

# **ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY.**

## **VOCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of a meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> October at the Cricket Ground**

**Present.** Alan Mepstead, Leslie Stephenson, Brian Dobinson. Ian Wright. Nan Miller.

**Apologies.** Tim Brett. John Beckett Mike Talbot.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 19<sup>th</sup> July were approved. All matters arising are on the agenda
2. **Innovation competition 2016.** BD reported that although Kent University want to keep working with us they have a record number of events next year and cannot accommodate our Innovation competition. In any future event they would like to see a greater spread of schools i.e. not necessarily grammar schools and Gary Robinson of KU would like to continue working with us in his private capacity as a fellow Rotarian. BD has been talking to Christchurch and although it is possible that they might take this on, it would make it difficult to go back to Kent in future years. Schools wanted to know if there was a 2017 competition before the end of summer term 2016. It was agreed that it was best to accept that 2017 would not run, but maybe we can look to do something through pentangular although this might prove expensive.
3. **Youth Exchange in Rotary.** BD commented that this was very slow although he has now heard from Steve Harker(?) who is the District youth exchange officer and who wants to make it any exchange an official event so that we are fully insured. There has been little response from other clubs.
4. **School competitions and involvement.**
  - AM had attended the last cluster meeting but found little enthusiasm from the other clubs for any joint effort in school activities
  - Innovation competition. See above minute.
  - Youth Speaks. AM has sent out invitations to 13 schools. No response so far but he will chase up.
  - Childrens writing competition AM has sent out invitations to 12 schools. One positive (now 2!!!!) He has chased up.

- Schools reading assistance project. NM has contacted a number of schools and received a particularly enthusiastic response from St John's Primary whom she has visited and who were interested. Subsequently they contacted her and said that as they had so many students we would not be needed. She will contact other schools to see if we can help
- Interact – We have received an enquiry from Spires Academy to form an Interact Club. AM is still attempting to make contact back.
- Everyone commented on how difficult schools are to reach and an apparent lack of interest from many of them. Do we continue on this path?

#### 5. Events.

- **Completed.** Richborough Fort, Fordwich and Chapel Down were all successful.
- **Graham Clarke** is a local artist and NM is following up a visit to see how an artist's studio works.
- **Dover Museum.** IW together with AM
- **Francis Crick Institute** BD is investigating
- **National Grid.** BD now has an address.

**6. Fracking debate** AM following up. But one step forward two steps back.

**7. Big Sing.** Council have agreed a funding of £500 and Danny Tomkinson is joining the TCK committee. AM will liaise but very little for us to do.

**8. Any other Business.** NONE

**9. Date of next meeting.** Is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> November but as both LS and BD will be absent a decision to be made later.