

# District 1260 Governor's Newsletter



Volume 1 Issue 9

Newsletter Date: March 2010

## Forthcoming Events

### 24th April

Luton North  
40th Anniversary  
Dinner  
Chiltern Hotel  
Luton

### 25th April

Hertford Rotary Club  
Concert  
The Chapel at  
Haileybury School  
Hertford Heath  
See Newsletter Page 2

### 9th May

WGC and Hatfield  
Charity Rotary Walk  
Campus West  
Welwyn Garden City

### 13th May

District Assembly  
University of  
Bedfordshire, Luton

### 26th June

Wendover & District  
1st Anniversary Ball  
Pendley Manor  
Tring

Further details of these events can be found on the diary pages of the District Website.

[www.rotary1260.org.uk](http://www.rotary1260.org.uk)

## D.G. Sandy writes.....



The Milton Keynes Swimathon team - A fine body of men!

This news letter begins with an apology for the late arrival of the last one. This was due entirely to my tardiness, word block, computer problems and I am extremely grateful to Chalmers for his patience and especially as he completed putting it together whilst visiting his grand children in Adelaide. Lucky grand children to have such a great granddad, thank you Chalmers.

March, as I am sure you are aware, was Literacy Month and I know many of you are involved in a variety of projects both at home and abroad. Rtn John Hayes attended the RIBI Literacy seminar and is happy to share the handouts from the speakers when he receives them.

The seminar opened with a talk by Professor Alan Rogers on the International Aspects of Literacy, focussing on Adult Literacy. A presentation on The Imagination Library created by Dolly Parton included information on

a scheme operating in Luton which may be of interest to the local clubs.

The Rotary Club of Roborough gave details of a project called The Literacy in a Box Trust; this is also something clubs may want to pursue. All in all I understand it was a very worthwhile day.

My own month has been both busy and varied with only 5 days not involving Rotary. An early start to act as a marshal at the Berkhamsted Bulborne half marathon and fun run turned out to be a great way to spend a Sunday. To see 1500 runners and 600 fun runners all pacing through the streets makes one realise just how much work went into the organisation. All those involved are to be congratulated.

The Milton Keynes Swimathon was another excellent event. I admit to being put to shame by the Bletchley "Juniors" and 7 year old Ellie, swimming for Granny. The M.K team were a fine body of men as you can see. I was just waiting for any A.G's or members of the District Team to take up my challenge in the January news letter to join me but they didn't so I never took my swimming costume!



District Governor Sandy Aked-Walker ready with the air horn at the start of the Milton Keynes Swimathon

I could not attend the Regional Young Chef (I was at the Regional Youth Speaks) but I was delighted to hear that although our entrant was second he was offered the opportunity of a work experience placement at The Ivy Restaurant in London because the chef, a judge, was so impressed by him.

At the Youth Speaks sadly neither the Intermediate nor the Senior Team won through to the National Final. The Senior Team girls gave an outstanding performance but sadly failed to get through by probably just one point, it was so close, but they are keen to enter again next year. However Sam from the Intermediate Team was awarded the prize for best Vote Of Thanks- I know who to take lessons from in the future.

Celebrating their Charter Night with Winslow was a great evening with Rotary friends. Whilst the Milton Keynes Race Night was another great evening

with friends I am convinced someone knobbed all my horses! Whilst acting as a bookies runner for my husband I backed the wrong horse so even had to pay him when it won – just not my lucky night.

There was also the special occasion of Past District Governor Paul Denton's Golden Wedding celebration and my warm congratulations go to him and Jill.

The Charity Concert by the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and Pasque Harmony was quite stunning and the compere BBC T.V Presenter Nick Owen was obviously pleased that Luton Town Football club had won that day as he said so once or twice!!!

Ending the month with a quick visit to Bath to finalise more arrangements for the Conference at which I am looking forward to seeing so many of you, and I am especially delighted that everyone

who wanted to attend the dinner on Friday night can all be together in the Assembly Room thanks to some negotiation by Meirion. There is still time to Register for Conference and we would love to see you there.

April is Magazine month so I trust you will all read your magazines – I assume that means Rotary Magazines and not Homes and Gardens or Playboy- well whatever!! Just enjoy whatever you do and have fun, life is too short not to.

### Obituary

This is a particularly sad moment when I share with you the news of the passing of three Rotarians to Higher Service.

**Rtn. Dennis Stratford** a Founder Member of Watford Clarendon, twice President and Paul Harris Fellow. A Rotarian, who did everything with enthusiasm both in Rotary and St John's Ambulance and who faced his illness with courage and a sense of humour. Our thoughts are with Pauline and the family.

**Rtn. Brian Meade** a member of Harpenden Village Rotary Club and a former member of Harpenden R.C. A Rotarian in every sense of the word, a great supporter and advocate for RYLA and a man much respected and highly thought of by his fellow Rotarians and friends.

**Rtn. Carolien Rutgers** a former member of Brookman's Park and latterly of St Albans Priory. A very special lady, who was a world-renowned veterinary researcher, teacher and writer as well as a highly respected and hard-working Rotarian. All this, despite losing some of her sight following surgery for a brain tumour, but never losing her feisty, independent, humorous nature, which gave her the strength in the darkest moments to be there for her sons for longer. I had the privilege to meet and spend some time with her and her guide dog Connie, an honorary member of St Albans Priory, and it is a memory I will treasure. Our thoughts are with her family.

### Concert in Aid of "Thanks for Life"

The Chapel at Haileybury School  
Hertford Heath - Sunday 25th April 2010

An evening of popular songs and classical music by Local and international artists, featuring:

**Victoria Rastorgueva** the award winning Russian operatic and concert soprano.

**Francesco Attesti** the Italian concert pianist of International acclaim.

All Tickets £12.50 (including interval drink)  
Box Office 01992 550436

Enquiries to: [tim.berridge@tesco.net](mailto:tim.berridge@tesco.net)  
Website: [www.hertfordrotary.co.uk](http://www.hertfordrotary.co.uk)

### Editors Note

The deadline for the April edition of the Governor's Newsletter is:

**Friday 30th April 2010**

Contributions please to:  
[editor@rotary1260.org.uk](mailto:editor@rotary1260.org.uk)

Why not advertise your event in the 1260 Website Diary pages.

You do not need to be registered, just click on 'Add New Event' In the Diary section on the left side of the front page. [www.rotary1260.org.uk](http://www.rotary1260.org.uk)

## Young Musicians Help Eradicate Polio Young Musician of the Year



**Josh Parrott and Tom Hollylee**

More than sixty pupils from Chauncy and Presdales Schools took part in a "Thanks for Life" concert organised by the Rotary Club of Ware. Items included flute, clarinet, trumpet, piano and vocal solos, as well as instrumental groups and a choir. The music ranged from Bach to Sting via

Rogers and Hammerstein and was much appreciated by the audience of approximately 100.

Organiser Rotarian Mike Tucker commented, "I was delighted that so many young people generously gave their time and talents to make it a most memorable evening. £500 was raised, which means that 2,000 more children can now be immunised against polio.

Following a small selection event held at Aylesbury Music Centre on Wednesday 31st March, District 1260 will be represented by the following at the Regional Young Musician final being held at the Recital Room, Parmiter School, High Elms, Garston, Watford on Sunday 25th April starting at 3.00pm.

**Solo Vocalists:**  
Hannah Bennett  
Sponsored by  
Luton Someries

Bethany Moran  
Sponsored by  
Luton Someries

**Solo Instrumentalists:**  
Annie-May Page  
Sponsored by  
St Albans

Timothy Ridout  
Sponsored by  
Luton Someries

These youngsters would welcome support in their quest to reach the National Young Musician final to be held at Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday May 29th 2010.

## A very warm welcome to the new members of District 1260

### Milton Keynes

Patricia Adair  
Simon Gill  
John Richards-Jones

### Luton

Kevin W Porter  
Kevin Lee

### Barton Le Clay

Graeme Moor

### Dunstable

Jim Anklesaria (Sheroo)

### Bletchley

Ann Sidgewick

### Hertford Shires

Terence Milner  
Barry Flint

### Hitchin Tilehouse

Tracy Smythe  
Ali Akay  
John Hawkins



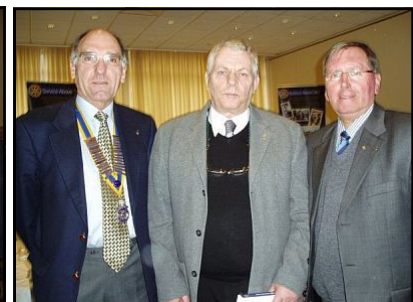
**New Rotarian Graeme Moor after Being inducted by Barton le Clay Club President Peter Aspinall**



**John Richards-Jones being inducted by The President of Milton Keynes Rotary Club, Robin Burn**



**New Rotarian Kevin Porter after being inducted by Luton Rotary Club President Tim Watson**



**New Rotarian Kevin Lee after being Inducted by Luton Rotary Club President Tim Watson**

## Berkhamsted Bulbourne Half Marathon and Fun Run by John Watts



**Pictured with Club President Geoff Budd, District Governor Sandy Aked-Walker presents the Half Marathon winners trophy to Michael Aldridge of the Wootton Road Runners**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March saw a record turnout for our Half Marathon and 5 mile Fun Run. The sunny, but cold, day saw 1,750 runners take to the streets of Berkhamsted and surrounding villages.

600 Fun Runners set off first from the Berkhamsted Cricket Club, followed by 1,150 Half Marathon runners who took in the scenic delights of Potten End, Nettleden, Little Gaddesden and Ashridge before returning to Berkhamsted.

Teenage brothers Alex and Liam Cloona of the Herts

Phoenix AC took the Fun Run in an incredible 29 minutes 32 seconds for the 5 miles. Michael Aldridge of the Wootton Road Runners won the men's half marathon in 1 hour 12 minutes and 32 seconds, just 14 seconds faster than last years winner.

Laura Cowley of Herts Phoenix AC won the ladies race in 1 hour 22 minutes and 39 seconds.

This is our largest fund raising event of the year and the main beneficiaries of the day will be the Pepper Foundation caring for

children with life limiting and terminal problems and the Hospice of St Francis. Many other local charities will also receive help.

Our thanks go to our sister Inner Wheel club and the other service clubs and ad hoc volunteers that contributed to the massive marshalling job the day entails.

District Governor Sandy Aked-Walker was on hand to present the trophies together with our club president Geoff Budd.

## Shelterbox by Robert Browning

In December 2008 I was appointed, by the then District Governor Les Lee, to become the District 1260 Co-ordinator for Shelterbox.

This appointment has not been greatly advertised within the District (it is not in the District Directory) and I feel, after the massive response from District 1260 to the Haiti Earthquake disaster and the demand for Shelterboxes for demonstration purposes. that all clubs should be aware that I am the contact for use of the boxes available.

As far as I am aware there are two official boxes in the District, one held by me and one by Paul Manning of the Amwell club. I believe that Rickmansworth Rotary Club also have one but I am not sure that it is an up to date version.

It would therefore be most helpful if all clubs would make their requests for the use of a box through me and I will then know just where they are and be better able to allocate them when required.

The cooperation of all Rotary Clubs will be most welcome. May I just add that the response for the provision of moneys for Shelterboxes from this District has been overwhelming, and I speak for Shelterbox in thanking all of you sincerely for your efforts.

PDG Robert Browning  
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Telephone 01920 486070 Mobile 07973 384439

## Loran Wyatt - SportsAid

We have received the following from Loran Wyatt one of the youngsters who has joined our 'team of eight' youngsters supported by District's SportsAid fund - Loran is a young netball star from Bedfordshire.

"Thank you so much for my recent award. It will help so much as I build on my recent sporting success. You will know from my application that I was selected for England Under 17 netball; well we travelled to Belfast mid March to contest the European U17 Championships. It was a tremendous experience and certainly made all the training and preparation worthwhile.

I managed to play a part in all games and it was excellent to receive my first international cap. However things got better as we finished the tournament as European champions. What an amazing feeling. Me a European Champ To walk out behind the flag and to hear the national anthem at the award ceremony was an amazing experience.

You can imagine my initial success has made me very hungry for more. I am young and the standards are very high but I will give it my best. Once again, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at SportsAid and Rotary. It really does make a difference and I will do everything I can to achieve and make you all proud.