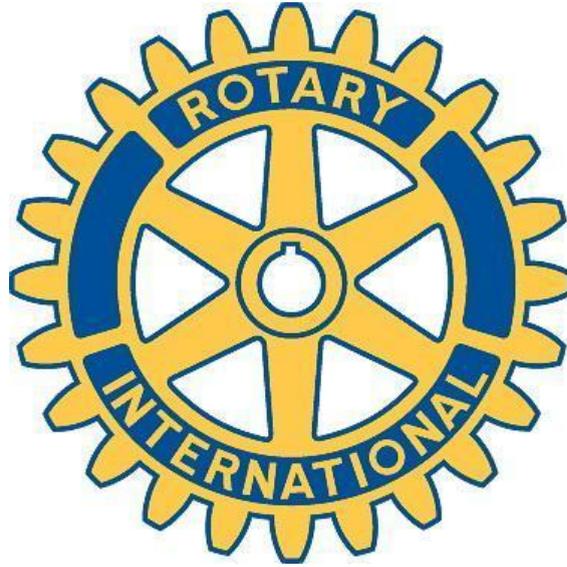


**March 2022**



**Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club**

**1<sup>st</sup> January to  
31<sup>st</sup> March**

## Sue says - Apr 2022

Easter is nearly here, daffodils are out and winter is beginning to feel a distance away. Whilst Covid certainly has not gone away we are not as fearful as we have been in the past, thanks to the vaccination programmes. I think we can finally spread our wings after a long cold winter with changes in weather, mood, and life.

Quite a lot has been happening in our club and you can read all the details in this newsletter. I am especially proud that B&W has recently been able to support so many good causes such as Walthew House, Ukrainian refugees, Water Aid, children with hearing impairments etc.. Our Scarecrow event and international song and dance concert were a great success and brought smiles to all involved. Many shops made a lot of effort to create wonderful scarecrows and I must admit that having to choose the winners out of so many was quite a challenge. We have organised another Afghan Family Fun Day for the children living in a hotel at the airport. It will take place on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and it will contribute to their Eid celebrations.

After a two-year absence due to Covid we are delighted to be able to hold the 2022 Duck Race which is planned for May 15<sup>th</sup>. As well as providing an enjoyable day out for all our guests the Duck Race is our most important fund-raising event, we hope to beat our previous record from 2019 when we raised £15,000. This year we are raising money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND - Manchester) in memory of one of our Rotarians, Bob Stevenson, who sadly died from MND in 2021. If anyone can help us on the day, we would be most grateful!

So, as you can see B&W will continue to collaborate and support local charities and events whilst having lots of fun doing so. Please feel free to join us in any of our activities.

**President Sue**

## **Wed 5th January – Committees and EGM**

There were approximately 18 members present.

The EGM took place first and as expected there were no candidates for president or vice President. John Sykes was re-elected as secretary and Stephen Littlewood was re-elected as treasurer. Pleas were made for candidates for the unfilled posts as soon as possible.

Then the committee meeting started

Secretary's report. Nothing to report.

Treasurer's report. The float was a great success raising £1,044 on a single night which was a record. Once costs were removed from income and the relevant divisions made, each charity group will receive £500. The available balance on the charity account is £4,265. In the general account the balance is £2,284.

Social. Michael summarised the situation on CHADS and said that in February he was hoping to organise a cocktail tasting evening. Sarah was tasked with doing research.

Ways and means. Maggie reported that the scarecrow festival (theme song and dance) would be the next event and within that a concert if possible. Maggie thanked lots of folk for their work on the float which she described as "above and beyond"

Community service. Bob noted that the speaker next week will not be the planned one as he does not wish to speak on zoom.

Club services. Nothing to report.

International. Ari reported that we have as yet no applications from the joint project with Stockport. Lend with care is going really well.

Communications. Ian reminded that the deadline date for Insight magazine for the scarecrow festival and concert is 10th of January.

Any other business.

Chris reminded everyone that he is the archivist and if there are any documents, reports or whatever needed to go in the archive they should be passed to him.

It was decided not to have a council meeting next Monday.

Next week's meeting will be on zoom. The bulletin reporter will be Bob Lewis.

With the final toast, the meeting ended at 20:20. Michael

There were no bulletin reports for these two meetings

Wed 12th January – a sociable Zoom chat.

Fri 21st January – We returned to CHADS for our theatre evening. Reduced audience numbers, everyone double jabbed and covid tested. No mix and mingle buffet with the cast afterwards. Despite these covid precautions a very pleasant evening for an Alan Ayckbourn play.

## **Wed 26th January – Amazing quiz!**

After a short chit-chat the meeting was formally set alight by ROTARY QUIZ compiled by President Sue. There were 13 attendees with apologies from Pat, David & Ari.

Subjects in the Quiz included TV viewing Knowledge, Sports Personalities including Sport, Geography, History, Americas & General knowledge. Chris who had recently returned from the USA scored highly on his America questions. It was very lively and also challenging. Certain answers to football were challenged by Michael & Harry. Sue was thanked for compiling an excellent QUIZ.

Sue also announced that the meeting on Wednesday 2nd Feb would be a Zoom meeting (Committees) and meeting on Wednesday 9th Feb would be at the Club.

Harry also reminded those present regarding Walthew House Cup -Blind Bowling Event at Paris Wood Bowling on Wednesday 16 March 2022 10am- 1pm. Harry is looking for Teams for the day.

Meeting came to a close at 8:45pm

Satish

## **Wed 2nd February – Committees**

### **Secretary**

***John Sykes***

**No report**

### **Treasurer**

***Steve Littlewood***

General Account – At a 'normal' level of £2,261

Charity Account - £4,920 following Christmas fund raising. This needs to be spent and suggestions for suitable recipients wanted. There were several suggestions including the present emergency in Tonga, International Committee ideas and Handy Ladies who are always in need of funds. Ian's coin project has resulted in a further £120 which included 40 Euros donated during the Xmas rounds.

### **Club Services**

***Bob Preece***

Some speakers lined up including the optician and Chester City guide. Bruce mentioned that Beacon would be prepared to give a talk, and this is to be followed up. Michael has a speaker but based in France, so only suitable for a Zoom meeting.

### **Social**

***Michael Lacey***

Church Inn social meal next Wednesday 9 February. Presidents Night arrangements underway and events for April, May and June to be planned.

### **Ways & Means**

***Maggie Hill***

Future plans in preparation. The Scarecrow letter going out next week and poster prepared. David Rose asked about recipients of the monies raised from the Concert. David felt that a charity relating to hearing loss would be a preference and with a focus on young people. There was a discussion with a few mentioned, but our close association with Walthew House should be borne in mind. Cheshire Hearing Centre and Hayes Travel have been contacted to ask if they would sponsor the event and replies are awaited. A pre-concert meal is under discussion, with 'Trunk' having offered a tapas of 6 dishes for £14. This could be packaged at, say, £22 for meal and concert or £8 for concert alone.

### **Community Service**

***David Rose***

David has a number of international performers, including Brazilian music (via Richard Bircher), Iranian dancing, a Mexican family, Bramhall School of Dancing and Ukrainian dancing with own musicians. There was further discussion regarding suitable recipients for the monies raised and a special primary school in Levenshulme was also mentioned. Satish mentioned the 'Excitement of Science' talk via Zoom on the 2 March at 2pm. 60 BHS pupils under Peter Thompson are attending.

## **International**

### ***Ari Tsalikis***

The joint project with Stockport Lamplighter to offer a £1,000 grant towards a student's overseas experience if connected with Rotary's aims, has not been successful with only one applicant. Asked if extending it would help, Najib from Lamplighter did not think so. To be further discussed in committee. Lend with Care continues. The Committee will have a physical meeting planned to formulate plans including fund raising ideas. The relationship with the Kavala Club in Greece is on-hold due to severe Covid restrictions currently in place and deferred until next Spring.

## **Communications**

### ***Ian Dobson***

Press releases given to the SK magazine and Inside Bramhall (who liked Michael's artwork) regarding Concert and Scarecrow events. For the Duck Race, 50 stands have already committed and discussions are being held with regard to sponsorship. Ian assured us there would be no fire-eaters that could upset the Council !! There would be no ferrets, but there may be Bollywood Dancing... Steve asked if the necessary Council permissions had been obtained, to which Harry said that this was currently in hand.

## **Any other business**

Steve replied to Harry's question of how much we had donated to Handy

Ladies in total, and this was in excess of £2,000

Next Wednesday – Church Inn

Another Afghan Fun Day - Monday 2 May to coincide with Eid.

Council Meeting - Monday 7 February

## ***Chris Monkhouse***

## Wed 9th February – Meal at The Church Inn

21 of us enjoyed a meal at The Church Inn. Cold but fun!



## Wed 16th February – Deepak Oberai - how to prevent eyes from ageing

After our usual drink at the bar, President Sue opened the meeting at 19.45. A good turnout with apologies from Sarah, Bruce, Chris and Ari.

AOB: Michael asked to contact him if you have not yet booked for the President's night. Harry asked for more volunteers to help at Walthew House on the 25th February. Sue thanked Pat to be our next new President.

Sue then introduced our speaker, Deepak Oberai who is an optometrist. He has two eye centres, one in Wilmslow and Cheadle Hulme. His talk was about 'How to prevent you eyes from ageing'.

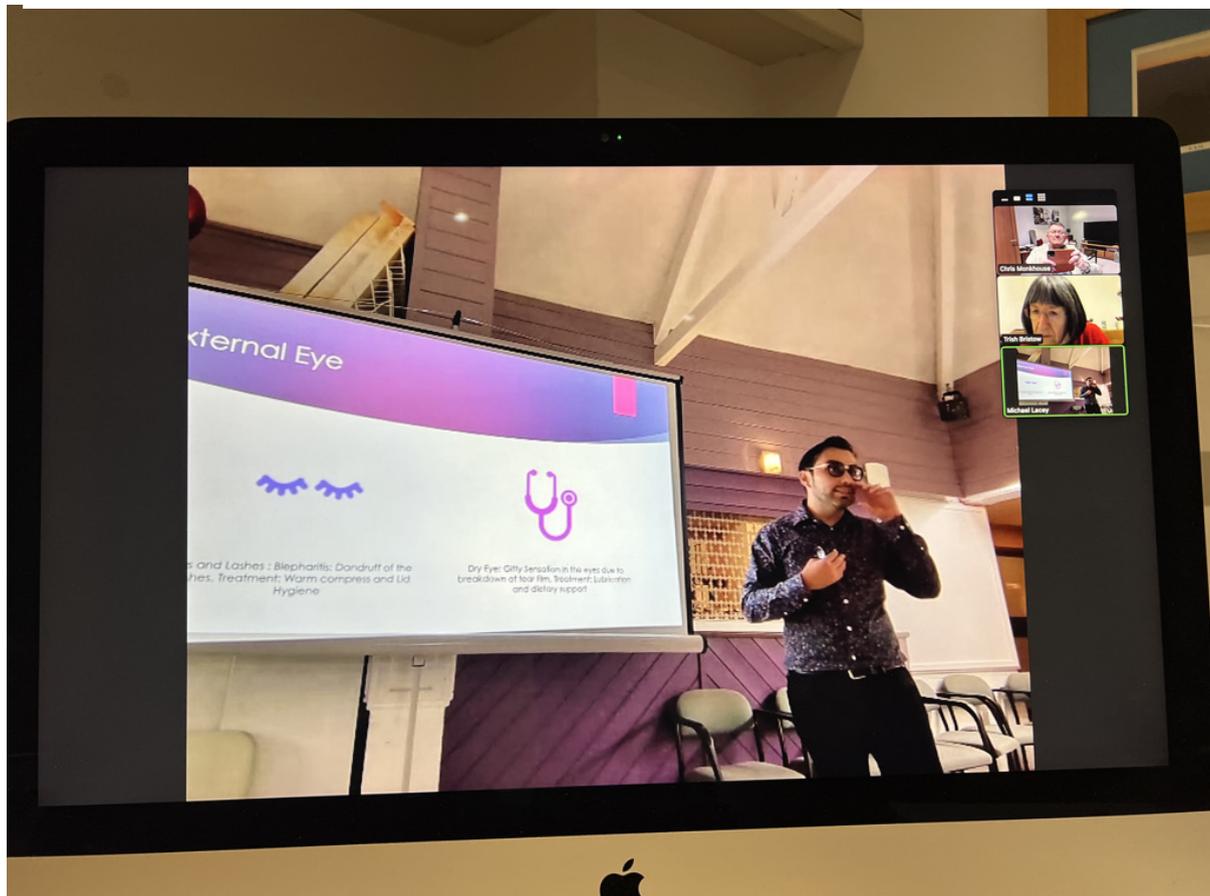
Deepak started his talk by comparing the eye to a camera. The eye, like the camera, has three parts, the outer, middle and back. He talked about each part of the eye, including dry eyes, cataracts, retinal detachment, glaucoma, macular degeneration etc and the treatments.

In summary, he recommended; A good balanced diet, stop smoking, wear UV protecting glasses when outdoors in the day, regular eye checks (including scanning of the eyes) and don't get old!!

The meeting ended at 21.30.

Ashok

Ed's note: the meeting was zoomed out. Screenshot from Chris



## **Wed 23rd February - Thelma Ridgeway**

Drinks at the bar were followed by President Sue opening the meeting at 19.34. Apologies: Robert stood in for Bob, with Sue informing us that Bob has 'man flu'. Apologies also came from several other members.

Harry: reiterated the same as last week, stating that he only 5 or 6 volunteers so far for this Friday morning (10.am) at Walthew House. Therefore, there is a desperate need for bodies. He asked us all to look in our diaries.

Satish: shared an update regarding Brenda and Neil. Brenda is taking Neil to Christies every day and to date Neil's situation does not appear to be improving. Although struggling, Brenda does not want any help at the moment.

Michael: Reminded us that this year President's night is in honour of 3 presidents. So far only 34 people have confirmed, therefore please invite friends and family.

Maggie: Don't forget the Scarecrow Festival is in a month's time, with the international concert including dancers from all around the world, following the pre-concert tapas meal at Trunk. Please invite all your friends and family as it's a great night out. Prices are: £22 meal and concert, £ 8 concert only.

Guest speaker: Satish introduced Thelma and Ian Ridgeway and reminded us of his first meeting back in 2018. A year later Thelma won 1st prize of £2000 at the Dragon's Den in March 2019.

Thelma first reminded us of the very sad story of the tragic loss of her son Lee. She has now made a lifelong commitment to fundraising and publicising the prevention of young suicide. Thelma and Ian's activities include:

- Lee's Sunshine Legacy and Fund
- POPYRUS, a charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide.
- Public Speaking at national and local events
- Helping at Compassionate Friends
- Enhancing and producing new literature
- Zoom Poetry events

Offers of support for future events have come from many people including; Mike Sweeney, Lemn Sissay. Dave Haslem, Jason Baird and other Stockport Spidermen.

Thelma is also keen to work with '3 Dads Walking' who have raised over £800,000 for Papyrus.

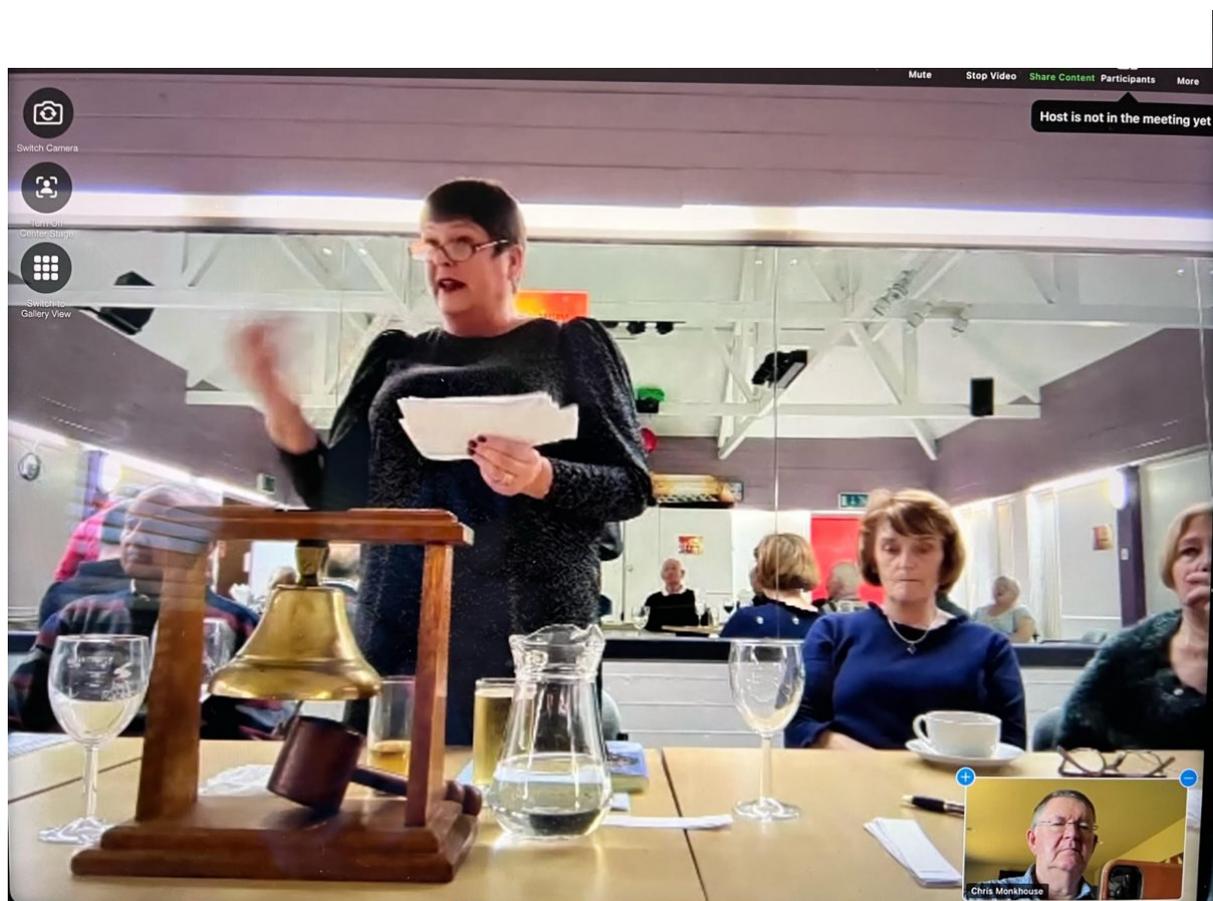
Thelma explained that when Covid hit, everything changed, but it did give her, Ian and their daughter Penny, some time and space to grieve. Last year was Lee's 21st birthday and the family marked it by releasing some white doves for him. Last August Thelma also submitted some poetry in Lee's name which now appears in print in a collection of poems which can be obtained from the Compassionate Friends website.

Lee had a love of all elephants and they discovered Lee and left the family a book of 37 beautiful illustrations of a fictional elephant he called Elpha. Lee had finished the book and included his own epitaph, before he took his life. As it will be Lee's 22nd birthday on 2nd March, the family will be sponsoring an African elephant in his memory.

Thelma closed her talk with a beautiful poem entitled 'Living is Essential' written by a young friend of Lee's.

The meeting ended at 9.30 with Sue reminding us that next week the Committees will be meeting at Ladybridge.

Lynn



## Wed 2nd March - Committees

Twenty members attended which pleased Bob P. Apologies from Sarah in London and Chris in US. Harry said his "stuffing session" went well with the help of Michael's grandchild. Lynn thanked us for the fantastic response for Help and aid direct for the delivery of clothes etc to Ukrainian refugees. Satish said "Excitement of Science" earlier in the day had zoom problems.

### REPORTS

Secretary; John S –nil to report

Treasurer Steve; General Act £2,164=67; Charity Act £4,695=60 includes Ian's coins etc £155, Harry's bulbs £288 and £500 for Aquabox.

Ways and Means; Maggie Scarecrow letters have been dispatched and she urged us to sell and publicise the kits (£20 or £10 donation for reused kits). International Concert is organized, flyers are printed and ticket sales now on web.

Duck Race, urgent needs like a big van, PA System for Croquet Lawn and to check the state of contents at Hillbrook Garage. Finally it would be useful if member doing a specific job to note down the essential points for the future.

International; Harry Dev, Rep of RI Task Force wanted ideas on pathways to distribute vaccines and inoculate people in the poorer countries through Rotary. The long established Polio system was suggested but Dev needs a faster way to stop further variants.

Re; Ukraine war, as all the Council members were present and at Pres Sue's instigation it was agreed to send £500 each to Rotary Clubs in Rumania and Poland and £1,000 to Disaster Aid-a unanimous decision.

PRO; Ian expressed disappointment that one of the local Magazines had not published his press release, the first after 8 years! There are 3 Sponsors for Duck Race, Leighton Snow, Peugeot and Vernon BS.

Club Services; Bob P seemed happy with the programme.

Social; Michael 43 booked for Presidents dinner and the next social event will be a Post Duck Race knees up.

Sue reminded that Council on Monday is still on Zoom, Rotary and Peace the World Over (how relevant) at 9.35pm.

David

## **Wed 9th March - Stephen Shakeshaft "A tour of Chester"**

Sue Preece was recovering from COVID so the meeting was chaired by Harry. 13 people attended including 2 guests.

Michael Lacey reported that 46 people had signed up for President's Night on the 18 March. A few places remained.

Maggie reported that the Scarecrow Festival was imminent, and this included the evening on Tuesday April 5th at 7.30pm at Bramhall Methodist Church, with the concert £8 and Tapas and Concert £22. Members are asked to advertise the event.

Harry introduced the speaker for the evening, Stephen Shakeshaft, a Chester City tour guide whose topic was "A tour of Chester". Stephen was born within the Chester city walls in Stanley Place, an original Georgian square, and so could officially be called a "Cestrian". He showed a picture of one of the few remaining original "Sedan Porches" through which passengers in sedans could be picked up and off-loaded under cover!

Stephens walking tour picked out sights originating from four broad periods:

- The Roman cavalry fort of Cilurnum built around 125AD which housed 500 cavalryman, positioned to invade Ireland and Scotland, but never deployed.
- Post William the Conqueror and the Medieval Period.
- Post Henry VII and the Civil War.
- The Georgian Period, around 1760 to 1820.

In addition he included several stories and superstitions eg Did you know it was unlucky to walk around a cathedral in a clockwise direction?. The cathedral was built around 1540 and is on the site of a former Benedictine monastery built around the time of William the Conqueror.

Stephen said the main influences on Chester today are:

- The University
- The Cathedral
- The Racecourse.

Points of interest included: the remains of an 8000 seater Roman amphitheatre, one of the earliest examples of a free-standing clock tower, 13th century shop "rows" and the 1897 Eastgate Clocktower one of the most photographed structures on the UK tourist route.

Stephen responded to a number of questions and Harry thanked him for a very interesting talk.

Rob Sweeting

## Wed 16th March - Bowling at Parts Wood

An annual event at which teams (we were one of quite a few) wear sim specs to simulate various blindness conditions, and compete against Real blind teams from Walthew House. As usual we did not win!



**Fri 18th March – “3 Presidents” Night at the Pinewood Hotel.**

Another step towards normality. A black tie event, with an after dinner speaker! Peter Turner gave a talk/demo about the art of magic. Very entertaining.



## **Wed 23rd March – Speaker meeting - but no speaker!!!**

We had a low-key meeting with just 16 members present. Pat was in the Chair, performing her first public duty as VP, or President-elect. The apologies list showed among other things, that Sue, Bob and Dennis were on holiday, that Ari was mid-flight back from the Maldives, and our friend Lesley was our guest. During the interval between courses Maggie told us that she had been able to meet the gentleman who gave us a cheque for £1k towards our Ukraine collections. He had explained that he and his wife had always lived like students and hadn't amassed lots of belongings. This left a bit of cash in the kitty which he felt could be better used.

We also discussed the provision of planters in the Village Square. The overall feeling was that we could afford to buy one and have it planted up without undue stress on our general fund. We will need to have a Rotary plaque on it, of course.

After the interval we waited for the speaker to arrive. And waited... Eventually Bob\* got in touch with him to find that the poor guy had completely forgotten his appointment with us! Meanwhile we were all heartened to learn that Sue, Bob and Ashok, all in supposedly warmer sunnier climes than ours, were suffering cold wet weather while we were enjoying warm sunshine at home. I think it's called schadenfreude. Then, since there is no show without Punch, Ian started talking. Apparently he has piles (of coins) and has already raised about £100 for Ukraine. The Facebook ads for the Duck Race are speeding around the interweb and snaring lots of people.

There was a brief discussion about a suitable PA system for our International Concert and I shall extricate ours from Hillbrook Grange garage shortly.

We all went home for an early night after the Rotary toast.

Harry

\*Bob and Sue were in Madeira and were participating via zoom

## Wed 13th April – Committees

PLEASE NOTE: WHERE YOU SEE THE WORD “HELP” THEN HELP IS NEEDED.  
Contact Maggie.

7.30 **President Mrs Preece** called the 14 members present to the Dining Room and the meeting to order. Your writer has been wrestling over the years with the possibility of changing the times in the report to the widely accepted continental format. But the decision has been made to stick with the twelve hour clock! The burning question of the evening was “Where is everybody?”

7.34 Food. **Mrs President** had any easy job allocating table order as there were only 3 tables!...but went anticlockwise.

8.03 **Mr Preece** gave apologies from only five members many not being mentioned. And that was it!

8.04 Bits of business included **Mr Rose** who asked for any member's photographs of the International concert.

**Mrs President** thought it was a “super night” and she thanked all involved.

**Mrs Hill** said that the Scarecrow Festival had made just less than £1,400. A fantastic result.

**HELP** all members MUST reply to emails sent from [all@bwrotary.org.uk](mailto:all@bwrotary.org.uk)

A brief discussion followed about the future of the Duck Race.

8.20 Sweet.

8.35 Tea/Coffee for 20 minutes

9.06 (Umm...31 mins later!) **VICE PRESIDENT Ms Holmes** Nothing to report on Membership

9.07 **SECRETARY Mr Sykes** Nothing to report

9.07 **TREASURER Mr Littlewood** Not present

9.07 **WAYS & MEANS Mrs Hill** reported that the Scarecrow Festival was another success. Current numbers are Scarecrows £787, International concert £654 and a flash collection for Ukrainians raised £284. Council will discuss the allocation to nominated charities.

DUCK RACE **HELP** needed to count out and distribute to schools. **HELP** needed to transport table to ticket selling locations of Sainsburys, Coop and Bramall Hall. **HELP** is needed to check gazebos and equipment at the garage on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in the afternoons. **HELP** is needed to rally family and friends to help on the 15<sup>th</sup> May. Contact Maggie to let her know what you can do. (34 members should mean 34 replies!!!)

9.25 **COMMUNITY SERVICE Mr Rose** mentioned two approaches (litter picking and Bramhall in Bloom)

9.27 **INTERNATIONAL Mr Tsalikis** has been discussing ideas for fund raising and a strong suggestion is about climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. More info to follow at a later date.

9.32 **PR & COMMS Mr Dobson** Press Release issued to SKMagazine re Duck Race.

9.33 **CLUB SERVICES Mr Preece** Programme complete up to end July. Please note that Wilmslow RC will be joining us for next week's shenanigans.

9.39 **SOCIAL Mr Lacey** Not present – cruising the Rhine. (Ed's note: The Danube actually)

9.40 **AOB** Council meeting moved to 7.30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>

9.41 Final toast

Ian