

VOCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held Tuesday 15th May 2015 at Abbots Barton.

Present: - Les Stephenson, Alan Mepstead , Roddy Tynedale–Biscoe, Ian Wright, John Becket Brian Dobinson.

Apologies: -. Nan Miller ,Tim Brett, Mike Talbot, Rosemarie Morton, Peter Hodges

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2015 were approved. The following matter arose.

- The Brett cup is still missing. Continuing to chase.

- 2 **Innovation competition.**BD reported that there were 30 entries from mainly three schools, St Edmunds, QE Faversham and Simon Langton Boys. First Judging is tomorrow (16th May) and the final judging and prize giving is on 8th July. Robert Boyd-Howell has agreed to judge on behalf of Rotary and Gerry Warren of the Kentish gazette should give us some good publicity.

- 3 **Photographic competition 2015.** AM reported on discussions with Sunrise and Forest of Blean to consider the competition feedback forms received from schools. Sunrise have had no response whatsoever and do not want to continue. F of B have had a reasonably good feedback and the response that we have had was reasonably positive. *I have subsequently spoken to Brian Maxted of F of B. They are disappointed but feel that the increased cost and effort if divided between only two clubs is more than they would wish to take on. We agreed that we should leave this for now. I did ask Brian if the new chair of their VSC could contact me as we are looking for new ways to engage with schools.*

4. Events programme for 2015

- **Royal British Legion Industries** at Aylesford . Successful with over 20 people attending a most interesting presentation and a very pleasant lunch. Congratulations to Nan.
- Visit **to Chatham Dockyard** Arrangements are well in hand with over 20 people having signed up.
- **Tower Bridge** proving a bit more difficult to arrange. Tower bridge staff are not at all clued up.
- Visit **to Quex House** at Birchington.as already noted and aim for October

- A visit to **Paul Mansfield and Co**, apple growers, has been suggested. Tim Brett had agreed to investigate. Probably in the picking season. Leonard Rea is the contact and TB has not felt it right to pursue at the present time.
- **Police Visit.** Nothing further to report. Awaiting on Peter Wales to organise a speaker at Rotary.

5 Country walks. Bird watching walk on 1st May was successful with a dozen or so people attending and a very pleasant lunch. Thanks to Alan Forrest, John Hill And Roddy T-B for organising,. LS will organise a walk in the countryside. BD is following up the Fungi walk for the autumn. Nothing further to report.

6 Contact with schools. A general discussion yet again. There was a suggestion that we could help disadvantaged children with the cost of school outings or even school meals but it was felt that this could be too discriminatory and in any event was probably more a Community Service issue. We do need to engage with schools but at the moment we are not sure how The whole concept is very laudable, but we need to ask the President Elect exactly what he is aiming for.

7 Next Meeting 9th June 2015.

