

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

Minutes of a meeting of the Vocational Service Committee held on 10th December 2013

- 1. Present:** Tim Brett, Nan Miller, Roddy Tyndale Biscoe, Brian Dobinson
- 2. Apologies:** John Beckett, Ian Wright, Alan Mepstead, Leslie Stephenson,
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting held on 12th November were approved.
- 4. Matters arising:** none not covered by Agenda items
- 5. Young Photographer competition:** RTB reported that the event had been organised by a committee consisting of 1 member from each of the 3 clubs plus a further member (AM) from Canterbury to make up for RTB's lack of computer skills. The competition was open from 1st May to 31st October, and the judging was completed in one day by a panel of judges drawn from the 3 clubs. 130 photographs were submitted by 62 entrants from 11 schools, with a further 3 private entries. Prizes were awarded by the heads at school assemblies in the relevant schools, save that Whitstable Community Centre requested a Rotary presence. Each club contributed £100 in prizes.

As the result of a last-minute idea from Richard and Pauline Davis of Canterbury Sunrise, an Exhibition of all the photographs was held at the Robertson Centre, (loaned for the purpose at no cost) when about 60-70 people attended. In all, some 72 schools were visited by members of the committee, and it was felt that the 14% or so uptake was reasonable, but that in any future competition, more effort might be put in to encourage private entries. The Committee felt that, subject to co-operation by the other clubs, and approval of the expenditure by Council, the event should be run in 2014, and that the creation of a standing committee with the other 2 clubs for events of this kind be further considered by Council, once the position of the "Cluster" group had been clarified. The committee congratulated AM and RTB on their hard work and the result.

6. Innovation competition: TB said a number of children were effectively receiving secondary education at the Prince of Wales' Youth Club - agreed they be invited to take part by TB. Posters had been distributed to Kent College, Kings, Ashford Schools, Faversham schools, Whitstable Community College, Barton Ct, St Edmunds, Canterbury College, SL Boys and Steiner (Larry Klatsko). RTB was to contact Canterbury High, Spires and Chaucer. MG had agreed to contact SL Girls'. BD was to contact St Anselms. In addition, JH had agreed to circulate the poster electronically to his secondary school contacts as had Clare Harvey of SEPnet. She is the Outreach Director for a group of universities and represents them with SE schools. MW was to seek to interest local radio. BD had spoken to Alex Claridge of, the Gazette, and SE was in contact with Gerry Warren, also of the Gazette. ME was to contact the Innovation Centre at the University. ME, AH and LKC had agreed to be judges, and The Gazette had also been asked to supply a judge.

7. Children's creative writing competition: No entries had been received. AM had suggested a poetry writing competition might be organised for a range of age groups and this is to be placed on the next agenda.

8. Visit to Whitechapel Bell Foundry: NM is intending distributing the tickets on getting a signed receipt only. It was agreed that those wishing to attend be left to make their own travel arrangements etc.

9. Possible bird watching walk: BD had not heard further from AF about this and it was to be revived in January.

10. Possible trip to Morgan motors: nothing further to report

11. Possible trip to Down House: a straw poll was to be taken at the next meeting to ascertain the number interested.

12. Possible Thames barge trip: BD was still waiting hearing from RKC about this and would remind him.

13. Proposed visit to Cathedral stonemasons' yard: NM was to see Heather Newton, the chief stonemason, shortly, and would report back.

14. Possible visit to Crown Products: TB reported that he had spoken with his friend Michael Head about this, but unfortunately it appeared that new Health and Safety rules would make the visit difficult. It was agreed that the matter should not be pursued unless volunteered by Mr Head.

15. Public speaking competition: This was due to take place on Wednesday 5th February at the Guildhall. 7 schools had entered and 6 teams would be in the Final. BD had been asked to act as one of the judges, and Inner Wheel were to provide refreshments. Members to be reminded to provide the audience nearer the time

16.AoB: It was agreed that we should pursue workplace visits in the New Year. TB mentioned Mansfields, the large fruit growers, and the new Thames Gateway container port, where he had a contact. He undertook to look into a visit to both. NM mentioned the possibility of a visit to a container ship, and undertook to make some enquiries.