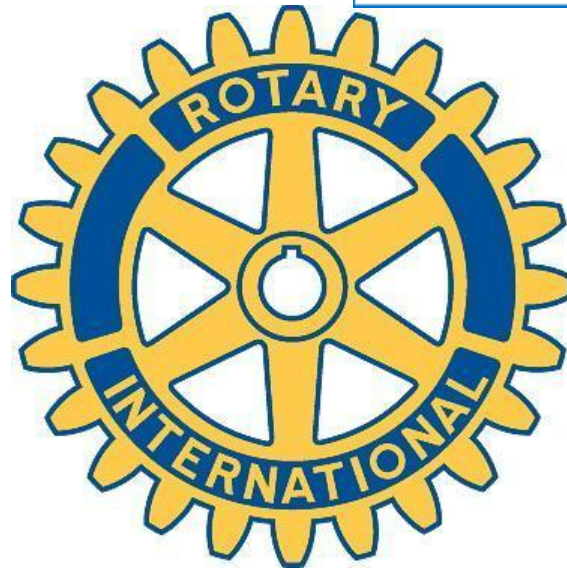


September 2022



Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

1st July to
30th September

Pat's Prattle - September 2022

Hello Everyone, Prattle time again

Now we are into Autumn and I am looking back over, my first quarter as President.

Just a couple of months ago Rotarians from our club along with any other able bodied person who supported us, set off to climb Kilimanjaro. The difference was we were in Bramhall Park and raising money to build two Schools in Uganda. In just under three hours a total of 5,895 metres were climbed and £3000 was raised .

Also in Bramhall Park, in August we held a Circus Event raising funds for the children's unit at Stepping Hill Hospital "The Tree House". What an excellent day it was and another £3000 was raised.

Still in the month of August with thanks to a lot of hard work from Maggie along with a club effort, we held a Fiesta in Bramhall Village Square with friends from the village eager to support us. Such a good evening, with requests to do it again next year. Please come along.

Many of us with our friends attended Ari and Joan's Foundation Barbecue . We were lucky with the weather and enjoyed good food.

Our weekly meetings continued with interesting talks . As an example we heard "One Family's Journey". A local lady, who had family in Ukraine, told us of taking goods from Stockport to Ukraine in a massive articulated lorry. What a story it was. We saw photos and objects typical of the way of life and their culture.

We have lots more events coming up, with the next being "Charter Night". This is the 36th birthday event for Bramhall and Woodford Rotary.

We have a fashion show coming up on November 2nd along with more in our diary in the next couple of months.

Best Wishes

President Pat

Wed 6th July - Committees and EGM

17 members of B&W Rotary Club were present together with District Governor Representative, Rot. Paul Scullion. Sue Preece, our Immediate Past President, welcomed 18 Rotarians including Paul Scullion. Apologies were given for Bruce Bissell, being on holiday in Switzerland. Others unable to attend were Dennis Allport who also being away on holidays & Ashok Popat being away in Scotland offering respite to family as grandparents. Lynn Bean having to cancel attendance due to an emergency.

Congratulations were extended by Sue to Richard, his wife, Harry & Maggie, Sarah for having climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and Club was informed that approx. £2,500 had been raised for school in Fort Portal, Uganda and school in South Africa. David Rose also had arrived at Mount Kilimanjaro but too late to climb as the Rotary Team were already on their back from the summit having hoisted the Rotary Flag. Harry, our extraordinary photographer has already circulated photographs of the expedition.

Sue Preece passed on the Presidential Chain to Rot. Pat Holmes who following coffee break proceeded with Committee Reports. Prior to this, Pat thanked Sue for extraordinary term of office. This included entertaining Afghan Refugees & their children who were housed in two different hotels by organising functions for them as well as inviting a few to Club meetings. A concert organised by David Rose at The Methodist Church in Bramhall had raised over £15,00 & Duck Race on 15th May had raised almost £13,000 which was donated to Motor Neurone Disease in memory of Bob Stevenson who had died of the disease.

President Pat invited all Chairpersons of various Committees to present their Reports.

- Secretary : John Sykes Nil to report
- Treasurer: Steve Littlewood Health Finances. Annual Membership £100
- House: Bob Preece Cost of Meal £ 14. Apologies for non attendance essential to avoid additional cost burden on finances
- Ways & Means: Maggie announced that •Circus was fixed for August 21st in Bramhall Park and proceeds were destined for Tree House Paediatric Dept. Stepping Hill Hosp.
- Music & Meal Event in Bramhall Village 31st August ROTARY RAVE!!
- DUCK RACE 2023 14th May
- Community Services: David announced that he was in touch with Tree House, Stepping Hill Hospital to receive proceeds from Circus in Bramhall Park on August 21st. Satish updated Club on the latest on YOUTH SPEAKS. He was awaiting a phone call from Simon Stonehouse.
- International & Foundation: Harry to keep Club updated on Mount Kilimanjaro collection. PHOTOS for Circulation
- Lend with Care to continue
- Social: Michael reminded that there were 17 attendees for Ottos.
 - Sue & Bob proposed a visit to a. Concert or Musical at Gawsworth Hall. Satish said he & his late wife Janet used to attend over the years.
- PUBLICITY & PRESS RELEASE: Ian Dobson also does press release on Facebook and would like to be informed of any EVENTS PLANNED to nurture publicity.

- He has raised quite bit of dosh for the club through his stamp collection, coins & antiques. He would like to continue with this.

Finally, Paul Scullion presented his observations on B & W achievements over last 12 months and suggested an ingenious way of increasing Club membership by engaging with forthcoming retirees by inviting them to social events. He will forward his report to Pat for circulation.

Meeting closed at 21:40 with final toast.

Satish

Wed 13th July - Professor Tony Redmond, UK-MED

Eighteen of us assembled for dinner – sixteen members, our speaker and a guest, Don Dwyer, a Rotarian from the RC of Jacksonville Oceanside, Florida. Don could become a regular, having bought a house in Bollington to spend summers here, and winters in Florida. Sounds like a perfect plan.

Maggie outlined an event in the planning stage - a food, wine and music evening in Bramhall Village Square on the 29th August. Maggie asked for an initial show of volunteers and a name for the event - to which Michael humorously suggested 'Bramhall Rave' ! Michael also gave a 'last call' for the meal at Otto's next Wednesday. Must have final numbers before Friday.

Another superb buffet of salmon, steak pie and the ever-popular lasagne was enjoyed, especially 'an English pie' by our visitor Don.

Harry then introduced our speaker, Professor Tony Redmond whom he had known for many years. Tony has spoken to the Club in the past about his quite unbelievable life in emergency medicine and focussing upon his leading role in establishing UK-MED. I have written many bulletin reports over the years, none as difficult as this one, with the volume of information presented to us.

The talk covered natural disasters – earthquakes, typhoons etc., epidemics like Ebola and Covid-19 and war zones with battlefield casualties around the world. The latter included time spent in the Balkans (Sarajevo and Kosovo) and flying with 'Maybe Airlines' the darkly humorous nickname that was actually used for a time, derived from 'maybe it will take off'..... 'maybe it will arrive'....! Tony showed us a slide of his passport stamp 'Maybe Airlines'. Shot at by Serb militia and negotiating with a very unstable warlord who was threatening the hospital. Closer to home, he was Site Medical Officer at Lockerbie following the terrorist attack on Pan Am flight 103 in 1988 in which 270 died. This was understandably a very harrowing experience.

UK-MED started life as South Manchester Accident Rescue Team, becoming the largest emergency rescue charity. Hosted by Manchester University for humanitarian and conflict response, the organisation founded by Tony, an A&E Consultant at the time, consisted of unpaid volunteers from the NHS. One of the first disasters to which they responded was a large earthquake in Armenia in 1988, then Lockerbie followed by the 1990 Iranian earthquake and many, many more since.

It became necessary to change the name, as 'Manchester' limited it, when seeking help nationally, and so UK-MED was born, and it became a 'national' operation.

Oh dear, I am still only halfway through my notes and I haven't yet mentioned the Sierra Leone Civil War 1991-2002, Iraq, the dangers of dealing with contaminated casualties, Haiti 2010, reducing the levels of amputations and much more !

With Covid's rapid onset, Tony was Medical Director of the 648 bed Manchester Nightingale Hospital set up in just 13 days. UK-MED are currently active across Ukraine with mobile clinics and training local medics. In addition to the direct casualties of the conflict, there are the ongoing medical needs of the general civilian population. The Ukrainian medical personnel are good, but now very tired. They need specialised equipment and specialised support, including plastic surgery.

UK-MED is never short of volunteers to undertake this very dangerous work, to put themselves in harms-way, to help others. They are insured, but the risks are great, and include –

- Health
- Physical harm - Tony suffered heavy metal poisoning (lead and uranium). The chelation therapy used to remove these, also removed calcium, leading to spinal fractures and a loss of 2" in his height.
- Stress
- Malaria
- Home Life
- Missing family
- Stress for family
- Career
- Conflict with NHS work

The benefits however -

- Doing something of value
- Helping the most vulnerable
- Gaining much experience to the benefit of their NHS work.

Tony finished with a very sad note. He was due to make a trip to Mongolia but at the very last minute he was called away and a friend stepped in for him. The helicopter crashed in Mongolia and he was killed.

Some questions followed, but many of us, from comments that I heard as we left the meeting at 9:25pm, were speechless, just amazed that one man could have done so much in his life, for so many. It was truly amazing, and I apologise for any omissions in this bulletin.

Chris Monkhouse

Wed 20th July - Otto's Vegan Empire

No report as such, but 22 attended a veritable vegan feast

Michael



Wed 27th July - Keith Warrender 'Manchester Oddities'

First, yet another delicious buffet (salmon/chilli/lasagne/rice/garlic bread/ veggies etc) followed by strudel with ice-cream and strawberries.

Harry then called for volunteers to tackle a 'balsam problem' in Bramhall Park. We were assured this was an easy and very worthwhile job, in the pursuit of 're-wilding'.

Keith then started his presentation by calling for all the lights to be turned out, much to the (silent, of course) consternation of this writer! Firstly, Keith apologised for his 'no-show' last time and a little humour about putting a clean pair of socks on every morning, only to find that by the end of the week he couldn't get his shoes on....!

His talk started with White Nancy, the Bollington folly built in 1817 replacing earlier warning beacons, to celebrate victory at the Battle of Waterloo. There are various suggestions as to why it was called 'Nancy', one being it was the name of the lead horse bringing the stone up to the top of the hill. More likely is it is the name given to an ordnance beacon. At one time it was used as a summer house, with a door and window but these were later covered. It also changes colour from time to time, in WWII it was camouflaged and in 2015 it had a painted scene. A spoof planning request was put in to convert to a 'single person dwelling with great views'.

The Monton Lighthouse, also known as 'Phil's Folly' followed, costing £20k to build by the side of the canal. It has different murals on each floor, reached by a spiral staircase. Phil is now a member of the Lighthouse Keepers Association.

Etrop Grange came next, with a story about how its first owner William Moss didn't like to dine alone and so had waxwork ladies seated around his table as he dined...! Later in the life of the house, Airline Stewardesses used the top floor accommodation for 'wild parties'.

Further Manchester oddities followed, including a carved veiled lady, carved alpine figures sitting on city centre roof-tops and what looked to me, to be a pig with wings. A hump in Chester Road, Stretford is reputed to be a buried elephant and we were shown an image of elephants at a vet nearby. Keith commented that the A56 was, after all, a 'trunk road'.....

Middleton Parish Church is odd, as the top section of the steeple is made of wood, which softens the tone of the bells. It has a curious helmet inside topped with a heraldic device. There is also the 'Archers Window' dating from 1513 with each archer's name written above the bow, to celebrate the English victory over the Scott's at the Battle of Flodden. An image of Joan, a guide, pointing out grooves in the stonework, reputedly where archers used to sharpen their arrows.

Rose Hill, a house in Sharstone (along with the 'Shar' stone) came next. Owned by Sir Edward Watkin it hosted many famous people of the day, including Disraeli, Dickens and Gladstone. Watkin was involved with the first 'channel tunnel' which was started but never completed as they faced a mob revolt, who thought we would be over-run by the French..... Watkin also felt that London should have a tower like Paris, only taller of course ! This was started, using iron from Newton Heath Ironworks but only reached level 1 due to lack of funding, and subsidence. It was blown-up. In 1901 Manchester Council acquired the house and it subsequently became a hospital, an orphanage and a remand home. It did however contain a hidden treasure – an old American painting of an iceberg, costing £10k back in the day. It was in a frame bearing an inscription stating it was left as a gift to the local people. The frame was removed, and the painting sold for £2m., the funds being used for local benefit. The house is now private apartments.

'Gravy Wrestling' in Bacup followed, involving 440 gallons of gravy and 2 minutes of action with each pair of contestants being hosed off by the Fire Service. A Ramsbottom 'black pudding' contest, throwing them under-arm at a pile of Yorkshire puddings was then shared with us. A multitude of 'garden oddities' then appeared on screen. The Swan hotel at Bucklow Hill was at one point a staging post for the shipment of Cheshire Cheese and contained silver plated trotting horse hooves from 'Lady Combermere' a horse famous for trotting '20 miles in one hour'.

Next, came much information about another listed building – an AA Call Box at Mere. In 1932 Mere junction was the most congested in Britain. The original was later smashed by a lorry and replaced by a replica. We also saw images of the once-familiar AA Man on motorbike and sidecar and in one case a very long line of them on their new machines.

A clock with 30 strikes was described, having been commissioned by the Duke of Bridgewater at his works. One o'clock, the starting time after lunch struck 13 times as many workers were late back, having (or so they said) not heard the single one o'clock strike, so the Duke fixed that !

Keith's interesting talk finished with an astronomical observatory relocated to a Whalley Range garden, originally from Bowden, having been owned by the Gaddum family. Then Kevin Duffey's most unusual garden centre in Ashton in Makerfield, and finally a pig's grave 'Mum to 200 pigs'.

Keith then introduced all the books he has written and suggested they would be a good resource for anyone wanting to get to know more about the area, including 'Manchester underground'.

Harry then spoke about the difficulty 'The Handy Ladies' were having getting volunteer drivers. This is especially bad on Thursdays and if anyone can help, it just involves about 1

½ hours delivering food bags around the Stockport area. It is most worthwhile service demand for which is sadly growing.

The meeting finished at around 9:50pm.
Chris Monkhouse 28/07/2022

E&OE

Wed 3rd August - Committees

Another quiet night with 15 Diners and Richard (yes, Richard B). The first thing I noted was Bob C dressed in Scout master attire-shorts. This could be a first for the archives. The choice of menu was good as usual.

Apologies were few and far between, mention of a member having back surgery (we wish him a rapid recovery). Bob C had forgotten that Sue and Bob P were away for a fortnight in Greece.

International committee was well represented and Ari said "Lend with Care" account was £172 to be reinvested. He gave 3 dates for his annual BBQ and SUNDAY SEPT 04 was agreed. Richard gave a summary of money raised during the day for the Kilimanjaro event in Bramhall Park in cash and online payments was £1,200. So far, with his other fundraising the total is £3.600, £1K for the S.Africa project and £2.5K for a school in Uganda.. Harry then had a sudden urge to arrange another trip to Uganda next year. So start saving!

Sarah and myself discussed repeating the Wrap Up (Stockport) working with local RCs as before in October. I will make a decision to use one or two venues soon. The organizer has asked if we can collect children's shoes as well as warm clothing.

Maggie (W&M) said only 220 tickets had been sold for the Circus and urged members to sell as we need 600 to make a profit. Remember SUNDAY 21st AUGUST -3 performances-1.0pm, 2.30 and 4.0.

Maggie and Richard were excited about Fiesta on WEDNESDAY 31st AUGUST in the Village Square. After the hard work of carrying tables and chairs from the Methodist Church and setting up a bar run by Ed and Mike, the party can begin. Richard's Salsa band, Ukranian musicians, Barber shop singers and a possible magician. Maggie wants us come in S.American dress and perform crazy games like tossing the caber, no I meant Sombreros on to poles and any other mad ideas for fun like have a Brazilian! . Ian may even lead a line dance. I am exhausted at the thought already so please make a big effort, sell tickets and choose your food from 5 places.

Social (Lynn) said Klink 17th AUGUST is OK. It was suggested that participants take a nice gift for the women. Sue Preece is organizing a trip to RHS Bridgewater in September. Please note Charter Night will be at the Crown & Conspirator on 19th OCTOBER.

At this point, there was noted that a Treasurer's report was missing. Ian reminded us of the sad passing of Neil who was an excellent Rotarian and a gentleman. Many members including myself are sending personal cards to Brenda in Devizes. Ian had "coined" in £135 for the Ukraine fund, continue giving him foreign coins and any unwanted jewelry.

Finally, in view of low attendances Pat asked for a show of hands whether to hold a meeting next week, as a result it will go ahead with a speaker from Walthew House. She urged more members to attend even if is after the meal. The final toast was about 9.25pm.

David

Wed 10th August - Walthew House

President Pat welcomed Sarah Mollitt, the Funding and Income Generation Manager at Walthew House as our speaker and also welcomed our prospective new member Lesley Buckley. There were 17 members present including the later arrivals.

Updates were given on the progress of the health issues impacting on Bruce Bissell and John Sykes.

An urgent appeal was made by Ian Dobson and Maggie Hill to promote the sale of tickets for the Circus on Sunday 21st August and the Summer Festival on Wednesday 31st August.

Sarah Mollitt had joined Walthew House in April 2022 and said she was pleased to give her first talk on behalf of the charity. She recognised that many members were already very familiar with the activities of the blind and deaf charity and expressed grateful thanks to the members

Sarah commenced by giving the history of supporting people in Stockport since 1865. Walthew House began before the NHS, national free education, before benefits and the social welfare system. If people did not have a job, they simply had no money, so were dependent on charities.



Those with sight and hearing loss struggled to compete for jobs and were left disadvantaged. Getting an education was also difficult for people with sensory loss, and of

course a good education can be really important if you want to get a job! Charities like Walthew House began so that we could address these problems for the people of Stockport. A meeting called by a leading member of the town's community in 1865. John Walthew, who became Mayor of Stockport in the early 1870s, and his wife invited the town's blind people to tea. The Walthews of Wood Hall, Reddish, had first hand experience of the disability, as their daughter Louisa was blind and deaf.

After this first meeting, regular weekly gatherings were arranged, at which volunteers read to and generally helped the blind people.

In January 1867, the town's blind, deaf and residents without speech were invited to a meeting at Stockport Sunday School to draw up detailed plans for support. The meeting was chaired by James Sidebottom JP, who was appointed to carry out the project. To help finance the work, Mr Sidebottom pledged a donation of £50 per year. There were a number of other subscriptions including £10 per year from Mr Ephraim Hallam. The meeting agreed the main aim was to give people with sensory loss the chance of an education and work experience.

The committee set up workshops where clients made goods and a shop was opened on Wellington Road South, Stockport, where they were sold. A schoolroom was also established.

In the early 1870s, the committee decided it needed its own premises and bought a site in St Petersgate.

The foundation stone of the building – called the Institute for the Blind, the Deaf and the Dumb – was laid by Louisa Walthew on 14 September 1872 and the building built at a cost of £3,500. The three-storey building included two shops to sell the goods made there, large work rooms, two living rooms, a library, a committee room and a reading room which had some books with raised letters.

Most of the cash for the centre was raised through bequests, including one of £2,000 from James Ollershaw, who had lived in Stockport before moving to Jersey and £500 from Henry Marsland, who had lived in Woodbank.

The gentleman responsible for the initial thrust to the project, John Walthew, remembered The Institute when he died in April 1889. He left £500, which was invested to provide a regular income.

The St Petersgate base was used until the late 1960s but by then it was clear that new premises were needed. To adequately cater for the wide-ranging needs of its clients the St Petersgate property was sold to fund the construction of the Institute's present base in Shaw Heath. This was opened in 1970 and named Walthew House.

It was decided that an extension to the existing building was required and a phenomenally successful fund-raising appeal co-ordinated by the Institute Chairman Colonel Haldon Hole – was launched and raised £100,000 with nearly all the money coming from within the Borough.

Building work on the extension began in October 1987, the labour was provided free of charge by Manpower Services Commission.

The completed extension was named the Haldon Hole Wing, as a tribute to the chairman's work and was officially opened by her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal on 4 March 1991. In April 2009 the charity changed its name officially from Stockport Institute for the Blind the Deaf and the Dumb to Walthew House.

In July 2009 Stockport Institute for the Deaf, another long-established Stockport charity merged with Walthew House to become one charity.

Sarah went on to talk about the current situation.

Sarah said she was there to give you a little bit more information about Walthew House; what it did, how it supported their service users in Stockport and hopefully provide some information that could be helpful to Rotarians or any friends, family or contacts who have a sensory loss.

There is an increasing awareness of disabilities, and more help available to those with disabilities in modern society. However, some aspects of being blind and deaf are the same today as they were 140 years ago! I.e:

- People can still be cut off from the local community as their access to it is restricted. For example, it may be something as simple as a blind person missing out on a social event as they cannot read the community noticeboard.
- People can struggle to join in with social groups and activities. Many children, who attend the Walthew House youth group today, have failed to integrate within other youth groups due to sensory loss.
- Sign language is a way for deaf people to communicate but most people do not learn sign language. People are still cut off from the community. They can become isolated as they cannot participate in the community. Sarah said she is due to start learning sign language next month, and it is difficult because it is like learning a new language!

People may not be able to enjoy personal hobbies that require sight or hearing, such as bingo, playing music, joining in with sports.

- People with a sensory loss can struggle when filling in forms or making enquiries.
- Discrimination in the workplace.
- Personal safety.
- These problems relating to sensory loss badly affect mental health and some have dementia.

We were invited to consider, what we would do if we could not see or hear - Driving to this venue this evening, seeing when the bus we need is at the stop, hearing our doorbell? How would we feel if we couldn't enjoy your personal hobbies, communicate with people, or be a part of a social group?

Sarah brought along a little quiz about sight and hearing loss, but to make it a bit more interesting and to give everyone an idea about what it is like to live with a sight or hearing loss, she brought along some sim specs and ear defenders to simulate sensory loss.

How does Walthew House make a difference?

1. Walthew has a Youth Group which started in 2009 for children aged 5-14 with sight and hearing loss. The group takes place in sign language and voice at the same time, so nobody misses out. The activities are designed so that everybody can participate. People

are included rather than excluded. The youth group actually does a lot of activities that a normal youth group would, such as archery, rock climbing, bowling, baking, video games, swimming. They just need some extra support and Walthew House provides this.

2. At the other end of the scale, there are social groups and a luncheon club for elderly and retired people. Sometimes there is a guest speaker, reader, or entertainer. Walthew House tries to make the groups interactive so that people can get as much information as possible. For example, last week there was a Stockport County visit with their National League trophy which could be touched and held aloft!

3. There is also a newly formed Sensory Sports and Social Club, which has its own committee and organises regular activities, such as the walking group at the athletics track, ten pin bowling, lawn bowls, pitch and putt, and social activities including day trips.

The activity classes and groups have a very important social function. There is social contact. Other groups include steel band, hand bells, and chair-based exercises.

4. Free specialist sight loss counselling are offered on a one-to-one basis.

Sensory loss can be compared to a bereavement, and the counselling aims to help people deal with this and also let them know other ways in which Walthew House can help.

5. There is a not-for-profit Resource Centre at Walthew House, which is a valuable source of information for people with sight or hearing loss. It is often people's starting point in Walthew House if they have been referred from a local hospital and need help going about their day-to-day life. Discussing their problems in the Resource Centre, may lead to extra help with our other services.

6. Sensory loss training is offered to businesses and organisations to help raise awareness of what it is like to live with sensory loss and how adaptations can be made in the workplace. We have also recently started a 10-week lip reading course.

7. Walthew House has a Hospital Information Service based at Stepping Hill Hospital providing support in the early stages of a patient's journey.

8. The charity offers information and advocacy support for anyone experiencing practical or other difficulties because of their sight or hearing loss, including help with translation, phone calls and advocacy support, as well as an accessible information service – information and support in British Sign Language, large print, audio formats and braille.

Closing remarks

Sarah said that the way she saw it in her short time at Walthew House, is that they try and level the playing field. Imagine playing cards with your family or friends – you do not choose which hand you are dealt and but you may suffer because of it. Blind and deaf people do not choose to be blind or deaf, and so should not be punished because of it. The charity does not want life to be reduced to a game of chance. Walthew House tries to reduce the negative impacts of having a sensory loss.

The charity enables people with sensory loss to be given the same opportunities as other people, and tries its best to work out a solution to the negative effects of sensory loss whether they are physical, emotional or mental. They help over 300 people each week, whether that is through social groups, independent living, or counselling. If any issue arises

due to sensory loss they try and help solve that problem. They are there for the people who need it, whether it is a one off or regular contact and support.

Walthew House is a very small independent charity that serves only Stockport. It is not a big charity like Oxfam or Amnesty so only has a small budget. They have only 9 paid staff, with only 3 working full time – although a tiny little charity, does a big job in the Stockport area!

The charity costs over £300,000 a year to run, so where does the money come from? More than half of the money comes from fundraising. We rely on donations, and grants from organisations such as charitable trusts. No funding comes from the council.

Our services are almost entirely run by 70+ volunteers, and there are many people in the local community who generously give their time over to fundraising for Walthew House.

Sarah concluded by thanking the club for its continuing support and for listening to her talk!

A range of questions were answered by Sarah

Tony J

Wed 17th August - CLINK

CLINK is a restaurant at Styal prison, where most of the serving and food prep staff are prisoners who are gaining qualifications to enable them to get jobs when released. 24 of us went there for lunch, though only 7 were actually members of our club. We could choose starter and main or main and pud. 15 chose starters and 9 puds, but then a few (including me!) added pud as an extra. The food was really good. I was the only one who chose Welsh Rarebit as a starter but, as you can see from the photo, it was amazing.



Certainly nothing like any previous rarebit, with leeks, pea shoots, egg and crumbs of black pudding.

The main courses were all good, but rather on the spicy side. The puds all quickly disappeared!

The room was a high ceilinged one with lots of stained glass (it was once a chapel) and a rather weird non working clock. The staff were friendly and helpful.

Many intend to revisit, some for breakfast!

An enjoyable and interesting way to lunch out, and to support a worthy charity.

Michael

Wed 24th August - The VASA

A very impressive and detailed presentation by Michelle Rosen of the history of the Swedish ship VASA, beautifully supported by actual pictures she and her husband took when they visited the VASA Museum in Stockholm on a number of occasions.

Michelle drew some comparisons of the VASA with the English ship Mary Rose.

The *Mary Rose* (launched 1511) is a [carrack](#)-type warship of the English [Tudor navy](#) of [King Henry VIII](#). She served for 33 years in several wars against France, Scotland, and Brittany. After being substantially rebuilt in 1536, she saw her last action on 19 July 1545. She led the attack on the [galleys](#) of a French invasion fleet, but sank in the [Solent](#), the [strait](#) north of the [Isle of Wight](#).

The wreck of the *Mary Rose* was located in 1971 and was raised on 11 October 1982 by the [Mary Rose Trust](#) in one of the most complex and expensive maritime salvage projects in history.

The fundamental difference between the two ships was the fact that *Mary Rose* was a proven seaworthy warship whilst the *VASA* was a “heroic” failure, from a shipbuilding craftsmanship point of view. However one learns from one’s mistakes.

In order to ensure the accuracy of Michelle’s presentation, I have extracted the following information from Wikipedia, which includes most of the points covered by her. It is a long read but very informative nevertheless!!

Editor’s note: This ran to many (dozens!) pages so here is the link instead

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasa_\(ship\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasa_(ship))

Wed 31st August - Fiesta in the Village Square

No bulletin report but a great evening.





Sun 4th September - Foundation BBQ at Ari and Joan's

No report but a pic!



Wed 7th September - Committees

12 members attended the committees meeting held on zoom

Ways & Means

Maggie reported that the Summer Fiesta was well received but that it needed to go on longer to increase the takings. Perhaps hold it earlier in the year and have people serving drinks. More help is needed with carrying the tables and chairs from the church. Maggie is considering having a fashion show in the near future and she suggests having a bucket collection in Bramhall precinct on Saturday to raise money for aid for the Pakistan floods.

Community Service

David has arranged for Kate Leadbeater, Stepping Hill fund raiser and Jessica Dhaliwal to speak to the club about Treetops Children Ward. He is also going to organise another Wrap Up Stockport with Lamplighters and Cheadle Royal. It may be possible to get end of line coats from John Lewis. Harry offered to contact Grove Lane Baptist Church to help them get funds for a defibrillator.

Club Services

Bob reported that there is a full programme to the end of October. Bruce suggested having a speaker from Beacon and he would arrange this. John Sykes thought that Dev could give us an update on Rotary's Covid committee.

Treasurer

Steve stated that there was £2K in the General Account and £2.3k in the Charity Account. The Kilimanjaro event raised approximately £3k.

International

Harry said that Najib from Lamplighters would like to strengthen ties between the clubs to increase cooperation on international events. Lend With Care was progressing well. There were reports of floods in Kasese which may require some help.

Secretary

John thought that the information on the District Conference in Manchester lacked details.

John Meeus said that Chads had offered to let us have the dress rehearsal on Dec. 9 as a Rotary event.

Bob Preece

Wed 14th September - Visit to RHS Bridgewater and also visit to Trunk Lounge

No report for either but a pic!



Wed 21st September - ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY

What a shame that many of our members missed this carefully prepared and very well presented talk by Tina Winfield and her niece Joanne about one family's experiences in Ukraine.

Just 16 of us, including a very welcome reappearance of John T, after too long an absence, gathered to hear the speakers. The pesky laptops and myriad leads played up again until the cavalry in the form of Tina's son turned up to save the day.

President Pat called upon members for any other business in order to fill the gap in the proceedings.

Ian told us that he had attended Sid's funeral in foreign parts and brought us an order of service which included several photographs of a very handsome Sid at various stages in his life, bringing back fond memories of his time with us.

Ian had also managed to sell several items belonging to Peter who kindly donated the £100 raised to the charity fund.

Maggie announced the next 3 events in our fund raising calendar, a fashion show at Trunk restaurant on Wed. 2nd November, a stall at the Christmas card sale at The Methodist Church on 5th November and Santa's grotto in Bramhall Village Square on 27th November. The last two perhaps not too lucrative but ensuring that we remain part of the Bramhall Community.

John M told us that he had informed Chads that the date in December which they had offered us was a busy time for Rotarians and that he would look to see whether another play, later in the year would be suitable.

Some of us took the opportunity whilst waiting for the projector to be set up to browse the table of interesting objects from Ukrainian homes which Tina had brought along. Beautifully embroidered clothes (the designs different for each area, much like our tartans), a carved wooden cross (one found in every home), painted wooden eggs (each part of the design symbolic) and photographs of their family homes in the West of Ukraine.

Tina's family lived simply, off the land, in Western Ukraine until in 1939 the Russian invasion changed everything. In 1941 her father was made to join the Russian army and went first to Auschwitz and then to Italy, finally ending up in a POW camp in Lincolnshire in 1949.

Her mother, then 15, was taken as slave labour and she also ended up in England working in the cotton mills. Her parents met through being pen pals and went on to marry and raise 5 children.

Despite being away from Ukraine the patriotism remains strong in all Ukrainian families and Stockport Ukrainian Society grew up to nurture this patriotism in children born in the 50s. This continues in second and third generation Ukrainian's who are taught the traditions from an early age.

We watched and listened to a marching song which includes such lines as 'Ukraine, mother of heroes', 'Be faithful to the fatherland' and we are a 'United, independent nation'.

Although the sense of community amongst Ukrainian's in Stockport is great, when Russia invaded Ukraine in February this year, Tina and Joanne's family were determined to do something to help as a family. They decided to take aid to Ukraine themselves and determined to fill a van. Soon their home and those of friends were filled with all manner of useful items and it became clear that two vans would be needed.

Joanne's brother, Stephen, had a contact in Poland and the plan was to travel there.

Whilst attending a protest in Manchester Tina spoke with a Russian gentleman who condemned the attacks on Ukraine which made her more determined than ever to help the fight against Russia,

In March Joanne and Stephen had an easy passage through customs and made their way to a small village in Poland where bus shelters were being used as distribution points for goods needed by the influx of Ukrainian refugees. They decided to keep on driving until they were close to the Polish /Ukrainian border where they were helped to unload their goods ready to be taken into Ukraine.

Having unloaded, their thoughts turned to their family members in the West but they were another 10 hours away with no means of reaching the border so sadly they had to leave them behind.

Once back home the family started to gather goods to be taken to Ukraine once again, this time on a much larger scale, using churches and a storage facility in Manchester to gather the goods and provide space to pack and label everything. By the beginning of April they were ready to go again, this time with the most massive articulated lorry you have ever seen.

Back home again they continued to collect clothes and toiletries for refugees coming to our area to stock a shop in Cheadle Hulme, where goods are free for refugees.

Joanne is now in close contact with an orphanage in war torn Ukraine, raising money to rebuild.

Tina and Joanne are in regular contact with their family in Western Ukraine. They are safe for now. The children have gone back to school, all dressed in their traditional costumes.

Throughout the presentation the extreme patriotism and determination of ordinary Ukrainian individuals both in Ukraine and here in England shone through. An excellent evening.

Maggie.

Wed 28th September - Marilyn Shalks – Manchester theatre history

No report (yet) received.