

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held 10th May 2016 at Abbots Barton Hotel

Present. Alan Mepstead, Leslie Stephenson, Brian Dobinson, Mike Talbot, Nan Miller, Tim Brett, Mary McGeary

Apologies. Ian Wright, Deborah Connolly, John Beckett

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting** held on 12th April were approved with all matters arising being covered in this meeting's agenda.
- 2. Innovation competition 2016.** BD reported that there were 43 entries for this year's competition which have all been passed to the Judges. He is going to Kent University tomorrow (11th May) for a first feedback. Final judging is 29th June starting 10.00am and it was hoped that there would be a good representation from Rotary.
- 3. Youth Exchange in Rotary.** District is looking to develop this and have asked for volunteers to serve on a District Youth Exchange Committee. It was pointed out that we are already deeply involved through Pentangular with our own Mini-Group Exchange and which is organised by Alastair Scott. We had been involved in other Youth Exchanges in the past, but these had "petered out" over the years. BD felt that it was important to reach out to young people abroad and volunteered to serve on the District committee.
- 4. The Younger Community. (Martin Ward joined the meeting for this discussion).** Martin asked how we could improve the communication/coordination of youth activities across our club. He had floated the idea of setting up a youth committee which would have included the youth briefs presently undertaken by Community, International and Vocational and he also envisaged the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund Coordinator would also be involved. However, having listened to the views of other committee chairmen – not least taking into account the impact on the existing committees – He had come to the conclusion that creating a new committee, in one fell swoop, would be a step too far too quickly.

However everybody agreed that the way we deliver Service to young people isn't straightforward and were we setting up a new Rotary Club it's highly unlikely we would come up with our present model as a template. To this end Martin wanted to explore and improve the effectiveness across all aspects of our Youth Service – both within the club and the wider community. The objective would be to investigate a framework that would embrace our existing charitable donations to young people, the organising of youth events and working more closely with the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund. The subject of forming /mentoring Interact / Rotoract Clubs locally should also be part of the brief. ...more

In the following discussion there was agreement that we needed to have better communication between committees. AM has agreed to take on the role of Youth Co-ordinator.

5. Events

Richborough Fort. BD has 16-18 names for this. As far as we know there will be no cost for this other than providing Lunch for David Birmingham and his wife. Date will probably be 2nd or 3rd September.

RAF Memorial. LS has 17 names for this on 23rd June. Cost is £5 entry and £8.50 Luncheon

Town Hall Fordwich. Deborah is kindly organising this. Suggested dates are 11th and 18th August.

Thames Barge Trip. BD reported that this is oversubscribed with a waiting list.

Chapel Down. AM is working on a trip to Chapel Down Vineyard in October possibly combined with a visit to Small Hythe Place which was the home of the Victorian Actress Dame Ellen Terry.

National Grid. We will try to find a contact.

Water Treatment Plant. Likewise.

6. Any other Business.

TB suggested that it would be a good idea to have a debate on Fracking – The Pros and Cons. AM will talk to Alan Holmes who is a Trustee at CPRE with the idea of getting Graham Warren to speak to us. Graham is an expert on Hydrogeology and very involved in the debate. Query a debate or a lunchtime speaker?

7. Date of next meeting.

To fit in more closely with member's holidays this was changed to 21st June 2016 starting 12.15 pm at wherever Rotary luncheon is.