



humanity in motion

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

A thought: Every morning a bank named 'time' credits you with 86400 seconds. Every night rules off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purposes. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. If you fail to you use the days deposits, the loss is all yours.

We have been very aware this year of the wonderful ways in which Rotarians in every part of the world are investing their daily deposits of seconds to further International understanding and goodwill, to feed those who are hungry, to share the gift of Literacy and education, to improve healthcare and to visit the lonely. The list of ways in which Rotary Shares is almost endless.

As we approach the beginning of 2008, let us all reflect on how we use our gift of time, our talents and our resources.



Where did all the time go?

My newsletter will be the last publication before Christmas so I would like to start by wishing you and your family a very merry Christmas & a happy new year. As you would expect the standard statements is '6 months has already passed – a busy time, but most enjoyable'

New years resolutions are usually broken in the first week so mine will be a wish not a resolution. I wish that the next 6 months are as active and full of fellowship as before.

From the Editors

If you subscribe to the newsletter at the district website www.rotary1260.org.uk – then we can email your newsletter straight to your mailbox!

Rotary Easter Showcase



Your PR team is also working very hard to support the success of our Easter Showcase in the Middleton Hall in Milton Keynes.

This is a Club initiative to promote Rotary International and help clubs in their membership drives. Please make every effort to support this event.

Bournemouth

Our conference team are close to completing our programme and my plea to you is to encourage new Rotarians to come and use our conference as an opportunity to understand the fellowship and the wider world of Rotary. In that way we can all SHARE our Rotary. Please make sure that they read our newsletter – it will also help them understand what we do.

Celebrate Rotary Day!

The RI public image resource group recommends Rotary's "birthday" on 23 February as an ideal date to celebrate Rotary Day. The more clubs and districts around the world that celebrate Rotary Day on the same day, the greater the positive impact on Rotary's public image.

To help Rotary clubs and districts organize a celebration, RI have provided three resources available on the RI website.

100 Ways to Celebrate Rotary Day (pdf) The idea is to share the Rotary story with the general community, so your celebration efforts should be directed to the community, the media and the general public.

Rotary Day Proclamation (.doc) A proclamation is an official recognition of a particular event or day. This formal recognition also provides a good "newshook" for potential media attention.

Celebrate Rotary Day Poster To help promote the event in your community, two Rotary Day poster designs are available for districts and clubs to use. A graphic designer can modify the blank section or insert local photos. You can also print the poster out as is and write in local event information. The poster is designed so that it can stand alone, if needed.

New Rotarians

I am very pleased to welcome this month's new Rotarians to the Family of Rotary International. By now I know that they will be all entering into the fellowship and service which takes place at this season of the year.

Bernard Cornwell
Douglas Campbell
Tony Lenton
Lanre Ogundimu
Syed Rahman
Ian Woodall
Michael Cooper

Bletchley
Milton Keynes
Luton North
Luton North
Luton North
Amwell
Amwell

Ronald Shuttleworth	Amwell
Jeremy Cox	Amphill
Ian Sexton	Amphill
Graham Rumsey	Watford Clarendon
Inck Palumbo	Watford Clarendon
Peter Cordery	Watford Clarendon
Sedrick Levitt	Watford Clarendon
Gary Bell	Watford Clarendon
Tony Pringle	Winslow
Brian Barnett	Gt Missenden

Will you all make sure that Assistant Secretary John Belcher and I are given full details of new Rotarians. If they have not been included in this or previous newsletters please let us know.

Rotarian Jack Fullwood 1925 - 2007

Jack first joined the Rotary movement in 1977, as member of the Bourne End and Cookham club, where he was known as "Plastic Jack" – because of his involvement through his company with 'leg-bags'.



Jack was a very enthusiastic Rotarian, and in a very short time with the club he had held posts in all of the major disciplines –Community, Vocational, International, Membership and Foundation, as well as playing cricket for the club. He was remembered as a cricket fanatic, a regular District Conference attendee, and being very keen on upholding the rules of Rotary.

By 1984 Jack and Ellen had moved away from the Thames Valley to Flitwick. I first met Jack in September 1984 at a Rotary information meeting organised by Amphill Rotarian Peter Meads. My first thoughts were – Wow! – this man is a walking encyclopaedia of Rotary knowledge – the rules, the constitution, etc., etc. Soon after this meeting, the Rotary Club of Flitwick Vale was chartered, and my friendship with Jack grew.

He was extremely supportive of me being the founder Secretary of the Club, and I have no doubt was somewhere in the background of me becoming District Secretary in November 2006.

Jack was the founder Vice-President of the Club, and quickly established himself in the Club before becoming the second Club President in 1986/87. In the newly formed District 1260, Jack served as Chairman of Membership Services and then for several years as Assistant Governor, becoming

District Governor of District 1260 in 1994/95. The Club were fully supportive and very proud of Jack – even if some of us thought he had been transformed from a "men-only" man before his trip to America into a "dual-gender" man on his return.

Jack fulfilled many roles in both the Rotary movement, and in the other organisations of which he was a member. Over the last few years he had been Treasurer of our Club and this year took on the role of Foundation Chairman.

He will be sadly missed - he always had time to stop and talk to people, he was a true Rotarian in every aspect of the word and was a walking example of the Object of Rotary, he remained a stickler for the rules right to the end, but above all he exemplified the Rotary adage of 'Service above Self'.

John Bromley

District Council Meetings

I thought that I would like to share with you the very positive responses from many Rotarians with regards to the last two District Council meetings. I have been told that they have been constructive, interesting, with well presented speakers and finished on time. One quote was 'like a breath of fresh air'. We have only one more Council of our Rotary year – 20th February – so I again encourage you to bring new Rotarians to this meeting.

GSE Visit to South Korea 2008

Planning for the next GSE visit is proceeding well, with the Group Leader interviews in December, and the candidate interviews in January.

There is however still time for clubs to nominate more suitable candidates. For details contact John Hopkins from Harpenden Village on 01582 760381 or john.hopkins@hvrc.net.

Future Diary Dates

Treasurers & Secretaries half yearly meeting	9th Jan
Leadership & Development half yearly meeting	22nd Jan
District Quiz	23rd Jan
Com/Voc half yearly meeting	30th Jan
Presidents half yearly meeting	6th Feb
District Council	20th Feb

Other

A Review by Hitchin Tilehouse 'A little of what you fancy' Cabaret & Supper: 19th January at Hitchin Town Hall. Tickets £20.00, with profits to Foundation. Contact President Mark Hjertzen.

Wheel Ale



Want a prize for a club quiz or raffle? What better than some Wheel Ale!

The beer, originally made to celebrate Rotary's Centenary, is still being brewed and bottled in Horsham. Since the project started in 2004 some 1900 cases (twelve half litre bottles each) have gone out with a message of what Rotary does printed on the back label. PDG Ian Holliday has educated his new club, Amber Valley in Derbyshire, to the taste and they now order by the pallet load!

Peter Scholey, our award winning brewer, continues to brew for the Hatfield club who are happy to supply at £17 for a twelve bottle case.

A case of Wheel Ale makes a great Christmas present and many lager drinkers have been converted to this very traditional English bitter made only with quality ingredients from the UK. All profits go to Rotary.

To get your stock phone Frank Taylor on 01707-262000 or E-mail frank.taylor@ntlworld.com

Brickhills Casino



On January 12th The Brickhills club is hosting a casino night for the residents and guests of the retirement village of Milton Keynes-Lovat Fields, as part of the Milton Keynes ExtraCare Business Challenge.

As part of its fund raising activities, The Brickhills club runs a charity casino for other clubs organizations, and is available for parties and celebrations of all types. For more details contact www.brickhillsrotary.co.uk

Sign Up for the ExtraCare Business Challenge

You will be given £50 and have three months to grow it by as much as is legally and ethically possible, all in a good cause.

You are free to grow the initial £50 investment by any means as long as its legal, decent and honest! It could be anything really - use your contacts to collect raffle prizes, sell off that old unwanted stock on E-Bay, pay entrance fees into a fun run and ask the runners to raise sponsorship for ExtraCare...use your ingenuity!

Be part of the ExtraCare Business Challenge in Milton Keynes by contacting for further details, application form or to nominate a team ExtraCare on email ExtraCare or call Sue Bromfield on 0782 542 6574

Rotary Easter Showcase



The Rotary Easter Showcase will display the family of Rotary, Inner Wheel and Rotaract within District 1260 and surrounding districts. The idea is to show the public what we do and who we are, the work we do and the charities and good causes we support. In turn we hope this will bring new members to our Rotary family.

All the clubs in the immediate vicinity have now booked a stand, but a few spaces are still available. Each club stand will have an activity, a display of a charity or local organisation they support and details about their club.

The Showcase takes place on Easter Saturday, March 22nd 2008, at Middleton Hall in the Milton Keynes Shopping Centre. This is a vast space that we have been given for free. We aim to show Rotary as an active and dynamic organisation, so to this end we are asking clubs to put on an activity that will attract children. Whilst the children are occupied, we can chat to their parents.

This is not a fundraising event and all activities for the public will be free. If clubs do not have an idea for this activity as yet, there is a list of ideas from which clubs can select. Clubs are invited to select one of their good causes to show the public their involvement in the local community. There will also be a stand background to which the club can attach pictures and text about their club.

There will be a large stage where performances will take place during the day. Even if you do not have your own stand, but support a local performer or group, why not think of inviting them along?

Clearly the public will visit the stands with the activities that appeal to them. This means that a resident from Buckingham may not visit the Buckingham Rotary stand. So every club will be given a generic leaflet containing details for all the clubs. Then any details collected from the public about prospective members will be dealt with centrally by the district committee and distributed to the appropriate club(s). This is about the whole district working together for the good of each other.

We do hope you will support this event as there are still some spaces available.

Visit www.brickhillsrotary.co.uk/Eastershowcase.html for more details.

Foundation News



The news this month is all about Peace Scholars. Our candidate for the scholarship this year, Eleanor Nichol, received the news last week that her application has been successful and she will start her Masters Degree course in Peace and Conflict Resolution in the University of Queensland, Brisbane, in March 2009.

Ellie is currently S. E. Asia campaigner for Global Witness, a charity that deals with issues relating to the links between natural resources and abuse, conflict and corruption.

Francesca Del Mese

Our past Peace Scholar, Francesca Del Mese, spoke at the Foundation rally on November 14th and those that heard her could not fail to be amazed by the amount that she has achieved since she was awarded her scholarship in 2002. During her time at the University of Queensland, Francesca went to East Timor just after the civil war and interviewed the President, and went to Sierra Leone and acted as a barrister in the trials of the warlords.

She spent two years after University working at the International Tribunal of Justice in The Hague dealing with the former Yugoslavia war crimes trials. Francesca is currently Head of legal/In house Counsel to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). In October this year, she went to Uganda with Baroness Cox to assist in setting up a charity to help child soldiers and other displaced children to get some education.

Margaret Lafreniere, Ambassadorial Scholar

At the Rally, our current Ambassadorial Scholar, Margaret Lafreniere, spoke briefly about her course in Motorsport Science and Management at Cranfield. I am sure she will be pleased to speak at Rotary Clubs, particularly if you have any keen motor sport enthusiasts....!!! Contact her counsellor, Peter Snook, of Milton Keynes club if you would like her to speak.

Earn About Matching Grants

Congratulations must go to Stephen Sypula of the Stevenage Grange club for getting his "Novices Guide to Matching Grants" on the RIBI web site. This very useful document is an ideal guide for those clubs who would like to submit a Matching Grant but need some assistance with the paperwork.

Gary Eastman

Foundation Chairman

People in photo from L to R: John Goodge, Scholar coordinator; Francesca Del Mese, Past Peace Scholar; DG Brian; Eleanor Nichol, Current Peace Scholar; Chairman Gary

The New Polio Challenge



Rotary's continuing battle to eradicate polio from the world has received another boost - and a challenge - from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Gates Foundation Grant

The Rotary Foundation has received a \$100 million grant from the Gates' Foundation, which will be matched by Rotary, dollar-for-dollar, over three years. The initial grant will be used in direct support of immunisation activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a partnership spearheaded by the World Health Organisation, Rotary International, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF.

"The extraordinary dedication of Rotary members has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication," says Bill Gates. "Eradicating polio will be one of the most significant public health accomplishments in history, and we are committed to helping reach that goal."

The Gates' grant is the largest ever received by Rotary in its 102-year history and will spur members on in their fight to rid the world of the disease, a fight which began in 1985, since when Rotary has contributed \$633 million to the eradication effort.

Dr Robert Scott, who leads Rotary's polio campaign as chairman of the Rotary Foundation, said: "Rotary members worldwide have worked very hard over the years to reach this point and it is rewarding to see our approach validated in such a significant way by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. We hope that this shared commitment . . . will challenge other donors - including foundations, governments and non-governmental organisations - to step up and make sure we have the resources needed to rid the world of polio once and for all"

The Final One Percent!

The wild polio virus still persists in four countries, Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan - the campaign has succeeded in reducing the incidence of polio by 99 per cent in the last two decades, but that final one per cent is the most costly to prevent due to such factors as geographical isolation, worker fatigue, low coverage with the vaccine, armed conflict and cultural barriers.

But the World Health Organisation is confident those four countries are on track to achieving eradication, a confidence backed up by its Director-General Dr Margaret Chan, who said: "This investment is precisely the catalyst we need as we intensify the push to finish polio. We have the technical tools to do it, and we can achieve a polio-free world if the rest of our financial partners step up to meet the challenge."

Hope in a Box



Aid begins to reach Bangladesh cyclone victims

With a 60kg box balanced on his head, a Bangladeshi man makes his way through floods to bring a ShelterBox to cyclone-hit families. It contains a 10-person tent, blankets, cooking equipment, tools and a selection of other equipment supplied by the UK charity.

A fortnight after Bangladesh was hammered 155mph winds and a 15ft tidal surge generated by Cyclone Sidr, aid is only just starting to reach many of the hundreds of thousands of people left homeless in the disaster.

ShelterBox has so far sent help for more than 6,000 people and is packing more aid boxes. A fortnight ago, the first boxes sent to Bangladesh reached the village of Gabatula, which had taken the full force of the storm. The boxes were delivered by volunteers from a ShelterBox Response Team (SRT), working with the Bangladeshi military. SRT member Mark Pearson said: *"We're the first agency to be providing shelter in this area."*

The mission to get the boxes from the capital Dhaka had been a logistical nightmare. Apart from the sheer scale of the disaster, aid operations are hampered by a landscape covered with swamps and rivers. The storm has also destroyed bridges, left roads blocked by thousands of fallen trees and flooded large areas.

In the end, it was the US Navy that helped get the aid moving. On Wednesday, helicopters from the USS Kearsarge flew some of the ShelterBoxes to a forward operating base on the edge of the storm-hit area. Using a number of small boats, the Bangladeshi military then ferried the boxes downstream to Gabatula, where the ShelterBox team were finally able to begin setting up tents and handing out boxes to individual families.

An earlier reconnaissance had identified 3,000 people in Gabatula alone who lost their homes to the cyclone. ShelterBox volunteer John Baddeley, a pharmacist from Dorset, said: *"The scenes here are pretty awful. We've seen the graves of people who've drowned. We're just glad to get these boxes here and get them out to the families that need them."*

Another 400 boxes have now left Dhaka and reached the ShelterBox team. Keith Higgs, a paramedic from Porthleven, said: *"It's was a busy few days for us once they arrived."*

Until more aid from ShelterBox arrives, thousands of families will continue to huddle together in crude shacks built from sticks, bits of bamboo and lengths of cloth. The UN has announced a six-month plan to help Bangladesh recover from the cyclone.

ShelterBox says many thousands of families are still in urgent need of help and is appealing for continued public support. For more information or to give a donation call 01326 569782 or visit www.shelterbox.org

Huw Thomas, Shelterbox Publicity Officer

Rotary Mountain Challenge



Sight Savers International Second 'Rotary Mountain Challenge' - A REMINDER

Now is the final opportunity to decide to join in the Rotary Mountain Challenge 2008, which takes place over the weekend of 28th and 29th June 2008.

If you are interested in being part of a District 1260 team please contact John Versey, International Chairman or John Rowlands, PR & Communications Chairman to see if we have the potential to raise a team.

Teams of 6 walkers, supported by 2 drivers, will be set the Challenge of climbing a mountain in Scotland, England and Wales. Starting in Scotland each team will scale Stob Ban in the Nevis range; travelling from there to Cumbria the next mountain will be Helvellyn in the Lakes, finally climbing Snowdon in Wales will see the teams climb 3 mountains each over 3000ft, in 3 countries in 24 hours including the driving! A complimentary celebratory meal & reception at Snowdon rounds off The Challenge.

To allow time for planning, fundraising and training, the team needs to be in place by January 2008.

The event not only ensures a fantastic weekend for the participating teams but will also provide an excellent 'fundraising-vehicle' for Sight Savers. The Challenge is for teams to raise a minimum of £5,000 per team and the proceeds will once again go to the 'Rotary African Vision' project.

Global Challenge UK has designed this demanding event, on behalf of Sight Savers, with the participant's safety in mind. They have many years experience of running outdoor events. Specialist marshals, personnel and safety equipment ensure the team's safety at all times. Team briefing sessions and handbooks offering advice on training, routes, clothing & diets etc. will be provided prior to the event.

Rotary Flood Disaster Appeal Update



RIBI has announced the second batch of projects to be allocated funding from the Rotary Flood Disaster Appeal. Monies distributed through the appeal also include those raised from Fashion For Relief, a charity fashion show organised by Naomi Campbell, which was a smashing success and grand finale to London Fashion Week.

Priority has been given to sustainable community based projects and community recovery activities. In this second tranche more than £209,000 has been allocated and includes the following projects:

- To provide Counselling and Advice Service in Humberside £40,000
- To replace books in 14 Primary School Libraries in Hull £35,000
- To replace equipment Ganton Special Needs School, Holderness £21,000
- To replace computer equipment Kirkella Primary School, Hull £7,000
- To replace community gardens Catcliffe, Rotherham £10,000
- To replace greenhouses, allotments and gardens Toll Bar Primary School, Hull £25,000
- Tillbury Primary School to replace CCTV £4,500
- To provide coaches Falcon Rowing and Canoe Club, Oxford £1,800
- To restock Aldermaston Primary School library £5,000
- To replace equipment for Boxing Club, Witney £5,000
- To support Priors Park Neighbourhood Project, Tewkesbury £11,500
- To replace Land Rover and equipment Severn Area Rescue Association £30,000
- To refurbish Longford Play Area £20,000
- To provide equipment for Clanfield Pre-School, Oxfordshire* £2,000

This brings the total allocated to date to more than £500,000* The Rotary Flood Disaster Appeal raised over £300,000 and this has been augmented by a further £500,000 of funds raised by the Fashion for Relief fashion show with more donations still coming through.

Naomi Campbell said, "I am thrilled with the results of this year's Fashion For Relief, and thank all those who contributed in supporting these communities affected by the floods."

Allan Jagger said "We launched this appeal to help relieve the hardship of the victims of the recent flooding. Rotary is very grateful for the continuing generosity of the public. I am delighted that we are able to support these projects announced today in response to the needs of the local communities affected by the floods."

Further projects are being regularly evaluated and the fund will respond quickly as more money is released."

International Report



Currently there are a number of major crises in the world. We know that most of our clubs are doing all they can to help alleviate some of these problems. Gill Blatchford, of Hitchin Tilehouse and a member of the district International committee, will be writing to you to see how your efforts are going and to publish a newsletter on our progress.

Bangladesh Cyclone and Shelterbox

In Bangladesh the cyclone made many people homeless, but the world has moved in quickly to support. The details of the work of Shelterbox, and their request for more assistance are covered in separate article. My thanks to those clubs that responded quickly to our appeal for support for Shelter Box. Our efforts will help pay for the many additional boxes which are currently being packed to send out to the regions.

Aquabox brings clean water

Clean drinking water is also needed and AquaBox are also dispatching 200 boxes to be distributed by the medical team of the Humanity First Agency. AquaBox, together with LifeBox and Water-Survival Box are also having their stocks severely depleted and need our support. Many of these boxes also contain LifeStraw or Filtastraw (tubes which allow people to suck clean water from impure water) and they too need our support.

Water in the wrong places!

The monsoon floods have also affected many people in Nepal and India, leaving them homeless, as well as those affected in Bangladesh. These floods not only leave people homeless and starving but also destroy agricultural land and livestock, making it more difficult for people to recover and re-build their lives.

Floods have also hit Mexico and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is rushing aid to 70,000 people affected by the massive floods in the southern state of Tabasco. In Haiti tropical storm Noel also caused extensive damage and the WFP emergency teams have so far been able to assist 19,000 people.

In Mauritius 470,000 are at risk because of dwindling supplies due to flooding and returning refugees. The WFP needs \$3.8 million of 4,440 metric tons of food to deal with this. The same applies to Uganda where hundreds of thousands of people are homeless from the worst flooding that this part of Africa has seen in decades. It is galling to think that for years we have been grappling with drought but now in areas close by we have to deal with flooding. We see now with our own eyes the effects of climate change.

There is danger too from a perennial pest - locusts. The high levels of early rain have meant that locusts have bred earlier this year and clouds of young 'hoppers' are being seen on both sides of the Red Sea. As yet it is under control but agencies are concerned that this may yet turn into a plague.

You can see from these examples and from everything that we see on television, the current situation is very serious, and the effect that dealing with them has on the supplies of aid. We must not forget either the difficulties that agencies on the ground have in getting the aid to where it is most needed.

UN Recognition

The UN recognises the efforts that Rotarians make to provide help for people in dire emergency. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary-General, has praised our efforts in support of poverty elimination, health and literacy, and we are recognised publicly as the UN's 'chief ally' in the bid to eradicate polio. In a separate article Bill and Melissa Gates have issued us with a challenge. They have pledged \$100 million dollars to eradicate polio, provided that Rotary matches this over the next three years. This is a difficult but not impossible challenge and one that we must take up since our goal is almost reached.

John Versey, District international chairman

Learning & Development Meeting



You are warmly invited to the Half Year Meeting for Learning and Development:-

Tuesday 22nd January 2008, 7pm for 7.30pm, close of meeting 9.15pm at Tilsworth Golf Centre

The aim of this event is to explore learning and development in Rotary International, and the positive impact it has on individuals. We will be showing casing development opportunities in Rotary District 1260 and encourage active participation in all of the discussion sessions.

The full agenda will be sent out just before Christmas and we look forward to receiving your attendance numbers early in the New Year.

Please note: tea/coffee is available on arrival, but to take full advantage of the catering facilities the centre can offer arrive a little earlier.

To discuss this event or any aspect of Rotary Learning and Development please call Amanda Watkin on 07973 846587 or email awatkin@peoplerealm.com

District Youth Speaks Calendar

The district level semi finals and finals will take place on the following dates.

All events start at 6.00pm and light refreshments will be served.

Tuesday January 29th 2008 Upper Level Semi Final @ Cedars Upper School, Mentmore Road, Leighton Buzzard.

Winners from heats held at Aylesbury, Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead, Rickmansworth and St Albans (one team only)

Thursday January 31st 2008 Intermediate Level Semi Final @ Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth

Winners from heats held at Aylesbury, Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead and Rickmansworth

Tuesday February 5th 2008 Intermediate Level Semi Final @ Queen Mother's Theatre, Woodside Road, Hitchin

Winners from heats held at Harpenden, Hitchin, Luton, Potters Bar, St Albans, Ware/Hertford, and Welwyn Garden City

Thursday February 7th 2008 Upper Level Semi Final @ Loreto College, Hatfield Road, St Albans

Winners from heats held at Harpenden, Hitchin, Luton, Potters Bar, St Albans (one team only), Ware/Hertford, and Welwyn Garden City.

Thursday February 28th 2008 District Finals at Rothamsted Research Conference Centre, Harpenden (for both Intermediate and Upper levels)
