bob was still in Stepping Hill hospital and that they were struggling to discover what his current problem was. Everyone was very saddened by this news.

At the moment we have no news of Neil but we hope to remedy that. Satisch offered to contact Brenda.

John S , Pat, Ari, Ashok and Dennis all sent their apologies.

Michael couldn't contain his excitement as he watched the footie on the telly. I didn't know blokes could multi task.

Breakout rooms caused the usual confusion despite the low numbers but everyone arrived somewhere eventually with Dev, a late arrival, keeping Harry company and having a chat about his latest job in Bolton.

Everyone except Sarah made it back from the committee rooms to give their reports.

Treasurer Sue reported that we had £2,500 in the General Account and £2,700 in the Charity Account though that will have changed after some spending at Monday's Council meeting.

As next year's President Sue appealed to all members to get back to her immediately if they wished to change the committee on which they have been serving or chair a committee. So far the only response to her email has been from David who will become the new chairperson of Community Services.

Steve struggled in vain for something to report from Community Services but instead thanked his members who had worked hard this year with himself merely being the mouthpiece.

Michael told us of his valiant attempts to persuade The Golf Club to host our next social event in their outdoor gazebo. Sadly he failed but instead booked another of our famous tasting evenings for June 16th from the newly opened Trunk Lounge in Bramhall. Upcoming garden events are to be on June 26th in Harry and Maggie's garden, July in Sue's garden and much to Tony's delight a traditional annual BBQ in August in Ari's garden.

Bob P is continuing to do a magnificent job booking speakers each month but is struggling with some bookings as we haven't yet made any firm decisions over whether we meet in person or on Zoom in future weeks. This week's speaker is a published author, Gloria Barnett, speaking about the importance of our oceans. The meeting cannot be recorded so one chance only to hear her.

There was a lot of discussion about how this year's meetings continue, either on Zoom or in person at Ladybridge club or possibly another, better ventilated venue. Most were in favour of a mixture of the two in order to suit everyone. The discussion was to be continued at Council.

David stood in for Ari, International and told us that the likely printing on the van we helped to sponsor in Kasese, Uganda, would be, Great Lakes Peace Centre, Kasese, followed by the names of the sponsor clubs including Winchester and Bramhall and Woodford. The committee is still looking to have a meeting with international students later in the year and our Lend with Care initiative is ticking over nicely.

Maggie is hoping to get back to some publicity and fund raising events in the near future with a possible appearance at Bramhall Festival on July 10th to promote Rotary and our upcoming events from the stage, a free stall at the Worker Bee Market in Bramhall Village Square on 7th August to sell pocket money toys and tickets for a The National Festival Circus in The Walled Garden in Bramhall Park on 22nd August, tickets and posters for which have been prepared and will be on sale at Bramhall Dog Groomers and Prestbury Travel from the beginning of July.

There are also plans for an outdoor fashion show in Bramhall Village Square on the evening of 12th August, after the shutters have come down to enclose the square. Fashion from Modiste and Caro, food from Plumcake and Pix Pizza. Maggie is looking for a shop/ company who might be able to decorate the square in return for publicity. All these events are of course subject to the current Covid situation at the time and the views of Public Health Stockport.

Ian, publicity, had nothing to report.

AOB Ian reminded everyone that he is still hoping for more old coins, foreign coins, gold, silver, jewellery, old postcards etc. He is coming to the end of recent supplies donated by members. He continues to convert these items into a steady supply of

cash for our charity fund, adding £175 this month. Please check your drawers and cupboards, have a clearout. Your junk could be worth a fortune.

The meeting ended with the final toast, just before Michael fell asleep.

Maggie.

9th June - The Environment-The Importance of Oceans – Gloria Barnett

Gloria Barnett described herself as The Weird Fish Lady, a science presenter, deep sea diver, author and fellow Rotarian and joined us for our zoom meeting. Approx. 16 people joined to listen to this fascinating, informative, educational and entertaining talk.

Gloria's talk provided us with great insight into her world of Oceans and a list of fascinating facts such as;

The Pacific Ocean is Very Big – covering 32% of Planet Earth. The Mariana Trench (in the Pacific) is the deepest part of the Ocean – 11,000 m. Everest by comparison is a mere 8,000 m high.

The marine environment is hostile – high pressure, no oxygen, dark and cold. Life exists in the top 200 m where there is sun, light and warmth. Sound travels x4 faster in the sea than in air

The Ocean environment can be divided into zones.

1. Rock pools
2. Coral reefs - like underwater cities -10,000 creatures living there.
3. Shallows – only plants in the ocean. Sea grass grows in this saline environment and capable of photosynthesis- Producing Oxygen and glucose
This produces 10% of the whole of Earth's Oxygen
(NB seaweed is an algae not a plant in case you were wondering)
4. Deep Sea
5. Big Blue

Fish Gloria likes Sharks – only 3 species need avoiding. The Whale shark is the largest fish in the ocean -18 metres long and is friendly. I'll take her word for that! Her Favourite is the blobfish!





A nasty fish is a giant Moray eel. Ugly with razor sharp teeth that are rather partial to the fingers of hapless divers. Gloria showed us a video of her very scary close encounter

Reptiles – Good guys – Turtles, Bad guys- black and white sea snake - 2

nd most poisonous creature on earth

Mammals - Good guys- Dolphins. Bad guys – Killer whale – Orcas. these are the worst of all predators, very intelligent and can kill great white sharks – they bite the side and eat their livers.

The Pacific Ocean is Very Big – covering 32% of Planet Earth. Mariana trench (in the Pacific) is the deepest part of the sea.

Distance of 11 km from surface to bottom of ocean floor. Everest by comparison is a mere 8 km high.

Blue whales are the largest animals that have ever lived—they're even bigger than dinosaurs with a tongue as large as an elephant. They live on a diet of Krill – which is a form of plankton

Now for the scary part

Plankton produces 70% of Earth's Oxygen (They are critical in supporting marine and freshwater food webs. They use photosynthesis to convert carbon dioxide to oxygen)

Rainforests produce 20 % of Earth's Oxygen.

Oceans are the lungs of the Earth providing 80% of our Oxygen.

Our seas are now full of rubbish – sewage, plastic and supertrawlers are over fishing.

Carbon Dioxide naturally occurs from volcanic eruptions.

Manmade Carbon Dioxide results from industry and burning fossil fuels.

Normally the oceans absorb Carbon Dioxide from the atmosphere effectively, but when there is excess (man-made) it becomes carbonic acid causing the plankton to die

What the Future holds

- Need to use technology to remove the need to burn fossil fuel.
- Work with scientists
- Look at saving life on Earth.
- System change
- Change our thinking.
- Cut CO₂ emissions, Reduce meat and fish consumption, rethink our transport methods

Small groups of people can change the world (eg Polio – Rotary)

Rotary are working with End Plastic Soup Goal <https://endplasticsoup.nl/en/>

We need to educate our children now- Environment Education Project. There are teacher's resources and nonfiction books to illustrate these message

Denise Geary

Wed 16th June - Another (maybe this will actually be the last? But we've said that before!) excellent tasting session, this from the Trunk Lounge in Bramhall.

Wed 23rd June - just an informal chat because on Sun 27th we had our second LIVE post lockdown social event - a “picnic” lunch in a member's garden. Again wonderful to see each other not on Zoom!

