



humanity in motion

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

'Tis the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, so I hope that all your plans are bearing fruit and you're not stuck in the midst of any dilemmas.

Can I also take the opportunity of reminding you that there is a District Council on November 21st. Perhaps you could bring along some of your newer members as it is only by coming to these meetings that they will fully understand the whole World of Rotary.

Hope you like the Newsletter in its newest format – we look forward to your feedback.



Club Visits

By the time you read this I shall have completed nearly all my 'regulation' visits. I have been overwhelmed by the support, fellowship & kindness with which I have been received. It has been a pleasure to see you all. Thank you.

The months of September & October have been very busy but also very enjoyable. I have attended two charter nights. Bletchley RC (50 years) had a very pleasant evening at the Macdonald Hotel with a very interesting speaker, Charles Ross, was from Woburn Antiques Salesroom. Chesham RC travelled up to the House of Commons for their Diamond Anniversary, and I made my Maiden Speech in the Churchill Dining Room. We were Guests of Cheryl Gillan MP.



The Watford & Langleys RC invited us to join them at their Presidents Evening and I was pleased to be asked to present the Outdoor Bowls Club at well organised event run by Bushey & Oxhey & won by Amersham. I had high hopes for my own club, Luton Chiltern, but foolishly they knocked each other out.

The Brickhills RC organised a Macmillan Coffee morning which was very well attended. It seemed to me that the whole village was joining in. On the same day we travelled over to Buckingham to an Art Show by many local schools & organised by Buckingham RC. We have so much talent it's a pity they don't get the publicity. See full article below!

October began with five Club visits & a return visit to Barton le Clay RC to hear a speaker from the newly recognised Bedfordshire Air Ambulance and see him presented with a cheque from the club.

On October 11th I had the pleasure of being invited to the Inner Wheel Rally & Church Service. I took greetings from us all and thanked them on your behalf for everything they do to help us in our projects in the community both here & overseas.

New Rotarians

I would like to welcome the following to the Family of Rotary International. I hope that they will be inspired to participate fully in their Club activities and enjoy the fellowship & fun that Rotary gives so freely.

Mark West	Luton
Mike Barry (Honorary)	Milton Keynes
Denise Amoss	Hitchin Tilehouse
Beverly Warner-Smith	Hitchin Tilehouse
Geoffrey Beale	St Albans Verulamium
Ronald Smith	St Albans Verulamium
Elizabeth Hill	Hitchin Tilehouse
Howard Button	Watford & the Langleys
Clive Harris	Stevenage Grange
Robert Bamforth	Stevenage Grange
Malcolm Poulter	Wolverton & Stony Stratford

Frank Collins – Milton Keynes Club

It is with deep regret that I announce the death of Rtn Frank Collins. He joined Milton Keynes in 1981, but had previously been a member of Tring & District Rotary Club. He was Club President in 1989/90 and had served on every committee, including Club Secretary. He was an active Chair of Service Projects when he died. He had also been a member of Round Table.

Frank was an Accountant. He was District Treasurer from 1990-1993, had also been Club Examining Accountant, Secretary of the Charitable Trust of the Club and was dealing with Customs & Excise for Gift Aid at the time of his sudden death. He was a true Rotarian and will be missed by many.

Loop the Loop

Congratulations to John Moss of Wolverton & Stony Stratford for his fund raising event to support schools in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. I send special congratulations to Valerie Saunders from my own club

for having the courage I hadn't got. (see full report below)

Communications

Those of you who were able to attend District Assembly will recall that I made a promise regarding effective communications. They say that 'to err is human' and I erred. I look back & feel that I may have been better off not saying anything. So firstly, I must apologise for the delay in the sending out of the first newsletter of this Rotary year. The layout also needed a little more work on it.

They also say that first impressions are the most important thing. I believe that at the moment our website does not give a good impression of us & the work we do. Our reasons are simple: - we had too few doing too much. This has now been addressed. We have been able to obtain the expertise of two Rotarians with experience in web & communications. I hope that this Newsletter is more pleasing to the eye & that over the next few months our website will become something of which we can justly be proud and will inspire our new Rotarians.

District Conference 28-30th March 2008

I'm pleased to say that plans for Conference are progressing well & we will shortly be publishing a provisional programme.

Your Conference Team are working hard to ensure that we have a successful conference.

Please come & 'SHARE' the weekend in sunny Bournemouth with Jill & I and your fellow Rotarians. I know that we shall have much fun & fellowship.



GSE Argentina Presentation

Our returning team from Argentina is now giving presentations on their visit. May I ask that you take the opportunity of having them come to your club?

To date they only have 6 bookings. GSE is one of our flagship projects and should be given as much support as possible.

Please also think about our NEXT exchange. It is to be to Seoul the Capital of South Korea, which is a rising new world nation and will be an exciting experience for someone to study their own vocation in a very different culture.

So please contact John Hopkins from Harpenden Village to arrange a visit or nominate a delegate.

District Service Roundup

Community & Vocational

Please start looking for RYLA candidates now.

Foundation : URGENT

Do you want to go to Korea? A team leader is needed for the GSE visit next year. Do you have a candidate for the team? Please contact Gary Eastman or John Hopkins.

International

Siyabonga 'Bus for Hospice' Your club's £500 could make it happen by Christmas! Details from John Versey - who is currently touring South Africa.....!

Membership

On the day that you induct a new member, or members, please email their details to me.

Rotaract

Buckingham Rotaract need your support on Sunday 18th November for Wii Wimbledon..... *Wee what? - see full article below and get along!*

Youth Opportunities

Sorry if you missed an excellent Half Yearly meeting. We now have a list of 16 future sports stars to support with SportsAid.

Loop the Loop for Africa



In early September 13 courageous Rotarians and friends looped the loop in a glider to raise funds for schools in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. The event which was organised by John Moss from Wolverton and Stony Stratford RC, raised over £4,000 in sponsorship.

The practical aspects of looping a glider were handled by three pilots from the London Gliding Club on Dunstable Downs. After a bit of avionics, safety on the airfield and making sure they were comfortable with their parachutes and the emergency procedures, they were off!

The first to go up was 84 year old Don Lawson from Welwyn Garden City RC, and one by one they took to the skies being towed to around 2000 feet before releasing the tow line and silently gliding. After a short while the pilot 'suggested' that the 'loop' was performed. Suddenly the glider's nose tilted downward as it gained speed heading towards the ground. At around 100 miles per hour the pilot put the glider into a steep climb and over on it's back to complete the loop. One participant screamed with delight, and demanded her pilot to do it again, and he duly obliged!

After the 'loop' there was time for a leisurely glide above the Chilterns, where the views were amazing. Canary Wharf could be seen to the south, and Milton Keynes Xscape building to the north. After landing it was noticed that the flyers could hardly stop grinning and chatting about the incredible experience.

Over the last 5 years John has raised over £40,000 for schools in KwaZulu through many challenging events, but this must be one of the most original

If you fancy looping the loop, there will be another opportunity in April 2008. Details from John at johnmoss5@sky.com.



Rotary Becomes Very Fashionable



When Alan Jagger launched the Rotary Flood Disaster Appeal he can hardly have guessed that he would have been helped to nearly double the funds by a bevy of beautiful women! Money and publicity!

Naomi Campbell and Fashion for Relief came to Rotary offering to help raise funds. Their final catwalk evening at the Natural History Museum was sponsored by models, celebrities and heavyweights in the fashion industry, and raised around £250,000! Now more money is being raised by clothes modeled during London Fashion Week being auctioned on ebay.

The publicity for Rotary from the event was as good as we have ever had, eight broadcasts mentioning the event, three national newspapers carried it, 21 regional papers carried it (including Buckingham Today) and ten Internet articles. Mention of Rotary was sometimes a little odd, but every bit helps. And the fashion industry is now much more aware of Rotary.

Valuable National Coverage

The best coverage for Rotary came from John Walsh in the Independent. *'They are hardly obvious bedfellows. One is a 37-year-old catwalk beauty with a hair-trigger temper and a habit of hurling mobile phones at underlings; the other is a venerable, 102-year-old organisation of do-gooding professionals devoted to understanding, goodwill and peace. One divides her time between lucrative photo-shoots, post-rehab therapy and court appearances; the other devotes its energy to funding literacy and hunger projects and giving young people university scholarships. Until recently, they were barely aware of each other's existence. Now they are inseparable.*

Warily surveying this circus of froth is Allan Jagger, the president of Rotary International's Great Britain and Ireland chapter. The straight-talking, no-nonsense engineer from Leeds is a seasoned fund-raiser and donor, supporter of Scouting and fan of caravanning.

"We are just not properly set up for dealing with disasters in this country," he says, "But, from the start, Rotary has been raising money, getting an appeal before the public and replacing community projects that were damaged, like a flooded hospice in Swindon that needs £50,000 to re-open. We'll step in and deliver that money."

Mr Jagger is wary of making political statements but is clearly unimpressed by the response from Westminster, given the horror stories he hears. "Three weeks after the floods, we were going to people's houses, opening their cookers and finding raw effluent coming out," he said. However, he is clearly dazzled that Ms Campbell has agreed to help.

They appeared together at a press launch last week, attended by the editors of Vogue and GQ, and this week spoke to The Independent at a Belgravia hotel. Ms Campbell even sang Rotary's praises on Radio Four's Today programme. "I wasn't aware of Rotary before but they came up in our researches," she said. "They are wonderful people, so lovely to work with. I think they are honest and I believe every cent raised by the Rotary club will go to the right people. And," she added, with a flash of her scary eyes, "I will attend board meetings and see where it does go." Naomi Campbell at board meetings? Whatever next?

"When the money comes in," said Mr Jagger, "Rotarians will be on the ground in local communities, putting forward the projects that need funding. Then the committee will meet in London, Naomi will come along, we'll look at them together and decide which funds should go where."

Another release by Naomi's marketing agency reported 'All money raised will go to the Rotary Flood Disaster Appeal and 100% of the funds raised will be used directly to assist communities in the affected flood districts. It was recently reported in the news that estimated flood damage in the UK is 3 billion pounds.....'



Alan Jagger, President of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland said, "This flood appeal is important to relieve the hardship of the victims of the recent flooding. Rotary is able to react very quickly and effectively through its national, district and local structures. We would like to thank Naomi Campbell and Fashion For Relief for their important contribution to our flood relief efforts."

VOGUE.com 's mentioned was "Naomi Campbell held court at the Rotary Club's headquarters in Regent Park this morning to announce that a star-studded Fashion for Relief catwalk show would take place during London Fashion Week, to raise awareness - and funds - for victims of the recent UK floods."

In a Daily Telegraph interview by Neil Tweedie, in the reference to Rotary, Naomi said "There's £3 billion worth of damage" Then, without even looking at him, she gestures dismissively to the man next to her, "And, I think you can take over from there". "You" is the man from the Rotary Club of Great Britain, whose flood disaster appeal is set to benefit from Fashion Relief. He explains how the money will help rebuild scout and guide huts and other community facilities, and conveys the nation's gratitude to Naomi – who's secured a few private donations"Asked would she like to be a Rotarian she said "I think that it is just a great organization".

Another half page article in the same Daily Telegraph also mentioned "the Rotary Flood and Disaster Appeal". We'll get there sometime.

Buckingham Schools' Art Exhibition



The recent Schools' Art Exhibition, held at the University of Buckingham, was a great success. It featured some 190 exhibits, created by 115 students, and was organised by Roy Taylor of the Buckingham club and his wife Margaret.

This was the fourth exhibition organised by Buckingham RC. The art displayed covered paintings, sculptures, ceramics and textiles created by students from six secondary schools in the Buckingham area.

The exhibition was opened by Robert Cumming, art critic and writer who has worked professionally in the art world for over 25 years, first at the Tate Gallery and latterly at Christie's. Robert talked about the importance of art, and

how various senses are represented in art form. He emphasised how valuable this type of exhibition is to encourage youth to investigate the range of artistic disciplines.

Roy Taylor said that the exhibition enabled students to see each other's work, and for parents and the general public to see and appreciate the high standard of art produced in the local schools. Special thanks were given to a student from Mouvaux, Buckingham's twin town, who also exhibited.

The photograph of Roy Taylor is shown courtesy of the Buckingham & Winslow Advertiser.

PRESIDENT ALLAN JAGGER VISITS 1260

At the end of August the district hosted RIBI President Allan Jagger. Allan addressed four well attended meetings, at St Albans Verulamium, Amersham, Newport Pagnell and Luton. Allan presented a hard hitting resume of the current health of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland and what made us Rotarians.

After a couple of jokes about the age of Rotarians and the greatness of Yorkshire, he entered into the two major themes:

- The current state of, and future prospects for RIBI
- The core values of Rotary that we must follow to be effective Rotarians

In the time since becoming President nominee, Allan has looked seriously at RIBI and recognised a major problem: Rotary is a business, with the task of service, it is not a charity. Rotary Foundation is our charity, and sadly it is only supported by 70 per cent of Rotarians. But we have not run RIBI as a business. Recent Preferred Projects sponsored by Allan's predecessors have raised over £1.4m in support of the charities. Was this value for money for RIBI? No well organised business can operate forever without tangible benefits from its activities. It is the role of the General Council to do the strategic thinking, with professional paid staff carrying out the plans.



What is RIBI?

Allan asked the audience the question 'What is RIBI?'. He was pleased to receive the reply that it is the Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland, with a headquarters in Alcester. RIBI is being reorganised. A full review of the headquarters organisation has been taking place for a year. The recommendations have been discussed, and are now being implemented. The title of Secretary will now be known as the Secretary/CEO. This may seem an odd title, and CEO alone would be more appropriate. To explain the situation Allan had to explain the formation of RIBI in 1923. The charter from RI defines that RIBI administration must be led by a 'Secretary', and to change this would require a change at the Council of Legislation.

The RIBI charter is also at the centre of the next topic Allan raised, the future of RIBI. For those who thought the threat to RIBI came from clubs in France and Belgium presenting Enactments at the COL, think again. The charter assumes that RIBI has 60,000 members and covers two Rotary zones, 17 and 18. Zone 18 is below a line from the Severn to the Wash and, according to Allan, contains all the rich Rotarians. Zone 17 is above the line and, as you have guessed, contains all the poor Rotarians. Containing two zones, RIBI is entitled to appoint a Director to the Board of RI. The Director is RIBI's voice in RI.

If you are still with me, RIBI now has around 57,000 members, below the charter number. From time to time RI carries out rezoning, and Zones 17 and 18 are now prime candidates. The most obvious solution is to move some districts in Zone 18 to 17, and to move some districts from Belgium and France into Zone 18. This is the real nature of the threat to RIBI and can only be avoided by increasing membership through extension. The future of RIBI is in our hands.

Rotary Strengths

The core values of Rotary are:

- Service
- Fellowship
- Diversity
- Integrity
- Leadership

Service is understanding and meeting the needs of our communities. Fellowship is important because if we are going to serve we must get on with our fellow members. Diversity is important and was defined by Allan as Rotary being open to all without reference to age, sex or religion.

On this topic Allan mentioned the Financial Times/Dalberg partnership rankings of the quality of the NGO and United Nations' agencies with which private-sector companies have established long-term working relationships. Allan inferred that the Lions were number one and ahead of Rotary in fifth because they are a totally dual gender organisation, from which Rotary should learn. Reading the report published in July the more likely explanation is that they are better organised in their relationships with corporations in terms of the judging criteria of accountability, adaptability, communication and execution. Notwithstanding this, the report on Rotary is exceptional.

Integrity is being transparent in all we do, and is exemplified by the Four Way Test. The final core value is Leadership. Rotary may be our hobby, but we have a duty to develop our future leaders and to develop our members. In the past most clubs have had no plans for their future. With the introduction of the Club Leadership Plan all clubs now have a tool to face the future.

Missed Opportunities

In question time, Allan noted that we still have a long way to go in PR. Although there were over 60 members present we had missed the opportunity to involve the local community and encourage more members to attend. Allan hoped that more clubs would follow the lead of Inverness which has annual citizenship awards for the best teacher, best traffic warden, best charity organiser, etc. in the community. All clubs should be recognising citizenship.

Finally Allan mentioned a new competition at the Blackpool Conference for the best project involving the community.

The Luton meeting finished with a vote of thanks proposed by PDG Frank Hamel.

The Excitement of Science!



The RIBI and Royal Institution, 'The Excitement of Science 2008' programme was launched on the 25th of September. In 2007-8 it is being sponsored by the world renowned National Oceanography Centre, which is part of the University of Southampton.

This year's theme will be oceanography, with the aim of collating and analysing data aimed at trying to answer the question "When will the Gulf Stream will next 'switch-off'".

The research starts on the 1st of February 2008, when the Excitement of Science website opens and scientists from the National Oceanographic Centre will give access, over the web, to their resources. In particular schools will be able to connect

to the instruments onboard the Arctic vessel James Clark Ross.

The project will culminate on 24 June 2008, with the Excitement of Science lecture in the Faraday Theatre of the Royal Institution, London, a magical place with a fantastic history, which many regard as the Cathedral of Science. The afternoon programme will be 'The Way We Do Science', by Dr Ken Collins & Dr Simon Boxall, from the National Oceanography Centre. This will not be a lecture but an exciting journey of discovery using data collected by the school students throughout the preceding months. The research will be analysed during a live presentation in the Faraday Theatre to see what can be learned.

Support Buckingham Rotaract and Visit the Wii-Wimbledon Day

Wii-Wimbledon is a virtual tennis tournament, made possible by the Nintendo games console, whereby players grip a controller which acts as a virtual tennis racquet. Players' movements are replicated on 10ft high screens. This is a family fun and recruitment day, showing to the young people of Buckingham that Rotaractors make things happen in the community.

Wii-Wimbledon day takes place on Sunday 18th November at The Buckingham School London Road, Buckingham. Admission to the competition will be £10.00 per two person team, and it is the intention to hold 120 games throughout the day from 12 noon to early evening. Age groups are from under 10, 11 to 17, 17 to 30 and over 30.



Wimbledon will be re-created with artificial turf, barley water, strawberries, Pimms with ice and cream teas. There will also be a barbeque. One of the first of its kind, the Wii Wimbledon event, will raise money for national and local charities.

Entry forms from **The New Inn**, 18 Bridge Street, Buckingham and **Body Matters**, The White House, High Street, Buckingham. More details from David Hall 01280 814684 david_buzz4@hotmail.com

Test your skills against Buckingham's finest

1260 on Google Maps



Thanks to Google maps all the clubs in the district can be easily located, and are colour coded for meeting day. Finding the best route from club to club is now simple. Every DG should have one!

See the Clubs section on the website.

RIBI Golf Championship



The 21st RIBI Golf Championship took place on the 3rd of September at Hollingwell Golf Club, Notts. Twenty Eight District winners took part, and the winning district was District 1120, represented by Folkestone RC with a best pair score of 63. The best individual score was 34 pts by Barrie King of Aireborough (nr Leeds)

The event was again organised by the Kirkby-in-Ashfield RC, and raised over £4000 for Foundation. The 1260 representatives, who won the district knockout rounds, were Hemel Hempstead A, Stuart Bremner and John Rowlands. Together with Gavin Rody, they enjoyed the day but struggled in the bottom third of the results!

The knock out rounds will start again in March 2008 and clubs can enter any number of teams of pairs. The winning team in the district wins £100 for their chosen charity. The overall winners receive £2000 for their charity.

Please contact Stuart Bremner on 01442 249466 stuart.bremner@lineone.net for details.