

## **Rotary Club of Canterbury**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

#### **Reports**

##### **President's Report (Sharon Jordan)**

This past year has not been as easy or gone as smoothly as I had first hoped it would. It is regrettable that some fundraising events, for reasons outside our control, have not come to fruition during my year but the good news is that there will be plenty of fund raising events coming up, which will hopefully re-float the main spending committees.

It has to be said that our Duck Race back in September was a great success and possibly the best one yet, which saw all our Ducks float and we could have sold more. This year will see our race brought forward by two weeks and change from a Sunday to a Saturday and go from morning to afternoon; this is in order to showcase our event to our Rotary District 1120. More Ducks have been obtained and we I believe we plan to have races within a race.

We have had several bucket collections one in aid of the Hurricane to raise monies for Shelter Box and which saw all three Canterbury Clubs in action. Christmas collection saw us collect at Sainsburys raising lots of monies for SCATS – remembering Hannah Loughran and this year at Morrisons we tried out “Supermarket Bagging Collections”, which received mixed reviews but in the main was positive.

With regards to Fellowship and Fun, my year kicked off with a Canterbury Festival Summer Picnic, Jazz & Blues event at Barham, which was well attended and the Weather was great. Followed by a Finger Prints and Murder Guest Night at Boughton. Then came the “Halloween” Quiz Night. A successful Christmas Dinner with entertainment from Cameo Opera. An Evening with Rosie Duffield and a “Kick up the Sixties” with Alan Haines. With my last event in two weeks’ time – Fawlt Towers Experience, worryingly there are still plenty of tickets available and disappointment too that with nearly 70 members there are less than 30 members who have booked. I have already offered the event out to the other clubs in our “Cluster Group”, which has seen a few more tickets sold but in order not to disappoint the entertainers, I may have to offer the event out to non-Rotarians over the next few days, in order to try and make a successful night.

The new look website is also proving successful with all events and speakers being posted at least weekly if not more frequently and my thanks goes to Julie for her enthusiasm and work in the reports and photos.

I have also had the pleasure of being invited to the Schools events put on by our Vocational Committee, Innovation Competition, Writing Competition and English-Speaking Competition of which Alan Mepstead and Brian Dobinson put a lot of work into and which we all enjoy the rewards such competition gives.

We helped celebrate Saint Quentin's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and our joint 70<sup>th</sup> connection. There was the laying of the Rotary Wreath on Remembrance Sunday. Presidents Weekend in Leuven where we needed to update our Pentangular Clubs on our JPP3 Project, advising that if we are unsuccessful in obtaining the Global Grant we may need to seek further funds. Since then, we are still struggling to obtain the Global Grant, however, Ludenscheid have already

sent us an additional payment of £2,000 with a promise of a further £2,000 next year. Margaret will be giving a full report at the Pentangular weekend in Leiden next month, where hopefully the other Clubs may also offer further funding. However, we have to be prepared to raise substantial extra funds or risk the project failing, which would not be good on any front.

Sadly, there seems to have been lots of Funerals to attend: Alan Holmes, Marie Denne, Keith Sullivan, Pam Evans, Hazel Naumann, Jenny Bickerton and Shirlee Sandy.

We lost three members early on and one transferee which saw Forrest of Blean take on their first lady members, I have also received one resignation from John Beckett due to health but I am pleased to say we have received four new members during this past year and one of them is finally younger than myself.

Communication is a wonderful thing, if used correctly and I would ask you all to consider how you communicate with others, remember we are all volunteers hopefully with the same aims; to do good both in our community and worldwide, whilst enjoying good fellowship at the same time.

I have already handed cheques of £500 to each of my two Charities, SCATS and Kent Air Ambulance and I am hopeful that at the end of my year they will receive a further cheque each in excess of the original cheques.

I would like to thank all members for their support during my year and with just over a month to go I would like to say that it has been a privilege to be the first Lady member to lead this Club and if I have one regret then that is not having enough time to give to attending more events and committee meetings whether that be for our club or representing our club.

### **Community Service**

In the 2017/2018 Rotary Year a sum of £9569 has been distributed by the Community Service Committee

1. Canterbury Foodbank £500 worth of food was delivered.
2. Try Angle Award Scheme jointly with Forest of Blean RC £250 to sponsor prizes for the competitors.
3. Sturry Primary School £200 to fund a school trip for an eleven-year-old carer.
4. Sing for Your Lives £75 to sponsor trial of equipment at Barham Nursing Home.
5. Catching Lives £800 paid for refurbishment of office windows at.
6. Canterbury Mediation Service £210 to carpet an upstairs flat to resolve a dispute over noise.
7. Rotary Youth Leadership Award £ 500 to sponsor four boys on the Courses.
10. Canterbury MS Society £400 to cover the cost of counselling one new patient and £100 to support a Fundraising Bridge event.
11. Rising Sun Domestic Violence unit £500 to sponsor a study on domestic violence as it affects the children.
12. Littlebourne Primary School £302 to fund special equipment for a child with special needs.
13. Rachel Hanagan £250 to sponsor her training with the GB Olympic Winter Sports training Squad in Skeleton.
14. Prostate Cancer Support Association £500 to go towards the cost of specialist ultrasound scanner for Kent & Canterbury Hospital.

15. Kids Out 2 visits for St Nicholas School to Wingham Wildlife Park and a soft play area at a total cost of £400.
16. Mustard Seed Singers £182 for a new keyboard stand & music folder.
17. Children's Social Work team £250 to clear garden for disadvantaged family.
18. Canterbury Archery Club £250 for a set of arrows for an elite juvenile archer.
19. Kid's Cancer Charity £150 to support local child.
20. Fifth Trust at Barham £500 for woodworking tools for the community.
21. Canterbury Care Leavers £200 to fund transport to the event.
22. Prince of Wales Youth Club £600 for boxing equipment.
23. Porchlight £1250 to refurbish one flat at Craddock House.
24. Hi Kent £500 to support lip reading classes in Canterbury.
25. Tools for Self-Reliance £500 to support the new centre.
26. Canterbury Children's Assessment Centre £200 for Birthday Party for very sick child.

The Community Service Committee has confirmed its terms of reference as assisting people with grants of up to £1,000 to individuals, organisations & charities and with a strong local Canterbury connection. Each case will be considered on its merits.

### **International**

I wish to thank all the Members of the International Committee, including those new Members attending for just a few meetings in their rotations, for their enthusiastic support and help during this Rotary year. This will be my last report as I am making way for Past Resident Viv Pritchard who is a very long-standing Member of the Committee and I know will be an excellent Chairman. I am also delighted that Rtn. Kailash Maunick has agreed to act as Vice Chair.

International has followed the same pattern of many years. That is to support as far as possible, local small charities with low or no overheads. However, we have, over the years, also supported some of the larger charities who have better records on keeping their administrative costs at a reasonable level. I wish to place on record the valuable work that Robin Vickers has undertaken in identifying those charities who comply with our values. The major restraints to our work this year has been the dire lack of funds. We were informed that it was necessary for us to provide a budget of our proposed expenditure. This was done based on our previous years donations. It is dispiriting, after going through this exercise, to receive the smallest amount of funding for many, many years. I strongly urge the Committee to ignore any such requests in future years as the time involved could be far better spent on organising fundraising projects. It was not that long ago that committees had to raise their own funds, and on current form we may be returning to that format. The committee also decided that during the winter months we meet prior to a lunch time meeting and then revert to evening meetings during the summer.

**Juba:** This exciting joint Pentangular Project is now in its second year. This is the first project of its type to be undertaken by our Club and we must ensure that we make a success of it. We are currently supporting 48 full time students, some of whom also receive extra funding as they are boarders at the South Sudan Secondary School. Our President Elect Dr. Margaret Griffin has just returned from another successful visit to the school. All the funds that we have sent directly to the school have been received by them without loss. Despite Rtn. Tony Pomeroy's best efforts it is becoming increasingly clear that our Global Grant application may be not be successful. We are already in discussions with the District. The Assistant District Governor Hilary Brian visited our Club in early May and is fully aware of the situation. We recently received an additional 2000 Euros from the Ludenscheid Club which means that we

can continue funding to the end of November 2018. Our President Elect is going to the Pentangular meeting at Leiden in June where she will present a report on the project. As our Pentangular Partners are so very committed to, and fully supportive of, this project I am certain that we shall be able to resolve our difficulties in funding this project.

I do have to draw to the attention of the Club that we now have a moral and Rotary responsibility to ensure that these 48 students are fully funded for their final two years at this school. The cost is £150 per pupil per year plus some addition for the boarders. We will require about £15000 over the two years but I am sure that with individual sponsorship and the addition of help from our Pentangular partners and our District this will be achieved. I am also aware of the overwhelming support there is in our Club to ensure that we fulfil our commitment to these students and I thank the Members for this.

I wish to place on record my thanks to Past President Tony Pomeroy for the many, many hours he has spent on the Global Grant Application and Chairing the Juba subcommittee.

### **Donations:**

To support those souls suffering in The Yemen--£700.00 Medicines Sans Frontiers

To relieve the Rohingya refugees from Burma--- Children on Edge £500.00

The Chaaria Hospital in Kenya £500.00

Lendwithcare Account: We are currently supporting 29 entrepreneurs with loans totally £1900.00.

The loans we made two years ago to a total of 15 applicants were all fully repaid on time. There were no defaults.

There is to be a presentation in July by this charity to explain their work. We are currently holding some £3000.00 in reserves as we are aware that there will be little additional funding until the September Duck Race. We will be discussing how to distribute this at our May and June meetings.

In addition, there will be an Open Farm Day in July to raise funds for the Juba.

### **Vocational (Alan Mepstead)**

#### **Schools and young people.**

Vocational Services have concentrated much of its effort reaching out to schools and young people in the Canterbury area.

- Our second Children's' writing competition at Christmas time produced over 60 entries from four schools covering the primary school years one to six. However, as the schools were invited to only submit their top three in each year, we do know that many more children took part. Presentation of the prizes by the President at two school assemblies was a great success.
- Innovation competition. The fifth year of this has proved very successful thanks to the sterling efforts of Brian Dobinson. Judging is in June with over 100 entries from five schools across East Kent.

- We have also supported the English-Speaking Union Schools Public Speaking Competition at the Guildhall and were very involved with the semi-finals both judging and time-keeping.
- We were pleased to have a presentation from and to make a substantial donation to Queen Elizabeth School at Faversham for their entry into the schools Formula One project. They won the Southern Region and were well placed in the National Finals.
- Brian has been instrumental in getting school's mentoring under way both at the Abbey School and at the Archbishops School.

### Outings and Events

Trips were arranged to Dover Museum, Dover Transport Museum, An Artist's Studio, Bayham Abbey and Battle, and the Grand Hotel Folkestone all of which were successful and enjoyed by the participants. We have a number of trips under consideration for next year including Canterbury Fire Station.

### Next Year

Next year we need to consider the role and purpose of Vocational Services and I would welcome feedback from other members of the Cub. We also need to define the dividing line between ourselves and our colleagues on Community Services, it would perhaps be a good idea for one member of each committee to be invited to attend the others meetings.

Which competitions do we run with? With the exception of the innovation competition most seem to have a life of two to three years. Enthusing the schools is not as easy as one might think. Do we reach out to such organisations as the Army cadets or Air Force cadets? What about the Universities or Interact/Rotaract, and if so how. We desperately need a bigger membership at Vocational if we are to progress. Vocational is very much "feet on the Ground".

### Thanks

I would like to thank most sincerely each and every member of the Committee for their invaluable input to Vocational Services this last year.

### **Club Service (Margaret Griffin)**

This has been a year of progress beginning with a change of time and venue for meeting, enabling better attendance and subsequently better discussion.

Attendance at Club meetings has fluctuated between 51 and 59% which is a reflection on the weather, speakers and relevance of our other meetings.

An information pack has been devised for new members and "Buddy systems" were proposed for both new members and also for Rotary widows.

Our current EMS system for dining is working well and compliments paid regarding standards of meals. It was agreed that the roles of Dining and Events should be separated and run as separate entities in the future.

The Speakers' programme was filled and this coming year the role will be taken by an existing Club Service member.

It is pleasing to report that the Club's Archives that have been housed at Gardner Croft premises will be relocated to the K & C by the end of May.

The Newsletter has been invigorated by Julie's involvement and demonstrates the vibrancy of the Club.

Succession Planning was seen to be essential so that vacancies would be planned and protected in advance.

The Website Committee have had one meeting.

Other issues – Welfare was well covered as was Compliance & Safety, Permission to leave meetings early was agreed and Dress Code were all addressed and suitable decisions were advised and taken.

### **Foundation (Alastair Scott)**

Our Foundation contribution and activities are very much driven both in its expectations and its demands by District 1120 and Rotary International in the USA. In years past, contribution both in time and finance was mainly given through a programme of inward single scholars, as well as groups of five or six students from Rotary District overseas. Equally District 1120 students visited overseas for one year. Sadly, due mainly to the ever-increasing cost of such programmes, they do not now occur.

Major World Health concerns have needed funding, such as the Polio Plus programme (now heavily supported by Bill Gates) leaving little funds for other activities.

I do not have this year's expected total funding from District but if this is £75,000 from approximately 2500 Rotarians, then this is £30 per Rotarian. As you will be aware, we all pay £15 at the beginning of each Rotary year, which is separate from our Club subscription. District continues to encourage a Fund-Raising Programme of which the Crocus Planting programme is one with a view to raising further funds for Foundation.

Rotary also operates a Charitable Gifting programme encouraging some members to donate annually a sum equal to \$100 and I am obtaining the paperwork for this and will be encouraging one or two members to support this.

We should all keep Foundation very much in our minds as this provides the major giving which we, as Rotarians, subscribe to do when we join Rotary.

### **Fund Raising (Stephen Thompson)**

Following the demise of Top Choir Kent the focus of the committee has been to try to establish one or two sustainable events to replace it. Sadly, this year has been somewhat frustrating for a number of different reasons which are explained below. The committee has met six times during the year.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017 the Club staged its annual Charity Duck Race. The event was very successful (possibly one of the best that we have held) thanks in the main to the hard work behind the scenes of a few key members of the Club. The committee wishes to thank all members of the Club who came along on that Sunday to help with the launching, marshalling or recovery etc. A team effort with a satisfactory result.

One of the selected Top Choir Kent replacements was a Charity Boxing Dinner evening. However, no sooner had the plan been put together than the news was received that the Prince of Wales Youth Club and the Canterbury Amateur Boxing Club were going their separate ways. Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of a few very dedicated members of the Prince of Wales Youth Club the POWYC has now started its own boxing cadre. On the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Rotary is supporting the POWYC with a trial evening, which if successful will lead

on to a formal joint Boxing Dinner evening later in 2018. Special thanks must go to Peter Hermitage for all his patience and hard work in bringing this event together.

A second plan was to host a Wheelchair Rugby Dinner evening. Initial discussions went smoothly but a combination of problems such as securing a suitable venue large enough to host the evening, sickness of a key member of the rugby liaison team and trying to find a suitable space within the Rotary calendar have all caused delays. Much of this is resolved and the plan is to host the event prior to the start of the 2018/2019 rugby season.

As a fall back to the above, discussions were opened with the Lindley Players about providing a charity show for the Club. Early discussions went well with the Lindley Players offering a Variety performance. This was planned for April 2018 but the Lindley Players withdrew due to concerns within their group about their taking too much on. Happily, an alternative Music Hall evening in January 2019 is now being developed.

The committee is currently immersed in the plans for the 2018 Duck Race being held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Also, permissions are being sought for the Christmas collections later in the year.

The Wishing Well should be mentioned. Thanks largely to the hard work of Robert Yonge and one or two others, the Wishing Well has had a successful year. Its overall contribution to the Club's funds although modest, is worthwhile.

Finally, it is anticipated that much of the work now completed in 2017/2018 will come together in the next Rotary year. Tony Loughran takes over as Chairman of the committee. I am sure that all members of the Club wish him every success.

### **Millennium Scholarship Fund (Peer le Fleming)**

The Millennium Scholarship Fund (MSTF) has received requests for sponsorship and grants from eight young people in the current Rotary Year, in the age range 14 to 19 years, seeking support to undertake charitable voluntary work overseas.

Two of the applications did not meet the MSTF criteria for the volunteer to have a suitable connection with the Canterbury area. These applicants lived in Scotland and had been researching sources of grants and scholarships on line. They were advised to approach Rotary Clubs in their area.

Six application forms for a MSTF grant have been sent out to applicants.

Three awards have been made to applicants totalling £1750 for projects, one of which has been completed and two of which will be completed in the next Rotary year.

Of the remaining three applicants one completed her fundraising without recourse to a Rotary grant and so her application was treated as withdrawn. The remaining two applicants have not submitted an application form despite follow up reminders and so the requests for support are on hold. However, it seems that the requests are unlikely to proceed given how much time has now elapsed.

The Treasurer's AGM report will set out the current financial position of the Fund.

The means of engaging with young people who could benefit from MSTF is changing. Letters with information about MSTF and with A4 information posters were sent to 11 secondary

schools and colleges in the Canterbury area. However, we are now receiving initial enquiries through the MSTF email address or Club website.

It does seem that the future lies in promoting MSTF on the Club website and through social media.

In turn, many of the young people organize their fund raising through the Just Giving Website and the use of social media to promote their other fund-raising activities.

The Club had a helpful and informative presentation from Martin Ward showing the changing profile of those undertaking periods of charitable work overseas in comparison to a traditional 'gap year' model from the time when the MSTF was conceived.

This year the successful applications have included a mix of applications with one traditional 'gap year' application and two applications for shorter projects fitting in with school or university attendance

Over the past two years there has been a trend to shorter and more focussed projects ranging from approximately one month to approximately three months as well as projects integrated with school or university attendance.

There is a large body of young people in Canterbury at our two universities many of whom are motivated to undertake charitable work overseas. In the past there has been a view that mere attendance at one of the universities is not a sufficient Canterbury connection to qualify for a MSTF grant. I believe that we should not ignore this group of young people and should actively promote the MSTF in the universities as well as to all young people who *'live work or study'* in the Canterbury area. Young people are still motivated to volunteer to make a change for the better where they can, we just need to be able to connect with them and to enable them to find us.

As members will be aware there are proposals to increase the number of trustees by including the Past President and President Elect and a club member as trustees. If approved by the Club this would aid continuity for the MSTF and provide some flexibility in setting a quorum for the interview panels to decide on applications.

### **Membership (Robert Yonge)**

The Rotary year 2017/18 has been a relatively quiet year for the recruitment of new members. This year, three new members joined the Club, two being new to Rotary and one being a transferring member from the Rochester Club. One of the new members is the spouse of an existing member of the Club, she being the first spouse to join the Club.

The practice which commenced three years ago of rotating new members around the three main committees on a three-monthly basis has been fairly successful in most cases. However there have been occasions when new members have been asked to undertake rather onerous duties or have been made a permanent member of a committee before they have completed the three-committee rotation.

The membership committee strongly believes in Club Council's endorsement that new members should complete the three-committee rotation programme prior to becoming a permanent member of a committee. The rotation programme helps new members to gain a comprehensive knowledge of the workings of the Club and also assists them in becoming better acquainted with Club members.



As for the future, the committee believes that the Club should concentrate on recruiting about to retire individuals or the recently retired who are still very active as we are a Club that meets mainly at lunchtime.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the committee for their time and commitment.