

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held 20th Feb 2017 at the Cricket Ground

Present. Alan Mepstead, Nan Miller. Tim Brett Graham Bough Leslie Stephenson John Beckett

Apologies Brian Dobinson Ian Wright

Minutes of the last meeting held in January were approved. All matters arising are on the agenda

1. Innovation competition 2017. BD reports. Innovation - last date for entries is the end of March. 6 schools said they would field entries, but that remains to be seen. I have already had one entry from a girl at Simon Langton Girls, though unfortunately it is a little too obviously not innovative. I have finally got a contact at King's, but too late for this year probably. Christchurch are providing a lecture room for the judging on 28th June. Harry Cragg has offered to be a judge & we will need one or 2 more.

2. Other School competitions and involvement.

- **Youth Speaks.** Canterbury heat this afternoon at Barton Court. Teams from SLGS and Barton Court. Simon Langton were this year's winners and go on to the District final on 4th March .

The event was well attended and of a high standard. All the teams felt that the experience was very worthwhile,

- **Schools reading assistance project.** Nan Miller continues to be in touch with Pilgrims Way and is waiting for her CRB check to come through. A cheque for £75 has been received from Dr Faud Hussain so that a reading competition can be established at the school and this will be matched by Rotary making a total of £150. Details to be worked out with the school. Agreed prizes will be Book tokens and Nan will talk to Waterstones to see if they will give a discount. At the moment this is a one off but is hoped that it can be continued in the future.
- **Schools public speaking competition.** Generally thought that some competitors were inaudible and others spoke too quickly. Is it possible to speed up the judging?
- **Big Sing.** John Harris, Margaret Griffin and Alan Mepstead have met with Dan Tomkinson re TCK. The Big Sing goes ahead on April 18th and is being closely associated with TCK.

10 Primary schools are taking part and next year it is hoped to involve Secondary schools.

3. Events.

Agreed we should try to aim for four events in this next year and to avoid Pentangular.

- **Bird watching** led by Alan Forest and John Hill 27th April at Conyer with lunch at the Ship Inn.
- **Monasticism.** BD Reports:- I have arranged with Tony Weber for the trip to take place on Thursday 8th June. To date, I have 38 people in total who indicated they would be OK for early June, without specifying dates, with a further 6 or so possibles.

- Le Hane have a 35 seater coach, which would cost £420, and 51 seaters that would cost £467. Although slightly more expensive per person, I suggest I order the larger one . The plan is that we leave from the New Dover Road park & ride car park at 9.30am. We should arrive at Bayham at about 10.45. We would stay there until about noon. There is a coffee shop, but no other refreshment. We would then drive to Battle, arriving at about 12.45pm. They have a cafe on site which will produce sandwiches and salads, if pre-ordered, and soup. I am getting details of this, but realise some may prefer to bring a packed lunch (perhaps producing an interesting melange with local soup!) - or people may prefer to go to one of the restaurants in Battle itself. we will leave Battle around 3.30 and arrive back at Canterbury about 5.0pm Tony's talk will be on the historical , rather than the religious, importance of the sites, and he has told me he will not be assuming we have detailed prior knowledge - so it should be fairly straightforward! He will be accompanied by his wife, and I have told him they will both be our guests.

As to the cost, obviously this will depend on how many actually go, but assuming I order the larger coach and we have about 35 paying passengers, I think it will be £15 per head to include paying for a meal of some kind for Tony and his wife and a tip for the driver. Originally I thought we would not be charged for entry to the abbeys, but Tony was advising me on the basis of his previous experience with U3A, and now does not think we would be allowed in free of charge. Entry is free of charge to English Heritage members : for others , as long as we form a paying group of 11 or more, the concessionary fee is £8.50 for Battle and £3.91 for Bayham.

- ***Kent Air Ambulance*** This is the President Elect's chosen charity for next year and a visit August/September, Details to follow
- ***Day trips to France*** Graham Bough has investigated day trips to French Battlefields and the Louvre du Nord.in Lens – just over 100kilometres from Calais-. The tour company do the organisation including coach, tunnel and guides. Start 7.30am and finish 7.30pm The cost would be £75 per head. Agreed to e-mail round to see if there is any interest at this price.
- ***The Following are still “on The Books”***
 - Graham Clark*** is a local artist and NM is following up a visit to see how an artist's studio works.
 - Dover Museum.*** IW together with AM
 - Francis Crick Institute.***
 - Quex Park***

4.Any other Business.

- District have developed a mentoring scheme for young unemployed people, which local Job Centres have been ordered to embrace. AM agreed to get more details and come back to the next meeting. We would need to embrace the whole club and not just VSC.
- Agreed that we need some younger members of the club on this committee. AM has mentioned to President elect.

5. Date of next meeting. .7th March 11.45 at 12.00pm. Apologies Tim Brett