

## So you think that you might like to become a member of the Rotary Club of Yatton & District?

We are glad that you are thinking of joining us and would like to tell you a few things that will encourage you –

Rotary International began its life more than a hundred years ago and now has over 1.2million members belonging to individual clubs like ours, based in more countries worldwide than were involved in the 2012 Olympics!

All Rotary Clubs are non-political and secular (not-religious) although some clubs, like ours, do give a ‘thanks for the food’ when meeting on more formal occasions, in recognition of those in the world who’s daily struggle it is to find food, good health and comfort.

As a member of Rotary-Yatton you would be welcomed to visit or help out at any other Rotary club, anywhere in the world, because two of the common aims are to Help Others and Build Friendships.

So you can see that our ‘little’ club, based in Yatton, is a very small cog in the vast wheel of Rotary International - but vitally important for all that, because it demonstrates the Grassroots of Rotary in the British Isles - without small cogs this powerful wheel, designed for the enjoyment of creating friendships and helping others, would not turn.

Although the aim of each club is essentially the same clubs are, by definition, made up of individuals and the character of each person is slightly different and that, in turn, makes each individual club a bit different.

So now you are probably thinking - ‘Yes, but What is expected of me?’, ‘What is my time commitment?’ and ‘How much will it cost me?’.....

**What is expected of me?** – Essentially (if you’ve got this far!) we want your involvement and help in any way you feel you can; ‘many hands make light work’ and ‘three people meet, each with an idea, they tell the others and then each individual has three ideas rather than just the one they started out with’.....and all that sort of thing.....I’m sure you get the ‘drift’.

**What is my time commitment?** – Our club has two ‘red letter’ meetings each month most usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Evening. The 4<sup>th</sup> is normally a popular/topical Speaker Evening when spouses and friends are encouraged to come along (at a Speaker Meeting non-members are asked to make a donation of £2.50 toward club funds; members and their spouse/significant other are not asked). On the 2<sup>nd</sup> is our ‘Charities and Progress Meeting’ and what we discuss is evidenced in the title – you could call it our business meeting. Obviously we have other activities ranging from Bag Packing (occasionally) at a local garden centre, a visit to a local business through to the more regular quiz night, fund raisers or maybe just a ‘Natter Night’, we adapt to whatever members suggest.

Of course attendance at our activities is voluntary but as a member we need your involvement and generally we would expect to see you at the ‘red letter’ meetings, which currently are held at the Cadbury House Hotel (between Yatton and Congresbury) and normally start at 8.00pm and last about 1¼ to 1½ hours – **however** we do appreciate that for some people this day, time or location is not always possible but we can ‘accommodate’ someone who is keen to be a member and are in

that position but, as was said before, we do want and will value your 'input' e.g. When not at meetings we mainly communicate with each other through emails, our website and phone calls therefore if you are not able to make the 'Charities and Progress Meeting' we would want you to receive and read the Minutes of that Meeting and respond/make comment/ make suggestions, when needed etc. (Do you know that many Rotary Clubs meet at Breakfast! And that a very few in the world are so progressive, their members rarely physically meet at all, they are internet based 'e-clubs'!!).

**How much will it cost me?** – All members of the Rotary Club of Yatton & District are asked to set up a regular payment of £10 per month to the club. (We are happy for New Members to pay £12.50 per month – being the normal £10 plus an additional £2.50 for the first 10 months to cover the £25 joining fee). Some of the monthly £10 payment goes towards Rotary International and RIBI (Rotary International in the British Isles). You might like to know that 100% of the monies raised for charities including, for example, such major projects as 'End Polio Now', actually go to that charity without any expenses being taken from donations made by the public. The balance of your payment helps towards the clubs running costs and, of course, a club member plus their spouse, or a friend, are not asked to make a 'Speaker Night' contribution.

If you would like to make it, 'Red Letter' meetings at Cadbury are preceded by a waiter served hot main course & coffee (7.15 for 7.30 pm) – the current cost is £10 per meal. Most members set up their standing order for £30 per month because each meal payment is refundable on prior cancelation and payment this way helps ease the clubs admin making life easier for the Treasurer.

Well, there you have it! We hope you had chance to view the 'thought provoking' video clip beforehand. If you haven't seen it please click on the 'play' now....BUT first a word of Warning.....we are not all beautiful/ 'cappuccino' people working in plush offices as shown in the video.....far from it – in our club we have, for example, a small Shop Keeper, a Care Home Manageress, as well as a Retired Accountant, Bank Manager, Structural Engineer, an ex small business owner who now likes grandkids sitting and her quilt making and an enthusiastic amateur Beekeeper!

Oh!.....and we do have a club mascot which gets 'rolled out' when appropriate. The mascot is a huge attention seeking tom cat called Terry (as in Yeo-Terry...Ro-tary....get it? No, nor me). Terry has been around a bit and under a different alias he did walk the 31 miles through the Channel Tunnel, a televised event, before it was opened, on behalf of The Childrens Society charity. In recent times Terry has walked on The Downs in Bristol, with Carol Voderman, raising funds for Prostate Cancer-helped plant 42,000 purple crocuses around Yatton's roadsides in aid of the Rotary International End Polio Now Campaign and got to bow at the feet of Alex Lovell who filmed it for BBC TV Points West, Yatton raised enough money to be able to immunise the same number of babies against Polio as was the total population of Yatton, a fantastic achievement and producing beautiful colour that will occur during each February for years to come – the soggy moggy has been rescued from Portishead Marina by a Newfoundland Water Dog and abseiled down Avon Gorge near Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol for the South West MS Therapy Centre..... so you see that there's likely to be something for nearly everyone in our club – and with your help, ideas and involvement that will include you!

So please come to one or two of our meetings, check it out, meet the diverse crew, let's see how we get along to building a friendship to enjoy helping others.

Why am I personally a member of Rotary International?.....Well later in life when I had matured a bit more and had time to reflect I realised my luck in this life i.e. No world wars, not even 'called up', no hunger for food, the NHS for health, born into the part of the world where 10% of the world's population has 90% of its wealth – I realised I didn't and I couldn't change the world but I could give a bit back and make a little difference.

((Many people ask us about and maybe you have noticed our 'individual' club badge, which sits alongside the Rotary International Wheel. The idea of having 'our' badge came from visiting some Rotarians abroad. The layout was suggested and designed by some 'local' volunteers who felt that it would be good to depict some 'cross community' prominent landmarks from our area i.e. the ancient Cross in Congresbury, St Marys Church in Yatton, the Railway mainline (and Strawberry Line) Yatton Station and Yatton Rugby Football Club)).

And Finally - As was said once before 'if you have got this far' it would be nice to hear from you; please either contact us through the website or just contact me locally.

Looking forward to meeting you

**Tony Watkins on behalf of the Rotary Club of Yatton & District**

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'Rotary-Yatton'....'enjoy helping others and building friendships'.....male or female join in, do some good, feel enriched and have some fun!