



ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE



December is **Disease Prevention and Treatment month**. Our District is very active with projects including Polio, eye operations and safe water provision abroad and stroke prevention, cancer,

dementia and Alzheimers support and extensive care in the Community at home.

Coinciding with seasonal festivities much of the world also celebrates **Rotary Family month**. Our broad Rotary Family includes Rotakids, Interact, Rotaract and Rotary – not forgetting Inner Wheel. Proudly, I am now a member of King Athelstan Primary School Rotakids Club in Kingston (they overlooked my age)!! They bring special enthusiasm changing many lives whilst having great fun. **Does your primary school need Rotakids?**

I also met one of our 90 year old members, Ken Mead. As a D-Day veteran he was awarded the **Legion D'Honneur** at a reception at the French Embassy on 11 November for his part, at 17, in the liberation of France. Such a great and well deserved honour for an admirable man – and he will be out collecting with his club, Coulsdon Manor, on Saturday!! **Congratulations and thank you to Ken.**

Something is missing - our Rotary family rarely includes people between 30 and 50. **I joined Rotary in my '30s**. We need to engage the next Rotary generation to complete our Rotary Family. RIBI has experience in engaging prospective Rotarians with groups designed for their lifestyle. We now need to develop a group in every community where the next generation can feel they belong and enjoy Rotary. In RIBI we aim to start at least 250 such groups this Rotary Year. **Can one be in your club? Have you adopted a modern lifestyle or are you developing a new group**

of working Rotarians. In District we have two Club Presidents under 40. Elsewhere a 28 year old woman and a 22 year old man are Presidents. Rotary is really attractive to young working people who share our ideals – it is up to us to offer them a place to belong. RIBI is chartering an online club with nearly 40 next generation members. If they want to do projects in your community– **are you ready to attract them?** Can you open your Rotary to similar **low cost and low time** groups locally? The focus is on Causes and Projects not meals! Projects for volunteers aid member retention. We have had success with **Clubs with alternative meeting times** at breakfast - such as Guildford District and Godalming. They attract that next working generation. In other Districts happy hour, business networking, community volunteers, and on premise clubs (like the ones in Bentley Motors or Harlow Technical College) succeed - as do clubs with over 50% working members. One new group targeting Social Innovation does projects locally, meeting over Facebook. Others meet with their families at weekends. Think lifestyles of people developing their careers!! We need to enjoy our Rotary as now but offer our community groups that are right for next generation working Rotarians.

In readiness for the early 2018 launch of Rotary for this next generation you will have seen the **Rotary People of Action campaign materials**. **Are you using?** To be ready to play your part in the launch can you ensure your websites and Facebook pages are up to date and use the latest Rotary branding so prospective Rotarians see a really professional organisation. For support contact Anthony Beevor – antathome@btinternet.com.

We have around 20 new groups developing to welcome prospective Rotarians. **We need more!** Contact Paul Hickson if your club should be one - hicksonclan@hotmail.com.

Have a great Christmas and New Year.
James Onions, District Governor 2017/18
dg@rotarysouth.org.uk

Administration & Information

CLUB OFFICERS for 2018/19

By now all Clubs should have held their SGM to approve last year's Accounts and appoint the key officers for the next Rotary Year.

Once the appointments have been confirmed by the Club, please ensure that details are entered on the RI database



Future Events

- * The RC of Cheam & Sutton are holding a Quiz Night on Friday 19th January 2018 – full details on attached flyer.
- * The RC of Leatherhead are hosting a **BIG BAND** Concert on Thursday 12th April 2018 to raise funds for Prostate Cancer Awareness – full details on the attached flyer.
- * Mole Valley Rotary is holding a Balloon Debate on Wednesday 14th March 2018 – full details on the attached flyer.

Rotary Club Central & DMS Training

The programme has started with two AG areas now completed – if your Club has not attended or has not yet been notified of a date for training in your area, please speak with your AG.



Christmas is coming – Collections are being organised.

Once you have totalled up the sums collected over the Christmas period, please let Doug Price, Community Chair, know so that we can use this to help promote Rotary's benefits!!

doug-price@btconnect.com

