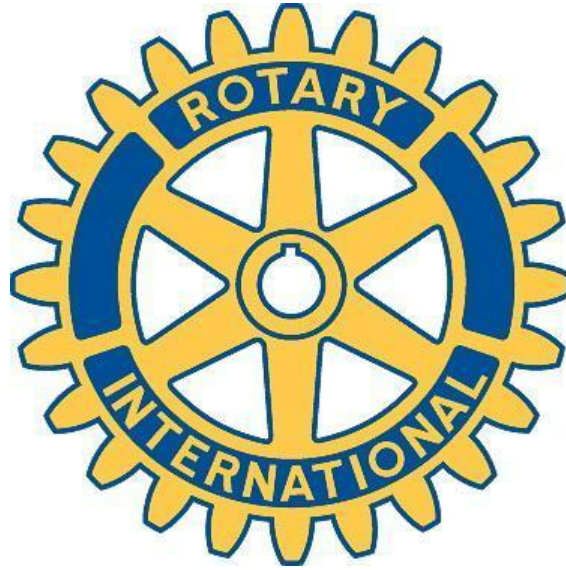


March 2026



Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

**1st January to
31st March**

Lyrical Lesley

Hello Rotarians,

January started with committees preparing for the months ahead. We had a super visit to Cheadle Hulme Fire Station to present a Cheque for £1000 pounds to the benevolent fund. Great fun and a tour of the Station to boot. Lee Wolf (Rotary Public Image) visited to try to encourage a more modern approach to presenting the club through advertising and updating Logo and high Viz. Most of our Rotarians felt it was a waste of money. Michael and Sue invited the float recipients to our annual Float Quiz which was brilliant except for the Microphones, no one's fault they just didn't work as they should.

Moving onto February after committees Maggie is going to arrange an Irish evening and all's well with the other committees. We had a wonderful talk from Archana regarding her journey from early life working in the Hospital and onto her successful dental practice. I love these talks. Whatever background you have, it brought us all to Rotary. Please put yourself forward. The lovely Bethan Kelly Sign Post for Carers gave us an in depth talk about her organisation, delivering help and advice to the Cared for and the Carer, it was brilliant and kept us all engaged. Our social event was at Out Of The Box. Always a great night enjoyed by all.

March - and daffodils can be seen! Starts with committees: Maggie is on track for the Irish eve we have agreed proceeds will go to Sign Post for carers. Gary is looking at vehicles for our sleigh and looking at all possibilities including Buying/renting. A visit to Chad's Theatre is always a great night. Thanks, John, for organising. It was not our finest hour Rotarians for supporting this fundraiser. A few of us met up at Duttons for a casual night of chat which was lovely. Presidents Night was brilliant - great venue, not sure about the prawns each to their own. Great Speaker James Ellson a crime writer. The atmosphere was alive, thank you for the great attendance it was much appreciated and thank you Michael for organising it meant a lot.

Finally the Irish evening at The Pointing Dog was a huge success. Well done Maggie, Ian and others for arranging it.

Signing off Lesley

7 January 2026

19 Attendees

Secretary Harry

Harry informed us that his friend, Professor Sir Tony Redmond OBE has been appointed Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG), recognising a lifetime dedicated to emergency medicine and humanitarian response around the world in 2026 Honours list. He is the founder of the medical charity UK-Med which Rotary has supported.

B&W rotary website has a members area preferred Tradesmen list who have been tried and tested. Harry has used the services of Declan (plumber) and can recommend.

Treasurer Steve

(reporting on behalf of Mike who is currently working away) gave us the following figures

Christmas Collections

Santa's Float £12,500 This is £1000 less than 2024 as no Santa's grotto Sponsorship doubled and there were generous donations from Rotary members . Each collecting Charity will receive approx £500

Foreign Currency donations - £150

Santa's Float appeal approx £18,000

Community Service Steve

Steve and Sinead have been busy and visited

- Chelwood foodbank, Stockport (may be the subject for future speaker)
- Signpost for Carers . CEO to give talk to Rotary 11 Feb 2026
- Millie's Trust Has offered Rotary 1st Aid Training session at their premises Wed 18th March at 19.30 pm. Max numbers 20 per session.

If you are able to attend please contact Steve at s.littlewood49@gmail.com who will coordinate this event

Future charities to support are ? Stepping Hill , Stockport without Abuse, Beechwood Cancer Care and MODE (An independent rehabilitation facility charity based in Stockport, committed to making a profound impact on mental health. particularly dedicated to military veterans).

Youth Speaks: Hazel Grove is putting x2 teams together to speak at Wilmslow. Dress rehearsal scheduled for 08 March 2026. Sue Preece and Steve will be attending.

Musician of The Year has been dropped due to lack of support

Suggestions for future events are a musical concert ? primary school involvement / Bramhall High School Choir. Steve and David will be contacting BHS deputy head (Simon Stonehouse)

Suggestion for Moss Hey Primary School involvement with the Duck Race

Club Services Bob

We have a full programme until the end of March. Next event is a visit to the Cheadle Hulme Station. 6 Turves Rd, Cheadle SK8 6AY . Meet here at 6 pm for Fire Station Tour and Presentation Eat at Pointing Dog at 8pm. Bob will send out further details. Lesley will be joining Bob to help with club services.

Social Michael

13 March TBC Chad's theatre

27 March President's night at the Stanleylands Hotel - A speaker has been booked - an Author

23 April (Tues) Wine tasting at Michael's house . Cost will be £25 per person

May cruise around Salford Quays

Ways and Means Maggie

Santa Float update - Tom (Norbury Farm) has seen a suitable vehicle. We need to look at the Technical details, costs and viability. Gary Lawrence (one of our new members) is keen to join the Santa's float committee and has a lot of experience to offer for this project. Float committee meetings to restart.

Proposed Irish Evening at Notcutts. Date to be confirmed but hoping for end of March. Considering Irish dancing group, harpist as entertainment. If anyone is able to help with these/ have contacts please contact Maggie.

Duck Race

As this is a Major event needing a lot of planning and resources we need to involve all Rotary Members , not just Ways and Means. We need time to discuss the jobs involved / project management and time frames for completion and should utilise Wednesday Rotary meetings to do this in the weeks prior to the event.

Waiting to confirm with the Council ??17 May 2026 planned date.

We need sponsorship. (Usually £500) All sponsorship ideas and contacts need to go through Ian so that the process is coordinated by one person

International Richard

£11,318 raised for Uganda Special Needs School appeal project from event at Tumeric Twist which will enable water pipe functioning . This has been reported in Two Rotary Magazines

Lend with Care . 50% has been paid back (£200) by 5x entrepreneurs all doing well. Latest lending is for a lady in Vietnam and a project in Ecuador involving a refurbished ice cream van

Disaster relief

B&W rotary donated £300 to Jamaica Hurricane appeal. Thanks to all the collectors.

Rotary Foundation donated £50,000

Tony may give us a talk on activities in Zambia . Input from Wilmslow Wells who support water projects in Africa

Archana proposing a trip to India (?Oct 2026) to support her father's Project .

Denise Geary

14 January 2026 - Cheadle Fire Station

A dozen members arrived at Cheadle Fire Station as requested at 6.00pm on Wednesday 15th January to be told by the early birds that we'd just missed the fire engine and it's crew as they'd responded to a call.

Seemingly just one person was left to man the station and he invited us all into the canteen and made everyone a steaming hot tea or coffee. We had no idea why the fire engine had been called out and so nobody knew whether it would be 2 minutes or two hours before they returned. Thankfully we only had to wait around 40 minutes for Green Watch to return, not long before Blue watch started to turn up for the start of their shift at 7.00pm. As we waited the ladies amongst us in particular were incredibly impressed by how clean and tidy the whole station looked. I for one began to think I should have married a fireman. Despite all the muddy boots wandering in and out the floors were immaculate and every book and game on the shelves was in place.

As we waited a lady called Cath Palmer turned up and looked as bewildered as we were. She really didn't look like a fireman. It turned out that she was a volunteer at The Fire Fighters Charity (www.firefighterscharity.org.uk) and had come with giant cheque in hand to receive our donation of £1,000.

The charity takes care of firemen who are experiencing difficulties through sickness, injury and mental health problems.

When Blue watch had all gathered some of us realised that we already knew some of its members as they'd had brought their fire engine to last year's Duck Race. We found that many of the firemen had other jobs as well including window cleaning and being an undertaker.

Steve Cryne was the watch manager for the evening and once the two watches had completed their change over he began a tour of the fire station.

We learned that they were part of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, dealing with not only fires but Motorway crashes, suicides from cranes, people caught in lifts, rescues from waterways and airport disasters.

Each watch has a crew of 12 men or women. Latterly rules on height, gender, age, vision and fitness have been greatly relaxed which Steve wasn't particularly happy about. New rules cover such things as how much they are allowed to lift on their own.

A designated driver stays with the engine on each call out and he is responsible for operating water and hoses. I was very surprised to hear that if it is necessary to use the biggest hose, the water on board the fire engine only lasts for two minutes while those not operating the hose dash around frantically searching for the nearest hydrant.

Everything to do with the engine has to be checked at the beginning of each watch and again the lockers on the sides of the vehicle were incredibly clean and tidy with neatly rolled hoses and huge, heavy machinery used to lift and cut through cars damaged in motorway accidents.

Apparently Cheadle station is fairly quiet compared with some that Steve had worked in with stations such as Wythenshawe receiving as many as 100,000 calls a year.

They do still get hoax calls, often from public phones. Having a list of public phone box numbers helps to identify possible hoax calls.

Of course everyone wanted to see the fireman's pole in action and 'the most handsome' member of Blue watch (I really couldn't say) was volunteered to demonstrate for us. Sadly it isn't used as much these days and new fire stations don't even have one. Recruits must undertake half a day's training now before they are allowed to use it. The pole is an extremely fast way to travel from the sleeping quarters to the fire engine. The men are only allowed to sleep, if they can, between 12 and 7.

We were also treated to a mock call out when the bells go off in the fire engine and the station and a printed message spews out of a machine by the door giving location and which engine should attend.

After all this excitement only nine of us went back to The Pointing Dog for our meal which gave us a chance to had a really useful and fruitful discussion on our up coming Duck Race.

Apologies for any incorrect information given here. I struggled to hear everything. Please feel free to make corrections or additions.

Maggie.

21 January 2026 - Lee Wolf Public Image

Thirteen of us gathered for the meal on Wednesday with five more members joining us for the talk afterwards making quite a good turn out to listen to Lee Wolf, the Rotary N.W. England Public Image lead talk to us about Public Image. Lee, a member of the Middleton Club is the District Editor of our Rotary Inside Magazine.

Lee's talk was split into two parts, our Rotary Public Image and branding and A.I. Despite the fact that he was a very nice gentleman he had a bit of a rough ride with many questions from both Ian and Michael in particular and disagreement with the ideas he was trying to promote.

It was interesting to see the way in which companies such as Pepsi, British Rail and the Scouts had changed their logos quite frequently over the years but even more interesting to me that they had mainly arrived back at an image extremely similar to the one they had started with. Maybe, ' If it ain't broke don't mend it'.

Rotary has also changed its signature wheel over the years, starting with a very simple black and white image of a cartwheel and moving on to a dual coloured, cog wheel style and then more recently a plain, all gold, cog wheel. Lee was encouraging us to update our logo on everything we use, such as hi-vis vests, which seemed to many of us a huge waste of money if they didn't need replacing. He seemed to say that we should now all be using the gold image though his examples of his own posters showed the wheel in blue, black and white.

Another inconsistency in what he was saying was that we should always use our club name in conjunction with the wheel, something which he clearly hadn't done in his advertising for new members.

Lee showed us his advert of a lovely young lady inviting new members to come and join us. Perhaps a bit misleading for our club and I suspect many others.

Unfortunately the talk didn't include any advice on how we could improve our social media reach or attract new members though we were told that there would be talks in the future on various aspects of A.I. And other public image tools such as the use of Canva and Power Point and Photography.

A.I. generates text and image based on gathered information. As an example Lee asked for an illustration of the work done by Bramhall and Woodford Rotary. A.I. Came up with a good amount of content but sadly none of it applied to our club, at least not in recent years. A warning that you should always check A.I. generated content very carefully.

A lot of the content is American based. It can help by overcoming writer's block and might help with such things as grant applications but can never replace human content.

It was interesting to see Middleton club's A.I. generated Santa, used to produce short videos advertising the float. I personally would hate to present a fake Santa rather than our real one but short reels should be something we look at for advertising Santa's rounds and the Duck Race to encourage more followers.

Finally, through AI, Lee produced a very succinct list of reasons why new people should join our club.

Why Join.

Hands on local impact.
A ready made social circle.
Professional and personal growth.
Global reach from a local base.

I guess given time we could have come to something similar just using our brains but for speed and clarity I think this was pretty good. Whether we like A.I. or not may be partly due to our individual tastes, skills and opinions but it is definitely here to stay.

Maggie.

28 January 2026 - Float Quiz

With a 7.30 start, President Lesley opened the evening. We had teams from.

Woodford Primary School PTA
Hursthead Primary School
2nd Bramhall Scouts
Woodford Scouts
Woodford Cricket Club
Rotary also had two Teams.

Michael had produced a quiz consisting of
Six categories. Woodford Cricket Club being the winners.

Pizza and Chips were being served. All groups seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening along with a few bottles of wine
With everyone staying until late.

Pat

4 February 2026 - Committees

19 Rotarians attended and Sadnaha and Dev joined us after.

Harry announced that Annabel is no longer a member, after trying through all methods available she has never returned any correspondence and had not paid her yearly Subs. Its a great shame but there is only so much a club can do.

Michael introduced Sinead as the New treasurer alongside Michael as support a great asset to the club, as Mike was till his career took him away from home, we all wish him well. In the general account there is £1304.73 Charity Account there is £5937.21 and the Float account there is £20,534.26,

Bob Club services has the next two months sorted with activities and speakers. Michael Social. Our next visit to Outside The Box is on the 25th 13 places so far so 7 left you must book on £5.00 entry. Please let Michael know if you're coming to President Night 27th of March.

Ways n Means Maggie Thank you , from Walthew house and Hillbrook Grange for their portion of Float Round funds. Irish night is hopefully going ahead on the 31st of March further info as venues etc is sorted. Maggie asked for charities for Duck Race and Irish Night

Float Gary. Gary is investigating a rental option agreed with his committee he will update us when they have explored all options.

Community Steve. Steve and Sharon attended Youth Speaks at Wilmslow and Knutsford, they were thrilled to tell us they have both won their heats exciting times. The Team are visiting Kate Leadbetter of the NHS charity to keep links for possible help in the future. Sinead and Steve visited Chelwood Food Bank Sinead loved what they are doing and is now a Volunteer.

Richard International. Richard showed us pictures he had received regarding the Girls school in need of water and sanitary toilets. Ground has been broken we look forward to updates Rotary in Action Indeed. Richard is meeting with Keith Connolly Wash Director regarding a project for latrines in Uganda he will update us.

Ian Comms. Ian is gearing up for the Duck race and has secured £1000 from SMBC some feat well done. He will liaise with Community for a Charity then get the ball rolling with advertising etc.

There will be 2 Committee Chair Positions Michael on Social. And Ian On PR & Comms.

Great training will be offered on rotary.org and Mentoring from the Chairs . Need a new challenge in club let me know as soon as possible.

Signing off Lesley

11 February 2026 - Signpost for carers

17 of us were present when Steve introduced Bethan Kelly as the CEO of Signpost for Carers. Bethan has more than 20 years experience in the care industry.

We learnt afterwards that this was Bethan's first "proper" presentation which we found amazing as she delivered it like a seasoned professional even when the lack of wifi connection stopped her from showing some videos.

SFC supports unpaid carers in the Stockport area. These carers are aged 6-96 years! The charity has been going for 40 years, just like our club. After funding from Stockport Council it needs to raise about £500k pa.

It helps schools identify and support pupils who act very much as unpaid carers. More generally it can provide financial advice - so much so that about £900k pa is claimed by carers that would otherwise go amiss. It also provides counselling and wellbeing support such as walking groups and various workshops. There are in addition drop in centres around the area. Training, in bite size chunks, is provided to inexperienced carers, in conjunction with several partners.

Bethan talked us through 4 case studies

- 6 year old Alice caring for mother with fibromyalgia
- 17 year old Rahm caring for father with severe mental health issues
- 40 year old Sarah caring for mother with dementia
- 75 year old Peter caring for wife with terminal cancer and dementia

Bethan then suggested various ways we could support SFC including donations, publicity, volunteering and attending their first Hatters Ball on 25th April at the Village Hall in Cheadle.

An interesting, interactive and challenging Q&A followed with a final vote of thanks from Lesley.

A great night! Well done Bethan.

Michael

18 February 2026 - Archana

A total of 17 members attended the meeting. Archana is a highly qualified and specialist dentist. She gained her qualifications in Benares (Varanasi) in India in 1992. However, in 1993 she moved to Manchester but found that she had to re-qualify as a dentist. In order to do this and to get lots of experience she

volunteered at Withington Hospital and worked for months without pay. One of her first cases was a child who was badly injured on the face after being bitten by a dog.

Having completed her professional qualifications in the UK Archana worked in hospitals for many years. She did consider specialising in max fax surgery but decided against as she also had a young daughter by then. Archana worked in community dentistry but eventually bought her own practice in Denton where she has a large staff in addition to supervising post graduate training.

Archana explained that many dentist practices now employ dental therapists who do preventative care and minor work and so allowing the more highly qualified dentists to focus on more specialist cases. She also discussed the problems that many people have of finding an NHS dentist. Archana said that the NHS payment system did not reward the work done when dentists carry out multiple fillings. A further problem was when patients' 'DNA'd' (did not attend) their appointments which reduced the dentist's income. Apparently, dentists are not permitted to charge NHS patients for non-attendance.

The pros and cons of fluoridation in our drinking water was also discussed. Archana said that research showed that this reduced teeth decay, but many people were against it like the 'anti-vax' movement. She recommended that people should brush their teeth 30 minutes after eating, not straight after.

There were lots of discussions and much applause as everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Bob Preece

25th February - Outside the Box

Seventeen members and friends gathered at 'Out of the Box' in Bramhall at 7pm for an evening of 'fun and games'. Food and drink was also available and partaken by a number of us.

Numerous games entertained us including (on our table) 'Bananagram'- which is a variation on Scrabble and a card game 'Flip 7'.

With so much excitement, we were all pretty much 'gamed out' by 9pm !

Sue has forwarded some pictures of the evening.

Chris Monkhouse

4th March - Committees

There were 16 Rotarians present and David joined us after dinner. President Lesley made a few announcements.

- Wilmslow & District 'Beaujolais Brunch' on Saturday March 7th, cost £13 pp. Three of our Rotarians recently attended one of their meetings at the Pinewood. The speaker for the night was from the Air Ambulance. The club is very small, the President's role rotates among members every three months. The club has dispensed with committees; they meet in each other's homes to plan events and fund raising activities.
- Bruce was invited to say a few words about the untimely tragic death of one of our ex-Rotarians, Andrew Turnbull, aged 53 years. Andrew was a young, active and enthusiastic man. He was a highly regarded member of the club for several years but left to pursue his career as a Psychotherapist. Andrew's love and presence shaped the lives of so many. He died in Moya Cole Hospice (previously known as St Ann's) and Council is to be asked to make a donation to the hospice in Andrew's name. His funeral is being arranged by his daughter Sophie (aged 18) and will be held at Stockport Crematorium March 19th. The many Rotarians who knew Andrew will be attending.
- Satish is still in Cheadle Grange Care home and would welcome visitors, just ring him if you would like to visit.
- Chads Theatre night March 13th, please support this event.
- Reminder about Presidents Night, Friday March 27th
- Council meeting Monday evening March 9th

Secretary, Harry

Suggestion that club members go to see the lovely display of purple crocuses in Bramhall Park. They were planted a few years ago by B&W Rotarian for 'purple4polio'. Harry agreed to upload the Irish Night details.

Treasurer, Sinead

Charity account £5,000

General account £1,354

Float account £20,957

Club Services, Bob

- Please ensure that if you booked a meal and need to cancel the Pointing Dog staff are very accommodating but need at least a couple of hours' notice otherwise you will have to pay for the meal.
- The programme is full to the end of May, and a copy will be sent out in the next couple of days.

Social, Michael (absent, on holiday)

Nothing to report other than a reminder about President's Night Friday, March 27th

Ways & Means, Maggie

- An Irish Evening is planned to take place in the Pointing Dog on Tuesday, March 31st, proceeds for Stockport Young Carers. There will be Irish dancers and a fiddler. Please help to sell as many tickets as possible, cost £28 pp.
- Duck Race, Sunday May 17th. Now 60 more large ducks have been bought, and Harry & Pete are exploring B&Q display stands. Philip suggested they could use his trade card and get a 10% discount, thus saving the club money.
- Sinead has secured a very good deal on the cost of the trophies

Community Service, Steve

- Millie's Trust is putting on a First Aid course next Wednesday for club members, but the take-up has been poor. There are only 7 members wanting to attend, please contact Steve if you wish to come.
- Youth Speaks, our two teams from Hazel Grove HS did not get through this second round. Both the school and our members who attended the event thought the results were inconsistent and very unfair. An email has been sent to the Rotary organisers.
- Steve visited Kate Leadbetter from Stepping Hill Hospital, and they are trying to raise funds for a neo-natal incubator. Thirty thousand pounds has already been raised but they need to raise £47,500. Council will be asked to donate £1,000 to this cause.
- Motor Neurone Disease Association, Northwest will be the recipients of the Duck Race. Their volunteers have agreed to help on the day.

International, Richard

- This is a small committee so Archana will join them. Archana is keen to organise a trip to Varanasi, India in the autumn.
- Richard said he regularly gets requests to support overseas projects, one of which was from Masaka, Uganda. He judged this to be a worthwhile project.
- Contact has been made with other local charities such as UK Med, Human Appeal and the Soroptimists.
- Lend with care received 12 repayments last month
- Members were asked to look at Tony's email about his Zambia link

Comms & PR, Ian

Not a lot to report. There will be a press release next week about the Duck Race. Despite a great deal of hard work and many hours we still have not got much sponsorship for the Duck Race, Sunday May 17th.

Sue Preece

13th March - CHADS

Seven Rotarians and about twenty visitors went to the dress rehearsal of Chads latest play, The Birthday Party. It is a rather strange play, described as a comedy of menace, not easy to understand but it was very entertaining due to the high quality of the acting. Unfortunately, the low attendance meant that only the first three rows of the theatre were filled. Attending a dress rehearsal at Chads has been an annual event for many years but clearly it has become much less popular.

Bob

18th March - First Aid course at Millie's Trust

Millie's Trust was created by Dan and Joanne Thompson, the parents of Millie, who tragically died, aged 9 months in a choking incident on her first day at nursery in October 2012. Our club has been associated with Millie's Trust for many years. Most recently the proceeds from the Circus 2025 were donated to the charity and in appreciation for our support they put on a short first aid course, ten B&W Rotarians attended on Wednesday evening. It was excellent and all who attended really enjoyed and benefited from the evening.

Dan explained the importance of everyone having on their phone the App 'What Three Words'. This is an easy way to identify precise locations. Every 3m square in the world has been given a unique combination of three words: a what3words address. It is used to share and navigate to precise locations using three simple words. It is more accurate than street addresses, simpler than GPS coordinates. Street addresses and postcodes aren't accurate enough to specify exact locations so in an emergency this app would be extremely useful. Dan also reminded us that as well as the emergency number 999, 112 is the pan-European equivalent to 999 and can be used in the UK and abroad.

We should also regularly assess our first aid kit to ensure everything is up to date and items are not past their sell by date, even bandages. We were surprised to learn that there is no need to have any creams in the kit but burns gel should be included.

We got to practice CPR on several dummies, and it was quite tiring. Apparently only 12% of casualties receiving CPR survive out of hospital after a cardiac arrest. However, when CPR is given immediately survival rates can double. With the addition of shocks from a defibrillator the survival rate increases significantly. Hence, it is important that everyone knows what to do in an emergency. Contrary to stories no one has ever been sued successfully for breaking ribs when administering CPR!

There was so much more that we learned, and I think it would be an excellent idea to do a first aid course annually as it is too easy to forget.

Sue Preece

27th March - President's Night at Stanneylands

39 Rotarians and guests met in the bar (normal) before dinner in the Grill Room. I have to mention Bob Cryer in his Scottish attire- yes a kilt and high socks. The menu choices were unusual either vegetarian or non-vegetarian with no cross over! Michael welcomed everybody and Lesley wished us Bon appetite (in English). I enjoyed the fish course and I think everybody enjoyed the food served by the young efficient and courteous waiters. The atmosphere was buzzing always a good sign!

At 9.25pm Michael announced the comfort break, that means queues at the rest rooms. After twenty minutes Michael introduced our speaker James Ellson, ex police and eventually author, hence the title "The long Road to Publication 3.0". James read Geography at Cambridge (a useful subject for all kinds of careers).

With a friend he went on a five month cycling expedition of 10,000 Kms from Miami through Mexico, Central America, Columbia and finished in Caracas –pew! It gave him time to think of a career. He joined the Police in London and enjoyed 3 years as Patrol Officer, the last year was most exciting driving fast Police cars answering 999 calls. While on the beat, he observed and interacted with the public, on one occasion he became suspicious of a man which lead to his first arrest of a criminal.

James has an inquisitive mind and became a detective and then a Sergeant. He is keen on rock-climbing and later mountaineering, these interests led him to move North to the Peak District and transferred to Greater Manchester Police responsible for serious crime like shootings, stabbings and murders. On a rota for weekends he became the senior detective for the whole of GTr Manchester!

James's passion for climbing grew from local hills to the Himalayas and trekking in Nepal. In 2004 he climbed Ama Dablan (6,812 metres) and four years later reached the summit of the Matterhorn solo! After 15 years he quit the police and bought a smallholding near Peak National Park.

He kept a diary and wrote a Memoir "Cop to Coppicer" A London agent suggested he pen a thriller. This became a draft for "The Trail"; unfortunately he couldn't find a publisher so decided to enroll on an MA in Creative Writing at M/c Met University. Around this period James developed his smallholding, rearing chickens, bee- keeping and planting trees especially apple trees. He enjoyed this outdoor life. His tutor Joe Stretch encouraged him to re-write "THE TRAIL" which was published in 2020 by UNBOUND. Two years later came the sequel "COLD DAWN" both these books were longlisted for an award in genre Mountain Literature. The final book to complete the trilogy in 2022 about Nepal "COLD SUMMER".

Last year James signed a contract with Vinci Book for the DCI Castle Series, this June "The Rule of Threes". The ROCKBURN series about a former police officer who later became a private Detective. It is available tonight along with Derbyshire Honey.

James spends his day writing before breakfast, tending his small holding during which he thinks about his characters and plots! Writing again before dinner. I think the motto I take from this very interesting talk, with touches of humour, is NEVER GIVE UP!

Michael duly thanked James Ellson for his fascinating talk. President Lesley also thanked all the guests and praised the Rotarians for their work and she personally had gained a lot after two years in the Chair. I personally may add that Lesley has been a great enthusiastic President and we wish her

good health in her “retirement”. We raised our glasses after a lovely evening with Rotary Grace.
David Rose.

31st March - Irish Night

First the Caribbean, then India and then this year we travelled to Ireland for our charity Social Evening. Unfortunately Notcutts Garden Centre Restaurant was unavailable so we were set the challenge of finding a venue which had space for a good number of guests and an area which could act as a stage for our entertainers. We decided on our own club venue, The Pointing Dog. Although they could only accommodate around 85 guests rather than our usual 100, the staff went out of their way to make everything work for us, moving heavy furniture and creating Irish dishes not normally on their menu. Guests were greeted with a welcome glass of Prosecco, a lucky shamrock pin badge and a snack of Irish Tayto crisps to get them in the right mood for the evening.

Thanks for our efforts to raise funds for Signpost for Carers , Stockport were given before the fun began.

First to entertain everyone were 5 young Irish dancers from The Keegan school of Dance in their magnificent competition costumes. We were all worn out just watching their high kicks and speedy steps.

Next came Katie Fiddlestix with some very accomplished violin playing, performed as she walked around the room between the tables.

To let her get her breath back Peter Crossen gave us a taste of an authentic Northern Irish accent by delivering a quick Irish quizz. Shouting out the answers was allowed and correct ones were rewarded by a chocolate bar.

After the meal of Guinness Irish Stew, red cabbage and potatoes followed by Bailey's cheesecake we were treated to a number of dances performed by the ladies of The Claddagh School of Dancing. Once again, the energy level needed to perform these dances was phenomenal. We were all stunned by their final dance.

Finally Ian, our Compere for the evening, distributed the raffle prizes, lots of raffle prizes, maybe the most we've ever had donated for an event.

The evening was well received with some guests asking when and where the next one would be.

Thinking caps on everyone!
Maggie







