

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

Minutes of a meeting of the Vocational Service committee held on 14th January 2014

1. Present: John Beckett, Nan Miller, Alan Mepstead, Tim Brett, Brian Dobinson
2. Apologies: Ian Wright, Mike Talbot, Leslie Stephenson, Roddy Tyndale Biscoe
3. Minutes: the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2013 were approved
4. Matters arising: None not covered by Agenda items.
5. Young photographer competition: AM was to contact the other 2 clubs involved in the 2013 competition apropos one in 2014. BD to ask Council to approve a prize fund of £100
6. Innovation competition: posters all circulated to schools but other publicity outlets sought. Articles had not appeared in Gazette or on radio. Innovation centre at the university had agreed to provide a judge. BD had heard of 2 teams saying they would enter.
7. Childrens' writing competition: AM to sound out the clubs which had joined the photographic competition on a poetry competition for junior schools with 2 sections – for years 3 to 4 and 4/5. One prize of £100 for each section, the money to be spent on books for the school. Competition would run for the summer term, with cut off date at the end of it. Publicity would be only to the schools, and we would make our own poster. Council to be approached to approve the prize once other clubs have confirmed interest.
8. Visit to Whitechapel bell foundry: NM was to distribute the tickets asap, obtaining receipts for them.
9. Birdwatching walk: Arranged with AF for 19th Feb. Walk round Oare marshes to be followed by lunch at 3 Mariners, Oare. To date, 18 had confirmed they wished to take part with 2 diners only. BD had booked and paid deposits for 14 at the pub and would confirm numbers by the end of Jan
10. Possible trip to Morgan motors: Not to proceed .
11. Possible trip to Down House: a straw poll showed some support in the Club, and BD was investigating dates etc with Down House. September preferred
12. Possible Thames barge trip: BD waiting hearing from RKC about availability and cost. There were 2 possibilities – either from Whitstable, much restricted by the tide, or from the Swale with transfer to the barge by tender. Swale preferred for its flexibility, but there was concern that the cost might be too great. July/Aug suggested
13. Possible trip to Cathedral stonemason's yard. . NM had been in contact with the chief stonemason . Discussions ongoing for a weekday visit in May/June to the yard in Broad Oak followed by a site visit to the cathedral. NM to report to the next meeting.
14. Childrens' public speaking competition: Wednesday 5th February from 5.0pm. at the Guildhouse. RTB would be there from about 4.0pm to ensure all arrangements in hand and Inner Wheel providing refreshments. Members had been asked to attend to provide support and an audience.
15. Possible visit to Thames Gateway: NM had been in touch with CMA/CGM in Marseilles regarding visiting a containership but was awaiting a response. TB

would pursue his own enquiries about visiting Gateway itself once the result of the containership enquiries was known since that might involve going into Gateway and, if it did, he might arrange a trip to Tilbury as an alternative. Whichever ultimately proved possible, NM suggested that the visit be combined with one to the Mission for Seamen. NM to report to the next meeting on progress..

16. Possible visit to Crossrail. BD had enquired of Crossrail about a possible visit to inform members about the scheme and was awaiting a reply. Note – since the meeting, Crossrail have replied offering to provide a speaker at the Club (or if there were no suitable venue, at their offices). A Club speaker seems the best alternative and BD is investigating dates with PW
17. AoB: NM suggested a visit to the House of Commons to hear a debate and this was to be researched and brought to a later meeting. AM suggested a trip to the Spitfire museum at Shoreham, or possibly at Manston. AM to investigate and report to the next meeting.
18. DONM: Tuesday 11th February 6.0pm at the cricket club