



Dear Fellow Rotarians...

Les Writes...



Les hard at it...

The New Newsletter

This is the first Newsletter of this Rotary year and as I write this I have no idea what Elizabeth and her PR & Comms team have in mind for presentation other than it will "Make Dreams Real" with the team working hard to attempt to get the copy to every member in the district in one way or another!

Our Future

My personal aim for the year is not to consider just the next twelve months but the longer-term future of Rotary in this District and the continuity that we must have between each year if we are to discuss and agree on the developments needed to be implemented. Remembering we only have three District Council Meetings each year when we can discuss and agree those developments. This is why we need good representation at those meetings

District Structure

The third area where we need to consider the future is the Club Leadership Plan and the part that involves the District Structure. As you know this was agreed at the RIBI Business meeting in Blackpool as the preferred administrative system for Rotary starting the 1st July 2009. I hope you will hear more about the progress of these subjects at the District Council in November.

What I have learnt

I don't intend to give a blow by blow report on my visits but I have learned so much in the short time I have been in this job I thought I should share it with you.

The Awards and Charity presentations for the Swimathon run by the Milton Keynes Clubs and the same for the Cycle Ride organised by the St Albans Clubs. I am sure the details of these events will appear elsewhere but those involved in the events have my full admirations for what they achieve and how much they raise for very worthy causes. I also attended the last night of the Youth Camp run by Ken Scott and Judy Green. I recall the discussion some time ago about funding and supporting this event. I can honestly tell you it was worth every penny to those young people that attended.

I now look forward to meeting you in your clubs where hopefully we can have an open discussion.

Association of Inner Wheel — Realise Your Vision and Make a Difference

As you may know I am the other half of the Lee duo this year (Not to be confused with D. K. Lee).

Your District Governor Les and your editor have kindly given me the opportunity to write a few words, as we know the wives of Rotarians and Members of Inner Wheel read this to find out what their husbands are doing when they go off to meetings. It's amazing what I find out?

But first I must thank all the Rotarians and Partners for your welcome and friendship at the Induction Dinner and the other Rotary events I have attended. Thank you.

Brian said in his last newsletter that the highlight of his year has been visiting clubs and meeting members.

Well I have that pleasure to come although I have met many of you when I visited your club to talk about my other interest Marshalling which is regrettably at present on hold.

I am not sure which is the most dangerous being on the track or DG?



Great Support

We had excellent support at the District Assembly with in excess of 300 members attending and at the first District Council all but four clubs were represented. This is a wonderful start of the year for myself and the team and I promise we will do our best to honour that support.

Although we have had this great start there are a few members who missed out on assembly and for that reason I have asked all the Service Committee Chairman to give a brief report on their plans for the year in this issue.

As in Rotary we have the aim to increase membership and have similar problems of succession, However unlike Rotary our Constitution is single gender and in the past we have had to rely on wives of Rotarians but that is beginning to change as we can now recruit from any female family member of a Rotarian and up to four Honorary female members per club. Perhaps those of you reading this and not in Inner Wheel or have friends that may be interested may realise just how much more fun we could have and what we could achieve with their help.

We are supporting three Charities this year. Our

Association Charity is the Alzheimer's Society.

My own chosen charity is Canine Partners.

A little known charity but very progressive with the aim

of transforming the lives of people with severe

disabilities by providing them with dogs which are

highly trained to assist with daily chores that we all take for granted as well as providing companionship and unquestionable loyalty.

Yours in Friendship

Jeannette

District 26 Chairman Inner Wheel



Pearly Kings and Queens

Below are the aims and objectives for tall the committees for the forthcoming year.

International Year Objectives

Our purpose this year is to establish good communications with the clubs so that we are better able to support them. We will do this by:

1. Providing an effective email link system to enable colleagues to be in contact with one another. This will allow International Chairmen to ask for help from others or to seek advice both form committee members and also from each other.
2. Providing a regular bulletin for the international scene from RIBI, and publicizing club activities.
3. Ensuring regular contact with clubs having allocated clubs in zones to each committee member.
4. Attempting to visit clubs on a regular basis
5. Promoting club projects throughout the district and enlisting help as required.

In addition we will:

1. Support any RIBI initiatives as necessary, such as the Leonard Cheshire Disability project for schools.
2. Coordinate any emergency response.
3. Ensuring regular contact with clubs having allocated clubs in zones to each committee member.
4. Attempting to visit clubs on a regular basis
5. Promoting club projects throughout the district and enlisting help as required.



mem-

Leonard Cheshire

John Versey



Our 2008 GSE team

Foundation Year Objectives

As usual, we have a very active committee to manage to various Educational and Humanitarian programmes of The Rotary Foundation and we have set ourselves some specific challenges this year.

GSE – We have always actively taken part in the exchange programme but in recent years, it has been difficult to attract candidates. The returning team from S Korea are putting on a “Korean Experience” on 17 Sept at Tilsworth to demonstrate to Rotarians, local employers and candidates how successful an exchange

may be.

Ambassadorial Scholars – We intend to award a scholarship in September to our current candidate and are seeking nominations for the 2008/2009 award.

Polio Plus – As you know we have been challenged to raise £500 per club per year for three years towards matching the \$100m pledged by the Bill Gates Foundation. All clubs are encouraged to donate to towards the appeal.

Humanitarian Grants – Last year we started 11 matching grants and our challenge is to exceed that this year. We have money available in the DDF to allocate to clubs

District Simplified Grants – Once again last year we spent our allocation and we must spend it all this year. We have about £6,000 available as cash to match any clubs humanitarian project

Gary Eastman

Membership Year Objectives



New members from your community

The Committee is facing a major transition in the near future and much of my thinking has been directed to the implications of that change.

The committee is likely to be renamed the 'Membership Committee' and will deal essentially with membership development, retention and extension.

A committee meeting was held at Tilsworth on 19th June in part to cover immediate matters and in part to conduct a 'brainstorm' looking in part backward on the existing committee's work and ideas and in part forward to the possible implications of the change.

I will be putting the ideas generated at that meeting together ahead of an informal discussion with District Governor Les at end-July. This will be followed by a provisional specification for the new committee and its officers. It is hoped to start recruiting new members for committee, once the job specifications are fully discussed and agreed.

In the meantime I plan on working closely with the AGs regarding visits to clubs to discuss the probable changes and how the new committee might best help.

In the immediate future, the work of the committee will continue on past lines, with Protection being handled by DGE Sandy Aked-Walker and Health and Safety by Rtn Trevor Blacktin. Clubs should deal directly with Sandy and Trevor on these matters as before. These two complex areas are steadily entering club thinking and implementation of them is progressing.

PDG Janet Peirce has taken over from PDG Mike Gardner as Membership Extension Officer and Rtn Royce Dawson is the Rotaract sub-Committee Chairman.

Rotarian Paul Ryall has kindly agreed to continue looking after the committee statistics, but with the title of Membership Officer, rather than Attendance Officer.

DG Les and I will be attending the Membership Conference in Leicester in December 2008.

Wish me luck!!

Bill Bradford
Chairman Membership Services Committee



Enthusiasm...

PR & Comms Year Objectives

Communications is an essential ingredient in every action, event and meeting that occurs in Rotary. The fact that communications has been given a priority in the new leadership plan for Rotary shows the importance that RI has placed on this element of our organisation.



Communications

We have a new and enthusiastic committee this year who are full of good ideas of how we can improve communications and how we can help all of you to communicate better within your clubs, with district, with national and beyond, but most of all how we can communicate better with the public.

How we present ourselves to the public is very important for all elements of Rotary from attracting new members to the events we hold to raise funds for our good causes.

With all of this in mind the aims and objectives of the PRaCC (PR and Communications Committee) are as follows:

1. **Modernise for the future.** This may take time but we need to look forward to the districts' needs going into the next decade and beyond.
2. **Websites.**
 - a. **The district website** is being updated at the moment. We aim to have more information for all the membership to access, more news and articles for all the members to access. The service chairmen have the ability to submit articles and information to the site as they produce it, making the site an up-to-date resource for our district.

Look out for the launch of the new website on August the 30th

- b. **The club websites.** We should view these sites as our "shop front" to the general public as well as a resource for our club members and treat them with the associated design, relevancy and up-to-date information that they need. Help and advice is available for clubs if required.
3. **IT literacy.** The Communications committee view IT Literacy as a vital to facilitate communications in today's society. New members from the younger generation will all be IT literate and we must strive to speak their language if we are to appeal to them as an organisation. This will include email, the use of the web, club and district websites etc.

Please look out soon (on the district website and via your PR and Communications contact in your club) for advice regarding email signatures. This simple addition to your emails will enhance the appearance and the professional look and make it much easier for the recipient to respond to you.

4. **Printed material**-branding for clubs and district. Consistent and professional looking material for use with the club and district, as well as for marketing use outside of the organisation.
5. **Effective communications** between club members, between clubs, between district and clubs and between national and district through to the club members. Have you thought of having a Rotary business card printed?



Get to know your local press

Advice how to do it yourself can be found here. <http://www.ribi.org/committees/report-details.asp?ribiCtteeRepID=822&rscID=66>

6. Access to the media. We want to show all clubs how to achieve the best coverage of their events and happenings by their local media, including local radio and TV where applicable.
7. **Education** for us all in all matters mentioned above.

Youth Year Objectives

The objectives of your District Youth committee remain to provide Clubs with both the next step towards creating champions in our varied program of youth projects or to facilitate additional opportunities for our youngsters in D1260 to show off their talents to the full.

Youth Exchange

The full program of Short Term Exchanges, School Year Exchanges, Camps and Tours are all available year long via the RIBI web site on www.ribi.org/Youth. If you know of any student interested in taking his skiing skills to a newer level then just put him in contact with this site – there are always tours available during the Christmas, Spring Half Term and Easter breaks to take full benefit of such training. Would your local school welcome an incoming visit from a school from, say, South Africa, eager to learn about our education system; they, or similar opportunities, are there on this web site. And there are lots of other opportunities to be 'sold' to our youngsters.

Youth Exchange may be District generated but it needs to be Club motivated and sold to your youngsters in your schools, colleges and families.

Young Photographer

Last (Rotary) year, Emily Jones sponsored by Hitchin Tilehouse, won RIBI Multi District Young Photographer competition. This year's topic is to fit in with the headline motto of Rotary for 2008-9 – Make Dreams Real for the Children of the World – and I'm sure we can all offer ideas to our Schools which would create some wonderful photographs of children of different race, colour and creed dreaming up ideas of making the world a better place to live in

Young Chef

D1260 are, this (Rotary) year hosting the RIBI National final of Young Chef. Following our success two years ago interest in this opportunity for our boys and girls took off and we expect even more interest this year. Your heats, which might have taken place in the second half of the spring term or the summer term, or are taking place in the autumn term or first half of the next spring term, will, I hope, be giving District a problem in finding time to reduce the number of Club winners down to six to take part in the District final with two then going forward to the Regional final in Bury St Edmonds in March 2009. Maggie Dyer looks forward to the challenge.

Youth Speaks

This tried and tested opportunity is a gem within our programme. Every year I hope we will produce a team that goes on to win the national final which this year takes place in Bath University at the beginning of May. It is a fabulous competition and each year we are amazed at the quality of performance that our students produce.



Youth Speaks at the RES

Technology Tournament

We know what this year's task is and we will be producing a version of a completed solution at the half year meeting in late September. We hope to send out the details in late August so you have them for the start of next term. Schools already have this opportunity into their curriculum at the recognised time(s) that you put on your local event – be it late February, March or even June 2009.

SportsAid

The youngsters we helped with £500 during 2006/7 are now ready to be invited to your Clubs to talk to you about how this money has helped them improve the quality of their performances during 2007/8. If you have forgotten, their names and details are as follows :

Sam Bradley	Age 15	Luton	Disability Swimmer
Kelsey Nolan	Age 17	Flitwick	Netball
Ryan McCarthy	Age 15	Potters Bar	Badminton
Marina Brassington	Age 17	Pitstone	Sailing
Anna Gill	Age 16	High Wycombe	Equestrian
Jamie Kilgariff	Age 14	HighWycombe	Badminton

Laura Wake & Emily Stevens (Ware) have already been reporting back

If you need contact addresses and telephone numbers please ask.

We are about to talk with SportsAid to determine next year's beneficiaries; however the District Treasurer will not let me do this until we have your £150 contributions from last Rotary year!

Interact

I would like to go out (from my role as Chairman of Youth Opportunities) with the kudos of having achieved the chartering of two Interact Clubs in D1260. Can you help me please

Rotakids

There was one Club who last year went into a local primary school and talked to them about working in their community on a project which would generate the presentation of Rotakids badges and T-shirts. Was that you?

Again this is a wonderful way of getting into schools and talking about Rotary and what we do. You might be sur-

prised at the effect it has on your Club's persona.

Young Musician

D1260's interest in being involved in RIBI's Multi District Young Musician concert in Chelmsford Cathedral on Friday 31st July 2009 has been registered.

Now it is up to you to seek out musical talent within your patch who would welcome the opportunity of competing for a place at this concert.

I have three Clubs' interest lodged already – please don't lose out.

Half Year Meeting

Our half year meeting takes place on Wednesday September 24th 2008 at Tilsworth starting at 6.30 pm with a light buffet and with presentations at 7.15 pm through to 9.00 pm. Please put the date in your diaries.

Rotaract Year Objectives

The official tag line for Rotaract is:

Rotaract is an opportunity to...

be part of a fun, dynamic and unique international organisation for people aged 18-30, offering a wide range of activities that will enable you to try something new, whilst having a great time and meeting others.

Rotaract offers a wide choice of social activities, actively supports your local community, raises money for charity and gives you the opportunity to develop your personal skills and gain new life experiences in the UK and abroad.

I have honestly found Rotaract to be fun, dynamic, and unique. I joined Rotaract in October 2006 and have enjoyed it ever since and it has opened up opportunities that I never thought existed like RYLA and the Group Study Exchange.

Rotaract enabled me to meet new people in Milton Keynes, all who have become good friends when I moved back in to my parents home after University and it has kept me busy. Since October 2006, I have held the positions of Publicity Officer and Vice-President and in July this year I took over the helm of the club as President. I am also the Rotaract District Chairman and I am on a mission to raise the profile of Rotaract, drive the two Clubs forward and to form a Rotaract District Committee.

Now a bit about the two clubs in District 1260. There are two Rotaract clubs in our district, Milton Keynes and Hemel Hempstead. Both Clubs are very active Club meeting up twice a month for official meetings and then in between for social, charity and community events. The official meetings are where the club committee (including President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Social Officer, Community, Fundraising and International Officer, Publicity Officer) and all the other club members get together to share ideas, and decide what events and activities to do or organise.

Both Rotaract Clubs usually does something social at least once a week whether it be going to the pub, cinema, 10 pin bowling, BBQ, etc. The clubs undertake charity collections and participate in sponsored events to raise funds for charities. Recently Hemel Hempstead Rotaract held a Bollywood Spice evening at an Indian Restaurant and raised £2,300, so congratulations to them.

Milton Keynes Rotaract have the following goals:

- Growing the club– 12 new members by June 2009
- Strong links with Hemel Hempstead & Bedford Rotaract , all Rotary Clubs in Milton Keynes & the district Rotary Committee
- Fill all Club Officer vacancies: VP, Secretary, Publicity and Membership, International

This is where we need your help as Rotarians; we need to build up our two clubs, so if you know any potential Rotaractors, please let me know. Rotaract is a brilliant organisation, we need to tell as many people as possible!

Alex Jones
President of Milton Keynes Rotaract 2008-09
Rotaract District 1260 Chairman



Rotaract having fun



Rotaract at the hogroast

Forthcoming Events

Dinner Dance for Hertfordshire Action on Disability



**Hertfordshire Action on Disability
50th Anniversary Dinner Dance
At the Broxbourne Civic Hall
Saturday 13th September 2008
6.00pm for 6.30pm**

Get "In the Mood"

Enjoy a Dinner and Dance to the music of the Todd Miller and the Joe Loss Orchestra & Singers.

Britain's (if not the world's) longest running entertainment experience.

They don't just play music – They entertain and are great to dance to listen to or good to just watch.

Dinner is a four course meal on tables of twelve.

Dress is Dinner Suit or Lounge Suit.

Tickets £40 per person

The event is being supported by the Rotary Club of Welwyn Garden City.

Hertfordshire Action on Disability is a registered Charity which Aims to provide innovative, affordable and practical services to people with disabilities in order to promote independence and well being within the community.

To get In the Mood

Tickets for the Dinner and Dance are available from 01707 320199 or 01727

Luton North 10K Charity Run



Luton North are organising a 10 kilometre charity run on Sunday September 14th. at 10.30am, over bridlepaths footpaths and trails in open country in the beautiful countryside under Warden Hills on the Eastern edge of Luton, starting and finishing at the Regional Sports Centre, Stopsley, Luton.

The club is hoping to raise £15,000 from runner's entry fees and sponsorship with half of the money raised going to The Stroke Association and the rest to the Rotary Youth Trust for Luton and other Rotary charities.

Runners raising £150 will go in to a free draw for an adventure experience, and second prize is a water colour painting by Ron Wright, a Rotarian and well-known local artist.

The top fundraiser will be offered a top class prize of a weekend use of a Porsche Boxster supplied by Premier Bodysshops, part of the Ludlows of Luton group. (some limitations will apply). The alternative prize is £100 cash.

There are sports vouchers for the first three males and females, a trophy for teams of three, spot prizes including dinner for two, and free tee shirts for all runners. The venue offers free car parking, six changing rooms with eight showers in each, secure baggage store, refreshments and bar. There are good road and rail services, with buses from Luton to within 800 metres of the venue.

Our club is very keen to make this a great Rotary success, running clubs within a 40 mile radius have been contacted via Runner's World and by post and e.mail, and local industry has been invited to help by promoting entries from their own staff. Apart from their knowledge of their local running clubs, Rotary Clubs in our district will almost certainly know a lot of people who may be prepared to run for charity and raise money for a good cause, and we would like to ask their support by passing the details our event to potential participants. Entry is easy, just go to www.luton-north-stroke10k.co.uk and pay by credit card via Paypal. Supporters who want to sponsor the runner can give their donation in the same way.



of

If runners want to enter by post, write to John Cook at 209 Sharpenhoe Road, Streatley, Luton. LU3 3PR. Tel. 01582-881695.

This is an ambitious project and deserves to succeed in providing very worthwhile causes with substantial sums of money, and with the concerted effort of clubs in 1260 I'm sure it will be a rip roaring success.

Past events

What do you get if you multiply 17 x 17?

Answer - loads of fun and not much sleep!

Seventeen young adults, average age 17, took part recently in the highlight of our three-year rolling programme of activities under the Rotary Youth Exchange banner.

On the last Saturday of the Rotary year, a dozen visitors arrived at Heathrow, Stanstead and Luton ready and eager to take part in our District Youth Camp, to be joined by five "locals" from within RIBI. Accommodation was provided in a Nordic style lodge based in Cheshunt. The location, the Lee Valley Village, is the national flagship hostel of the YHA and the facilities are of a very high standard - no slumming it here! The site is very close to the river Lee and the whole area is about to undergo a major regeneration as it prepares to host the main water activities of the 2012 Olympics.

The theme for the week was water, so the main activities concentrated on an introduction to sailing, kayaking, canoeing and raft-building, culminating in an afternoon of bell boating (which is a scaled-down version of dragon-boat racing). These were delivered by the professional staff of the Herts. Young Mariners Base, which adjoins the hostel. Later in the week, the water theme was continued with punting on the Cam during a day-trip to Cambridge and a with a river cruise on the Thames, from Westminster to Greenwich. Even Tower Bridge put on a magnificent display to add to the occasion.

Most of the young people had not previously tried these water activities but they soon gelled into a cohesive group, all anxious to show that you can put your life in the hands of (almost) complete strangers and that a stranger is only a friend that you have not yet met!

My youngest is only 22 but I had completely forgotten the capacity of young people to talk all through the night, several nights

running – but that was the object of the camp. Getting young people from Holland, Germany, Finland, Turkey, Austria, Mexico, Wales and Scotland all swapping stories about the similarities and differences of their experience of life so far and breaking down the perceived barriers of race, colour and religion.

Without doubt, this is by far the best programme in Rotary for young people. As we have paid to run this Camp, our young people can take part, free from the point of arrival in camp, in one of about 100 such camps which are on offer throughout Europe . Go to www.youthribi.org to find out more.

The Fourth Object of Rotary was well and truly put into practice and we definitely made dreams real!

Ken Scott

Youth Exchange Officer

Rotary International District 1260

District Golf Society regain Challenge

In the annual Challenge Cup match against District 1090, held this year at Brickendon Grange Golf Club on Thursday 31st July, District 1260 regained the trophy, last held by us three years ago, by a stupendous winning margin of 5 1/2 to 1/2.

This is believed to be the biggest winning margin since the challenge match was inaugurated in 1991 and resur-



rected in 1996 after a break of 3 years between '92 and '96. Peter Rowe and Trevor Miles (Verulamium) came home first with 5 & 3 win followed by Graham Perrin (St Albans Priory) & Paul O'Brart (Hertford Shires) winning 5 & 4. Sheila Harrison (Someries) playing with John Ashton (Luton North) triumphed 2 & 1 whence Paul Heydon and Robert Browning (Ware) halved their match. Don Craik & Dave Littleford (Hertford) had a tight match winning 1 up on the 18th whilst Alan Thomas (Ware) and Chris Marsh (Chesham) were already home and dry on the 13th winning 7 up with 5 to play. The day was rounded off with a fantastic three-course meal in the Club dining room

Our winning golfers

Brian Billingham

10 ways to destroy your club

1. Stay away from meetings
2. If you come, find fault.
3. Decline office or appointment to a committee
4. Get angry if you are not nominated or appointed
5. After you are named to a committee, do not attend meetings
6. If you do come to a meeting, do not speak until after it is done – then criticize how things should have been .
7. Do not do any club work if you can avoid it. When the old reliables pitch in to get the work done accuse them of being a clique
8. Oppose all new programmes as being a waste of members' money
9. When nothing new happens. Complain that the officers lack imagination
10. Read your club bulletin only now and then, then complain that you do not know what is going on.....

Courtesy of Bletchley Club Bulletin