

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held 15th March 2016 at the Cricket Ground

Present. Alan Mepstead, Leslie Stephenson, Deborah Connolly, Brian Dobinson, John Beckett.

Apologies. Mike Talbot. Ian Wright, Nan Miller, Tim Brett, Brian Wheeler.

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting** held on 12th January were approved with all matters arising being covered in this meeting's agenda.
- 2. Innovation competition 2016.** BD reported. Three entries already and most will come in on closing date 31st March. Both Faversham and the two Langton schools have promised entries and there will hopefully be others. BD has had an enquiry from a Local approved school and sent details to them. Final judging is 29th June for which we need an audience and refreshments. Deborah kindly agreed to look after the catering.
- 3. Children's Choir .**This has now become the BIG SING!
This is progressing well and tickets already sold mean that it will be a financial success. 250 children from 9 schools are attending workshops and will perform in two groups with a 20 piece orchestra. 3 adult choirs are booked and a Heart Radio presenter will comper the event. Preliminary preparation has already started for next year (17 March 2017) with the Marlowe interested in adopting it as part of their community programme. It is hoped to arrange a meeting very soon after the event with the Arts Council, Marlowe, Christchurch Education, Dan Tomkinson, Kerry Boyle, and the Head of Music at SLGS as well as Rotary.
- 4. Youth Speaks .**This was won by Barton Court Grammar School who progressed to the District final in Maidstone. A very fine performance against 10 other teams mostly much older, resulted in them being runners up and qualifying for the Regional final in Marlow Berkshire this coming Sunday. AM and the President were at Maidstone and will go over to Marlow this Sunday to support them.
- 5. Schools English speaking competition.** Was won by Sir Roger Manwood Grammar School at Sandwich. Many thanks to the Inner Wheel for providing refreshments.

6. Collaboration with other clubs. 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. Suggested we might run the Young Musician as we have a strong musical tradition in the club. AM will talk to the President.

7. Student Mentoring. Awaiting Tim Brett.

8. EVENTS

London Gateway 51 people came along and the visit was both interesting and successful.

A full coach took us all to the Gateway where Matt Abbot who is the Communications Officer gave us a clear and very in depth presentation This was followed by a coach tour around the facility where we able to see some of the enormous cranes and the containers being loaded onto lorries. Congratulations to Brian for his organisation.

Richborough Fort 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.

RAF Memorial. LS has details of this Battle of Britain memorial site at Capel-le-Ferne between Dover and Folkestone. Open all summer, with various events. LS will follow up with possible dates 16th/23rd June.

Town Hall Fordwich. DC agreed to follow this up with perhaps a Tour followed by a walk and then Lunch.

Thames Barge Trip. BD will look at this to see if it is feasible. The trip for the last two years has been very successful

Vineyards(AM),Summer time.

Paul Mansfield(TB), Will follow up when it is appropriate.

Quex Park(AM)

Houses of Parliament , Nan Miller to follow up.

Any other Business.

NONE

Date of next meeting. 12th April 2016