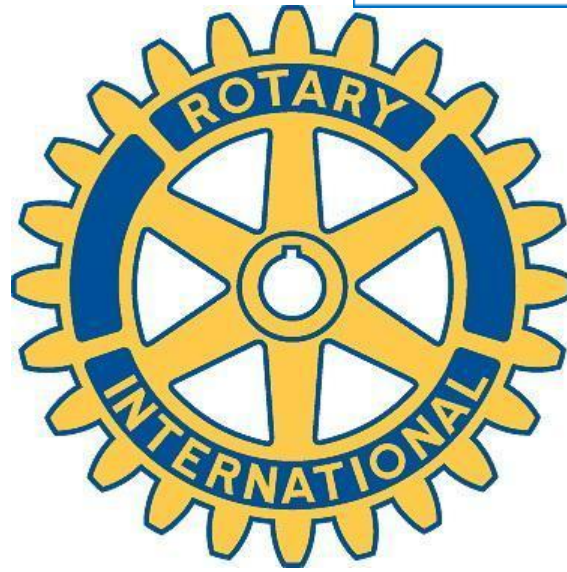


**December 2023**



**Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club**

**1<sup>st</sup> October to  
31<sup>st</sup> December**

## **Pat's Prattle - December 2023**

Hello Prattle time again

October and we were into Autumn. We had a visit from Kelsey, a scout, to talk about the Jamboree that took place in South Korea. Due to extreme heat many had to leave the official campsite. This and other disasters made exceptional memories for Kelsey.

At our Rotary Club we always make sure we have interesting but very different talks. Paul Richard came along and gave us an insight on what Stockport would be like after its redevelopment. I believe it to be the envy of other towns, at home and abroad.

We had a wonderful Concert in the village from the Maia Choir and KEMS Concert band. Thanks to David Rose for making this happen.

"Charter Night" was successful as always with a lot of support from other clubs to celebrate our farewell to the Deanwater Hotel . Might be one for the history books, as the Deanwater closed its doors a week later.

In November we had a committee evening with a new member, Archana, joining us. Maggie is putting on a Fashion Show at "The Crown & Conspirator" with Modiste and What Lies Beneath with funds being raised for Rotary Charities.

Meetings moved to "The Alma Lodge" where our first talk was On the Great Forgers given by Jim Williams. A well supported evening.

At the start of December we had our EGM with Lesley being elected President , Lynn Treasurer and Michael Secretary.

This is the time of year when the sleigh comes out with Santa and many helpers touring the roads of Bramhall and delighting the children with ho ho ho, music and sweets. Very Magical!!

Our last event was our Christmas party. A brilliant evening . Everyone had a great time, laughing and chatting and solving Sue's quiz.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year

President Pat

## **Wed 4th October - Committees**

This week's meeting began on a very sad and sombre note as we remembered our friend and fellow Rotarian, John Sykes, who sadly lost his battle with Cancer on Saturday. A myriad of comments preceded the meeting, a true gentleman, an outstanding member, well respected, a dedicated and efficient club secretary and a wonderful human being. John will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with Wendy.

For the third week running attendance at the meeting was high with twenty-two people present for the meal including future member Archana and her friend Ranjit. David, Ashok and Denise joined us after the meal making twenty-five in all. It was very noticeable that the higher numbers and new faces led to lively discussion and even a bit of a buzz in the room.

Vice President Lesley told us that she was working hard trying to spread the word that we have lots of fun and a lot of interesting talks at our meetings as well as doing good work, by reporting our social events and speaker meetings on Facebook. A really good idea. Well done, Lesley.

Secretary Michael had nothing to report... but he has not been idle, far from it.

Communications Michael has been very active on Facebook and in local publications promoting our Table Top sale, David's concert, Wrap Up and the fashion show and now he has to start on Christmas.

Michael's efforts can be magnified really easily if you are on Facebook. Please don't just like his posts, make them travel further by SHARING them. We struggle to publicise our events. Please help in every way you can.

Treasurer Steve told us that we are broke and he's very nearly correct. Of course we make funds so that we are able to help good causes and it's fabulous that we have recently been able to send £1,000 to Disaster Aid, £1,000 to UK Med and £1,000 to Shelter Box to help in The disaster areas of Turkey and Libya, as well as giving £1,000 to SPARC ( mental health) and £500 to Alzheimer's, but with only £610 left in the charity account we urgently need to raise some cash.

The general account has £1,651.

Steve brought up the subject of the £2,000 which we have in reserve for a future Dragon's Den event. Should we forget running a Dragon's Den and use the money for charitable causes or try to add to the amount in order to run another. Opinions are split.

If you have a strong view please send an email to DAVID ONLY, not to the whole club, stating your views BY MONDAY, SO THAT A DECISION CAN BE MADE BY COUNCIL.

Bob for club services reminded us that our last meeting at the Deanwater is drawing ever closer but that we will be able to meet at the Crown and Conspirator in Bramhall from January to April. That leaves us with no home for a couple of meetings in November and December. Bob suggested that we could try out some of the venues which he has explored for our future home. The Pinewood, The Alma Lodge, Bramhall Golf Club and the Stables Cafe in Bramhall Park were suggested.

Sue for Social was pleased to announce that she has been able to book Simon Michael to speak to us once again at our Charter night at the Deanwater on 26th October. Sue urged us to put our names down as soon as possible.

A tour of Bramall Hall followed by a meal at the Stables cafe has been arranged for Wednesday 8th Nov. Worsley Rotary Club have been invited. Again, let Sue know if you would like to join in. Our Christmas Party will be on Friday 15th December. Details to follow.

President's Night will be 8th March. Sue sought views on hiring a jazz band or would people prefer a speaker?

Maggie for Ways and Means told us about three money raising events leading up to Christmas.

1 Table Top sale. Saturday 28th Oct. Former Sainsbury's unit, Bramhall Village Square. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to set up tables on Friday 27th Oct. 2.00pm and to rattle tins at the event in the Square for End Polio Now. 10-12, 12-2, 2-4.

2 Methodist Charity Card Sale. Sat. 4th Nov. 10-12. Pocket Money toys/stocking fillers stall. One helper would be nice.

3 Fashion Show. Crown and Conspirator. Tuesday 7th Nov. 6.30 for 7.00. RAISING MUCH NEEDED CASH FOR OUR OWN CHARITY FUND. Please spread the word - we need a full house. Welcome drink of Prosecco and two course meal £23.50. RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED.

Santa's float rounds. Light Up Bramhall. Switch On and Grotto, Sunday 26th Nov.

Rounds Sat. 2nd Dec - Mon 18th Dec and Notcutts 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th Dec.

Rotas to follow soon. TRANSIT VAN WITH TOW BAR NEEDED. Lesley's daughter Hayley of HW Nail Systems has very kindly offered to sponsor the float again this year. Talks with Snapes Estate Agents and Notcutts are ongoing.

David, Community Services is working with Cheadle Rotary Club and Stockport Lamplighters on the Wrap Up project once again. Coat collections begin in Waitrose, Cheadle Hulme on Friday 6th Oct. and end on 19th.

Tickets are available for our concert in St Michael's Church, Bramhall on 21st Oct. Contact David.

Harry for International reported that after lending £150 to a cacao grower in Columbia we had £20 left in the Lendwithcare kitty and so we would be waiting for some repayments before lending to anyone else.

Plans for the trip to Uganda in February are going well, incorporating visits to Richard's projects, visits to old friends in Kasese and some wildlife spotting. The approximate cost of the trip will be £2,500- £3,000. 5 people have signed up at present.

Harry told us that he had 4,000 crocuses signifying polio drops given in the End Polio Now campaign, waiting to be planted in Bramhall Park this Saturday, 7th Oct. 10.00 am- 12.00. Stay for as long or short a time as you like. VOLUNTEERS WANTED. BRING A TROWEL.

A.O.B. Ian had been contacted by Alan Ratcliffe of Lamplighters who reminded us that our amplifier needed mending, particularly if we needed it as back up for Santa's float. He will be away just before Christmas so if we need him to mend it, it should be dealt with now.

Maggie.

### Wed 11th October - Kelsey Few - Scout Jamboree

4 members could not attend as they were on holiday in New York. Bob and Sue and Steve and Lindsey had booked independently and when they found out they arranged to meet up!

BULLETIN 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The meeting was chaired as enthusiastically as ever by our Vice President Lesley Buckley in the absence of President Pat.

Lesley welcomed numerous visitors and Michael announced his pleasure in confirming council approval of the membership Dr Archana Prasad.

Lesley went on to welcome our very eloquent teenage speaker Kelsey Few - a scout, who had attended the International Scout Jamboree in South Korea and she was accompanied to the meeting by her mother Su.

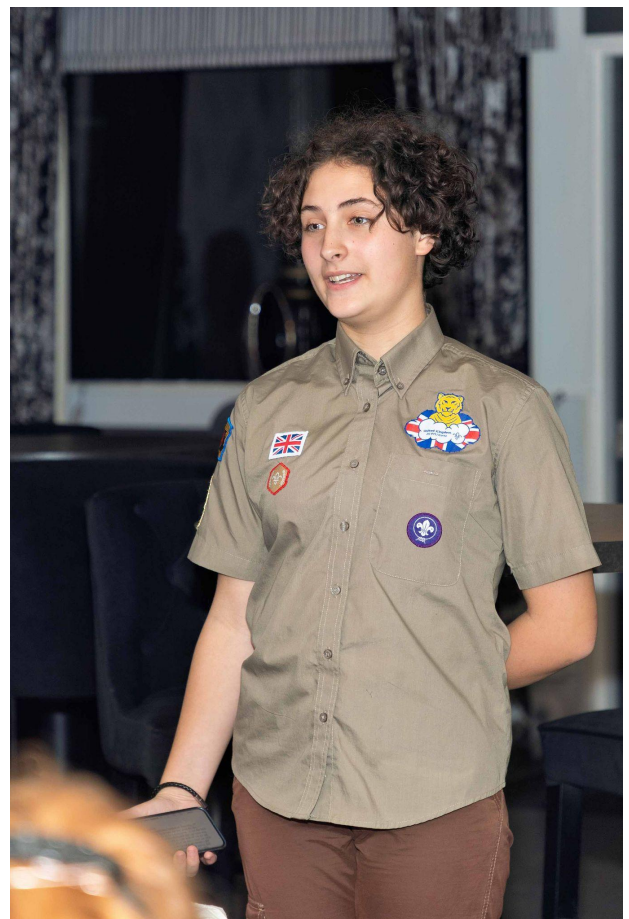
The journey there involved an early start flying via Munich with the second flight taking 10 ½ hours to Seoul all with identical bags making the collection of their individual bags somewhat complicated.

The jamboree involved 44,000 scouts from around the world. and was very enjoyable and memorable though in part stressful with some uncertainty due to an ever changing programme with the organisation greatly impacted by the weather. The scouts came from numerous countries around the world and they all got on well together

There was a delay of days in getting to the Jamboree site as it was not ready and they left it early due to the ground conditions. The scouts were taken on numerous visits to most interesting places before going to the Jamboree site and afterwards whilst awaiting for their flights home.

Kelsey was very pleased to have gone and had said it was a wonderful experience and she came home with many happy memories.

Tony J



## **Wed 18th October - Paul Richards - Stockport Town Centre Redevelopment**

17 (14 members, speaker and 2 guests) enjoyed the usual good fare and were joined by 3 more after the meal.

Steve updated us on the arrangements for the funeral of John Sykes and would soon be sending to all in an email.

Satish announced that Hazel Grove High School will be entering two teams in Youth Speaks both in 2024 and 2025.

Steve announced that Nisa has donated £350 towards Santa's sweets. Together with the £500 already donated this means we pretty well have sweet costs covered.

President Pat reminded us that the Maia singers/KEMS band "Cool Classics" concert is on Saturday.

Paul Richards began his talk by saying he had achieved a life ambition by having the world's longest job title. It begins "Director Development and Regeneration" and goes on a lot!

He summarised Stockport as moving from a traditional market town in the 1970s through various stages to 2012 when the council bought the failing Grand Central and developed Stockport Exchange, Redrock Leisure Facility, Aurora Industrial Estate and the Markets and Underbank amongst others. Today there is £400m of construction under way and Stockport is recognised at home and overseas as a leader in regeneration.

Paul's responsibilities are very wide ranging and his fast paced talk covered a staggering array of projects and plans. Here are some topics covered (and I am certain I missed some!)

- New Retail
- New Offices (some at level 1 where shops will no longer go)
- Pop up shops (some then stay)
- Lots of street art
- Lots of green space (inc green walls)
- Lots of new homes
- Intent to move Stepping Hill to town centre
- Lots of events (eg crazy races, frog trail) and activities to draw people in
- Stockport Interchange (much more than a bus station)
- Weir Mill
- Sources of funding (local, national, regional, private)
- Town of culture 23/24
- Video of Keep Brilliant Businesses Bouncing

After a Q&A session the meeting closed at 21.30

Michael

## Thurs 26th October - Charter Night

President Pat welcomed 64 assembled guests which included District Governor Swati Mukherjee and Roxanne Suratag also from District as well as Presidents of 3 Rotary Clubs and members led by namely Paul Almond, Cheadle, Mike Coleman, New Mills and Ken Hazeldine Poynton, guests and friends to 37th CHARTER NIGHT of Bramhall & Woodford Rotary at The Deanwater Hotel. It was indeed the largest attendance to Bramhall & Woodford Rotary function.

Following an enjoyable fare District Governor Swati Mukherjee delivered a historical background prior to establishment of The Deanwater Hotel in 1965. It was the hotel which welcomed Rotary Clubs which have held meetings namely Cheadle, Hazel Grove, Bramhall & Woodford, Poynton and Wilmslow and District. It has also been the place for holding ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS HEATS in years gone by and spearhead by Ian Bradley of Wilmslow Club. The Deanwater Hotel has also been a popular hotel for wedding receptions. Following Swati Mukherjee's background introduction to The Deanwater, she raised farewell toast to The Deanwater and Staff.

This was followed by our newest member Philip Morris to read CHARTER granted to Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club on 24/06/1986 and Michael Lacey also proposed a Special Toast to John Meeus of being the first President of Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club and which met at The Deanwater Hotel 37 years ago.

Following a comfort break, Sue, our extraordinary Social Functions organiser introduced our after dinner speaker Simon Michael who enlightened the audience of

his Jewish background as pace setter from Spain in 1492. Over the years family having moved to & from other countries, they decided to settle in Britain and put their domicile in London Borough Barnet. Following his grammar schooling, he entered London University to study Law. His ambition was to enter Barrister Career which unlike others was not easy as other entrants had been to public schools and had wealthy families. Simon, because of his own financial situation thus applied to Middle Temple Hall as it offered BURSARY. Simon also enlightened on various archaic and strongly held practices and having to undertake unsavoury jobs such as cleaning car during his own pupillage. In 1978 Simon indeed got his WIG. He went to inform audience of widespread corruption in metropolitan police in London and illustrated by quoting some cases. He retired from his Criminal Law Practice and embarked on a Literary Career in late 1980s. He now has written few books and widely sought after DINNER SPEAKER.

An excellent after dinner talk followed by Q&A

President Pat brought the gathering to a close at 22:15







## **Wed 1st November - Committees**

There were 21 Rotarians present and two guests, Ranjit Lall and Peter Crossen. Our newest Rotarian, Archana was inducted by President Pat and she was warmly welcomed by club members. This was our last but one night at the Deanwater and, as usual, the food was good and plentiful. During dinner the Christmas float rota was shared in the hopes that it would be populated! Committees reported:

**Vice President** – Leslie has been busy posting on Face Book (FB) to attract new members. Leslie also put out a request for members to join her at the Rotary District Conference in Llandudno on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2024.

**Secretary & Communications** - Michael sends out the Friday Rotary emails each week. There was a request for a volunteer to set up a WhatsApp group for digital ambassadors to follow up on FB posts.

**Treasurer** – Steve reported being busy during October with cash flow. At present the general account has £1,558. The tabletop sale realised £500 with a possible addition of another £100 in donations – all proceeds to End Polio Now. David's concert realised over £800 but due to complications / expenses there is only about £750 for the charity, Just Ice Poynton. Currently the charity account has around £560 which is a low figure for the club. Hopefully the forthcoming fashion show will generate much needed income.

**Club Services** – Bob has been very busy exploring lots of different venues now that the Deanwater is closing. The Alma Lodge appears to offer the best overall venue. We will go there for a couple of meetings before Christmas, after which time we will need to decide about the future meeting venue. Discussions ensued about how best to pay for the meal and Council will consider the problem.

**Social** – Sue was pleased with the recent Charter evening, and it broke even. Next Wednesday a trip around Bramall Hall has been arranged with Worsley RC and lunch will be in the cafe afterwards. The Christmas party will be on Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> at Bramhall Golf Club at a cost of £27 pp. Further details will follow. Chads Theatre evening is planned for January 26<sup>th</sup> 2024.

**Ways & Means** – Maggie said that the tabletop sale went well and raised nearly £600 for End Polio Now. There are three sponsors for the Christmas Santa Float, contributing £1,000 in total. However, we really could do with an additional £1,000 to meet the expenses. The proceeds for the fashion show should help with funds. All are invited to pack sweets at the Hill's on Friday evening Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, a lovely start to the Christmas festivities.

**Float** – Rotary now want all Santa floats to provide a seat belt for Santa whilst he is riding on the float. We are in urgent need of drivers for the float. Greenscape services are lending us their van to pull the float. Out of the 15 charities invited to take part in the Christmas float 8 have responded.

**Duck Race** - There are major problems and much uncertainty surrounding our annual Duck Race for 2024. The Council are very secretive about the issue, and it will not be resolved until the end of March 2024. However, it is 'likely' but 'not certain' to take place on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2024 and will probably only involve the use of the lower field. Currently, however, the Council is not accepting applications for any events/functions in Bramhall Park. This uncertainty makes planning extremely difficult and so a further Duck Race meeting is to be convened.

David Hurd of 'I Love Bramhall' wants to brighten up and make the roundabout on Bramhall Lane much more festive for Christmas and there was a suggestion for our club contribute something to help.

**Community** – David was pleased with the results of our Rotary Wrap Up and collected 185 pieces and overall Stockport totalled 601 pieces, a great achievement. He expressed thanks to all who helped and attended the concert. There was a request for volunteers to join David's Community committee as he needs more help.

**Youth Speaks** – Satish said that Hazel Grove HS will be entering two teams.

**International** – Harry explained that the club had donated £1,000 for fences for a school in Uganda and the fencing was now completed. A two-to-three-week trip to Uganda has been arranged for February 5<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Ian explained that a community service award will be given to Bramhall post office as over time they have collected coins for us which has generated about £650. Recently a family (not Rotarians) have donated coins to B&W Rotary which should raise about £9,300. Well done Ian for instigating this amazing donation.

It was a long meeting and finished not long after 10pm

**Sue Preece**



## Tues 7th November - Fashion Show

Our annual Autumn Winter Fashion Show which took place at the Crown and Conspirator in Bramhall was a great success once again despite the fact that the number of guests present wasn't quite as great this year, due in part to the restaurant, mindful of their comfort, not wanting to pack in so many guests.

84 guests began to arrive from 6.30 onwards, were greeted with a complimentary glass of Prosecco and were very quickly tucking in to either a lovely roast beef dinner or melanzana parmigiana followed by sticky toffee pudding or Neapolitan ice cream. The Crown and Conspirator did a great job and everyone seemed to really enjoy their meal.

As people arrived Lesley and Denise made sure that everyone in the room bought plenty of raffle tickets and Ian announced what superb prizes were on offer. We were particularly lucky this year with shops offering magnificent prizes without me even having to ask. Yet more raffle tickets were sold on a second round resulting in the raffle making a whopping £550.

Three Rotary ladies, Archana, Kate and Maggie were joined on the catwalk by 2 Marias and 2 Karens, friends from the village shops in showing the latest collections from several designers put together by our regular supporters, Sue Day from Modiste and Erica Hannon from What Lies Beneath. Harry took lots of photos whenever he could get the models to stand still long enough and Ian did a great job describing the outfits on show.

Between us I think we succeeded in getting over to a least a small group of people just why we need our charity fund and what a fantastic amount of good we do with it.

The evening was very relaxed with smiles all round and hopefully we will have made around £970 to replenish our coffers in time for the big spend on Santa's float rounds.



**Wed 8th November - Bramhall Hall**

No official report but some members of our club and Worsley enjoyed a tour of the hall followed by lunch at Stables Cafe.

## **Wed 15th November - Rotary memories**

There were 19 members and 3 guests in attendance, at this our last meeting at the Deanwater Hotel.

Bob reminded everyone that for next week's meeting at the Alma Lodge the cost of the meal, £16, must be paid in cash. The meals will be ordered in the usual way, via the club's web site, and all meals ordered will have to be paid for even if the person cannot attend.

Dennis had invited members to share their special Rotary experiences which were as follows:

**Chris** has very much enjoyed the international nights and many years ago one of these was attended by a student at Manchester University from Lagos. They became friends although Chris was rather jealous when some years later the former student arrived at their house driving a Bentley Continental.

**Peter** related a story about his favourite holiday to Disneyworld, Florida where he swam with dolphins.

**Sarah** joined Rotary as a Rotaractor and has been on three international events. She attended a Peace conference in Sweden, visited the USA as a Foundation Scholar and took part in a Group Study Exchange. Sarah felt she had benefitted greatly from Rotary's exchange programmes.

**Dennis** and the club were aware that in 1992 Poland was still a very poor country and with the help of a local plumber from Plonsk, near Warsaw, they decided to take some medical supplies to his hometown. The club collected the supplies and set off with two fully laden large vans to Felixtowe. They drove in relays 700 miles across Germany and Poland to Plonsk where they visited the local hospital to distribute the supplies and met local Rotarians.

**Sue** contacted an old friend, Carol, as they had both been VSO teachers in Uganda. Carol was an active Rotarian in Kasese in Uganda. In 2012 Sue won a Rotary Friendship Exchange competition to obtain air miles for two people to visit each other. Kasese RC President, Albert and VP Millie then came to visit us and were hosted by B&W Rotarians. This was the start of our long collaboration with Kasese RC and since then we have visited them twice and have sent money to support their project of improving the very poor local village of Lhuhwahwa. B&W also won another competition with their video of the exchange visit.

**John** Meeus had helped organise a train trip Cheadle Hulme to London for 400 people to raise funds. This was a great success and so a second trip was organised. This was a great day out but unfortunately the engine driver was not aware that he had to stop at Cheadle Hulme. He eventually stopped at Stockport but the next train to Cheadle Hulme could only accommodate a fraction of the passengers. The trip lost £600!

**Robert** Cryer was twice President of his former club of Hazel Grove and thoroughly enjoyed his time there. He found that when you said you were a Rotarian you were treated with respect.

**Maggie** was initially rather wary of Rotary as it was a predominantly male organisation but when she was asked to design a new Santa Float, she really felt part of the organisation and thoroughly enjoys taking the Float out.

**Michael** joined Rotary in 1985 with the Poynton Club. In 2005 when he was President, he attended the International Convention in Chicago on Rotary's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Tony** joined the Hazel Grove club 20 years ago. He has visited twinned clubs in Greece and Belgrade where they helped children in care and in hospital.

Dennis closed the talks by telling of a visit he made to the Rotary Club in George Town, Penang while on a business trip. He was most impressed that the club paid for the costs of poorer students to sit their exams.

The meeting was a very fitting end to our meetings at the Deanwater Hotel.

Bob



## Wed 22nd November - Jim Williams - Great Forgers

Our first night at the Alma Lodge, great room, food was good and the service excellent. We were joined by 15 to eat and Ashok joined after dinner, and a visitor with Chris Monkhouse Mr Archie Bishop. The after dinner talk was by Jim Williams introduced by Satish. What an interesting character. He has several talks up his proverbial sleeve, but we were entranced by his wealth of knowledge re the Art forgers starting back to the days of the Mona Lisa. This particular one was first stolen in 1911 and returned in 1913 surrounded by controversy as 6 paintings were done and circulated, did they have the original back WHO KNOWS !!! Jim explained that in the early days it wasn't so much done in malice but a need to feed their families, and famous artists did teach students in their style and to help fund them sometimes signed their work to get a better price for them.

The irony of this trade was the Agents of these artists and forgers were the wealthy ones overall. The most faked artist was Carot he painted 3000 pictures in his life time plenty to fake.

Note to all Maggie sweet packing this Friday 24th please help if you can.

signing off Lesley

and from Satish:

Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club met for the first time at the Alma Lodge Hotel on Wednesday 22nd November 2023. Vice President, Lesley Buckley welcomed 13 members, Archie Bishop, friend of Chris Monkhouse and our guest Speaker Jim Williams. After an excellent meal we were joined by Ashok. Satish introduced our Speaker Jim Williams, a retired Barrister who had become an established writer of historical mysteries as well as of murders. He is well sought after dinner speaker and a precis of his 16 LECTURES includes GREAT FORGERS, GREAT IMPOSTERS and THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN KENNEDY. Jim Williams delivered an excellent talk on Great Forgers who included Han Van Megeren ( Painter & Art Dealer 1889-1947; Vermeer 1937 Painting over a canvas; forger Elmer Dettory (1905-1976); Literary Forgeries Howard Hughes (1905-1976) to name a few. Jim Williams is of the opinion that Great Forgers made three points that

- 1) Art is an economic activity for artist
- 2) Middle men will always try to skim the profits
- 3) And value of a piece of art lies not in the work but story you tell about it.

After the talk and many Qs & As, the Vice President Lesley thanked Jim Williams for a very extensive explanatory delivery of his Talk on Great Forgers.

The meeting ended at 9:40pm



## **Wed 6th December - EGM and Committees**

Last meeting of 2023 at Alma Lodge. 17 Diners and post meal Denise, Lynn and Satish fresh from a float round. President Pat looked well following a Caribbean cruise asked for early responses for Xmas Party, reiterated by Sue in her Social report.

**EGM:** Michael read out the formal announcement for Executives starting June 30th.

**Pres Lesley**, VP –vacant, urgent applications needed. Treasurer, Lynn Bean (counter) relieving Steve.

### **Secretary and PR Officer Michael.**

Michael (secretary) –nil to report, as PR will send out a press release in January about recruitment. Treasurer report – General Act- £1,531 Charity Act-£552, excludes funds held in bank from Concert and Fashion Show.

**Bob (club services)** sent out a revised program to accommodate “Youth Speaks”

Intermediate and Senior teams plus their supporters on 10 January. NOTE an earlier start at 6.30pm and meal at 7.0. Thanks to Satish’s hard work with Hazel Grove High School. It gives the 6 contestants exposure to an audience before the later District Final. I assume we are continuing at Alma Lodge.

John Meuss suggested a talk from OASIS a charity that has a big spectrum of ways of helping young people improve their lives.

**Sue (Social)** there are 31 people including guests for Xmas party and emphasized the need to book in by tomorrow! Later next month is the annual Chads theatre visit. February wine tasting –very popular, and the big event in Rotary Year, President’s Night in March. Sue needs some wild ideas for future events.

**Harry (International)** received an e-m from Solihull RC money to fund a centre that recues babies and improve the training of Paediatric staff.

**Maggie**, wanted to give an award to Santa, a husband of a Walthew walker who sat in the grotto all day at the Light Up in Bramhall all day without leaving!! Richard as Santa 2, appeared on the verandah of C and C at 5.30pm and descended the steps to join the Celebs on stage. Surprisingly only half the presents were given away. The first weekend at Nottcutts produced £300.

Maggie also sang the praises of Tom at Norbury Farm Mr. Fixit who sorted all the broken things on the float and suggested an award. There was a discussion about hiring a van next year even though we had a free van and driver, it involved extra work at the beginning and end of the rounds. Also if our drivers are incapacitated we would have a problem.

**Community Service (me)** Nil to report.

**AOB.** The mystery of the 2024 Duck Race in B/H Park. It was decided to apply for the lower area next month and probably the event would be modified.

No Council meeting this week. I wish all our members a Merry Xmas and a healthy and rewarding New Year.

David Rose



Fri 15th December - Christmas Party

