



Welcome to the New Rotary Year!

A new Rotary year is upon us, it does not seem that long ago I was preparing to take over as DGE. I would like to thank James and those of last year's District Team for all their hard work in making District 1145 one of the most successful districts in these islands.

The theme for this Rotary year outlined by the new RI President Barry Rassin is '**Be The Inspiration**'. We can do this by what we do and how we do it. We all are serving communities both here and overseas.

There are many reasons to come to Rotary as there are Rotarians maybe even a few more. Through Rotary, we are **Making a Difference** in the world; and the more involved we become, the more of a difference Rotary makes to each of us. Rotary challenges us to become better people: to become ambitious in the ways that matter, to strive for higher goals, and to incorporate **Service Above Self** into our daily lives.

Congratulations to all the new Club Presidents, who took up their posts on the 1st July, I look forward to working collectively with you all as we take on these challenges together.

However many of the same challenges await us and we must not be afraid to face these head on. That may mean clubs looking inwardly and maybe changing things in order to grow and prosper. We are a membership organisation that does service, without members we cannot continue to provide service to the people and communities that benefit from Rotary.

As we look to strengthen our clubs, we have two specific challenges: our gender balance and our average age. To keep our clubs strong, we need to build a membership that reflects the communities we serve and that will continue to develop knowledgeable Rotarians for generations to come.

I would like to ask you all to tell our story. Let our friends, our family, and our communities know what it is that we do as Rotarians. I know many of us don't give our time or service for the accolades. However, we owe it to those we help today and those we hope to help tomorrow to Tell Our Story. The only way that we will continue to receive the support, the membership, and the partnerships we need is to let people know who we are and what we do. So, I am personally asking you to Tell Our Story whether by word of mouth, social media or the printed word.



Each month in the Newsletter a chair of one of the District committees will provide you with information about their role and what they can do for you. This month it is Foundation, which I believe is so important to Rotary not only worldwide but to clubs within the District that have, can and will benefit in the future from grants provided by the Rotary Foundation. Also there will be news of events and projects that happen within our District. To start this year the project featured is one from my own club Chichester Priory. Bridging Generations won the Champion of Change award from RIBI in 2017/18.

I am excited, and honoured to serve as your District Governor for the 18/19 Rotary Year. I am particularly looking forward to visiting clubs and events throughout the year and to meet as many of you as I can. If there is any particular issue you want to raise please contact your AG or if you wish just talk to me. As they say my contact details are in the book.

Our District has some amazing clubs and Rotarians doing amazing projects both locally and internationally. The District team is here to serve clubs and Rotarians. We may be able to help you with advice, expertise, resources and possibly funds in order to help your clubs and projects. If you feel that you could assist in serving the District by being a member of the team please contact me.

The next date in the District diary is for the District Council meeting on the 12th July in Reigate. As well as being the District handover and committee reports we have the new RIBI President Debbie Hodge visiting us. It will be your opportunity to hear the direction of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland and to ask her questions. There will be speakers on topics that are very relevant to us in the District.

Let us serve our communities in the coming year with a smile on our faces and tell the world about Rotary. So let's go and '**Be The Inspiration**' to others and have a great Rotary year

David Easton

District Governor



Bridging Generations

Calling all Rotarians looking for a hands-on local Community project. Prompted by the need to try and alleviate loneliness and isolation in the community, the Rotary Club of Chichester Priory started a project at Chichester College of Further Education called “Bridging Generations”

It brings together lonely and isolated folk in Chichester with students in Health and Social Care aged 16-19. The idea is to help students feel comfortable talking to their elders and enable elders from 60-95 years to enjoy a day out chatting to the students and lunching together.

Each meeting takes place in the Students Union at the College every other Tuesday morning in term time from 11-12 noon followed by lunch in the College Restaurant. It’s purely a conversational meeting. Topics are discussed in a round-table manner with students mixed with the elders and rotated to give elders a chance to chat to every student attending. There are or 8 or 9 tables with biscuits and coffee provided by the College.

It is a win-win situation .The students get to practise their skills in conducting conversations, learn much from the elders and the elders meet students to give them some of their life experiences. About 20 elders and 30 students mingle at each meeting.

For students it is a bit like talking to granny or grandpa but to someone else's. Think how successful that can be. There is no pressure to conform to the curriculum or worry about the tutor taking control of the session. The tutors are present but allow students free rein to chat. We have noticed how far ranging the discussions can go sometimes touching on quite sensitive subjects. It is also clear that the students in the Restaurant develop their greeting and serving skills at lunch supervised by their tutor.

Isolated and lonely people are identified by word of mouth. An introductory phone call will explain the project and the format of the meetings to see whether they suit individuals who might be interested. For anyone who might have a mobility problem we use one of our local Community buses to pick up people in well designated areas or you could use your Rotary team. This is the only cost to the Chichester Priory RC. All the other costs room hire and refreshments are paid by the College. Elders pay for their own lunches.

The ingredients of success are threefold. Firstly a good contact with the Principal of your local College of Further Education to initiate interest. Secondly your colleagues in Rotary to get behind the scheme and find a leading member who will drive it forward. Finally ,it needs a regular commitment by the Rotary team to sustain the fortnightly meetings.

In Chichester we have approached the local MP to progress the concept through to the newly appointed Minister for Loneliness. The best conduit is through the Rotary world because it is a safe haven for risk assessments, insurance and protection issues.

For more information contact mikcharvey@aol.com



The Rotary Foundation

Many people ask what is The Rotary Foundation and why should we support it? The simple answer is – it is Rotary’s own charity. How is it different to other charities, firstly and most importantly it has the highest possible standards of Governance and one of the lowest administration costs of any charity. In the annual surveys of charities it scores in the top four on both of these measures.

The Rotary Foundation through Global Grants and District Grants fuels the many humanitarian Projects that Rotarians carry out around the world, with some impressive multipliers for Global Grants of 3.5 times the monies raised by your Club for your project. The Foundation is also one of the biggest funder of academic scholarships, particularly in the area of peace and conflict resolution and alumni of these programmes are active around the world helping to resolve the many issues that face our conflict ridden planet. Remember because you can carry out projects using Foundation funds it is the only major charity where you have any control over the way the money is spent.

What’s more The Foundation is also the funding engine for Rotary’s work to eradicate Polio, where the job is almost done, but where we must not waver in our determination and fund raising.

Enough of why you should support the Foundation, now to how do so. Firstly you can persuade your Club to run fund raisers for The Foundation for both for Annual Giving (which fuels the Grants side of The Foundation) and for Polio Eradication. Secondly if you really believe in this charity why not become a Sustaining Member and give on a regular basis, as little as £15 a quarter with Gift Aid achieves the Rotary International target of \$100 per annum for each member. Remember these donations also count towards your Club total.

If you want to know more about becoming a Sustaining Member or anything else about The Foundation why not contact Ron Daniels our District Foundation Chairman at ron.daniels@btopenworld.com.
