

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

Minutes of a meeting of Vocational Service Committee held on 11th March 2014

1. Present John Beckett, Alan Mepstead, Leslie Stephenson, Roddy Tyndale Biscoe, Brian Dobinson.
2. Apologies: Nan Miller, Ian Wright, Tim Brett, Mike Talbot.
3. Young photographer competition: a meeting had taken place with the other 2 clubs. Joint committee to consist of AM, RTB, Brian Maxted, Laurie Wakeham and Pauline Davis. A poster had been produced, also rules, there were to be 3 classes of entrant, the competition would be launched on 25th April and close on 30th Sept. In each class there would be £100 for prizes with £50 going to the winner and the runners-up receiving £25 each, prizes to be awarded at the schools, as before. Canterbury Academy had agreed to provide a venue for the exhibition of all entries which would take place on either 25th October or 1st November and Canterbury Festival organisation had agreed to accept the exhibition as one of its events which would be advertised in its programme. As before, the members of the committee would be visiting each of the schools to promote the competition.
4. Innovation competition: members had done their best to promote this with the schools, and efforts were continuing, but no entries had been received, and although some schools had said they would be entering, some, notably SL Girls, had made clear they were not interested. End date was 31st March.
5. Childrens' writing competition: AM reported that Sunrise and Forest of Blean were not interested in the poetry competition and it was agreed to shelve the matter and perhaps reconsider it in the following year.
6. Birdwatching walk: 11 names had been entered for the revised date on 16th April and AM agreed to make the booking with the 3 Mariners.
7. Possible visit to Down House: a number of members had expressed interest and AM agreed to put a board round at the next meeting for a visit on either Weds 17th or Thurs 18th Sept. Entry free to English Heritage members, otherwise £9.30pp (concession rate) reduced to £7.91 pp for parties of over 11. House is clearly laid out for interesting self-guided tour, but garden needs a guide if the Darwinian experiments still there are to be understood, and the head gardener will give a one hour guided tour for £100 - probably well worth it if sufficient takers can be found to keep the pp cost down to a reasonable level. AM to put board round at the next meeting and liaise with BD.
8. Possible trip to Cathedral stonemason's yard: The cathedral had asked for a fee of £15pp plus the usual fee for entry to the Close for those not having a Resident's card. Agreed a board be put round at the ensuing meeting to see if there was any interest (Only 1 member was interested and the visit would not proceed).
9. Thames Gateway visit: NM had heard no more from the shipping line and TB was progressing enquiries with his contact.
10. Thames barge trip: RCK was pursuing enquiries with the masters of 2 barges, one of whom had indicated a fee of £40pp, the idea being that a weekday trip

- be organised for June/July, max party size 12. At least 12 members and partners were interested, and the matter was to be pursued by BD with RKC.
11. Crossrail: Patrick Griffin of Crossrail had agreed to attend the Club's evening meeting on 13th May and make a presentation of the project.
 12. Possible visit to House of Commons: matter deferred to the next meeting in absence of NM.
 13. Possible visit to Spitfire museum: AM had made enquiries, but the most interesting museum seemed to be that at Hawkinge, and it was felt best that those members who were interested made their own visits.
 14. Joint standing committee with other clubs: Agreed that this should cover initiatives involving schools and young people and also act as an exchange of information about the Clubs' programme for the forthcoming year. In view of the latter, suggested that a meeting take place before the individual clubs' programmes were settled at the beginning of the year to avoid clashes. AM would act as our representative..
 15. Possible visit to Royal Opera House: in view of the success of the outing to La Boheme in 2012, it was felt members might appreciate attending another opera there, but that D & E committee be invited to consider it
 16. AOB: LS agreed to organise another summer country walk - Thurs 5th June suggested
 17. DONM: Tues 8th April at 6.0pm at the cricket ground