

Just over 500 riders were in the very first St Albans Rotary Charity Cycle Ride in 1995 raising £5000. This year almost 1800 riders raised over £40,000. The ride, on the second Sunday in May, is organised by members of the three Rotary Clubs of St Albans.

### A Challenge for all the Family

The ride is a family day, not a race, with routes designed to suit all standards of cyclist from the young to senior riders. Routes on offer cover 10, 20, 30 or 40 miles, passing through some of the most beautiful Hertfordshire countryside (with just a few hills to make things interesting!).

All riders pay an entry fee, covering organisation, and collect their own sponsorship. There are prizes in several categories to acknowledge the most successful fundraisers.

All pre-registered entrants receive a free commemorative T-shirt, a medal and a certificate for completing their chosen route.

Also every multiple of £50 raised by a team or rider is given a free entry to a prize draw to win either a family holiday, donated by Club Cantabrica, a mountain bike donated by St Albans Cycles of Jersey Farm, or a set of cycle accessories.

### Planning for Success

Planning starts with monthly meetings nine months before the event, then weekly meetings closer to the date. The committee is fortunate to still have Brian Webb from the original organising committee to offer his experience.

Interest for the event is generated prior to the day by a series of weekly promotional articles in The Herts Advertiser. The paper has given this essential support since the event started.

The organisers work closely with local authorities and the police, who give their support on the day at vulnerable points. Over the years the Safety and Risk Assessment Plan has increased in complexity with new regulations to ensure the route is as safe as it can be.

Reliance on many sponsors, like Oaklands College who allow their grounds for race control, Deloitte & Touche provide the prized T-shirts, Nestlé's supply the essential water at checkpoints.

Brian Robson provides the vans, without which the course could not be laid out, and not to forget the cones from Hire One.

### What will the weather be like?

On the day, work starts at 4 am to prepare the route, putting out signage, establishing checkpoints. All has to be ready before the 9 am start and maintained throughout the event. Over 130 marshals monitor the route, help with registration



Competitors in the 2006 St Albans Rotary Charity Cycle Ride

and setting up the site as well as collecting and clearing away when the route closes at 2.30 pm. St Albans clubs are joined by members of Hitchin Priory and Radlett with marshalling duties.

### Supporting the Community

Every year, half the monies generated from the ride are divided between charities chosen by three St. Albans Clubs. This year five major charities, shown receiving their cheques are:

**Youth Talk**, counselling service for young people,  
**Chrysalis School for Autism**, a school proposed in St. Albans for autistic children  
**Jubilee Action**, supporting aid workers in Ruanda  
**Grove House Hospice Day Centre** - support for people suffering life threatening illnesses, and their families

**Hearing Dogs for the Deaf**, helping people with impaired hearing to lead normal lives.  
 The remainder of the money is divided among many other charities supported by the clubs.

David Jones - St Albans Rotary Club



Jubilant faces at the distribution of donations from the St Albans Cycle Ride



# District 1260 Governor's Newsletter

*Service above Self*

Please circulate to all members • Issue No 12 • August 2006

Greetings to all at the beginning of a new Rotary Year

Hopefully now all clubs and Rotarians are well under way and are planning to 'Lead the Way' with your programme of tasks and events for 2006/07. From what I have seen so far in Club Assembly reports and from the few visits I have made, we are set for a very busy and productive period. Remember, with all that you do, to enjoy your Rotary. A busy Rotarian should be a happy one!

I was privileged to take the President of RIBI to 5 of our clubs around the District earlier in July. Each was in a different zone and all were very welcoming to Peter Offer and his wife Janis. He communicated with me following the visits and wrote, I quote: "You must be very proud of the clubs in your District they were most interesting to visit and showed a tremendous range of Rotary activities. Please thank them for their hospitality". It's always a pleasure to receive a 'thank you' and Peter knows that this 'tremendous range' extends across the District.

I have now had the pleasure of visiting 5 clubs, this will be seven by the time you read this newsletter. There are still many who have not yet contacted me with a suggested date for a visit. Please would you come back to me as soon as possible with a choice. I am reasonably flexible and will fit you in unless already booked.



IPDG Meirion Morris and DG Charles Chaney

It was a great pleasure to visit the distribution/presentation of the money raised by the St Albans Clubs for their sponsored Cycle Ride, an incredible achievement. About 11 years ago they started with 500 riders raising £5000 which in itself was good. This year they had nearly 1800 riders and raised £42,000. A wonderful event and an amazing result.

### PREFERRED PROJECTS

With four RIBI preferred projects there are, I know, a lot to get to grips with. Remember that two of them "The Institute of Cancer Research" and "Barnardos" are awareness campaigns rather than specific fundraisers. Their brochures and the message need to be spread in appropriate public places. "Impact Foundation" (the old Eye camp charity) and The Wheelchair Foundation are in need of more specific help. I am pleased to say that the 'Wheelchair Foundation' has really taken off with the majority of clubs getting involved and 'Impact' has also

been well received. If you need more detailed information please contact David Cassell for the Institute of Cancer Research and Barnardos, and Roy Lester for The Wheelchair Foundation and Impact.

### BARNARDOS TESCO COLLECTION

I shall be attending a Barnardos presentation in London shortly, but am informed they have a collection (two days) organised with Tesco on Sept 29th/30th. They need 14,000 bodies to collect at the stores, who better than Rotarians?

If you have a local Tesco Store (not Express or Petrol) and can help, please contact:

John Gibson at Barnardos on 0131 441 4543 or john.gibson@barnados.org.uk

He will put you in contact with a Barnardos area coordinator, who will schedule the collectors for the 150 or so stores in their area. When you contact Barnardos you will be asked the location of your preferred store and the number of collectors that your club can provide.

Please see the loose insert page in this issue and enter the **DG's CHALLENGE**

If you are not equipped with a Sponsorship Form when this Newsletter reaches you, please send word to DG Charles or to Editor:

Peter Lardi - 01992 462292 email: lardi@btinternet.com

## DG'S CHALLENGE

My own favoured charity this year is Macmillan Cancer Support. If your club was represented at District Council on the 19th of July you will have heard, I hope, of my announcement to personally lose two stone by June 30th 2007.

Believe me. I will do it! All sponsor money collected will go to Macmillan. So if you, or your club would like to help, I have a sponsor form, which is included with this newsletter. It will also be available, as if by magic, on the web site!

## NEW MEMBERS

Please put your heads together and devise a plan for bringing in new club members. It is a necessity now. We lost 125 members in the District last year and additions did not meet the overall loss. We really do need to reverse this process or more clubs will disappear. Extension is being worked on with the Interim Club of the Chilterns now building and others are being investigated.

But, your own club needs new faces. What are you doing to make sure they arrive? Need Help? Contact Wendy Coertze, your District Membership Services Chairman.

## NEW BRANDING

I am pleased to see a good number of clubs adopting the new RIBI Brand design. So far you have templates for letterheads and compliment slips that can be downloaded from the RIBI website with the advice of how to enter your club details. I have recently been asked by the new RIBI Marketing Advisory Group to look at all branding and prepare a manual of uses of the brand for distribution to clubs. This is well under way and should be available mid Autumn.

Licensed suppliers of Rotary items i.e. Tabards, Caps, 'T' shirts etc are being contacted and will, subject to agreement, soon have the new branding ready for use.

## DG's DIARY

### AUGUST

7th Luton Chiltern Club  
11th Luton Someries Club  
14th Stevenage Grange Club  
16th Tring & District Club  
20th/21st Gen. Council, Alcester  
22nd Dunstable Club  
29th Barton Le Clay Club  
30th District Marketing Officers' Seminar, Alcester

## SEPTEMBER

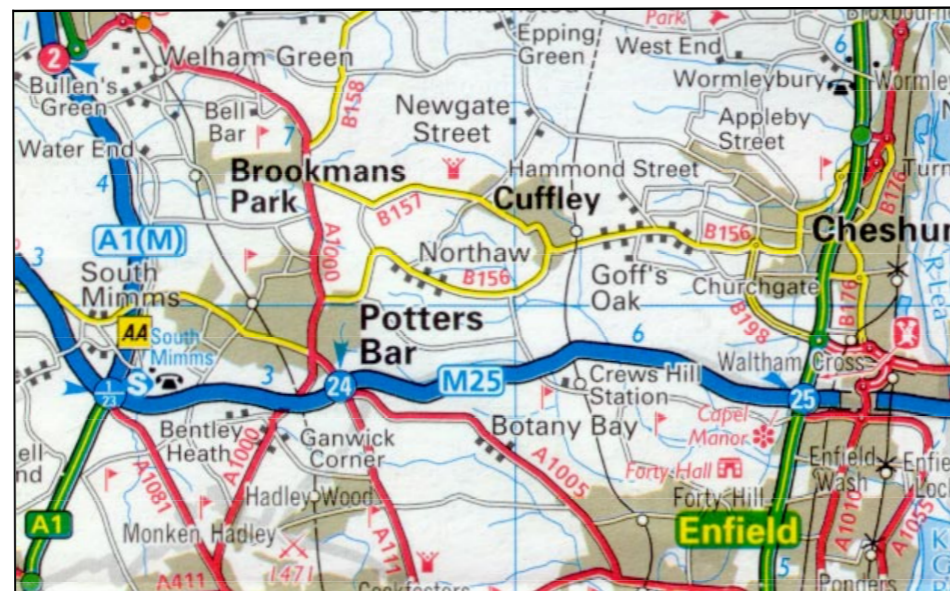
6th Amersham Club

Please contact the members of your District team if you feel you need particular help with a Rotary matter. We are here to assist and are at your service.

Every good wish to you all. Have an enjoyable Rotary year and 'Lead the Way' in your community.

Yours in Rotary

Charles Chaney  
District Governor.



## DISTRICT EXTENSION

If you have friends who live in the area of this map, then Frank Taylor would love to hear from you.

This is the area of the interim Cheshunt club, and Frank would like to talk to people who live in the area, who may know of people who would like to join the new club.

Frank can be contacted by phone on 01707 262000 or email [frank.taylor@ntlworld.com](mailto:frank.taylor@ntlworld.com)

## ENEWS LAUNCHED

A convenient way to get a monthly digest of the District Newsletter is now launched. To receive eNews just register your email address on the District website ([www.rotary1260.org](http://www.rotary1260.org)).

To suit all Rotarians in the District, news about club, district, RIBI and international events is available i) in **printed** form, as ii) a **pdf** downloadable from the website, iii) as headline news on the **website** and now iv) **eNews**. Headlines will reach you automatically if you register.

## THE ORIENT COMES TO THE RIVER LEA

Yes, 24th June saw Dragon Boat racing on the River Lea at Ware. And who knows in 6 years time they could be holding the Olympic Dragon Boat races there!



Castle Queen team from the QE2 Hospital

For two years Hertford Shires club has been organising the highly successful "It's a Knockout". But they wanted a new challenge, and saw the opportunity offered by Dragon Boat racing. Dragon Boat Racing is a tremendous team activity for both sexes. Teams of 10 people meet in a series of heats over a 250m stretch of the River Leas in craft modelled on Chinese Dragon Boats. The eleven participating teams were drawn from local businesses, the NHS, pubs/clubs and groups of individuals.

## Messing About on the River

Everything went like clockwork through the day and the weather stayed fine. After familiarisation with the craft, the teams raced head to head before an enthusiastic crowd of spectators.

A weary team from the White Horse in Ware-side were the eventual winners, but the real winners were the charities that shared the £10,000 raised in sponsorship from the event. The President of Hertford Shires RC, Paul O'Brart, proudly captained the third placed team, G-Force.

Main recipients of the sponsorship were The Children of Hertfordshire Integrated Play Scheme (CHIPS) and the East Herts branch of NACC National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease. Possibly two of the longest charity names!

The event was also made possible by the support of the Sacred Heart School in Ware who allowed their grounds and facilities to be used by the teams. After the success of this inaugural event the race will definitely be back next year, so get in practise now!

Richard Rumbelow, Hertford Shires RC

## PRESIDENT PETER OFFER VISITS D1260



Mid July saw RIBI President Peter Offer and his wife Janis visiting District 1260. In spite of short notice, five clubs generously offered to act as hosts, Amersham, Newport Pagnell, Rickmansworth, Dunstable Downs, with breakfast at Hitchin Tilehouse.

At least one Rotarian from nearly every club in district heard Peter lay out his aims for the year. Peter had asked DG Charles if he could attend normal club meetings; this was the format for lunch and evening meetings with 25-50 Rotarians. The final meeting, an excellent send off, had over 80 Rotarians enjoying a presentation of Hitchin Tilehouse's past year, induction of a new member and presentation of cheques for the Prostate Cancer Charity.

Peter acknowledged he will be an absent member of his club, as he and Janice tour GB and Ireland, but he has arranged to keep up the numbers by introducing his son and his daughter to Rotary. The spirit of the Family of Rotary!

His FOUR preferred projects are **Impact**, formed when Eye Camps in India split to form Sight Savers and Impact.

**The Wheelchair Foundation**, brainchild of Ken Behring, started in the 1990s. 500,000 wheelchairs have been delivered, Rotarians sponsoring over 100,000 of them.

**The Institute of Cancer Research** wants Rotary to help it publicise advances in the early detection of cancers, and has produced a series of leaflets for Rotarians to distribute at appropriate places in their community.

**Barnardos** needs collectors at Tesco stores at the end of September.

In Coventry, home of many famous marques of cars, Peter has negotiated with Pendragon plc, the largest car dealership in the UK. Their dealers will provide Rotarians with "anything with a motor" at very competitive prices, and in return will make a donation up to £150 to Rotary Foundation.



**The hallowed turf of the Old Course at St Andrews never looked better than that day in June, when Rotarians came from many countries to compete.**

It is most golfers' ambition sometime in their life to play the Old Course at St Andrews. On the second week in June each year, Rotarians from all over the world satisfy this ambition.

On the 12th of June 390 Rotarians and their golfing partners assembled in the Town Hall in St Andrews to be welcomed by the Mayor of St Andrews for the 52nd Rotary International Golf Championship organised by the Rotary Club of St Andrews. After the welcome, the convenor, Angus Mitchell, explained the rules for the next four day's golf.

In a howling wind and pouring rain at 7am on Monday, the first of the 330 men teed off on the Old and the Eden courses, while the 70 ladies teed off on the Strathtyrum course. One intrepid lady gamely joined the men on the Old Course, with 40 partners coming for the putting competition on the aptly named Himalayas.

What can one say about the Old Course, to a first timer it is best likened to playing on a full size crazy golf course. It has hazards in abundance and undulations to carry a ball right into them, not to mention the 100 yard wide greens with two flags! Luckily the rain stopped by 10am on Monday, and never returned, but the wind (breeze to locals) remained.

For the first two days, the men compete for the privilege of representing their country. For

the second two days the top nine golfers in the four nations plus the Overseas team battle it out for the International prizes, while the rest try other courses in the area, or one of the six St Andrews Links courses.

At the prize giving dinner on the Thursday evening in St Andrews Town Hall, the winning nation was Scotland. But it appeared that nobody should go away without a prize, as the award of the 67 prizes went on for an hour and ten minutes! One of the traditions of the dinner is the song by Enid Evans from Llanfairfechan, which celebrates the songs of the winning nation.

One of the unique features of the Old Course is that, as there is so little space to change the course, on many holes the worst amateurs play off exactly the same tees as Tiger Woods, especially the Road hole and the 18th.

District 1260 had 10 men and five ladies playing. Although the men declined to go for national honours, Margaret Richie from Berkhamsted Bulbourne carried the District honour and won the Kinness Trophy for the best ladies medal score. Berkhamsted Bulbourne also stood out by entering the largest number of players from one club, except for the St Andrews club. International players came from as far away as Malaysia, Botswana and California.

The entry forms become available in February, so if you fancy special golf with some of the friendliest golfers in the world put the date in your diary now. JR



**At the close of day pipes and drums beat the retreat for Rotary.**

District Foundation Committee are seeking nominations for team leader and team members to take part in the 2007 GSE exchange with Argentina.

The team leader must be a current Rotarian. The leader will be required to meet with the team regularly prior to the exchange, lead the team during the visit to Argentina and accompany the team on club visits on their return.

The four team members must be between 25 and 35 years of age (at the time of the exchange), be resident in the District and in full time employment. They must be able to take the necessary time off for the exchange and be able to accompany the team on visits to clubs on their return.

Interviews and selection will take place in September.

It would be an advantage, but not a requirement, for the leader and the members to have some knowledge of Spanish.

Nomination forms are available from:  
Rtn Geoff Bacon, e-mail: pudrah@aol.com



**QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

Those Rotarians who are avid readers of the RIBI website (www.RIBI.org) will have seen the reminder of the annual Award for Voluntary Service, which seems so appropriate for our organisation to support.

To celebrate her Golden Jubilee, The Queen announced an annual Award to recognise and reward excellence in voluntary activities carried out by groups in the community. The Award recognises the vital role played by the hundreds of thousands of 'unsung heroes' of the voluntary and community world and emphasises the importance of continuing recognition of their work.

The Award, now in its fifth year, has gone to groups such as the Connect Club of Welwyn and Hatfield, Dacorum Talking Newspaper, Home Start Stevenage and Watford Mosque and Welfare Association. The Award is given for outstanding achievement by groups of two or more volunteers who:

- Regularly devote their time to helping others in the community
- Improve the quality of life and opportunity for others
- Provide an outstanding service

So far no Rotary initiative has received an award, although many other organisations may have been recommended by Rotarians. If we can understand and apply the guidance notes maybe we could get suitable recognition for a Rotary activity or initiative.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website at [www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk](http://www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk) or call Volunteering England on 0845 000 2002.

We still have a little time as the closing date for nominations is two months away on the 30th September, and the winners will be announced on 2nd June 2007. JR

**THREE PAIRS OF HERTFORD ACHIEVERS**



Three Hertford husbands and wives have achieved a unique treble this year, each partner having been elected to the same office in their respective branches of Rotary in the town. Farmer Roy Davis and his wife Maureen have been elected president/chairman of Hertford Rotary/Inner Wheel clubs, Don Craik and his wife Pam are secretaries of the two clubs, and Tony and Gillian Studd the clubs' treasurers.

Arthur Knights, Hertford Rotary's oldest and longest serving member, who joined the club less than 20 years after it was formed in 1929, said he had never heard of anything quite like it happening before.

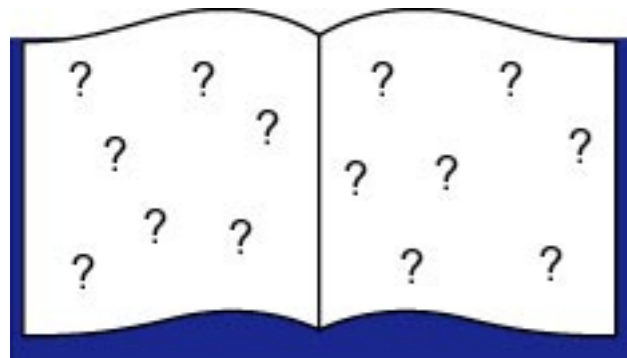
Left to right are: Tony and Gillian Studd, Roy and Maureen Davis, Pam and Don Craik.

## ROTARY LITERACY MONTH

Eight hundred million people lack even basic literacy skills to meet the demands of everyday life! Literacy empowers people. It is the foundation for virtually all forms of education and an essential component of poverty reduction, social inclusion, and economic development.

This year RI President Bill Boyd continues Rotary's emphasis on literacy, and the role clubs can play in helping promote literacy throughout the world, through Rotary Resource Groups.

- ¶ Over 800 million cannot read or write
- ¶ 98% of illiterates live in poorer countries.
- ¶ 50% of illiterates are in India and China.
- ¶ Half the population of Africa is illiterate.
- ¶ 66% of those who lack literacy and numeracy skills are women.
- ¶ More than 130 million school-age children are not attending classes.



So what can **YOUR** club do?

Demonstrate your commitment to literacy.

Establish a literacy centre with a library where people can come to read and meet tutors.

Apply for a Rotary Foundation grant to establish literacy programmes for girls and women.

Invite business executives to hear about literacy efforts in the workplace.

Donate books to classes/libraries abroad

Contact Literacy Trust - [www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk)

Offer support to your local authority

Prisons have literacy problems; does your local prison need support?

### The Literacy Resource Group

Les Lee, District Literacy Resource Group Co-ordinator, says we lack knowledge of projects being carried out in our own District. Any clubs involved in Literacy Projects please let him know so he can inform all clubs in the district.

Please email: [les.lee@zen.co.uk](mailto:les.lee@zen.co.uk)

RI offers resources to help Rotary clubs plan and implement literacy projects, more information on the RI Website.

JR



## STEVENAGE LEADS THE WAY

Rotarians fortunate to live in Hertfordshire, and to receive the Hertfordshire Countryside magazine will have read the excellent article "Wheel of Fortune" published in the July edition of the magazine.

Whilst emphasising the activities of the Stevenage club, the article also describes the growth of Rotary and the programmes of RI.

Stevenage are justly proud of their support for the village of Laz in Romania through the Stevenage Carnival and its successor the Fun Run and Lend a Hand Day.

The article is the initiative of the Stevenage treasurer Robin Hopper, and his association with the proprietor of **Hertfordshire Countryside**, Martin Small. The text, which bears the authoritative imprint of the District Activist Malcolm Gomm assisted by club members, paints an admirable picture of the broad scope of Rotary. It is full of useful details and supported by attractive, informative photos. JR

## ANNUAL DISTRICT BOWLS COMPETITION

The District Bowls Competition will take place at Wendover Bowls Club on Wednesday 13th of September. The competition for teams of three, is being organised by John Fox of Amersham RC.

So far ten teams have entered, but there is room for more. The competition starts at 10 o'clock, with an entry fee of £10 per bowler, and lunch and tea provided.

This is the 18th year since the late Fred Butt started a bowls competition in the District, although in the early years it was run as a round robin with a semi-final and final.

If your club wants more details, or wishes to enter a team, please contact John Fox. Telephone 01494 774366. JR

## SMILES CAME TO THEIR FACES

Mrs Bunyan said: "Smiles came to their faces and I knew my project for this year was a success." She added that she had enjoyed living in Bushey for 40 years and wanted to give something back to the community. She said: "Seeing them enjoying this roundabout is just the icing on the cake for me."

The Mayor of Hertsmere said: "This school does so much good in the community and it gave me great pleasure to open the wheelchair roundabout. "They do a lot of good here. It's tremendous."



The Mayor of Hertsmere, Martin Heywood, cut the ribbon on a new wheelchair roundabout at a Bushey special school while congratulating the Bushey and Oxhey Rotary Club on a year of tireless fundraising work. Driving force behind the project was President Dianne Bunyan.

Rather than raising money for several small projects, Mrs Bunyan decided that during her year as president she would choose one major project and the one she chose was to raise the £10,000 needed to buy Meadow Wood School in Bushey a roundabout that could be used by wheelchair-bound **and** able-bodied children at the same time.

James Boylan, headteacher at Meadow Wood, said the new roundabout will be of tremendous value to the school which has 28 children aged between three and 11 with physical disabilities and neurological impairments.

He said: "It means an awful lot to the children here to have something different that they can play on during lunchtimes. For most of the children who come to this school, most playgrounds are inaccessible. By having this new wheelchair roundabout, it means that they can take part in activities that all other children can take part in whenever they like. It has added something different to playtime and their time at school."

The new wheelchair roundabout is the latest model and replaces an older roundabout which had become unusable. Also in the playground is a wheelchair-friendly swing, but the new roundabout now has pride of place in the playground.

The enjoyment given by the roundabout was clear to see as many of the school pupils enjoyed the ride alongside the mayor, with young and old alike having a lot of fun.



*The Mayor, Mrs Bunyan and IPDG Meirion Morris*



*The plaque marks the occasion which had excellent coverage in the Watford Observer on 14th July.*