

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

Minutes of a meeting of vocational service Committee held on 8th April 2014

1. Present: Leslie Stephenson, Mike Talbot, Roddy Tyndale-Biscoe, Nan Miller, Tim Brett, Brian Dobinson.
2. Apologies: Alan Mepstead, John Beckett
3. Minutes of last meeting held on 11th March 2014: A pproved
4. Matters arising: None other than as Agenda items
5. Young Photographer competition: RTB circulated posters. Prizes were to be £60 and £40 in Amazon vouchers in each age group . All information was to be distributed from 21st April. Sunrise was proposing doing everything by email, but we and Forest of Blean would be making school visits.
6. Innovation competition: 13 entries had been received . The judges were to have an initial meeting on 22nd April to discuss the further information required and fix the date for the final judging. Judges - Carole Baron, Director of Innovation and Enterprise Kent, Mark Esdale and Alan Holmes. Kent Messenger had not played any part in the competition, and it seemed pointless to expect them to appoint a judge (as was the original intention) but Simon Edridge would speak to them with a view to arranging some publicity .
7. Bird watching walk: was to take place on 16th April. RTB had been unable to book lunch at the 3 Mariners, but had booked at another pub.
8. Possible visit to Down House: a board had not been circulated , but BD would email all members to see if there was enough interest to arrange a tour for 17th or 18th Sept
9. Possible Thames barge trip: It had turned out that the barge referred to in the previous minutes had an engine and was based in Whitstable, so BD had pursued an alternative line of enquiry with Peter Dodds , master of the “Mirosa” which is an engineless barge, entirely worked in the traditional way, and moored in the Swale. Discussions were continuing , but the trip was likely to be in the last week of June, leaving around 9.0 - 9.30am and returning about 5.30pm. Cost (for a full party of 12) would be £48pp - higher than the other boat, but drinks, snacks, and afternoon tea and cake would be provided, participants only bringing a basic lunch. A list of those interested was taken, and once a firm date was fixed, BD proposed contacting all to finalise arrangements.
10. Possible visit to Thames Gateway: TB reported that Bretts had won a contract to set up and run an on-site concrete plant at Chatham to produce the concrete tunnel sections for Crossrail. The project was within a couple on months of completion, but a visit to it for the Club would be very interesting, if that could be arranged (security is very tight). He undertook to look into this as a matter of urgency. It was agreed the Gateway trip be put on hold until this was resolved.
11. Possible visit to Crossness Engines at Erith: As a possible sequel to the Chatham trip mentioned above, RTB mentioned this pumping station which

was part of the Bazalgette scheme for London drainage and still using its original machinery. He undertook to investigate and report asap

12. Possible trip to Houses of Parliament: Members of Council had expressed the view that, with the exception of PMQs, parliamentary debates were badly attended and pretty dull, and suggested that, as an alternative, we looked into a tour only. After discussion, it was agreed NM would approach the Labour MP for Gillingham, who was known to her, to discuss the possibilities of attending a debate and report.
13. Joint standing committee: AM would be the Club's representative. The committee would meet infrequently, but would do so early in the Rotary year so that the Clubs could exchange information on their proposed programmes to try to avoid overlaps and, where appropriate, support each other.
14. Country walk Thursday 5th June: LS was still planning this. He had intended starting and ending at the Black Robin at Barham, but it had not reopened after the floods and he was proposing to start from Goodnestone. A board would be circulated in the next week or so.
15. AOB : AM had been approached by VP and agreed to become committee chairman.
16. DONM: Tues 8th May 6.0pm at the cricket ground