

DISTRICT 1100 NEWSLETTER

December 2017



A brief extract first from my report to District Council on Dec 2nd, with a big thank you to the 80plus who gave up their Saturday morning:

I have now visited 61 of the 66 clubs in District 1100 and I thank you all for your warm welcome and hospitality, but just as importantly, I thank you for the work that you're doing to make a difference in your own community and in the wider world.

It's been a pleasure to visit all of you, even the ones where we've argued about the way forward.

I've tried to impress upon you, as I've toured around, that I think the best way to attract new people to Rotary is to be seen to be doing things in our own community.

I've tried to get over that I think that there are lots of people out there with a willingness to get involved with projects to help out either in their own community or elsewhere in the world, but I don't think there are so many who want to spend an hour and a half or two hours sitting round having a meal on a regular basis (although that might seem more attractive to them once they're involved in some other way).

I'm grateful to those clubs who have done something different, like Pershore and Monmouth, to try to attract new people to get involved.

But of course there are clubs who continue to attract new people to Rotary anyway, and we're grateful to you for that. Keep up the good work.

What of those of us who are in a bit of a rut though? Who've tried all the ideas going but still find that all our good work is being done by an increasingly smaller number of people?

Fear not - Help is at hand.....

And it's not a one solution fits all.

Peter Davey and his membership team (always looking for willing members to help spread the word) will help, those of you who want it, to work out exactly where you need the help and what type of help you need.

You might not be able to put your finger on exactly what needs attention - we can help you to look at yourselves.

You might be attracting new people but not keeping them - we can help you with orientation and mentoring.

And you might realise that the only way forward is to provide more flexible ways of meeting - we can help you with either building flexibility into your own structure or with nurturing a satellite group.

Talk to your Assistant Governor, who will be happy to get one of the team involved, depending on what you think you need.

I'm happy to tell you that we already have three potential satellite groups under discussion and we have two Rotary clubs (in Bristol and Gloucester) in active discussions with their respective Universities, about the possibility of using the Universities as hubs for Rotaract.

All these initiatives should mean that we'll attract some younger people to our great organisation - it's an exciting time to be a District Governor.

PEACE

(It was meant as a heading, but I do wish you peace and good health, especially at this really busy time of year).

The UK is hosting one of only six Peacebuilding Conferences around the world.

It is being held in Coventry, at The Ricoh Football Arena on Saturday 24th February and we will have RI President, Ian Riseley, and President Elect, Barry Rassin, as the main speakers.

If you apply before 25th Jan the registration cost will be £55 per person (£60 after that date) and exact details are on the District, RIBI and RI websites.

It would be great if a goodly contingent from District 1100 could come with me - how many chances do we get to see our International President in the flesh? Should we organise a coach?

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

We made the fundamental error of not offering an early bird discount on registration for our own conference (March 23/25 in Bournemouth) and, of course, there are logistical things which we need to sort out in good time, for which we need a good idea of numbers.

Please note therefore that we're asking for registrations to be made by January 31st, so that we can better plan our seating and banquet requirements.

Numbers going well so far, thank you - most encouraging.

Oh dear - no room for a joke.....

Alan Hudson

District Governor 2017/2018

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