

Rotary Club of Canterbury

Minutes of the Club's Business Meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at the Kent and Canterbury Club

1. **President Maxine welcomed** Clare Hewitt, Bettie Morton and Aragon St Charles to the meeting as prospective members of the Club.
2. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Malini Karani, Jim Gascoyne, John Hill, Rosemarie Morton and Alastair Scott
3. **Almoner/Health Report** – David Lewis expressed his gratitude to Club members who had maintained contact with those who had been unwell – particularly Jim, John and Alastair. President Maxine welcomed Andrew Barchi back to the Club after his recent hospitalisation.
4. **The Minutes** of the last Business Meeting held on 3rd December 2024 having been circulated previously were approved. There were no matters arising that were not on the Agenda for the meeting.
5. **Secretary's Business:**
 - a. December membership 44 Active, 1 Honorary member.
President Maxine will be attending a Rotary View seminar shortly for the new Rotary management system.
 - b. Members who had attended John Harris' funeral reported that it had been a very fitting farewell for a widely respected man.
 - c. Christmas Dinner 10th December: President Maxine reported that the Christmas Dinner had been well attended and all had enjoyed Roger Hickman's Magic performance.
 - d. Dining arrangements 2025: The Club will continue to meet at The Kent and Canterbury Club for business meetings and for January, February and March will meet at Howfield Manor Hotel for ordinary lunchtime and evening meetings.

Members were reminded that attendance for meetings and meals must be made in advance via the EMS and before the stated cut off dates. President Maxine will be writing to all members asking for dietary requirements which will be added to the EMS.

6. Presidents' Matters :

- a. There had been no meeting of Club Council in December.
- b. The Point: Stephen Thompson advised that a provisional date for the unveiling celebration for The Point has been set as 29th April. Andrew Clague advised that at present all is going to plan.
- c. Cooperation with other clubs:
 - i. Santa's Sleigh in December had gone well with a number of Club members and visitors supporting the Sunrise Club's activity which had resulted in generous donations of funds and food.
 - ii. There has been a request from The Forest of Blean Club for help with Mock Interviews on the 21st January. President Maxine had explained that this is a Club meeting day with members from the Rotary Club of Leuven attending to provide information on the proposed Pentangular visit to Leuven and any of our members available to help with the interviews would only be available until mid morning.
- d. District update: There is no District Council scheduled until the end of February.

7. MGSE:

Martin reported that now we are in the New Year it will be possible to confirm many of the proposed arrangements for hosting the visitors for 2025.

8. Pentangular Working Group Report & Presidents meeting Report:

- a. Rosemary Doyle reported on the Pentangular Carol evening where 4 of the 5 Pentangular Clubs had exchanged Christmas Carols live (with some pre recorded elements).
- b. 2 members of The Rotary Club of Leuven will be attending the Club meeting on the 21st January to outline the Pentangular visit to Leuven which will coincide with their Club's 80th anniversary.
- c. Rosemary reminded members of the report on pentangular circulated previously and requested the members respond with comments on that report.

9. Treasurers' report:

- a. Tony Loughran reported on the December Financial Report which had been circulated in advance and contained no surprises. Tony will be reviewing the Dining Account and will ask members to augment their funds if necessary. Thanks were expressed to Graham Bough for all his work as Finance Manager and Tony asked that all the Club's spending groups start to use the funds available.

10. Updated Club Programme:

- a. Future events:
 - i. 14th January Evening: Peter Hermitage ' Crime, Health and Education – It's been an interesting life so far'. 7pm for 7.30pm at Howfield Manor Hotel
 - ii. 21st January Lunchtime: RC Leuven Pentangular 2025 & 'The Life and Times of Tim Brett'. 12.00 for 12.30 RC Leuven Presentation, 1pm lunch at Howfield Manor Hotel.
 - iii. 4th February: Lunchtime Business Meeting 12.30 for 1pm lunch at Kent & Canterbury Club.
 - iv. 18th March: Advanced warning of the St Patrick's Day evening at The Prince of Wales Youth Club.

11. Updates from:

- a. Community Service Group:

Richard Kemball-Cook reported that a further donation of £500 had been made to The Thanington Resource centre to help with the provision of Christmas food parcels and towards their children's party.
- b. Vocational Service Group:

Alan Mepstead reported that the Primary Schools writing competition submissions will be judged next week. Brian Dobinson has the Secondary Schools competition in hand. Alan will be attending an initial Canterbury Literary Festival meeting next week with the Festival planned for July 2025.
- c. International Service Group:

Raj Dasan reported that the group had not met.

12. Membership update:

Robert Yonge reported that in addition to the 3 prospective new members attending today's meeting there is a further possible candidate with whom he is in contact. It is hoped that the 3 prospective new members will be able to be inducted into the Club at the February Business meeting.

13. AOB:

A belated December draw for the 100 Club revealed President Maxine as the winner.