

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

Minutes of a meeting of the Vocational Service Committee held on 12th November 2013

1. **Present:** Alan Mepstead, Leslie Stephenson, Roddy Tyndale-Biscoe, NanMiller, Tim Brett, John Beckett, Brian Dobinson
2. **Apologies:** Ian Wright, Mike Talbot
3. **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October were approved
4. **Matters arising:** None not covered by Agenda items
5. **Young photographer competition:** RTB stated all entries (around 100) had been received and the judging had started. Judges were Vic Banks, Pauline Davis (of Sunrise) and David Watts (Forest of Blean) and it was expected that judging would be complete by the end of November. David Watts had a photography business and worked with schools and had also secured the assistance of a lady who visited all schools in course of her work for the local authority and who had been prepared to publicise the competition as she did so. This, together with the fact that the schools were all visited by members of the 3 clubs, and that the visits were then followed up, was responsible for the good entry. Preliminary inspection showed that the entries were of a high standard. Certificates were to be given to the 3 winners and 3 runners up and these and the prizes were to be presented in the schools, with photographs to be published in the Gazette. RTB and AM were congratulated by the committee for their work and it was agreed that the competition should be repeated.
6. **Innovation competition:** Unfortunately the draft poster had not been received from SE. BD had spoken to him, and he had apologised profusely, the delay being due to great pressure of work. Note: since the meeting an excellent draft poster had been received from SE and distributed to members. This had been generally approved, and arrangements were being put in hand to take it to the schools. SE had also secured the backing of the Gazette.
7. **Childrens' writing competition:** No entries had been received, despite BD contacting all the schools on the Beaney list. It was agreed that nothing further could be done, and assuming that no entries were received by the extended date of 30th November, the competition be abandoned.
8. **Visit to Whitechapel Bell Foundry:** NM reported that she had received tickets for all those who wished to attend the 2 visits which were to be on 9/8/14 and 11/10/14 respectively. NM was proposing to distribute the tickets and to ask those going to acknowledge receipt in writing.
9. **Possible birdwatching walk:** AF had confirmed he was prepared to arrange this and a date in March/April 2014 was agreed. BD was to liaise with AF
10. **Concert at Cadogan Hall:** NM reported on the highly successful concert, given by the ECO. A total party of 22 (including friends) had heard an interesting programme of works by Schonberg, Britten, Part and Mozart, and about half the total had also attended the rehearsal. NM was thanked for her work and it was agreed that a similar concert party be formed in the following year.
11. **Possible visit to Morgan Cars, Malvern:** BD had spoken to VP but no further steps had been taken to arrange the trip due to VP's involvement in family matters.

12. **Possible visit to Down House:** BD had made some enquiries and ascertained that guided tours were available in July- September. These were round the gardens to inspect the experiments Darwin carried out there to justify his theory. It was agreed to go ahead to establish the level of support for such a visit, the intention being to avoid a term-time trip, which could be filled with school parties.
13. **Possible Thames barge trip:** The rationale for this trip was to try to see one of the barges being worked in the traditional engineless manner. RKC knew the owner of the Greta, based at Faversham, and was to make enquiries. LS felt the party would have to be limited to 12. BD to report in due course.
14. **Childrens' public speaking competition:** 7 schools were to take part, some putting in more than 1 team, and there would be 6 teams in the final. Noel Ensoll, of ESU felt that 6 was about the maximum number since otherwise the final would be too long. Arrangements had been made for the final to be on 5th February at the Guildhall, with refreshments to be provided by Inner Wheel. LS and TB felt that the competition had been better when it was run by the Club, contestants then choosing their own subjects,, but accepted that the competition in that form had ceased to attract entries and agreed that we should not take any action to revert to the earlier format.
15. **AOB:** NM raised the possibility of a visit to the cathedral stonemasons' yard at Broad Oak. A similar visit had taken place in the 90s,. It was agreed we should proceed, NM to speak to the Authorities with view to a visit in April – June. TB suggested a visit to Crown Products, kitchen equipment manufacturers at Herne Bay. It was agreed we should endeavour to arrange this in February, and TB undertook to speak to the proprietor and report back.
16. **DONM:** Tuesday 10th December at 6.0pm at the cricket ground. Apology NM