

Stonecrossword

The Bulletin of The Rotary Club of Kendal

February 2017

President: Peter A Smith



ROTARY
SERVING
HUMANITY

Socially

At the recent Open Forum (of which more later) there seemed to be agreement that as well as service projects, we would welcome more social events. So here are two, albeit by chance in quick succession.....

Sunday Lunch 26 February

The Black Labrador (formerly The Punchbowl) in Underbarrow has been booked, 12.30pm for 1.00pm. Please sign the Action File.



Monday 27 February



The speakers at our Club meeting will be **Trevor Hughes** and **Pat Hovey** from Kendal Civic Society. They will be talking about Kendal Yards, a topic that interests many of us. We will welcome guests that day. Please sign the Action File so we can tell the hotel

about numbers. This is a change of date so that it does not clash with the Inner Wheel walk.

Charity Dinner



I am publishing SCW just a couple of days before our Foundation

Charity Dinner at

Kendal College. At the time of writing we have a few places available because of cancellations. If did not book, or can bring guests, URGENTLY please contact **Ken Gibson**.



Hospice Angels

On 9 January we welcomed **Sara Brown** from St. John's Hospice.

President Peter presented a cheque for £1,100 given to us at the supermarket collections and carol singing by Levens Choir. We also have about £700 for Kid's Out in the summer.



Polio Recognition

At the recent District Council meeting, President Peter was presented with a certificate marking our donations to the end Polio Now fund in 2015/2016. Just one of three certificates in District 1190.

See page 2 for an update on Foundation.



Sports

We shall be playing in the semi-final of the District Ten-Pin Bowling on the evening of Monday 30 January. Our oponents will be Ambleside Kirkstone.

Then on 16 February we are against Garstang and Over Wyre in the District Quiz.

Good Luck to both teams.

Questionnaire

At a our recent Open Forum there was a frank discussion about the Club and its direction. Later in SCW you will see a comment following that. Please also find a questionnaire. There are 44 members of the Club. Please may we have 44 responses?



Look for the box at Club meetings. Thank you.

January Diary

Attendance Officers (February)
Attendance Officers (March)

Colin Reynolds
Roger Siddle

Charles Robinson
Peter W D Smith

	<u>Hosts</u>
Mon 30 Jan	Richard Bird
Wed 1 Feb	
Mon 6 Feb *	Andy Cannan
Mon 13 Feb	John Chew
Thu 16 Feb	
Fri 17 Feb	
Mon 20 Feb	Ray Wood
Sun 26 Feb	
Mon 27 Feb	Ray Fielding
Mon 6 Mar *	Ken Gibson

<u>Speaker/Topic</u>
Angus Wiseman - Blacksmith
Foundation Charity Dinner
Jim Wilson - More Memories of a Village Policeman
Stephen Green - Kendal Rugby Club
District Quiz against Garstang and Over Wyre
Furness Peninsula Charter

Sunday Lunch at the Black Labrador, Underbarrow (see above)
Trevor Hughes & Pat Hovey—Yards of Kendal (see above)
Business Meeting

* Club Council at 11.00am Please "sign" Action File



Editor: Tim Keegan

Foundation Update February 2017



This year marks the centenary of Rotary Foundation. From Thursday June 22nd until Sunday June 25th there will be an exhibition in Blackburn Cathedral to celebrate what our foundation has achieved, particularly in recent years. As part of the exhibition, **Roger Frank's** iron lung will be on display to alert the general public to our Polio Plus campaign. On Saturday afternoon there will be a multi-faith service in the cathedral. We are all invited to attend any part of the weekend. Some of us may also wish to steward parts of it.



In last month's newsletter from **David Simpson**, the chair of District 1190 Foundation Committee, there is an introduction from **David Friend** of Millom club to a beekeeping project in Ethiopia. David will be telling us about this on March 13th. There is also a suggestion that we donate our winter fuel allowance to Rotary Foundation, if we feel that we can manage without it. Roger Frank has requested volunteer help to man the iron lung at the RIBI conference in Manchester from 7th to 9th April.

David also brings us up to date with numbers of polio cases over the past five years, tells us about Foundation scholarships and thanks us for attending the November seminars. Without attending these and contributing to Rotary Foundation funds, we are unable to apply for grants. In recent years **Martin Jayne**, **Roger Downing**, **Ruth Otway** and **Angie Biggs** have attended this annual event and found the meetings interesting for what they have taught us about Foundation funded projects. If anyone else would like to attend next year, I feel sure you would find the meeting informative. Just let me know.

David's newsletter is in the action file, so have a read to find out more. If you wish to learn more about our charity, please let me know and I'll do my best to answer your questions.

Uxbridge English Dictionary

Last month I included some curious definitions. Here are more.....

Optimist: The view through a cataract

Parsnip: Dad's vasectomy

Quadrant: Four people shouting

Reincarnation: Born again as a tin of condensed milk

Satsuma: Japanese wrestling sitting down

Tabby: A big church in Yorkshire

Unscrew: A French prison warder

Violin: A nasty pub

Wholesaler: Moby Dick's lunch

Xylophone: The Greek goddess of Scrabble

Yeoman: Presidential greeting

Zebra: The largest size of support garment

Antelope: Run of with your mother's sister

Badminton: Dodgy English porcelain

Condescending: A prisoner in a lift

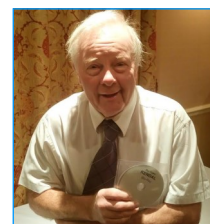
Speaker Review



Our speaker on 9 January was **Jonathon Snowden** who gave presentation about the African Country of Burkina Faso. He had been involved in a project with the UN International Citizen Service. Burkina Faso, formally the primarily French speaking Republic of Upper Volta, is not only land locked but one of the poorest countries in Africa. He explained how the Handicap Solidaire Burkina organisation takes volunteers on 14 week placements to provide support and promote people with disabilities. Jonathan has shown interest in the Peace Scholarship scheme.



On 23rd January our speaker was **Jim Bownass** who showed the members some films of old Kendal. Many of the film clips, collected over many years whilst Jim was a cameraman for Border TY, have been compiled and kept for future generations. The films, dating from the late 1960s and early 70s, showed how the town has changed over the years and clearly shows the demise of many of Kendal's once famous industries - shoemaking, carpet weaving, insurance, snuff, brewing and horn works. To name but a few. The only constant feature was the ever increasing traffic jams!



District Conference

Bookings at District Conferences have fallen each year, for a variety of reasons. We are bound by Rotary rules to hold one. (There is still time to book for the 2017 Conference - day rates are available - rotary1190.org)



For the 2018 Conference the North Lakes Hotel at Penrith has been booked. One day only, Saturday 18 March.

Only a small percentage of Rotarians in the District attend Conference and that percentage every year. A residential Conference currently costs about £500 per couple - accommodation, conference fees and entertainment. This year the day delegate rate is £20 per day.

We have been sent a summary of options. It is in the Action File ready for discussion later. Here are some of the questions:

- ? Should we have a conference over 3 days, 2 days or a single day?
- ? Should it be in District or further afield?
- ? Spring or Autumn?
- ? Well known speakers, speakers from charities, speakers about Rotary activities/ideas?
- ? Should we combine conference with a nearby District?
- ? How should a Conference be funded?
- ? Are YOU likely to attend a District Conference?

One Man's Thoughts

We are currently talking about the Club and the future. Following our recent discussions I have received this piece from Rodger Read:



The discussion at Open forum in January about Club membership has made me wonder why I have recently lost interest in Rotary and am considering resigning.

Digby Gunson was right when he suggested we should look at the symptoms for decline in Rotary before seeking the remedies.

The following comments are how I feel about Rotary at the moment and are not necessarily the answer to the problems.



When I joined Rotary (sorry, I was invited to join!), we used to DO things.

- We packed old folks' hampers at Christmas time, we put up smoke detectors in peoples' houses, we dug over peoples' gardens. We were younger and working.
- We worried about the Club being too big. We worried about the reasons some wanted to join. It was frowned upon that someone would join only to obtain business contacts.
- Now we plant bulbs and have monthly social events amongst ourselves - we are boring!!!

What are we still good at?

Some time ago I was in a dark place (depression) and the doctor told me to go out and do some charity work. What good was I? I had no transferable skills. I had no contacts. I basically didn't feel I was any good to anyone.

Fortunately, my daughter of all people, put me in touch with a Charity that needed help with looking after some of its' clients.

The rules of help being that you were only to be known by your Christian name, you mustn't get involved too closely with the client and you mustn't tell anyone about the assignment or client.

So what good was I? The Charity wanted my age and knowledge of life, which to them was an asset.

Some of the tasks I have had include:

- ☞ Taking a young girl to a mental health clinic once a month because she was too afraid to go on her own and her one parent was at work all the time.
- ☞ Accompanying a young boy who had a court restraining order on him which would not allow him to go out without a senior being with him. I took him to golf lessons and snooker practice.
- ☞ Taking an alcoholic to an assessment for benefits meeting. He was younger than me but looked twice as old.
- ☞ Accompanying a young lady to a meeting with her employer's HR officer as she was afraid to go on her own.
- ☞ Helping a chap put his paperwork in order as he hadn't filed a tax return for the last six years.



My point in all this is that the Club members have skills we don't use and I believe this is the way to prove our worth and perhaps get people to want us and join us.

We are virtually all ex managers of something. We have a range of knowledge. We know things. We are worth something to someone. LET'S MAKE THE CONNECTION.



One idea that comes to mind. Some will recall a President of our club called **Jim McKinnes** who, along with others, set up the Abbeyfield Society which was to provide homes for the elderly.

Let's change the emphasis and provide homes for the young. We know how to fill out forms. We know how to manage. We know who to influence. We could

take on a project of renovating an old property. Our legal members could find a property that the local authority needs help with or are prepared to let us have at pepper-corn rent subject to renovation. We apply for grants - there are hundreds of charities out there looking



for brains like ours to apply ourselves - and we could employ workmen to carry out the work - That is also a link to the working sector of our community that we have lost. Don't forget there are also agencies like those looking after young offenders that are always looking for projects.

We currently present ourselves as raising funds for local people - overseas aid no longer is a selling point for Rotary.

We have a corporate value. We are worth knowing. Let's believe in ourselves.



Editor: Thank you to Rodger for his frank views. We have to bear in mind that our average age is greater than when Rodger joined Rotary and hence perhaps our individual ability and willingness to tackle physical tasks may have diminished. Also safeguarding guidelines have changed.

However we will all consider what he has said. We also need members of the Club to be seeking out new projects like those Rodger describes.



There's a Business Meeting on Monday 6 March. Thinking caps on!

That includes completing the questionnaire on the next pages....

Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.

Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the National Debt.

Today is nature's way of giving yesterday another chance.

It's better to be silent and considered a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.

All people smile in the same language.

If your mind goes blank, remember to switch off the sound.

Success comes in cans; failure comes in can'ts.