



ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE



May has been another busy month including Club visits; President's Nights; the last Youth Finals (with continued success for our students); Champions of Change for Mike

Harvey of Chichester Priory in Cardiff (for addressing loneliness); visits to a number of our Rotary organised May fairs including Farnborough and Cheam and Sutton; and the last RIBI General Council of the Rotary year. Several cars were in the Purple for Polio Grand Tour Car Rally - Brooklands to Halifax. Our coordinator Peter Kleyn and our other entrants are looking for your sponsorship funds. (peter.kleyn@companycoach.co.uk)

For me, June will include more club visits; President's Nights; Inner Wheel Rally; Kids Out on 13th; Ashted Rotary Village Day on 9th – the second largest event in Surrey; and, of course, Rotary Convention in Toronto.

June is **Rotary Fellowships Month** recognising the importance of international fellowship and goodwill among Rotarians with similar recreational interests and vocations. Rotary International Fellowships are a hidden gem of membership, the opportunity to enjoy your hobby or interest internationally. There are around 75 of them with over 25 displaying in the House of Friendship in Toronto. More details <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/more-fellowships> - **join one!!**

Rotary Convention is in Toronto 23-27 June.

<http://www.riconvention.org/en/toronto>

If your club is unable to send delegates to vote I can act as your proxy. Please send me credential certificates/voting cards by 12 June, if you wish me to vote on your behalf. This year your District has three stands in the House of Friendship. Ron Daniels and I are on the **Sand Dams Project** stand 605. John and Fiona Miles are on stand 615 - **Rotary Global Vision (Guildford Eye)** - and Helena Daniels on

stand 320 **Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists**. If you know of people attending please have them come to see us.

What Have We Achieved In 2017-18?

This is my last DG newsletter and so gives opportunity to reflect on our achievements. At club visits I focused on Public Image and Rotary for the Next Generation. During the year we have seen the start of the rejuvenation of Rotary with Rotary 2, increased Public Image opportunity and the start of modernisation of RIBI and the roles of the RIBI President and RI Director. We have also seen a new approach to District Council and use of meetings on the web for some of our District Meetings. Expect more new approaches as we move forward.

Rotary Rejuvenation and New Members

We developed over twenty next generation style opportunities to welcome potential new members – some are modern clubs capable of attracting the next generation and others are new ventures. Following the highly successful **Rejuvenating Rotary Seminar** (recorded with highlights soon available on the District website) on Saturday May 12th we hope you are ready to start the new Rotary year aiming to help those units grow and create new ones. Rotary needs at least one in every London Borough and District Council area and large towns and cities. **Can you start one?**

You have been very successful growing our new members so far this year. We have a net growth of 40 new members, a month before year end with just over 40 in those next generation opportunities which have a further 50 prospective members. Without them we are decreasing despite some long established clubs growing. Interestingly, clubs in the top five with regards to net new members are often lunchtime and breakfast:

Chichester Harbour (breakfast) 7

Richmond (lunchtime) 6

Kingston on Thames (breakfast/lunchtime) 5

Chichester (lunchtime) 5

Haslemere (evening) 5

Shorter breakfast/lunchtime meetings are

very attractive to potential members – ***can you increase your membership with alternate meeting times?***

Public Image

Many new initiatives with social media and radio are working for us. Though you carry out many worthwhile projects they often do not appear in local news media, social media, radio, or television. Do we tell enough people about our efforts? We have to tell our story. RIBI reached five million people with its Public Image campaign around the Rotary State of the Nation Survey. When you have a project completed we can work with you to publicise it in your local area as well as the District. Email your project news and photographs to pr@rotarysouth.org.uk. Do not wait, just do it. Also put it all on the Rotary Showcase.

RI President’s Environmental Tree Challenge

We now have reports on all the tree planting you made before World Earth Day on April 22nd - ***approaching 26,000 trees - ten trees per member – ten times our objective – mostly with Sand Dams in Kenya*** - way beyond expectation - brilliant. Thank you all. Please put your project on Rotary Showcase so everyone can see your achievement.

Rotary Foundation and Polio

Happily we have a large number of Global Grants in process. To fund this rate in future we need to ensure our Annual Giving increases. Wild Polio Virus transmission is now at the lowest levels in history. To finance the final steps to eradication we still need funds. Please ensure your contributions for Annual Giving and Polio get to RFUK well before the deadline.

International Service Projects

You have continued to focus on your projects – too many to list them all. Rotary Global Vision (Guildford Eye) has gone from strength to strength with 16 RIBI Districts involved this year. Equally, our Sand Dams project has now delivered over 60 dams from projects involving us and Districts across RIBI in Kenya, Mozambique and India. We are about to see a proof of concept in Tanzania.

Vocational Service

Increased activity has increased the profile of Vocational.

Community Service Projects

Again you have continued with a huge range of local projects addressing the needs in the local community. It is great to see the sharing of ideas at District assembly and successful projects in one club being repeated in others.

Youth Success

The Kingston on Thames Rotakids Club received the Presidential Citation for their service projects. Our Interact clubs have also impressed and our Technology Tournament over in Richmond and Twickenham impressed all whilst Youth Exchange moves forward. We had National Finalists in most competitions and with 25 Districts competing our young people did us proud at national level:

Winner	Award	Competition	Club
Kitty Grosse	Winner	Young Chef	Fleet
Berniya Hamie	Third	Young Musician Instrumentalist	Brighton and Hove Soiree
Freya Knox	Highly Commended	Young Photographer Intermediate	Billingshurst and District
Hugo Rees	Third	Young Writer Junior	Bookham and Horsley
Helena Livesey-Hammond	Highly Commended	Young Writer Intermediate	Farnham
Sienna Lakin	Winner	Young Writer Senior	Dorking
Farnborough Hill School	Second	Youth Speaks Intermediate	Farnham, Farnham Weyside

Rotary Club Central and Presidential Citation

Your use of Rotary Club Central increases. It is our management tool of the future. Please increase your use as we move forward. I encourage you to apply for a ***Presidential Citation***. Most clubs qualify – you just have to put your goals and achievements on Rotary Club Central before Rotary Year end.

With two big events to come – Kids Out on June 13th with events around the District and RI Convention in Toronto 23-27 June – the end of the Rotary year approaches rapidly. It has been a memorable year visiting you all. Thank you for your hospitality and for your efforts during the year – ***you do amazing things!!*** Thank you especially to the District Team and our Presidents. I wish David and his team a great year ahead and look forward to seeing our agreed strategy evolve over the coming years. **Thank you all!!**

James Onions, District Governor 2017/18

dg@rotarysouth.org.uk

Administration & Information

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT ROTARY YEAR

- As the end of the year approaches it is essential that Clubs have accurate membership records on the RI database – this will be used to generate subscription notices for the year
- Please notify me of the names of your Clubs voting delegates for District Council meetings in 2018/19.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH CLUBS

It has been practice that Clubs send me details of events that they wish publicised across the District - on many occasions the event is likely to be of interest to local Clubs.

From 1st July, I will only be distributing District wide promotions that are likely to gain support. The DMS e-mailing application enables individuals to circulate information to a targeted audience – please make yourself familiar with this and use it to promote your events.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

The next District Council, including Handover. Takes place on THURSDAY 12th JULY – 7.15 pm start - @ Reigate Baptist Church.

The main speaker will be RIBI President Debbie Hodge, so please encourage as many members to attend as possible

It would be helpful if Clubs could indicate likely attendance (to ensure adequate supplies of tea, coffee & biscuits)

ROTARY BOOKS !

After the last District Council Meeting in March a number of Rotary publications (books) were found on a table in the foyer.

Do you know who they belong to? Please let the Secretary know so that they can either be returned or a decision made on their retention.

