



Group Captain Tone Baker

May 2019

Came to talk to the Club accompanied by Station Warrant Officer Brian Hagan. He talked and answered questions with great fluency about his Station and about change. RAF Cosford has 3000 personnel mostly in training in Engineering, Communications, Physical Training, Photography. It was set up in 1938 as part of the War preparation – he himself has completed 30 years since he came to Cos-



ford as a trainee. He did not dwell on the fantastic last year, RAF Centenary year, but on the facts that the force is now 9% 'ethnic' ('not enough'), 30% female, offers Equal Opportunities since 1994, admits homosexuals and generally 'recruits from the people for the people'. The highest ranked female is Air Vice-Marshal Sue Grey, the newest Fighter F35 Lightning 2 is 'fifth

generation' and will in due course be superseded by a plane designed to be manned or unmanned. The talk and answers were very enlightening and the atmosphere very convivial. Tone seems to enjoy visiting us. And we enjoy receiving him. SW



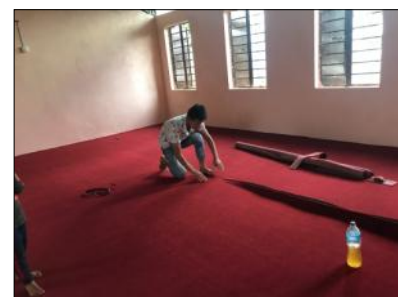
Sylvia Morgan

Jerry Hobbs admitted having in the past been a strong opponent of ladies joining our club. Today however he was full of praise for Sylvia, a business colleague for many years and a strong woman. It was therefore a delight to welcome her as our first regular lady member – also that it was probably very advisable in view of our advancing age profile to have nurse in the club! Sylvia has been a Rotarian in another club for 24 years and she was very happy to transfer to ours. Derek looked on as President Paul gave her her name badge and posed for a photograph. (One in, many more ladies to come?) SW



Chainpur

Rotary Club of Wolverhampton's latest International Project. The village of Chainpur, which lies 90 miles to the east of Khatmandh, Nepal, in the foothills of the Himalayas, was devastated in the 2015 earthquake, in which 8964 Nepalese people lost their lives, including a large number in the area of the village. The local school was severely damaged but the community has rebuilt the school, and now, they have built an adjoining Community and Assem-



bly Hall which will be available for use not only by the school, but the village as a whole. With the aid of a £500 grant from the Wolverhampton Cub's Foundation/International committee the Assembly Hall has been completed by the laying of floor covering..

Ian Brailsford

At 14 he played trombone in a Nottinghamshire mining village band. Since 2011 he has been on the staff of the Wolverhampton Music Service which teaches 5500 pupils each week in Wolverhampton schools, runs 13 ensembles, a youth orchestra and a wind orchestra. Ian gave us details of the upcoming tour by the two orchestras in northern Spain. This will be the umpteenth tour – his mentor Keith Sedgebeer led 38 of them. The repertoire for the 5 venues in seven days includes works by Rossini, Copeland, Holst and Boellmann - very demanding for the 76 young musicians. In addition to their musical skills the Wind Orchestra will be asked to play while marching in Guardo and both 'bands' will have to deal with the 4 second echo in Medina de Rioseco. (Ian leads the Wind Orchestra and is bringing in an army bandsman to help with the playing and marching.) One gets the impression that that this exceptional service is in very good hands and going from strength to strength under the new director Ciaran McDonnell. SW



Pauls Pearls



I was a little disturbed to hear from one or two quarters that there is still some confusion about the changes that we are making to the club to make it more attractive to prospective members.

There seems to be a persistent feeling that somehow we are creating two clubs under the Rotary Club of Wolverhampton banner. I have been over this ground in e mails, Hub, and many meetings and thought that the message had been taken on board. I realise that some don't attend all the meetings, and some don't read Hub or their e mails but I find it incredible to believe that all three means of communication have been missed. So, I will reiterate that the relaxation of some of our stuffy ways helps us to present a more acceptable proposition for membership for those who are able to attend on Tuesday lunchtimes.

However there are many people for whom a Tuesday lunchtime is not possible and to this end we have introduced at least once a month a "Freestyle" meeting. Now much has been heard of the word "LITE". This is a modernism which amongst younger people is instantly recognised and if it is good enough for Coca Cola and Pepsi it should be OK for us. If a younger working person would like to join us but would be put off by the Tuesday lunchtime but still would want to give their time for the service and benefit of others, then the Freestyle meeting may suit them. They also may wish to take on a project which better suits the time they have available. So for them their Rotary service is less than the traditional club attendance and therefore "LITE." It will be open to any member to join in a project as indeed, since they will be full members, they can attend and be part of anything which the club does.

I urge members to relax and see how this whole process evolves. The emphasis here is on the word evolve. Nothing is set in stone and I am absolutely certain that some adjustments will be necessary. What we must not do is lose sight of why we are doing this at all. Survival. It's as simple as that. This club has a great future and I would like to think that we will all be part of it. Well the beginning bit anyway!!

I was delighted to welcome into our club Past President Sylvia Morgan, our first lady and in that fact an historic moment. That makes two new members this year with another induction imminent. As I type this I have just finished packing for a 6 am flight tomorrow and a much needed rest. I arrive back on the very day you will read this. Tara for now.

Jeremy Woolridge, age 74, chairman of Wedge Group Galvanizing in Willenhall. Lives in Codsall with his wife and has two children and six grandchildren.

"I first became involved in The Way when I was invited to a presentation by Steve Morgan at Molineux. There were a number of kids there from one of the northern ventures and I was just absolutely gobsmacked. Not only at the concept but also to see these kids of 15/16-years-old acting as presenters was just amazing – their self confidence in front of such a big group of people just shows what could be achieved.

"This is absolutely what Wolverhampton needed. Having brought up kids I know they had nowhere like this at that age.

"The brilliant thing is the kids end up as almost owners of The Way. You look around and it's now been open three or four years and it's nearly as clean as the day it was built. They have an amazing sense of responsibility for it.

"Come and visit - come and see for yourself what's being achieved for the kids in Wolverhampton and the immediate surrounding areas."



Editor : Up against a deadline so I take the liberty of filling this small space with an item lifted from the Express and Star.



Rotathlon Skittles

An enjoyable and well supported evening took place on 18th April when 14 Rotarians and 7 partners/wives assembled at The Swan in Brewood and we were delighted to welcome also Sue Jennings. The bowling skills (for the men anyway !) had, for whatever reason, totally deserted them from previous years and for example, (but without naming names) one Rotarian (disguised as

a Director of a successful curtain fabric Company) scored a total of ZERO after the first TWO

rounds.....he was closely followed by an unnamed President Elect who managed a total of two pins after three ends.....The ladies fared much better thus once again demonstrating that gentle and accurate bowling achieved far greater success than the "macho-mansystem" of endeavouring to drill a hole in the back wall of the alley with express deliver-
legs....."never mind" said

We enjoyed a good buffet didn't get any better score- his first Rotathlon appearance ing a ball at nine lumps of ladies champion was Jen Jones point organiser Woolley admitted ladies team rather than in the evening of fun and fellowship - hope



ies (at the same time threatening those in "the pits" with broken someone "we've got two Doctors in our midst.....")

at half time to recharge batteries for the second half efforts (but which wise.....)At the end of it all, the Rotarian winner was Charles Cox on (thus proving that gynaecology qualifications come in handy when aim-wood.....); "yours truly" came second and Derek Morgan third. The (again !!) with Penny H. second and Sylvia Morgan third.....at this tied to a "political and sexist clanger" by wrongly including Sylvia in the Rotary members.!!!My thanks to those who came for making it an eve- to see you all next year. P.P. Brian Woolley



Buxton

On Sunday 12th May, 16 intrepid Rotarians and wives headed to BUXTON - destination The Old Hall Hotel. A variety of previously suggested routes achieved nothing as some spent an hour or two in traffic jams on the M6 whilst others went cross-country (and encountered slow moving farm vehicles) whilst some thought they were supposed to go to MUXTON (a village in Telford) and wondered why there no familiar faces around when they arrived. Anyway, despite the ability of Rotarians to do things

the hard way, we all managed to end up at the Old Hall Hotel in accordance with Organiser Clive Baker's instructions.

The first objective was to locate the hotel bar for a much needed "shot of alcohol" (£7 for a glass of Aussie shiraz but what the hell!!!) and this was followed by a pleasant lunch in the hotel dining room. A few hours later we made the long journey (all of 53 yards !!) to the nearby Buxton Opera House venue for the Syd Lawrence concert, two hours of superb big band orchestral entertainment. Just think Glenn Miller; Ted Heath; jazz icons Sinatra, Tommy Dorsey; Fats Waller etc etc all rolled into one. You get the picture ?

Back to the hotel for a nightcap (or three !) and a good night's sleep was followed on Monday morning by an excellent breakfast menu including a "full English" (Peter Wright was somewhat disappointed by the size of the black pudding portion.) and afterwards, we wended our way home. Despite only 24 hours together, a most enjoyable event for those who went, beautiful weather, good fun and fellowship. And another success for a Sports and Entertainment Committee event And our thanks to Chairman Clive Baker for his organisation (which included taking his two dogs along to join in the fun!!) P.P. Brian Woolley



No matter where you go, you're sure of a great welcome by local Rotarians.

Richard Green, of the Wolverhampton club, recently visited the **Rotary Club of Sedona, Arizona USA**, where he was warmly greeted by President Holli Ploog and the 44 members.



Near to The Grand Canyon, Sedona is a very attractive town, famous for its beautiful red rocks. The Rotary club has a strong emphasis on supporting local youngsters. At this club meeting, they honoured outstanding high school students, as selected by their teachers. These included Alexandra Edwards and Jonathon Lamparter who were presented with a \$1000 bursary each as they move on to university.



Amazon

A party of Rotarians, wives and friends visited the Amazon Fulfilment Centre next to the defunct power station at Rugeley. Our jolly and expert tour leader Joanne led us, in Hi-Vis jackets and wearing headsets through the vast FC - 750 000 square feet, equal to 10 foot-ball fields. Uniform black containers ('totes'), like laundry baskets, whizzed along the conveyor belts (10 miles of them!) as we walked among the multitude of shelves and pigeon-holes, trying to work out how the articles in them were selected – nappies next to Natural Chicken Feet, Billy (a game), Smartass (a game) etc. The placing was entirely random but each item was stowed by a 'stower' and barcoded so that a 'picker' with his scanner could find it without traipsing as he filled two totes on each run. As products arrive the wonderfully named Spaceman determine how much space is available for stowing and where it is. The next operatives are the packers (that is a more convivial activity than picking) who are helped by the SLAM (scan label and apply manifest) machine. The workers seemed quite sparse in this vast hangar but apparently there are 1000 permanent employees rising to 3000 at Christmas. Joanne repeatedly said 'watching this section is therapeutic' – we were fascinated but not sure about the therapy! Nationally there are 18 of these centres so

Amazon is a big employer. Also this year they will offer 1000 apprentices (paid at £9.50 per hour) plus another batch of Graduate Apprentices (up to £30K per annum). They also have 'STEM based' activities for kids, a Career Choice programme (95% of college fees paid) and give Donations. All in all it's futuristic high tech retailing and Amazon's customers are being fulfilled. (Is it carping to wonder if the employees are fulfilled? I was reminded of Huxley's Brave New World!) SW



Editor : Another shameless borrowing from E&S. Here we have Rotarians, patients and a coordinator limbering up for Best Foot Forward to promote the Wolverhampton Coronary Aftercare Support Group. Barry Hailey (patient), MB, GL, RH, Ken Timmis (chair of the group), Jen Davies and Roy Collins (patient). This group with the MS Centre and our club's charitable trust will be beneficiaries from BFF which will take place at Aldersley Leisure Village on Saturday 6th July.

Diary

Sunday 19th May Dragon Boats at Himley
Mon 20th May Governing Council
Wednesday 23rd May District Council
2nd to 5th June RI Convention in Hamburg
Tues 25th Presidents Valedictory
Friday 28th June District Handover
Sunday 30th June Jewel Handover Lunch
Tues 2nd July Presidents Induction
Saturday 6th July Best Foot Forward
Wed 10 July Bradford Annan Golf
Saturday 14th September Last Night of the Rotary Proms 2019 at Symphony Hall.

Hub will be published on the second Tuesday of each month whenever possible. The editor accepts no responsibility for comments contained within Hub, seeking to include everything submitted by members where space permits. Please submit articles by e-mail to: stujen108@talktalk.net

Meetings

Tues 21st May AGM
Tues 28th May No Meeting, bank holiday
Tues 4th June Stuart Guy R/C Birmingham—Merton House Hotel
Tues 11th June Midland Freewheelers
W/C 17th June Freestyle

Duties

Meeting Steward Speaker's Host Money Steward

21st	P.Hand	AGM	F.Dukes
28th	No meeting		
4th June	J.Holl'worth	R.Green	P.Davis
11th	N.Holmes	P.Williams	R.Fielding
W/C 17th June Freestyle			

Members are reminded that **any member unable to fulfil any duty must swap with someone else, or otherwise find a substitute, and notify the change to the Duty Officer and Secretary.**

Apologies for non-attendance at Rotary lunch must be made no later than 4pm on Monday, to ruth@hollingsworthandco.co.uk or by telephone to **01952 581014** (ask for Rotary Apologies) and copy to geofflowndes@hotmail.com (or by telephone).