

June 2022



Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

1st April to
30th June

Pat's Prattle - July 2022

Hello I am the new President for Bramhall and Woodford Rotary.

Unlike recent Presidents Michael, Harry and Sue, it is the first time for me.

I have been a Rotarian for eight years so I say it must be good !

Sue has been just great this last year and deserves a big thank you.

We still had a few setbacks with covid and still had to be cautious. I recall we had some plans cancelled at Christmas and it was a bit of a strange family time.

But, being Rotarians, we carried on with our fundraising and put on parties for Afghanistan Children and supporting Care for Calais.

In April we had a Scarecrow festival along with song and dance in Bramhall . It was a big success. This May time our annual Duck Race in Bramhall Park returned and raised over £13,000.

Although more confident life is back to normal for most of us, our job of fundraising is more important than ever as the War in Ukraine continues and the need for medical equipment is high on our list.

We like to support as much as we can our international ventures in Uganda. In addition Motor Neurone Disease is one of our more recent areas of support and more funding and research is needed

This August we are putting on a Circus in Bramhall Park on the 21st. Last year it was a big success - so look out for it again.

All good wishes everyone - please join us

President Pat

Wed 20th April – Malcolm McFarlane – Sounds of the Sixties

Our meeting included three Rotary guests from Wilmslow, who presented a Friendship Cup to be passed on to a club of our choice in three months time, and also cordially invited us to their German Carnival meeting to be held on Tuesday May 17th at the Deanwater, price £25, fancy dress optional

Our speaker, Malcolm Macfarlane introduced his talk on pop music and groups of the 60s with a burst of music. A fairly lengthy interlude then ensued while various techy members of the club helped him recapture sound, but he was then able to regale us with musical samples and pictures and video of that amazing decade. The cast presented would run to many pages of bulletin, but were enthusiastically received by members who were around in the 60s and knew most of the words as well. All in all a most interesting evening.

Robert Cryer

Wed 27th April – Howard Green – Staircase House

As is becoming the attendance norm, 15 club members met including the speaker and were joined by Denise and Lynn after the meal which was up to the usual standards. Among the apologies announced by Dennis, it seems my bad back is contagious as Michael and Steve are suffering too. Sarah, David Rose and John Sykes were mentioned as being otherwise engaged.

During a short burst of business while waiting for the sweet, Harry mentioned that he may ask for £840 to finance the Walthew House blind walkers for a year as their grant has finished. Maggie said that selling of big ducks was almost complete but that there was likely to be fewer races than last year. She now has quite a lot of volunteers from MNDA but would still like some fit young volunteers for the heavy work. She also asked for a volunteer to direct vehicles from 6.30 am to avoid parking problems later in the day. It was noted that someone had driven into the door of the garage where the float is kept. It is expected repair cost will be met by others insurance.

Sue introduced the speaker, Howard Green who for many years till retirement four years ago was historian for Stockport museums. His subject was Staircase House which is situated in the market area in the town centre. He started by showing some ancient maps of Stockport and gave us a quick historical tour of the original town, drawing attention to the castle and parish church illustrating some of the history of each.

Staircase house could date back to the 13th century but it is more likely that it was built in late 15th century which is the date of the oldest wood used in construction. The house is constructed by the cruck method whereby large oak trees are split to form the basic structure. Some these remain but have been partly replaced due to rot.

The house was occupied till the 1930s when it fell into disrepair. It took a fire in 1995 the spur the council to start extensive restoration work of the derelict building. Each room of the house has been restored to reflect a particular historical period in the life of the house.

Brilliant local craftsmen have restored the staircase using local materials as far as possible and created replicas of much of the original furniture. Tableware and other artefacts on display have been acquired over the years some from the Nanking wreck which contained an enormous amount of crockery packed in tea.

Sue in thanking Howard commented that she must visit Staircase house again as we understand so much more about it which will increase the interest.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Bruce

Wed 4th May – Committees

Membership – no new members – 2 Afghans may visit a meeting

Secretary – no emails of note

Treasurer – General account £1843 – still solvent

Charity Account - £2000 has gone to Ukraine Appeal

£1000 to UK Meds

£2000 to Hearing Charities

Remaining Balance = £2742

Rotary has given a total of £6000 to Ukraine Appeal

Club services – All Ok

Social Mumbai to Bombay event – 25 May 23 people booked to go so far

June /July Garden Party by Sue Preece details TBC

July / Aug Barbeque hosted by Ari – details TBC

Plan for Rainbow 88 event in 2023

Community Service - Circus fund raising will go to charity Mediquip for Kids

International 8th June – Talk to be given by Richard Bircher and Sinead regarding their ideas for fund raising for their chosen charities. This will involve a virtual walk up Kilimanjaro (ie Bramhall Park) in some sort of fancy dress involving pith helmets

Communications Duck race advertised in SK7 mag . 10,000 people have viewed on social media

DUCK RACE update

Loads to do still . Maggie advising who would be doing what and some job lists distributed .

How to manage the volunteers and shifts to be determined. Still need a good number of Volunteers at the end of the day to clear up etc

Sales of duck race tickets now available on website. Sales so far equivalent to 2 day's worth of collections

£41.80 collected at Paws in the Park. 98 Giant Ducks have been sold – 60 are new ones

67 Volunteers available – 25 from Rotary 2 from Wilmslow Rotary . Rest are a combination of friends and family and MNDA. Not all available for full day

Sat evening 14 May – Volunteers are needed to load up the van in readiness for drop off at park early morning of Sunday 15 May

Denise

Sun 15th May - Duck Race and Family Fun Day



Wed 18th May - Duck Race debrief

19 members present for the evening. ?Just a mention Tony Johnson had a winning ticket for the Duck Race and so did Michael Lacey (No he didn't! Ed) .

An evening of discussion. A positive out come we had a successful Duck Race Day making a substantial amount for MNDA. Lots of people came along to support Rotary and have a fun day.

Rotarians and volunteers worked hard on the day. Maggie and Ian planned and placed stalls and Fair. Parking was also organised by Chris .

Sue and Satish with the early start of 6.30 found 8.00 would have been a better time as Stall holder's didn't arrive till then.

Selling tickets needed to start 10.30 Ducks arrived and needed labels. Lynn did an amazing job of putting Ducks in the right place. Without that we wouldn't have got them swimming down the river. Denise seemed to be in three places at once.

The best dressed ducks owner Stuart was thrilled and it came first in a race.

New shelving for the Ducks to be considered.and gazebos for the top field. Easier to install .

More discussion as how the DuckRace should be in the future. With all the club partaking and giving volunteers as much information beforehand as possible.

Problems on the day. Programs and collecting buckets to be set in the right places. Rubbish bins need someone to over see them . I know John was doing lots of picking up rubbish.The evening came to an end but discussion could have gone on longer.

Pat

Wed 25th May - Bombay to Mumbai

A celebration of our Duck Race 2022 success.

A very quiet and peaceful Fir Road was rudely awakened by the arrival of 27 Rotarians and friends, intent on celebrating after weeks of hard work, culminating in our Duck Race. The venue was Bombay 2 Mumbai.

Unusually the author and her husband arrived early, dead on 7.00pm, expecting to be greeted by Peter but instead we found Satish and Dennis with their guests Ros, Ella and Alan already installed at their table. We began to wonder straight away, 'Where was Peter?'

Next to arrive were Michael, Pam and Chris who informed us that a miracle had just happened. Pam had closed Chris's car door, COMPLETELY, on Michael's hand. I can only assume Chris's car is magic. There was not even a mark.

The rest of the party, including guests Pam and Oriane, Sue, Kathryn, Joanne Sinead, Sally and Wendy followed very quickly and everyone had arrived by the required 7.30 except for Peter. We were just beginning to be really concerned when he turned up at the door. He'd expected a lift but the message hadn't got through. We were all pleased to see he was OK.

What followed was a magnificent meal beginning with popadoms and no less than three starters and ending with a thali, small portions of three main meals, chicken, lamb and chicken peas with rice. As we have come to expect from Bombay 2 Mumbai every dish was delicious.

Despite the fact that he told us that Donya had decided she was the boss and had banished him to the kitchen, Sandeep was a very attentive host and even took photos for us. He welcomed our party and hoped that we would all return for many years to come. He has since sent an email to reinforce his comments and hopes that some of us might spare some time to review Bombay 2 Mumbai on Trip Advisor.

Thanks to Lynn for organising such a fantastic and well attended social even though she couldn't attend and to Michael for keeping us all informed in Lynn's absence.

Maggie.



Wed 1st June - Committees

Thirteen members attended for the evening meal with two coming afterwards. A number were on holiday and unwell including John Meeus.

President Sue requested those who had not yet responded to her invitation to her Garden Party on Saturday June 11th @ 3pm to reply by Monday 6 early am. She acknowledged the excellent Indian meal and commented on the continuing Rotary support given to the 400 Afghan refugees still at the Radisson hotel at the airport since August last year.

Harry invited those interested in bulbs, lily of the valley, dahlias and gladioli to collect from him after giving notice for a donation.

Secretary: John – Nil to report

Treasurer: Steve – General Account £2,100. Conference £350 written back. Paid planter £45

Charity Account – Duck Race provisionally £13,000+ net. This year there was a shortage of sponsors and pre-sale of tickets. HMRC Gift Aid receipt £1,850

Ways & Means – Circus scheduled for 21st August. Though deposit paid Ian awaited confirmation. It remained to be decided when ticket sales could commence.

Scarecrow event not to be repeated until next year.

Event in Village Centre – food & entertainment Ukrainian musicians – medical equipments.

Community Services: Satish - youth Speaks decisions awaited on schools to participate.

Possible donation to Stepping Hill Children's ward

International: Harry – Possible medical funding to Uganda, India & Ukraine.

Communications: Ian – Unclaimed anorak with key handed in at the Duck Race event.

Any Other Business: Tony J proposed that Council should consider a contribution to The Mill to fund a chair lift to enable the physically disabled to participate and undertook to request the financial details in advance of the meeting on Monday 6th June

Tony J

Wed 8th June – Richard and Sinead described the needs of two African schools

No bulletin report

Sat 11th June – Sue and Bob’s garden party enjoyed good weather, great food and live music!

No bulletin report but some pics!



Wed 15th June – no real meeting – just a brief zoom chat

Wed 22nd June - Brian White gave the first half of his photographic wildlife talk “In the footsteps of Dr Livingstone” Fabulous images! We also presented MNDA Manchester with a cheque for £13,000



Sat 25th June - Virtual climb of Kilimanjaro



