

## ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

Minutes of a meeting of the Vocational Service committee

Held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014-06-11

1. Present: Leslie Stephenson, Alan Mepstead, Nan Miller, John Beckett, Roddy Tyndale Biscoe, Tim Brett, Brian Dobinson
2. Apologies: Mike Talbot, Ian Wright
3. Minutes: the minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April were approved (no meeting in May)
4. Matters arising: The matter of the joint committee with the other Canterbury clubs was in the hands of VP. All other matters were Agenda items.
5. Young photographer competition: All posters had gone out and the competition was effectively in limbo for the summer. The next step would be to notify all the contact schools that the entry forms would be collected in October. All arrangements were in place for the post-judging exhibition of entries in Canterbury Academy and it was intended there should be announcements of the results on Radio Kent and in a press release.
6. Innovation competition: the judges had met at the Innovation Centre and considered the entries. Following that, the entrants had been asked to give some further details of their proposals and had done so, the answers having been fed back to the judges. The next step was the final judging and discussions with the entrants, to take place on the university of Kent campus in Keynes SR11 between 1.0am and 12.0noon - members welcome. We would try to interest Radio Kent and the press in the event. We considered briefly whether there would be any mileage in repeating the competition, but it was felt that if this were to be done at all, it would be bi-annual .
7. Bird-watching walk 16<sup>th</sup> April: This took place round Oare pools near Faversham and those attending thoroughly enjoyed it. It was lead by AF and JH. It was felt the event might well be repeated another year.
8. Visit to Bretts Chatham 5<sup>th</sup> June: 10 members attended this event, which started with a fascinating talk at Bretts' offices on the different constituents of concrete and the particular specification for Crossrail. We were then taken to the special plant set up at Chatham Docks to produce the concrete , with its special reinforcements, and the adjoining plant of a separate joint venture which turned the concrete into tunnel sections. At all stages, we received excellent information - and lunch. All agreed it had been a really good day out , for which we were indebted the Bretts.
9. Thames barge trip -21<sup>st</sup> June: 11 members and partners had signed up and the trip was on. We were anxious to attract one more passenger - since done, although if anyone else wants to go, it may be some of the existing crew would like to change places.

10. Trip to Crossness Engines, Erith 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Some 18 people have shown interest in this trip, which is being organised by RTB and MT. The engines, part of the 1860s Bazalgette scheme for drainage of London, will be in steam-they , and their Grade 1 listed engine house, should provide a delight for the eye
11. Possible trip to Parliament: NM had established that this could be arranged only through the local MP. It had already been established that a Wednesday visit to PMQs would be best and NM was to investigate if this would be possible in Feb/Mar 2015.
12. Country walk, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June: LS was arranging this, to start at the Fitzwalter Arms, Goodnestone, at 11.0am . Walk about 4 miles, returning to the pub for lunch. To date, 12 had signed up.
13. Possible trip to London Gateway: It had been intended that this event take place during the summer of 2014, but that had been replaced by the chance of the Chatham trip. TB indicated that he would probably be able to arrange a visit which would include both the construction of the port and its operation and infrastructure, but this would be sometime in the first half of 2015.
14. Pilgrims' Hospice: during a lively, informal, Club debate about the proposed closure of the residential facilities at the Canterbury hospice, DN had said that he thought Voc Serv should consider the issue. He had also produced an article about the matters which should be within the committee's purview. There was no time to consider the matter in any detail, but it was agreed that the article would be discussed at a later meeting \and DN asked to attend a subsequent meeting to explain his views. The immediate concern about the hospice had been allayed to some extent by the news that the closure was to be re-considered
15. AOB:a) AM suggested that in view of the varied career experience of Rotarians, we might be in a position to offer some useful guidance to local schoolchildren faced with choosing a career. It was agreed this was an excellent idea, and that as a first step, enquiry be made as to whether there was any career fair in the district. b) He had also received an email, passed on by DB, about Triangle and RYLA. No one was quite sure what this was about, and further enquiry is to be made.c) AM also suggested that it might be possible to visit the nuclear power station at Dungeness. It was agreed that this might be well worth pursuing, and AM will make further enquiry.d) AM also thanked BD for his work as outgoing Chairman, with which the members concurred. e) The question of a further concert trip was raised, in view of the highly successful ECO trips in past years. NM explained that there was no suitable autumn concert, although there was to be what would doubtless turn out to be a beautiful performance of Mozart's Requiem at Festival Hall. That, however, would be \a matter for Dining & Entertainments. Generally, NM felt that, of late, too many events had been run by the committee, and this will be something to consider in the forthcoming year.
16. DONM: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 6.0pm - presumably at the cricket ground