

DISTRICT 1100 NEWSLETTER

July 2017



I send a warm hello from Anne and myself and our very best wishes for a successful year.

As you will soon come to understand, technology and I are almost complete strangers, so do bear with me. I hope to send out my thoughts to you on a monthly basis in this format, but I will be posting regular blogs as I make my way round the District. The blogs should appear on the District Website and on the District Facebook page.

For my first contribution, I'm going to share with you Rotary International President, Ian Riseley's foreword in the Rotarian Magazine, edited for the UK market, because his words really resonated with me and I'm proud to be "on his team".

"There are many reasons to come to Rotary, but each of us has stayed in Rotary because it adds something to our lives. 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 and to incorporate Service above Self into our daily lives.

What kind of difference Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians make through their service will always be their own decision. As an organisation, we are guided by three strategic priorities: to support and strengthen our clubs, to focus on and increase our humanitarian service and to enhance Rotary's public image and awareness.

As we look to strengthen our clubs, two specific challenges stand out: women are greatly under represented and our age profile is increasing every year. To keep our organisation strong we need to build a membership that reflects the communities we serve and that will continue to develop knowledgeable leaders for the next generations.

For many years, one idea has stood at the heart of all our service: sustainability. Sustainable service means that our work continues to have a positive impact long after Rotary's direct involvement has ended. We don't dig wells and walk away; we make sure communities can maintain and repair those wells. If we build a clinic, we make sure that clinic has a way to keep running without ongoing support from us. And when it comes to polio, we aren't working to contain it; we're working to end it.

For 112 years, Rotary has made a difference to more lives, in more ways, than we can ever count or will ever know. Today each of us bears a torch that has been passed forward from generation to generation."

In District 1100, I, and my team, will do our best to support you in whatever way you need. The Club Assemblies are now out of the way and you are about to embark on your year as President (not for the first time for some). Please take part in the meetings organised by your Assistant Governor and also come along to District Council, where we'll try to spread word of the good work being done by your club and the others in the District.

The next District Council meeting is not until September 6th, but could you please have a think about whether your club could have an impact at that meeting. We will be looking for good news stories on Education and Literacy (September's Rotary theme), Economic/Commercial assistance (October) and our own Foundation (November). Has your club got anything you would like to highlight at our meeting on Sept 6th? Let me know and we'll see if we can include it.

Please remember that 31st July is the last date for ordering Crocus Corms to support the Purple 4 Polio campaign. Rotary in Britain and Ireland planted 7 million crocuses in the last year and some of you got some fabulous publicity out of it. The aim is to plant 10 million crocuses this year. Please visit the Rotary in Britain and Ireland website for more details of how to order.

RI President, Ian, is very keen to encourage environmental works and, in particular, would love Rotary to be responsible for planting a tree for every member it has worldwide. We're currently in talks with The Woodland Trust, who are keen to support the initiative in the UK and I will be sending updates out on this over the next couple of issues - there are lots of suggestions going the rounds about whether we should plant in the UK or in countries which would receive more benefit from it and, ultimately, I suspect we will be left with the decision to make at our own club level, once full details of the options are available. As it currently stands, there will not be a cost implication to clubs for new trees in the UK, just lots of good publicity.

That's probably more than enough for this month - Have a great start to your year in office and enjoy it - the year will be over before we know it.

Alan Hudson

District Governor 2017/2018

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