



# District 1260 Governor's Newsletter

Service above Self

Humanity in Motion

Please circulate to all members • Issue No 14 • October 2006



## DG's Findings

End of October and we will be at the finish of the first quarter of this Rotary year. It is said that time gallops by when you are enjoying yourself, it certainly does; I can't believe that we are approaching the end of 4 months already.

I have now visited 20 clubs, perhaps a few more by the time you read this newsletter. I would express my grateful thanks to all for a very warm welcome and for the hospitality extended. I think it important to say that I am experiencing a very buoyant 'feel' from the membership in all our clubs. There is sometimes gloom and despondency spread concerning membership and activities. I'm seeing none of it. In fact, so far the opposite applies, which is very gratifying.

The preferred projects are being well supported especially the Wheelchair Foundation. The Youth and Community projects are forging ahead and the support for Foundation is good. International has many different club projects on the go all of which will be helpful to so many when they reach fruition.

## Support your Newsletter

Now, I have seen the clubs happily getting behind their projects. I am sure you are all proud of what you are doing to help others in great need. But, you don't let everyone know about these wonderful deeds. This newsletter is a great format for exchange of ideas and releasing information that could help

other clubs. Please let John Rowlands our Communications Chairman know what you are doing and planning. Send exciting, interesting pictures of your activities to John with a story and he can use them to good effect. If very good and different he will send them on to the Rotary Magazine for publication.

## Marketing Rotary

I am steadily working at completing the Branding Guidelines publication for release to clubs across the country at the month's end. RIBI staff and a number of suitably experienced Rotarians have put a great deal of information together concerning the marketing of Rotary and these documents will be issued soon.

## Talking of Torquay.....

Conference is rapidly moving forward and many clubs are doubling their numbers this year, when we visit the wonderful resort of Torquay. Remember it is a chance for an early holiday taking in Conference either at the beginning or end of a week. The time is right, the price is right. Make sure you don't miss out by not getting your booking in early.

## Start the fireworks at Tilsworth!

There is a half-year meeting coming up for Membership Services. It's at Tilsworth, 9.30 am – 12.30 on November 5th and will be well attended by every club. Please! Youth Activities was brilliantly supported earlier this month. Some very interesting speakers and new ideas were received by all, with new subjects to work on immediately. Wendy and her team in Membership, have put a brilliant programme together, which will really help you all. Let's fill the seats for them as well and pick up helpful information through discussion and understanding.

We are still requiring candidates for a GSE team to visit Argentina next May. They also need a leader. Here is a great chance for all clubs to locate a suitable candidate and set up a qualified team for the vocational trip of a lifetime. The application deadline has been extended to allow you time to find that special person (male or female) for interview. Please contact John Hopkins, who will be pleased to hear from you. (See page four)

I attended two District conferences this month 1070 in Eastbourne and 1050 in Scarborough. Both were very well done with interesting speakers. One of the original WI Calendar Girls 'Tricia' presented well in Scarborough! I also attended the District 26 Inner Wheel Rally in Markyate and passed on our greetings to Chairman Sandra Maizels and the Members of Inner Wheel. The Inner Wheel Association Chairman greeted the ladies.

I shall be attending General Council at Alcester and visiting the following clubs in October/Early November:

Bletchley	Oct 16
Amwell	Oct 16
Hertford	Oct 17
District Executive	Oct 19
General Council	Oct 23
Watford	Oct 25
Hoddesdon	Oct 26
Great Missenden	Oct 30
Berkhamsted Bulbourne	Oct 31
Hatfield	Nov 1
Membership	
half-year meeting	Nov 5
The Brickhills	
Nov 5	

Continue enjoying your Rotary!

Regards to all,

Charles Chaney  
District Governor

**Don't cry for meArgentina**

**WELCOME TO  
DISTRICT CONFERENCE**  
from Chairman Janet Peirce

Although it is still early in this Rotary year, it is not too early to provide an update on the preparations for the Conference in May 2007.

As you know, this year we issued the Registrations Forms in July enabling all Clubs within D1260 to make early plans to join in the fun and fellowship of Conference. Whether you are a long-time conferencegoer or are thinking about planning your trip, this conference promises everything that District Conferences are known for; warm fellowship, inspiring presentations, and an international experience in The House of Friendship which has been branded The World of Rotary.

May 18-20 2007 is a carefully selected weekend avoiding Bank Holidays and yet an extended stay could include the Whitsun holiday if you wanted to enjoy Torquay and the surrounding areas.

The programme is being put together to suit all tastes including both motivational and humorous and will include a Friday Night Entertainment at the Riviera Centre and on Saturday a Gala Dinner Dance. Further programme details will be issued in the November edition of DG's Newsletter and a Conference Flyer to be issued at the District Council Meeting in November.

Torquay the English Riviera, enjoy temperatures consistently 5 – 6 degrees higher than other parts of England with blue skies and a Mediterranean feel all year round especially in the spring.

Many Clubs have already booked their accommodation - book on line: [www.conferencetorquay.co.uk](http://www.conferencetorquay.co.uk) and click on the District 1260 conference link.

If you prefer book by the Direct Line: 01803 206302 or email: [accom\\_bureau@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:accom_bureau@torbay.gov.uk).

Registration Forms are requested, if possible, by **31<sup>st</sup> December 2006**.

Do come, join District Governor Charles and Pam for an excellent weekend full of FUN and FELLOWSHIP in a delightful part of England, the **ENGLISH RIVIERA**.

**A PERSONAL VIEW FROM PDG DEREK ADAMS:  
DISTRICT ~ WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?**

There are those that ask why we need Rotary International, why could we not act as individual self-governing Clubs, each getting on with helping the community. Well yes we could, but we would lose an awful lot in terms of cohesion and corporate image. Inevitably every Club would be different and the extreme variations would probably be very wide indeed. We need a central coordinating structure to give us this cohesion so that the public all over the world recognise us as part of the same organisation.

Additionally, were we to act as individual Clubs we would lose the influence that our size enables us to exercise. For instance the Polio Plus programme could never have been funded by money from Rotary alone; we needed our size to persuade the World Health Organisation, UNICEF and national governments to contribute.

Furthermore, projects like Polio Plus would become impossible to arrange: can you imagine how difficult it would be, without the worldwide structure, to sell such a project to 32,000 Clubs?

**The Top and the Bottom**

Without Rotary International we would lack communication with overseas Clubs and the trust we have in them. As a consequence joint health, hunger and humanity projects between individual clubs would become difficult to arrange.

On this basis it seems that an overall structure is essential. However, Rotary is not a "top down" organisation, just the reverse. The Clubs provide the service to the community and it is the Rotarians in the Clubs who decide the direction Rotary is to take. It is their representatives at the Council on Legislation that make the changes. Inevitably in a large organisation changing direction is a slow process, but Rotarians ultimately decide.

As the Rotary International



President could not liaise with 32,000 Clubs, it is the 529 Governors and the District organisations, each looking after about 60 Clubs, that act as the bi-directional link between R.I. and the Clubs.

**The DG is not alone**

To help him, the Governor has a number of elected Rotarians in the District organisation:

- The Assistant Governors act in that part of his duties involving liaison with the 15 Clubs in each of their zones.
- The District Treasurer keeps the accounts, collects Rotarians' contributions to the running of Rotary International and administers the District Grant from R.I.
- The District Secretary's task is similar to that of a Secretary in any organisation.
- District committees mirror similar committees in the Clubs: Foundation, Community Service and Youth Activities etc. Their function is to be aware of new emphases within their specialities and keep the Clubs informed accordingly.

The organisations at the Headquarters in Evanston and at District level exist mainly to support the efforts at Club level, but also to ensure that the whole of Rotary broadly maintains the same image and objectives worldwide.

Special International Opportunities - See Page 4

## DISTRICT 1260 GOLF SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING

On Thursday September 21st twenty-four golfers from 11 Clubs in District took part in the Autumn meeting at Mentmore Golf & Country Club. The event took place in glorious hot sunshine made easier by a stiff warm breeze.

In the morning 9 hole stableford on the flatter Rothschild course Barrie Grange from Ware Club with 20 points took first prize, whilst Alan Thomas, also from Ware, finished second with 19. Brian Hoskin from Berkhamsted Bulbourne won the Veterans prize with 17 points.

In the afternoon 18 hole stableford competition on the Rosebury course David Earye from Luton Someries took first prize with a score of 33 points. George Chant (Berkhamsted Bulbourne) was second with 31 points and Brian Currant (St Albans Verulamium) won the Veterans prize with 28 points. The 'A' team from Verulamium of Peter Rowe, Trevor Miles and Norman Jelley took first prize in the team event, with Berkhamsted Bulbourne represented by Brian Hoskin and George Chant second.

The meeting was made special with Barton-le-Clay and Berkhamsted Bulbourne represented for the first time in many years and with two members, David Earye (Luton Someries) and Trevor Miles (Verulamium) having been in Rotary less than 3 months enjoying their first taste of a District Golf Society meeting. At the AGM which followed the meeting, Peter Rowe and Brian Billinghamurst were re-elected.

Next year's meetings will be at East Herts Golf Club on May 4th and West Herts Golf Club, September 21st. The Conference golf will be at Torquay Golf Club on May 18th.

Brian Billinghamurst

email: whhqs@aol.com

Tel: 01296 486866

## DETECTORS BRING TREASURE TO ROTARY

*"There's gold in them thar' hills"*

On the weekend of 19th/20th August the Aylesbury Hundreds Club ran a treasure hunting weekend for metal detectorists.

The event took place at Doe Hill Farm at Kimble. This area is steeped in ancient history. Doe Hill Farm is bordered by the ancient Icknield Way and is close to many sites of historical importance. The most notable is an Iron Age hill fort on the Chequers Estate which is mentioned on Ordnance Survey maps as Cymbeline's Castle. It is thought that this is the famous King Cymbeline subject of one of William Shakespeare's plays and from whom the village of Kimble takes its name.

King Cunobelin, who was an Iron Age king of the Catuvellauni tribe dating circa 1st century BC, minted coins at St. Albans (Verulamium, capital of the Catuvellauni). Gold coins called staters and bearing the inscription CUNO depicting a stylised horse have been found by detectorists in this area.



***Detecting some dough***

Doe Hill Farm is also a site with great potential for finds because of its proximity to Roman cremation graves and a Motte and Bailey.

350 day tickets were sold to detectorists from near and far. Among the many objects discovered was a very nice Tudor buckle, a silver Roman dog and dozens of Roman coins together with Bronze Age, Stone Age and Saxon artefacts.

The club received valuable assistance from the *Weekend Wanderers*, a metal detecting club from Hemel Hempstead.

Rotarians had an enjoyable weekend gaining an insight into a fascinating hobby and raised around £2,500.

## NEWS ABOUT THE ROTARY CLUB OF ANYWHERE in District 1260

Your news worth spreading  
**can be included**  
in this

## NEWSLETTER but it won't be, unless you TELL US

**John Rowlands**

Chairman, Communications Committee  
email: Handbooks1988@aol.com

**Peter Lardi**

DG's Newsletter Editor  
email: lardi@btinternet.com

The information below reached us  
just as we were closing for press!

The Rotary Club of  
Winslow  
presents

## A Christmas Festival of Voices at St Laurence Church, Win- slow, on Saturday 9th December 7.30 pm

including 2006

Eisteddfod winners

**Pontarddulais Male Choir**  
with supporting soloists

Tickets £12.50 from  
Rtn David Sibthorp

Tel: 01296 713947

***Is your club looking for a good community-based service project that is effective, satisfying and easy to organise?***



The Rotary Lend-a-Hand Project is hands on service above self. It does not require Rotarians to reach for their cheque books. It is all about helping others and there are tremendous PR opportunities.

In a nutshell....on one day, Rotarians visit the homes of the elderly and infirm to help out with simple jobs about the home and garden that are beyond the ability and means of those in need. There is no charge to the recipient and Rotarians take all necessary materials and equipment with them.

Clubs identify which partner organisations to work with (Age Concern, local churches, organisations for carers, Meals on Wheels, etc). Through these partners, circulars are distributed to the elderly and infirm inviting prospective clients to apply to Rotary if they have a job to be done. The client applies to Rotary – this gets round the data protection issues.

**Chief Chatter**

Rotary, Interact and other service clubs can all work together. Jobs are tackled by teams of at least

two people. Jobs are allocated according to skills available. Some jobs are quite simple so ‘the team’ can comprise one active job doer and one not so active colleague who becomes the chief chatter. We should never underestimate the need for the elderly to have a chat to someone new!

**Tried and Tested**

This project is now well tried and tested. It originated in London, Ontario, some 5 or 6 years ago. I heard about it when visiting a club in Oakville, Ontario. Following this visit, emails criss-crossed the Atlantic and Rotary Lend-a-Hand Day came to Stevenage. In our first year, 10 teams completed 45 jobs. In our second year, we had more teams and did more jobs! We also persuaded a club in a neighbouring district to get involved and were able to benefit from joint media publicity. Four other 1260 Rotary groupings undertook the project last year and the District ComVoc team is hoping to encourage even more



in this current year.

A few final words from the Stevenage experience ... Clients ecstatic and looking forward to next year. Rotarians say service far more satisfying than fundraising

– this is what they joined Rotary for.

***Put the Rotary Lend-a-Hand Project into YOUR Club’s diary!***

To receive full details or to express interest, please contact Cheri Pemberton, Rotary Club of Stevenage. 01438.360522 or cheri.pemberton@ukonline.co.uk

**WANTED  
URGENTLY**

Four people who can spare one month that will make major changes to the rest of their lives.

Candidates known to Rotarians, boys or girls who are not their relatives, are eligible for the Group Study Exchange Visit to Argentina in May 2007.

Age range 25-35

Also required: The Team Leader, who must be an active Rotarian.

**Application forms**  
for this wonderful opportunity are  
**available**  
**NOW!**

**John Hopkins**  
8 Poynings Close. Harpenden AL5 1JD  
01582 760381  
email: john.hopkins@hrvc.net

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE HALF YEAR MEETING

Nearly 50 representatives from 28 of our Clubs attended the Half Year meeting at Tilsworth on Wednesday 27th September to listen to four excellent speakers on matters of interest in the field of Youth Activities. The committee provided a varied display of information on Youth Exchange, Technology Tournament (including a demonstration of one way of solving the 2007 task), Young Enterprise, Buckingham Club's Young Writer Competition, Fair Play Award Scheme, Young Chef and Youth Speaks. After viewing the stands, and learning about what was needed to get local schools involved in such projects, attendees listened to four excellent speakers on:

- **Rotakids** (the citizenship project for primary schools) supported by Rotary Young Achievers Award,

- **SportsAid** and support for young 'athletes' from a wide range of sports, both able bodied and disabled, selected from school based training through to lottery funded involvement in elite competitions

- **Interact** including forming new Clubs interlinked with Rotaract Clubs

- **New Generations Study Tour** to Argentina in this Rotary year.

- **Rotakids** involves Rotary Clubs seeking primary schools within their patch willing to carry out two projects, one a local community-based project such as bulb planting, gift boxes for senior citizens, etc., and the other an international based project such as filling shoe boxes, providing Christmas presents for orphanages overseas, etc. With such involvement comes a knowledge of the good that Rotary does both locally and internationally. From such ground roots comes the formation of Interact Clubs in secondary schools and then Rotaract Clubs during a University or College career.

The **SportsAid** presentation was

designed to promote the District scheme which is described in the breakout box. SportsAid, previously known as SportsAid Foundation (SAF), was founded in 1976. Its principle function was to raise funds from the private sector to provide financial assistance to Britain's amateur sportsmen and women. From 1983 until 1997, SAF was a major source of funding for most of Britain's leading athletes, both able-bodied and disabled. 1997 brought the Lottery funding and a change to SportsAid's role. As SportsAid was no longer the sole provider it could not continue in the same area, but there were still funding gaps which the Lottery funds could not fill.

Since 1997, SportsAid has focused on giving grants to youngsters aged 12 to 16, from 50 able-bodied and 25 disability sports. These athletes compete in national squads and grants, generally worth £500, help with costs such as travel, training, accommodation, competition fees and equipment.

Our evening was closed by a brief presentation from Ken Scott explaining the difficulties he was experiencing getting the **New Generations Study Tour** off the ground due to bureaucratic obstacles involved with RIBI and RI regulations regarding CRB checking of hosts. It would appear this tour is now going to take place at Easter 2007 outgoing to Argentina and July 2007 incoming from Argentina. Four 18-21 year old students led by a 25-30 year old Rotaractor from each country will take part in the tour.

I would wish to express my thanks to Roger May (RIBI Youth Activities Chairman), Ken Pheysey (RIBI Interact Officer), Tim Lawler, (CEO SportsAid) and Ken Scott (District Youth Exchange Officer) for their time and efforts in attending and speaking at our meeting. I was told it was a great success.

## Brian Billinghamurst - Chairman SPORTSAID 1260 & THE OLYMPICS

The District SportsAid scheme aims to get each of our 51 Clubs to donate £150 per annum over each of the next five years. This would provide SportsAid with £7500 per annum with which to help up to 15 budding sports stars with financial support for additional training, travel to events, equipment, etc. All this currently has to come out of their parents' pockets. The chosen athletes would be selected by SportsAid, through the local branches of each sport's Governing Body. Rotary clubs in Beds, Bucks and Herts will be able to identify with five future winners from their county. The athletes might or might not change each year, but whilst those financially supported in 2007 might achieve greatness in 2012 those supported in 2010 are more likely to achieve their greatness in 2016 or 2020.

The District Youth Activities Committee is hoping that each Club will support this scheme, which has enthusiastic backing from DG Charles. Please let Brian Billinghamurst hear from you how your Club will support this District venture.



## DISTRICT BOWLS COMPETITION

The District Bowls competition on Wednesday 13th September at Wendover Bowls Club engaged the concentration of ten teams.

Morning play-offs were followed by a splendid lunch and then came the final in the afternoon.

District Governor Charles attended the lunch and offered words of encouragement to all players, he later returned in the afternoon to present the trophies.

The Fred Butt trophy was presented to the winning Bushey & Oxhey team. The runners up were Amersham.

The day was rounded off by a Cornish tea: scones, cream and jam.

**District Foundation Committee** invite nominations from clubs for an **Ambassadorial Scholarship** which will be awarded for the Academic Year 2007/8.

Applicants must have completed at least two years of university or college course work, and have been employed in a recognised vocation. They should also be capable of speaking to clubs and other organisations while abroad and when they return. (Unfortunately, Rotarians and their relatives are ineligible!)

The current year successful candidate, Lowri Gott, who spoke to us at the Cardiff Conference, has recently begun her studies in China. We all wish her well. She will be a first class ambassador, and we look forward to hearing about her adventures when she returns.

Application forms and details are available from John Goodge (Scholarships Sub-Committee Chairman) Tel. 01234 741321

### **SERVICE COMMITTEE DIARY**

Here are the dates for the Service Committee Half Yearly Meetings.

#### **Youth Activities**

Sat 30th September - *Sorry but you will just have to read the report in this issue!*

#### **Membership**

Sat 5th November - *Help and advice for all.*

#### **International**

Thur 16th November  
*A wealth of opportunities*

#### **Community & Vocational**

Mon 8th January  
*It is your job to attend!*

#### **Foundation**

*Watch this space for a special announcement!*

**Communications** - *OK, we are just an Administrative Committee, but we have plans too.*

## **LUTON SOMERIES' LATVIAN ADVENTURE**

For some years, Luton Someries has had a relationship with a small town called Valka, on the Latvia-Estonia border. Along with our twinned Rotary Club of Iserlohn (Germany) and a Rotary Club in Holland with the extensive name of Gemert-Beek & Donk-Lieshout, we have sent Christmas parcels and supported several of their kindergartens and children's homes with funds for equipment, furnishings and improvements.

In July 2006 we went further with a work team of 19 people to spend a week carrying out building works at the Pasacina kindergarten. The team comprised four Rotarians (actually 3 plus a husband!), nine trainee builders from Barnfield College and six of their tutors.

Flying into Riga, we travelled by coach the 100 or so miles across the country to Valka, where we were accommodated in a comfortable student dormitory. Food (in copious quantities and varieties) was provided in the refectory of the brand new sports hall of the secondary school and from the start we were looked after superbly by the local Rotarians, councillors, school staff and also young adult children of the Rotarians who were drafted in to act as interpreters.

The team demolished two brick and concrete shelter buildings to make way for future play equipment, took down the boundary fencing and installed 135 new fence posts. We found time, during the week, to see the local sights, swim in the river and visit a number of the schools.

Team morale was superb; all gained useful experiences and friendships, especially the trainees, some of them are hoping to go back to visit the friends (girlfriends!) they made there. This may be the first of many projects where students from Barnfield will work alongside Luton Someries members.

The total cost of the project,

including flights, road transport, accommodation, materials and local contractors' costs, amounted to about £10,50, raised from the team members, commercial sponsorship and Rotary Club funds (including donations from Iserlohn and Gemert Rotary Clubs).

**Robert John**



Demolition



Cathy Fox & Jean Howe painting fence

Jean is cheek-to-cheek with one of the Valka Rotarians in an after-work dance in the garden of the Pasacina Kindergarten.



This team photo shows Jean and Cathy to my right, Mandy Nicholls, Headmistress Laila Ozolina (standing) and the young students, our interpreters, as well as Rotarians and children. "We rarely looked this tidy" - Robert ends his report.