

**June 2024**



**Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club**

**1<sup>st</sup> April to  
30<sup>th</sup> June**

## **Lyrical Lesley**

Lyrical Lesley Signing On.

My Dear Rotarians. I am honoured to be taking over from Pat as your President for 2024/2025. I cannot believe where this year as Vice President has gone and what a blast it's been. As I reflect on the year I am amazed at what we have all achieved. Am I surprised? No. As individuals we are a single cog on the Rotary wheel, but, whether in the past or the future, when coming together as a team we are pretty formidable.

We have to sometimes look back at our forebears to see where we are now. There have been many changes from the original format of men only, very formal meetings and strict rules. We have seen clubs merging together, and huge world shifts. But still we Shine the Light of what being a Rotarian is: Selfless, Welcoming, Team Players and jolly lovely friends. What you have achieved over the years is amazing and humbling. I Look forward to writing about our next year's achievements, and fun and only hope I do you all proud as you have all done over the years.

All new Rotarians please feel free at any time to contact me if you have any concerns or would like to be signposted to any training.

Signing Off President Lesley.

## **Pat's prattle**

This is the last three months of my Presidency in Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club. I will still be around doing other things!

April started with our monthly committee night. We still meet at The Alma Lodge Hotel, who provide us with a hearty meal for our members. This month we had Jonathan Billings from the Charity Engage, Grow and Go. The charity helps homeless off the streets and into employment.

We had a social event at the Avro Heritage Museum, enjoyed by club members . I think Avro was well known in the past, so it was a bit nostalgic .

A speaker, John Hancock, gave us a talk on how he and his wife took aid to the Ukraine. All very interesting and inspiring . We in turn have now helped them to achieve their on going goals.

Then came the month of May and our biggest fundraising event of the year - The Duck Race. We chose the Charity "Stockport Without Abuse" as our main Charity then all worked hard on the day (blessed with glorious weather) which made it possible to present them with a Healthy Cheque. Later in the month we went out for a social at Amici restaurant in Bramhall.

In June we had an event "Caribbean Cruise Evening" at the local garden centre which was sponsored by Hays Travel. It went down a treat with first prize being a Cruise and many other raffle prizes.

This evening my Presidency comes to an end as we have our Assembly. So no more Prattle from me!

Our up and coming new President Lesley will start off afresh.

President Pat

### 3 April - Committees

**President Pat Holmes** welcomed Rotarians

**Treasurer: Steve** advised that the bank account balances were: General Account £1,511 and Charity Account £ 4,566 and congratulated Lyn, our next treasurer, for identifying an additional £1,500 gift aid money, which could be reclaimed.

**Ways and Means: Maggie Hill** advised that the Fashion Show at Notcutts made £953, which would be donated to the North West Air Ambulance Service. The Notcutts staff had been particularly hospitable and as a result a music evening was being considered with possibly Richard's band, a Brazilian band and the Walthew House steel band.

Maggie and Ian were progressing well with the Duck race event on 19 th May with both levels at Bramhall Park now available to us. The charity recipients were still to be decided. The first aid staff had agreed to come and a response from the A&E nurse was awaited. Ian is putting up the signs and invitations to buy tickets were being sent out. Volunteers were being sought to man ticket sales stalls as usual. A volunteer was being sought to go into the river and again succession planning generally was mentioned. Prizes were being sought. This year the SMBC Highways department may be charging us. The ducks had all been delivered. The event is to be attended by the mayor and mayoress.

Ian mentioned that there were 15 takers for the Worker Bee Market in the walled garden.

**International & Foundation: Harry Hill** reported that William's 'no charge' school near Kasese in Uganda had opened successfully and the number of children had risen rapidly to 220.

William will be joining the Rotary Club of High Peaks in July when Afan would become President. The school needs money for additional land, buildings and fencing.

Harry also sought volunteers to help with the first Plant Hunter's Fair run by the Friends of the Hall and Park on Wednesday April 17 th from 10am to 4pm with ideally

two hour shifts. People are needed to police the parking on the Archery Lawn among other things.

**Comms; Michael Lacey** was absent and there was nothing to report

**Club Services: Bob Preece** was absent. The programme was filled to the end of May.

**Social: Sue Preece** was absent.

**Lynn Bean** mentioned that there were still a few places left to join the AVRO Heritage event on Thursday, April 18 th starting with the buffet at 12.30pm. The cost is

£23. All interested should contact her on 07761 582676

**Satish Mehta** mentioned that he had re-circulated his email notifying the sad death of Bob Lewis and his funeral, which will be held at the Rowan Chapel, Stockport Crematorium at 2.30pm on Tuesday 9 th April. Not everyone had received his earlier email.

**Lesley Buckley** told us that Poynton's 'Party in the Park' was to be held on Saturday May 11 th and had volunteered to help and encouraged others to join her.

## **10 April - Jonathan Billings- Engage, Grow, Go Charity**

Hello Rotarians. We had 14 attended for dinner on the 10/04/24 and 6 attended after dinner to hear the splendid talk by Johnathan Billings from EGG, Engage Grow and Go. He has 24 years experience in the Homeless Charity World, and his first job was at Wellspring here in Stockport. He moved on in 2021 to form the EGG charity focusing on housing, rehabilitation and a back to work ethic. He explained that his clients have to be motivated to be on their programme and it is yielding great results. They have partnered with some Major companies for Instance Music Magpie, Amazon , and BMW who are sponsoring as well as offering job opportunities for his clientele.

They are also involved with a Stockport company that produces Modular housing the size of a shipping container. They are hoping to secure 7 of these and are in talks with the Manchester Mayor to secure a brown field site. They will live rent free to for a specified time but must save and be in full time employment, it is aimed at allowing financial stability to move on and allow the next client to move in. The concept has been called the Hatchery great name great concept.

David announced the charity for the Duck Race Stockport Without Abuse.

Harry reminded us about the Plant Sale on the 17th at Bramhall Hall 10 till 4 proceeds to the Friend's of Bramhall Hall and Gardens.

Myself, Maggie, Bob and Sue, attended the Poynton Rotary club night on the 11th. A very warm welcome was extended. We listened to an update from their Event Planner Alex for Party in the Park. You can see that having connections can make a huge difference to the fundraising capacity. Is it for everyone to follow? I don't know, let's see the final figures. Maggie was asked to give an update on our Duck Race and gave a great account. Let's all be happy for what we achieve as clubs, but lessons and ideas can be learnt by interaction with our neighbouring clubs.

Toodle Pip Lesley

## 18 April - Avro Heritage Museum Tour

There were 14 of us who met at the Avro Heritage Museum for a buffet lunch followed by their 'Silver' guided tour package.

On arrival we were greeted by the museum's Adult Group Tour Guide Manager, Trevor Pile and his team of specialist guides. After a health and safety briefing, we were treated to a delicious freshly made buffet lunch consisting of freshly prepared sandwiches, sausage rolls, cocktail sausages, pasta salad, minted potatoes, nibbles and cake.

We were then split into 2 groups of 7, with Group 1 touring the exhibition hall for approximately 50 minutes, whilst Group 2 were split into 3 smaller groups so that they could visit the Vulcan and Lancaster cockpits, as well as the Nimrod Station.

An hour later the groups swapped over so that everyone had the full experience.

The exhibition tour gave us an in-depth history of Avro, how and where the aircraft were made, as well as the development of the succeeding companies. There were many amazing and unique facts about AVRO, but one particular nugget that stood out for me, was that AVRO was an equal opportunities employer, with women doing the same jobs and men, including flying and delivering aircraft, as well as being paid the same as men.

As the weather was bad, we were unable to view the Vulcan and Nimrod cockpits, which are outside, therefore we viewed the Lancaster replica RS5868 cockpit. All cockpits are described below:

**Lancaster replica cockpit:** RS5868 'S Sugar' is one of 35 Lancasters which completed over 100 sorties during WWII. The replica on display is an accurate representation of the original airframe filled with genuine Lancaster instrumentation.

**Vickers VC10 XV106:** The VC10 was an extremely versatile aircraft which still holds the record for the fastest sub-sonic crossing of the Atlantic. The aircraft carried out important duties including medical evacuation from modern warzones and carrying VIP passengers.

**Hawker Siddeley Nimrod MR2:** The Nimrod MR2 was arguably the most advanced multi role maritime aircraft of its time. It had the capability to detect, fix and destroy submerged submarines, carry out reconnaissance duties, and perform search and rescue operation

The museum and all aspects of the tour have been meticulously put together and the incredible enthusiasm and knowledge of the volunteer guides (Steve, Alister, Roger, Ray, Martyn and Brian) made the afternoon extra special.

To say that we learnt so much would be an understatement and it was wonderful to see certain members of the group looking as excited as teenage boys with new



toys, when they were able to sit in the cockpits, take on the role of pilot, navigator or gunner, whilst playing with the numerous switches, buttons, and dials.

After the tours we had some free time to explore and departed around 4.00pm.

Lynn



## 24 April - John Hancock – Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid


16 of us enjoyed a choice of either Spaghetti Bolognese, Bangers & Mash or Mushroom Risotto. Several more members joined us after the meal.

After the meal we were treated to a truly wonderful and inspiring example of how ordinary people can do quite extraordinary things and commit totally to working for the benefit of others.



### Who we are

- Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid
- A group of like- minded people
- Started a volunteer group in February 2022
- Formalised ourselves in January 2024 as a not-for-profit Community Interest Company



Anne's father, who died in 1992, was they thought, from Poland, but research some years ago, traced him to Krasne, a village in Ukraine. Visits there subsequently revealed many cousins in the area, and hence their close interest in Ukraine began.

With their son Tom, the chairman, they set up Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid very early in the conflict which started in February 2022. Remarkably, they anticipated what was likely to happen and started to use Tom's industrial unit in Macclesfield. This was quickly filled with a wide variety of goods, even including baby food. All this had to be sorted, boxed and palletted. A call for volunteers resulted in over 70 being recruited in the first 2 weeks.

*We were given some of the awful 'numbers' in the war, which included, amongst others-*

- 400 International treaties broken by Russia
- 31,000 people unaccounted for
- 420,000 Russian casualties
- 3.7million people internally displaced
- 14.6 million in need of humanitarian assistance according to the United Nations




Contact with Anne's village gave them an indication of what would be needed, principally amongst which, was a need for vehicles. Only 10-15% of people in Ukraine own a vehicle. To distribute aid, in its many forms, to where it was needed, and bring the wounded back to relative safety in Western Ukraine, a lot of vans would be required.

They collect aid from hospitals, other aid groups and the public. Many of the hospital supplies are 'time expired' and would otherwise be scrapped. The vehicles in which they deliver it to Ukraine, are then left there.


*So far, they have -*

- Made 25 trips,
- Delivered 134 vehicles,
- £3.5 million in aid,
- Driven 180,000 miles by
- Recruited 70 volunteer driver's
- Filled 7 forty-foot artic lorries.



## The Big One – Jan/Feb 2023

- Trip **Alpha** – 8 vehicles driven from Macclesfield to Krakow departed on a Saturday, drivers flew back from Krakow
- **Bravo** – 10 vehicles, same route, the following Tuesday (2 vehicles went on to Lviv, using Krakovets border post)
- **Charlie** left Sat 10 vehicles, to Krakow picking up 10 Alpha and Bravo vehicles and drove to a hotel 1 hour from the border
- **Delta** team 6 people flew to Krakow and picked up the remaining 8 vehicles we all met in the hotel about 1 hour from the border 25 vehicles went to Lviv the following day



*Amongst the Aid sent –*

- An entire operating theatre to replace one the Russians stole from Kherson when they retreated.
- Tyres for 20 ambulances in Kharkiv
- Cordura shrapnel-proof cloth to make children's clothes.
- Seeds and hand tools.

All Aid is delivered to known recipients to avoid any going 'missing' ! In June 2023 they sent a minibus to Krasne (near Lviv) and has now covered 50,000 miles in 6 months. It is used by 14 volunteers to take Aid to troops, bring soldiers home on leave and bring the dead back for burial. Ukraine is a very large country, some 1,500km across.

This report only gives a brief overview of an inspiring talk over an hour long (it could have been 10 hours, we were assured!!). I am certain that we all in awe of how much has been achieved in just 2 years.

The penultimate slide asked for help. They have a Supporters Group, donations to which can be made by monthly standing orders of £10 (or more!). This is to help them pay their regular outgoings, including insurance. The Club had already, as mentioned in previous emails, agreed to donate £1,000 to this immensely worthwhile operation. Other Rotary Clubs in the area are also helping, and these include Cheadle Royal and Leek with the objective of sending another van over. They do need though, a regular cash income.

The final slide, put the huge number of Ukrainian (and a few other nations) dead, into a visual representation in a park. Each Ukrainian flag representing a life lost, and there were tens of thousands.



Chris Monkhouse



## 26-28 April - District conference Llandudno

An email from Lesley straight afterwards:

Hello Rotarians. What a wonderful weekend we have had in Llandudno. Swati and team put on an excellent line up of Speakers. Local 1285 clubs were highlighting their achievements including our very own Richard. There was a Franki Valley Tribute act on Saturday night enjoyed by all. We were treated to a talk from 3 members of Inner Wheel celebrating 100 years of service to their communities. Several recipients of rotary help and funding were there, including a dance troupe attending an American Dance Competition, an intercast club at Sharples School in Bolton and Ukrainian dancers from Manchester incredibly inspiring. There was so much more, some hilarious speakers some rotary some not. Please consider going to the next one, getting to know our Rotarian friends on such a relaxed level was the icing on the cake Signing Off Lesley



## **1 May - Committees and AGM**

20 members present.

Meeting started at 8.30 pm with the AGM

Michael briefed us on the AGM. He has circulated the consolidated notes in advance.

### **Ways and Means**

Duck race plans are progressing nicely but there are a few problems to solve.

All 60 of the new giant ducks purchased this year were sold and together with the re-entered ducks we have over 110 giant ducks racing.

Unexpectedly ticket sales for small ducks started really well in Bramhall Village on Saturday and plan is to have an extra sales day at the weekend.

Fliers will be distributed by Richard and Bob to all Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme Schools .

The banners have been updated and Steve and John have offered to put them up.

Posters have been put up in many Bramhall shops and will be displayed in Cheadle Hulme this week.

We have more stalls than ever at this event this year with the Workers Bbe Market providing over 50 in the walled garden and several more than usual on the Hall courtyard.

Volunteers are a work in progress with many of last year's returning but many not, especially other Rotary clubs.

Our Charity, Stockport Without Abuse is providing 10.

If anyone can persuade friends or family to come along and help us please let Maggie know asap so that they can be assigned jobs.

In response to our recent emails concerning insurance and safeguarding the public, Maggie has produced maps showing all exits from the park, all routes out of the park, position of all First Aid sites and all PA systems as well as the postcode for the park and lower field entrance. All Rotarians on site and all SWA volunteers should have a map so that in the event of an emergency they can easily direct the public to the exits or call an ambulance.

Marshalls for all 5 major areas of the park who will have walkie talkies are named on the reverse of the map.

Ian will be checking that all hot food outlets have fire extinguishers and Denise will be ensuring a clear way through the lower field in case an ambulance needs to drive in.

We are still struggling to find vans to carry what we need to the park.

Next event , Caribbean Cruise Evening ,Notcutts Garden centre restaurant, Wednesday 19 th June ,6.30 pm.

Two course meal,Rio Cinco, Steel Band,Mexican dancers,table magician,beachwear show, Captains table and more.Cost around £32.

Please start asking people to attend .It should be a fantastic night A good turnout of Rotarians and friends would be very welcome.

## **Treasurer's report**

Steve reported that the General account has an available balance of £1461. With regard to the Charity account, Duck Race funds are now flowing in and out of the account. Receipts to date amount to £4100 and payments to suppliers are £3800 with further pre-event expenditure estimated at £3300. Current provisions are £3500 for possible Float repairs and £1000 contribution for the mini bus for Ukraine. The result is an available balance on the Charity account at present of £3826.

### **Social**

Next week is a social evening at Alma Lodge.  
30 th June, party at Sue's ,which is a President 's farewell party  
Sue also distributed details of the social programme up to June .

Bob has sent out the Programme for May 2024 onwards.

### **Community**

David talked about the Youth Services.  
Satish mentioned about Youth speaks entries for 2025. We may have 2 or 3 teams  
Bramhall High and Hazel Grove schools may be participants.

### **International**

Harry again mentioned about supporting William 's school in Uganda.  
Tony would like to see the finance accounts for the school.  
Lesley closed the meeting at 10 pm praising everyone for a successful last year.

Ashok



### **8 May - Social Chat**

May 8 was classed as a social night but as the Chair of Social was laid low with Covid it was decided to just have a chat amongst ourselves. The evening seemed to go very well and I think everyone enjoyed the simple pleasures of conversation. Michael stepped into the role of acting President, a position he has held many times. The event certainly made the job of bulletin writer very simple. I must remember that when I am drawing up the programme.

Bob

## **15 May - Duck Race Briefing**

President Pat opened the meeting at the Alma Lodge Hotel at 1930. A total of 11 members were seated for supper, with another 9 members joining later. So, overall a decent attendance for the last meeting before the main fundraiser of the year - the DUCK RACE !

At 2030 Maggie took the floor (prompted by Dennis, to get business started) to brief those assembled on the current status of the Duck Race planning.

Over 80 personnel, including B&W members are involved, but there were still gaps in the jobs list. Of concern was the lack of support to clear up at the end of the event and urged people to stay back and help where possible. Helpers attention was drawn to the Safety plan of the Park which has 5 nominated Marshalls who will co-ordinate an evacuation in the event of an emergency. Of note are the postcodes to pass to emergency services - SK7 3NX for the park in general and SK7 3AB for the entrance near Brookdale Theatre.

Free programmes which have been re-vamped, are available at the duck race ticket sale desk. Maggie concluded at 2100 and was thanked for her tremendous efforts.

Ian then took the floor to brief on the entertainments programme, which has one slot on stage still empty, but otherwise a great programme. Archana offered to look at sourcing a Bollywood dance troupe to fill the above slot.

It was also mentioned that food & drink vouchers were exclusively for the Scouts and High School helpers and not for adults.

The meeting was concluded at 2128 - Rotary, Peace the world over.  
Dale

## **22 May - Duck Race DeBriefing**

It may be cheating but I've attached Maggie's debrief notes to this email since they cover almost all the points covered during the meeting. Despite the initial downbeat tone I firmly believe that most of our difficulties have straightforward solutions as long as we have enough people attending on Duck Race itself. The weather is beyond our control, however.

A personal comment if I may: I think we need to look carefully at the walkie-talkies which yet again steadfastly failed to work except for the ones the car park monitors used on Channel 4. I think this is an important issue since phones are unreliable in the Park, to say the least, and running from the Hall to the lower field is very time consuming.

Harry

### **Duck Race De-brief 2024**

The first thing to say is that Sunday was another great success as far as the public were concerned and we should have made a substantial amount of money for Stockport Without Abuse. On the whole there were lots of smiling faces around the whole park and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. There have been plenty of lovely comments on social media and out on the street and I haven't heard any adverse comments.

Despite the glorious weather there were fewer visitors this year than in past years. Talking to people in the run up to the day it was troubling that maybe 90% of them didn't know about the Duck Race. Even on the day there were people who had just come to the park by chance and afterwards people saying, has there been an event on today. The fliers were very late going out at the schools it seems. Having asked children of various ages many hadn't had them. WE NEED TO HAVE THE FLIERS OUT EARLIER TO GIVE SCHOOLS TIME TO GIVE THEM OUT AND TO GIVE PARENTS TIME TO PLAN THEIR WEEK ENDS IN ADVANCE. MAYBE WE SHOULD ASK VARIOUS MEMBERS WHO USE FACE BOOK TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR JOINING GROUPS AND SHARING DUCK RACE INFORMATION. IT DIDN'T SEEM TO BE OUT THERE THIS YEAR.

This wasn't our finest Duck Race as far as organisation was concerned. Many things could have gone better but there WERE mitigating circumstances. The main problem being that we were very late in organising everything. This was a year of unfortunate incidents to say the least. We had 3 vans lined up for us transporting goods to the field and all 3 fell through. Mia James have both their vans in the garage for repair and worse still, our driver from last year died suddenly at the age of 44. Our lovely A and E nurse who had promised to man the lower field first aid tent all day had a fall and broke her back in 3 places.

These setbacks were overcome at the last minute through lots of networking with Jonathan Tew, the manager of Notcutts, offering not only his van but himself as well and doing an enormous amount of physical work for us.

One thing which we couldn't control was the weather. Obviously we were incredibly lucky to have a glorious day but sadly there had been too much rain and not enough sunny weather to dry out the lower field making it impossible to place stallholders and our own marquees where it had been planned that they should go. We had done a recce of the field a few days earlier and estimated that with a few sunny days it would be dry. We were wrong. We checked the river on the Saturday and got overhanging trees removed but didn't check the field again. Clearly we should have done to be forewarned of its condition. NEXT TIME WE MUST CHECK THE FIELD THE DAY BEFORE AND REVISE STALL POSITIONS IF NECESSARY.

Ian and I were both guilty of not providing Denise and Sheila with enough information about what stalls would be coming to the lower field and where they should go as we have done in the past which caused a bit of chaos and resulted in Sheila who has helped us for years, saying that she won't be helping again. NEXT TIME WE MUST HAVE A DETAILED MAP SHOWING WHICH PITCH EACH STALL HAS BEEN ALLOCATED AND THE STALLS NEED TO BE TOLD BEFORE HAND.

The tote was also chaotic despite very valiant efforts of Kate and Sheila. We didn't know until the last minute that John T and his son Andrew who always run the tote could not be with us. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL BE RESOLVED NEXT YEAR BY EITHER ANDREW COMING BACK TO HELP US OR WE HAVE TEAM TRAINED ON THE TOTE WORKINGS BEFORE HAND.

Part of the problem at the Duck tent and the tote was that the results of the races were not getting to them and we had nobody responsible for actually recording all the winners. It seemed to work well in the morning and then Dale was having to do a double job in the river and recording the winners. NEXT TIME WE MUST HAVE A DESIGNATED PERSON RELAYING THE WINNERS TO THE TOTE.

We had a problem this year with people betting on ducks which were no shows and then quite rightly asking for their money back. This came about because the Duck tent and the tote were set up wrongly and people were placing their bets based on the race lists rather than on the ducks on the duck boards for that race. THIS SHOULD BE EASILY RESOLVED BY SETTING THE TOTE UP PROPERLY IN FUTURE.

We had a problem with the buses with people waiting for an hour in Cheadle Hulme and no bus turning up. BELLE VUE BUSES ARE PAYING US SOME COMPENSATION.

Many of our problems come about because we just do not have enough people working who know what needs to be done. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL IMPROVE AS NEWER MEMBERS AND PEOPLE WHO HELP EVERY YEAR RETAIN THE SAME JOBS AND NEED NO INSTRUCTION. We had some really good new helpers this year and I'm optimistic that they will help again in the future.

One good point was that the clearing up at the end of the day was done quickly and efficiently on both the top and bottom areas with many more volunteers staying behind or coming back to help.

Philip has expressed the thought that we need to buy more card readers for use on the ticket sales and the drinks sales and a really good idea, we should advertise that

the profits from OUR drinks go to charity. Also that our drinks are in a more prominent position.

One last minor problem, not quite a complaint, apparently Bramall Hall had a number of people saying that we advertised that entrance to the Hall would be free. This was definitely not on the banners, the electronic poster in the Village or the posters and fliers which went out but people may have misinterpreted something written in a post or in a free paper if it said free event at Bramall Hall rather than saying in Bramhall Park so we need to choose our words very carefully.

Very well done everybody. We all worked our socks off and produced a great event. We can learn from this year's problems and sort them out if there is another Duck Race.



## **5 June - Committees**

The evening began with 11 Rotarians gathering for dinner and they were later joined by 5 more. President Pat welcomed everyone and the atmosphere of the evening was fun and fellowship. Significant efforts are being made to publicise the forthcoming 'Caribbean Cruise' evening on Wednesday June 19th. Lesley, Maggie & Lynn had distributed leaflets at the weekend at Notcutts Garden Centre. The numbers are up to 47 but there are several other people who have said they want to attend. Organising and planning the event is made even more of a challenge when people leave buying tickets until the last minute. As there were so few of us at the start we did not break into committees and the relevant chairmen just spoke about progress of their committee or otherwise.

### **VP & Membership – Lesley**

Lesley has been on holiday in Canada so has not been as active on Facebook but she will resume posting now.

**Secretary & Communications - Michael Lacey** All in order but Michael is away on holiday.

### **Treasurer - Steve Littlewood**

Steve is working on gathering all the monies owed for the Duck Race and he has recently been away on holiday.

### **Club Services - Bob Preece**

Bob has produced the club programme until the end of July. Next week we have a speaker from 'Stockport Without Abuse' and the month after a speaker from NW Air Ambulance Service.

### **Social - Sue Preece**

The next social event will be 'Presidents Farewell Party' to be held in Sue & Bob's garden on the afternoon of Sunday June 30th. Details to follow. A number of suggestions were received for a social event in July but no decisions were made.

### **Ways & Means - Maggie Hill**

The Caribbean Cruise evening is being planned to provide a very enjoyable event. Richard is coming with his band and there is also a steel band. There will be Mexican dancers and 'What Lies Beneath' will be modelling swimwear. There are no plans to hold a raffle. The event will be from 6:30 pm to 10pm.

Philip provided some good ideas for the next Duck Race which will be discussed at Council, eg; purchasing more card readers and walkie talkies. This year we lacked 'experienced' people on the day.

### **Community Services - David Rose**

It was suggested that our club take part in 'Wrap Up' again in Autumn. Nisa will also be approached to see if they can provide funding, but any project they support will need to be community based and connected to children. We have registered our interest in 'Youth Speaks' with Rotary District.

### **International & Foundation - Harry Hill**

Harry is in touch with Kasese Snow Peaks Rotary in Kasese Uganda. Unfortunately, the project to get four local Rotary Clubs to donate to buy a van for use in Ukraine has not been successful, the project was not able to raise sufficient money. We will need to decide how to spend the money which we had ring fenced for our contribution. The meeting ended at 9:40pm Sue Preece

## **12 June - Jeanette Carlow – Stockport Without Abuse**

About 14 members ate an excellent meal, with several other members joining later. We were joined by the CEO of Stockport Without Abuse (SWA), Samantha Higginbottom, and guest Kay Swain.

David Rose introduced Samantha, a lady with a legal background. SWA started as Women's Aid in 1975 and since then has expanded its activities considerably. SWA is the major recipient of monies from the 2024 Duck Race, and Samantha received a cheque for £12,000.

SWA aims to help families subjected to abuse of any kind, to help families resolve problems where possible and to improve the life chances of those affected. Abuse is found all over Stockport, including Bramhall, and can take many forms. In 2023/2024 there were 5457 relevant incidents in Stockport, and these included 314 perpetrators, of which 144 were high risk cases.

Badly threatened families are offered refuge accommodation away from the perpetrators and are able to access other relevant sources of help, including medical care and counselling. SWA works closely with the police and SWA were the proud recipients of a recent Police Commanders Award.

The locations of refuge accommodations are closely guarded, and entry is very severely restricted. The anger, fear and hopelessness of those affected are addressed in many ways, with the aim of enabling families to live wholesome lives once again.

Family therapy is a big, underfunded area, and our donation will enable about 15 families to receive help.

Amanda was quite surprised at the breadth and activities of Rotary worldwide, and hopefully will visit us again to learn more.

Sue Preece reminded us of the garden party on June 30th, when a £10pp charge would cover costs. About 80 people were to attend the Caribbean evening on June 19th. Bruce confirmed that the "Rotary garage" at Hillbrook was no longer under threat after a planning application at Hillbrook was accepted.

Dennis

## **19 June - Caribbean evening at Notcutts**

On Wednesday 19th June at 6.30 prompt almost 100 passengers boarded the Rotary ship Floral Roundel for her maiden voyage to the Caribbean.....Well not quite. In fact we never left dry land but everyone had their imagination fully switched on and our guests arrived in a dazzling display of fabulous evening wear and exotic, tropical holiday wear.

They were welcomed by the relaxing sound of Sunshine Steel's Caribbean music, the gift of a lei garland and a glass of rum punch or tropical fruit punch before being invited to either enjoy the sunshine, YES THE SUN CAME OUT FOR US, out on deck or take their seats in the dining room to await their Caribbean themed meal.

At around 7 pm guests were requested to take their seats ready to greet our Captain, a captain with a difference, Captain Dreadlock, a fabulously flamboyant pirate of the high seas. Many thanks to Ed Mascarenhas for playing the part so brilliantly. After much hilarity with Ed's headgear coming adrift and him choosing the wrong seat he took his place at the Captain's table, spread with exotic tropical fruits and black candelabra and our delicious meals of jerk chicken, spicy sea bass or sweet potato and bean curry, followed by toasted pineapple with coconut and banana ice cream or tropical cheesecake could be served. Our meal was accompanied by the rousing music of our own Rotarian Richard's band, Rio Cinco, who built up the atmosphere for the rest of the evening.

Next came an absolutely stunning display of Mexican dancing from members of Manchester Mexican Dancers led by Viridiana. Their winning smiles and beautifully decorated swirling skirts and flashing footwork lifted everyone's spirits.

Simon Hobday, a brilliant table magician, toured all the tables baffling everyone with his tricks and keeping us smiling with his happy banter. I'm pretty certain he gave us much more of his time than we paid for! How he keeps a herd of rabbits, balls, a lemon, a melon and a coconut concealed about his person is a mystery to me. I think it must be MAGIC!

After all that excitement the mood was slowed as we heard from Sunshine Steel once again and were treated to a selection of beachwear from What Lies Beneath on the catwalk, before Rio Cinco and Sunshine Steel joined forces to have some fun jamming for the end of the evening.

The finale and perhaps the most exciting part of the evening was the raffle draw which was performed by Sue from Hays Travel, Bramhall. She had worked her socks off for weeks to secure a really good raffle prize for us and finally came up with a prize we had never expected, a 3 night cruise for 2 on the "Aurora" to Belgium, plus many other prizes from all the tour operators working through Hays Travel. The lucky winner of our major prize was Chris Murphy who had purchased tickets online but couldn't make the event.



Huge thanks are due to Notcutts Garden Centre Restaurant manager Jonathan and his staff for extending their already long day with more hard work, to Ed and Mike who always come to our aid, to Rio Cinco and Sunshine Steel for giving their time and talent and to Denise who made such a good job of selling all the raffle tickets.

Maggie.

Later.....

I can't believe I missed out Ian in my thanks yous for being a great compere and keeping the whole evening rolling.

Maggie



## 26 June - Club Assembly and Handover

**To be read in conjunction with the Handover report 2024-25 for detail on the committee reports.**

24 Members in attendance plus guests Assistant District Governor (ADG) John Shepley from the Bolton Daybreak Club, Kay Swain, Susanas Kyagaba and Michael Brown.

**Steve** was in loco **Michael** as emcee for an evening of fun and fellowship with friends.

**Outgoing President Pat** reflected on “one of the best years” we’ve had in Rotary” before handing over the chain of office to **President Lesley**, who saluted the Club for raising more than £30,000 over the last 12 months. She said “All your endeavours have been amazing. I’m in awe of what you (we) achieve...when our cogs fit together we create a formidable wheel.”

**Steve** handed over the – never worn during his term of office – Treasurer’s chain to **Lynn**, who got straight down to business and reminded us that subs were due on Monday (1 July) of £120. And added that the charity account was looking healthy with £9261.

It was confirmed that in 2023-24 BW Rotary had raised and given out £37,000 in total. And **Ian** reminded us that £1400 was also raised by other charities at the Duck Race.

**Bob** reported on Club Services and **David** on Community Services.

**Maggie** announced that we had raised more than £1600 at the Caribbean evening at Notcutts, which was a fabulous success. She asked for our help continuing to forge relationships with the shop owners and businesses in Bramhall village – particularly the new ones who were coming in during a time of change.

**Harry** reported for International, **Sue** for Social and **Sarah** (for Michael) on Media, PR and Communications. In addition, Harry drew our attention to a Foundation raffle for mental health causes...and an appeal for funds for incubators in Ukraine from the Thameside Club (the latter to be discussed at Council).

**ADG John** responded to what he’d heard at Assembly saying that we “**were a great Club, doing great work.**”

He reminded us of District Governor Jean’s priorities for her year of office:

- To commit to diversity, equity and inclusion
- That we have flexibility to run the Club the way we want (in terms of meeting frequency and style)
- Encouraging collaboration with neighbouring Rotary clubs in our ‘cluster’ and across District.



He noted that BW Rotary was 'bucking the trend' by both attracting and retaining members. And praised our involvement with Youth Speaks, the Rotary Foundation and our international support for Ukraine, Uganda and Lend with Care.

In conclusion, ADG John urged us to reflect on the lives we had changed and to **"keep up the good work"**.