

**Rotary Club of Canterbury
Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 16th May 2017
Consolidated Reports**

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President's Report

The past year has been very busy, not least because of all the planning for the Pentangular which takes place next weekend. Three years' planning over in three days! But at its heart is acquaintance and fellowship which, along with service, are the key tenets of being a Rotarian.

At last year's Club Assembly, I underlined the priorities for my Presidential Year:

- Fellowship & Fun - with every member having a role
- Improve Communication both amongst members and the outside world
- Bring in new members
- Reinvigorate Fund Raising
- Reinforce our place in our community whether at home or abroad.
 - Support for the homeless and young people
- To try and simplify our Rotary?

It goes without saying, of course, that support for our ongoing fundraising projects and charitable activities was also a key objective.

On the fellowship front we enjoyed the black tie musical picnic at Charlton Park last August – weather notwithstanding - and we then had an extremely well-attended Christmas Dinner in December. We tried something different with the Valentines Musical evening – which would have benefitted from better acoustics. Still to come we have the Pentangular, the Falklands Dinner and the annual Safari Supper. I have enjoyed mixing the traditional with the ambitious; I hope other members have enjoyed it as well.

In a club the size of ours communication will always be a challenge. We live in the real world where it's not possible for all members to attend all meetings and we have to accept that at any one time perhaps no more than two-thirds are present at any one time. Modern technology allows for almost instant communication and that is what I have attempted to do with the 'President's Puffs' newsletters. Preparing them, though, takes time, but I have tried to make them a priority.

Communicating with the outside world is less easy. As a club we must become more adept at exploiting social media. Club Council has backed redesigning the website to make it more accessible and friendly.

On the need to bring in more members, I think, over the past Rotary Year, we have been rather successful. It has given me the greatest pleasure to induct five new members: Jo Nolan; Julie Reza; Graham Bough; David Bailey; Neil Fraser. I doubt there is another President in District 1120 that has inducted so many new members. However, I'm not just pleased because of the number; I'm also pleased at the new dimension they all bring to the club – and that all of them are younger than me! They all, too, either are, or have recent experience of the work-place which is so important for a club like ours. We have other prospective members in the pipeline so hopefully it won't be long before we hit the 'magic' 70.

Sadly we bade farewell to three former members during the year: Vic Banks, Ted Abbott and John Collard.

So, unlike some clubs, membership at the moment isn't an issue for our club – we're the biggest in District 1120. But maintaining momentum to run our various fund-raising projects is.

We organised another successful Duck Race last September, there was the street collection for the Haiti floods and Peter Hermitage master-minded an incredibly successful maiden Boxing Night in January. We ran a profitable bucket collection in memory of Hannah Loughran in February and there was Top Choir Kent in April. However, with TCK, there is a sense of weariness amongst the organising team and it's clear we need a new approach or fresh ideas. That, though, is an answer which will hopefully emanate from the newly formed Fund Raising Committee under Stephen Thompson.

As part of my wish to reinvigorate fundraising, I have been encouraging committee chairmen since last July to prepare a budget for any projected spending so as to give the fund raising committee a target at which to aim. I think we're getting there on that one!

We have had problems with the web-based Event Management System, but new support arrangements with our contractor, ExtraDigital, will hopefully mean any problems are fixed quickly and efficiently.

I have been pleased to represent the club at a number of initiatives for young people organised by the Vocational Service Committee including the Innovation Competition, Schools' Writing Competition and Public Speaking. The Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund has disbursed funds to a number of qualifying young people and it's a privilege, being a trustee, to sit on the panel interviewing prospective recipients.

The Pentangular Project, JPP3, to provide educational bursaries in Juba, South Sudan, starts soon. Rotary doing extraordinary things in difficult situations.

Pentangular has been a major focus of mine over the past few years. It's taking a lot of planning and the coming weekend will prove its success or otherwise.

The President's Charity is progressing well and I'm confident I will be able to hand over a very reasonable cheque to Porchlight for their young people's project before the end of my year in office.

Have I managed to simplify our Rotary? We are a big club, there is always lots going on but I still believe we should spend less time debating minutiae and more time actually doing. I failed to find the magic bullet, so perhaps, on that one, not quite so successful.

We could also have handled our election process for new officers better at the Extraordinary General Meeting last December. There will be an opportunity to remedy that at the EGM this coming December.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks for the extraordinary amount of support I have received this year. Planning Pentangular has shown several members at their absolute best. Not for them asking questions about the amount of work involved, or saying how much they're doing already, just a willingness to take it on and get it sorted.

I also want to say a very personal thank-you for the understanding and support following the death of my dear old mother last September. Although she was very poorly, the speed of her final decline surprised us all. It was a tough few weeks and, at times, difficult to hold it all together. But I knew I could rely on President-Elect Sharon when I needed to take time out - and it provided good practice for next year!

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to lead your club over the past 11 months – and we still have one more month to go!

Martin Ward

President 2016-2017

16 May 2017

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

REPORT TO AGM 2017

In the last 12 months a total of £6,670 in donations have been approved by the Community Service Committee

1. £500 worth of food for Canterbury Foodbank
2. £250 to Try Angle Award Scheme 2016 jointly with Forest of Blean RC.
3. £500 to Parkinson UK Canterbury Branch to fund aquatherapy sessions.
4. £400 to sponsor two boys on the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Course
5. £540 to fund superior wheels for a wheel chair bound school girl.
6. £500 with further £500 Matching Grant for Canterbury Home Start to fund 4 places for families on Targeted Early Learning Project.
7. £200 to Headway to help them set up their new minibus in operation.
8. £50 to St John Ambulance Canterbury & Coastal Unit to support their local activities.
9. £500 to Rising Sun Women's Refuge to fund a study day.
10. £30 to Tools for Self Reliance to buy equipment for refurbishing tools.
11. £200 to Catching Lives to buy additional sleeping bags.
13. £300 to help purchase sports wheelchair for paraplegic teenage boy.
14. £250 to fund monthly memory Clinic for East Kent Independent Dementia Service.
15. £400 for Kids Out visit to Wingham Wildlife Park for St Nicholas School and second visit to an indoor play centre..
16. £550 pounds to Kent Association for the Blind in Canterbury to purchase a Voice Activated iPhone and a touch screen monitor for training blind clients.
17. £500 to HypoHounds to train a puppy as an assistance dog for a diabetic.
18. £500 to sponsor 4 severely disabled students of St Nicholas School for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

The Community Service Committee has confirmed its terms of reference for assisting people by grant assistance of up to £1,000 to individuals, organisations & charities with a strong local Canterbury connection. Each case will be considered on its merits.

I should like to thank the committee members for their commitment and pay tribute to the enormous contribution of the three members leaving the committee at the end of the year: Marjorie Lyle, Colin McKone and Gill Dixon.

David Barton
Chairman

AGM 2017 - Report from International Service Committee

This is my report on those Charities we have supported so far this Rotary year.

- Shelter Box
- Aqua Box
- Team Tanzania
- Lend with Care we now have a "loan" facility of £1000.00
- MSF-this is for those suffering in the Yemen conflict
- Mary's Meals specifically for Syrians in refugee camps
- Hope Romania
- Klerruu School Tanzania - Materials for ablutions block
- The Rotary Club of Dhaka - project to help with Hygiene
- The Rotary Club of Juba- Polio project
- Malawi Mzuzu Library - Postage for books sent from Canterbury

Robert Boyd-Howell
Chairman

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY AGM, MAY 2017

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Rotary year 2016/7 has been a very successful year for the recruitment of new members. This year, five new members have joined the Club and there are two more individuals who have expressed an interest in joining the Club.

The practice which commenced two years ago of rotating new members around the three main committees on a three monthly basis has been fairly successful in most cases. However there have been occasions when these new members have been asked to undertake rather onerous duties or have been made a permanent member of a committee before they have completed the three committee rotation.

Robin Vickers and I recently met with the new members on an informal basis to ascertain their views on the Club. In the main their views were very favourable but there were two members who had real concerns and these concerns are being considered further.

There has been talk in the Club over the past eighteen months regarding the possibility of having corporate or associate members. It was the majority view of the committee that there was no need at this time to go down this route and that such members would bring little to the Club.

However the committee agreed that we should concentrate on recruiting about to retire individuals or the recently retired who were still very active as we are a Club that meets mainly at lunchtime.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the committee for their time and commitment.

Robert Yonge

(Chairman of Membership)

AGM 2017 - Vocational Services Report for the year to 30th June 2017

Schools and young people.

Vocational Services has concentrated much of its effort reaching out to schools and young people in the Canterbury area.

- Youth Speaks was successful with Simon Langton Girls School representing us in the District final. We hope to get more entries this coming year.
- Children's' writing competition at Christmas time produced over 60 entries from five schools covering the primary school years one to six. However as the schools were invited to only submit their top three in each year, we do know that many more children took part. Presentation of the prizes by the President at four school assemblies was a great success.
- Innovation competition. The fourth year of this has proved very successful thanks to the sterling efforts of Brian Dobinson. Judging is in June with over 100 entries.
- We have also supported the English Speaking Union Schools Public Speaking Competition at the Guildhall and are talking with the ESU on the possibility of greater links with our own Youth Speaks competition.
- We also provided some small liaison with the Big Sing.

There were some disappointments including that we failed to enthuse the fellow members of our cluster group to join with us in children's competitions.

Outings and Events

Trips were arranged to Fordwich, Chapel Down and Small Hythe, and Richborough all of which were successful and enjoyed by the participants, and in June Brian is organising a visit to Bayham Abbey and Battle with the theme of Monasticism. A bird watching expedition to Conyer Creek organised by Alan Forrest and John Hill was also much enjoyed although the birds decided not to appear that morning.

Next Year

Next year we hope to continue with all of our competitions and to organise more informative events. Planning is in hand for trips to Dover Museum and an artist's studio amongst others. We are also looking at a scheme for mentoring Young People in our local Job Centre which is being rolled out across the District. For this to be viable we will need volunteers from across the club.

Thanks

I would like to thank every member of the Committee for their invaluable input to Vocational Services this last year.

Alan Mepstead

Chairman

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AGM APRIL 2017 - CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

I took the helm of a well versed committee, so really my job for the year was relatively easy. Our main tasks this year have been to find an assistant or two for Wendy (Dining Secretary), an assistant for Brian (Speaker Secretary), a replacement for Rosemary (Newsletter) and more recently we need to find a new home for the Club Archives.

My thanks go to the members of the Committee (who are listed below) for their support and assistance this year.

- a. Registrar – Ken Beere
- b. Dining & Entertainment – Wendy Jones
- c. Speakers Programme – Brian Wheeler
- d. Stewards Programme – Wendy Jones
- e. Website – Charles Evans (Robin Hendy & David Bailey)
- f. Almoner – David Lewis
- g. Newsletter – Rosemary Doyle
- h. Membership & Mentoring – Robin Vickers
- i. Archivist – Alan Forrest
- j. Safety issues and child protection – Ian Wright

In particular to Ken who has taken all the notes and produced all the Minutes for me, including stepping into Chairing the meeting when I was unable to be present and for keeping a record of Club Attendances.

Wendy for all her hard work with the day to day running of the dining as well as for the guest events and being very hands on with the caterers and not least for allowing me to take a back seat.

Charles and his team for liaising with Extra Digital and getting to the bottom of the issues with the Events Manager.

Brian for making sure we have not been short of Speakers.

Rosemary for her regular newsletters.

David for his devotion to club members and associates regarding their welfare.

Alan for maintaining our Archives.

Robin for mentoring new members.

Ian for advising, when necessary, on any health and safety issues.

My thanks to all involved.

Sharon Jordan

Chairman - Club Service Committee

AGM 16 May 2017 Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund Report

The Millennium Scholarship Fund (MSTF) has received requests for sponsorship and grants from 13 young people in the current Rotary Year, in the age range 16 to 25 years, seeking support to undertake charitable voluntary work overseas.

Two of the applications did not meet the MSTF criteria for the project to be organized through a charity or for the volunteer to have a suitable connection with the Canterbury area. One of these applicants was referred to her local Rotary Clubs as a possible source of support.

11 application forms for a MSTF grant have been sent out to applicants.

Three awards have been made to applicants totalling £1650 for projects which will all be completed by September 2017 so the Club will be able to hear from the volunteers in the Autumn of 2017 with an account of their experiences.

Of the remaining eight applicants one was intending to undertake voluntary work in 2018 and was invited to resubmit an application when his plans were formulated. Two of the applicants completed the fund raising required for their projects without needing a grant from MSTF and so the applications were withdrawn.

The remaining five applicants have not submitted an application form despite follow up reminders and so the requests for support are on hold. However, it seems that at least two of the requests are unlikely to proceed given how much time has now elapsed.

The Treasurer's AGM report will set out the current financial position of the Fund.

The means of engaging with young people who could benefit from MSTF is changing. Letters with information about MSTF and with A4 information posters were sent to 11 secondary schools and colleges in the Canterbury area. However, eight of the initial contacts were general website contacts with enquiries for funding or support. Three of the initial enquiries were sent to the MSTF email address. One of the applicants was referred to R C Canterbury by a member of the R C Norwich.

It does seem that the future lies in promoting MSTF on the Club website and through social media. In turn, many of the young people organize their fund raising through the Just Giving website and the use of social media to promote their other fund raising activities

The type of project that young people undertake may also be changing. There has been a lack of applicants intending to take a 'gap year' between school and university and intending to use the time to undertake a period of volunteering with a charity overseas – although the applicant who was invited to reapply next year may be such a candidate.

The projects seen this year are shorter and more focussed ranging from approximately one month to approximately three months. Two of the awards this year have been made to school students undertaking a project in Cambodia organised by their schools with the 'Camps International' charity.

A number of the applicants this year were students intending to volunteer through schemes organized by the International Citizen Service (a government funded organization) with eight partner charities which includes a three-month project abroad, but also requires the young person to complete **"Action at Home"** by applying what they have learned overseas to tackle an issue of their own choosing on their return to UK.

In conclusion, young people are still motivated to volunteer to make a change for the better where they can, we just need to be able to connect with them and to enable them to find us.

Peer Le Fleming

Administrator