

# **ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY.**

## **VOCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at the Cricket Ground

**Present.** Alan Mepstead, Leslie Stephenson, Brian Dobinson , John Beckett.

Mike Talbot, Nan Miller, Tim Brett, Michael Leadbeater

**Apologies.** Ian Wright. Deborah Connolly. Mary McGeery.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 16th March were approved with all matters arising being covered in this meeting's agenda.
2. **Innovation competition 2016.** BD reported that there were over thirty entries received on time and a further twelve received after time. It was for the Judges to decide if these late entries were to be accepted but this committee was of the opinion that they should be, as it was not the children's fault that they were late. BD has prepared folders for the Judges of all entries and this had proved to be a considerable task. It was agreed that if we continue with this next year then there must be more people willing to be involved. As previously minuted the final Judging will be on 29<sup>th</sup> June.
3. **Children's Choir – THE BIG SING.**  
A very successful event was held at the Marlowe with 250 children, 20 piece orchestra and three adult choirs. No figures available yet but it more than broke even. Planning for next year has already begun with a meeting planned for all those involved. Rotary will play a rôle, but what has yet to be decided. Over a dozen Rotarians and Partners attended.
4. **Youth Speaks.** Barton Court competed in the Regional Final at Marlow on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Although they did not progress to the national Finals, they gave a very polished performance against teams from all over the South of England who were in the main older than they were. It was agreed that it was a wonderful experience for the children and worth repeating next year. The President and AM represented Canterbury Rotary.
5. **Discussion on how to reach Schools and the Younger Community**
  - As AM reported at the last meeting, RIBI run 5 competitions. Young Musician, Young Writer, Young Chef, Young Photographer, and Youth Speaks. There are 7 clubs in our local cluster, and AM suggested that we could perhaps persuade 5 of them to run one each with all the clubs funnelling into each other. For example we could run Youth Speaks, with entries from the other clubs. We would promote the other competitions and funnel our entries to the relevant other club.
  - Direct competitions such as the Innovation and Youth Speaks. But see comments in Minute 1 above
  - CV/Interview Technique/Mentoring. TB has spoken to the President (PH) who wants to pursue this with his contacts at Christchurch after the end of his term of office.

- BD suggested that we ought to be considering how the outcome of the EU referendum might affect some of the things we try to do, and whether we ought to try to plan for this. There are 2 scenarios:
  1. If we vote to leave there may well be some kind of backlash, and so should we redouble our efforts to maintain amicable relations with our continental friends by suggesting new ways of bringing together some of our young people with some of theirs?
  2. If we vote to remain, should we try to encourage our young people to take an active interest in the EU project- especially to seek employment in the Commission , which is essential to our maintaining influence there? For about 15 years he had organised visits to the Parliament and Commission by 40 Sixth formers a year, and arranged as part of that for UK nationals employed in the Commission to speak to the kids and explain how you go about getting jobs there. Would something like that be helpful?

This is probably part of the discussion that the Pentangular Presidents will be discussing and including Mini Group Exchange and we need to await the result of that.
- It was suggested that we should offer our services to schools for remedial reading.

## 6. EVENTS

**Richborough Fort.** As previously minuted BD suggested a visit to Richborough Fort. Harry Cragg knows David Birmingham well and has agreed to ask him if he will guide us around. David Birmingham is a well-known local historian who has recently published a book on Canterbury to the Norman Times. Followed by lunch at Richborough. To be followed up.

**RAF Memorial.** LS has followed this up. There are interactive exhibitions and Car Park, Admission and lunch will cost £14. Agreed for 23<sup>rd</sup> June and LS will put a Board round.

**Town Hall Fordwich.** DC agreed to follow this up with perhaps a Tour followed by a walk and then Lunch. This would be good for August. AM will talk to Deborah.

**Thames Barge Trip.** BD is looking at this and it is feasible. The trip for the last two years has been very successful.

**Vineyards** (AM), Summer time.

**Paul Mansfield** (TB), Will follow up for harvest time - September

**Any other Business.**

NONE

**Date of next meeting.** 10<sup>th</sup> May. 2016