



HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU?

(RICHARD PURDON, DG TALKS DIRECT TO YOU)



Well Spring has come – and the crocuses are appearing. Some purple and a few yellow!!

Good luck to all the clubs with the Jam fund raising programme, and Tea parties this week to celebrate International Women's Day. We pledged to the women of the World that we would rid the planet of Polio. So far this year, there have only been 3 cases of the crippling disease- so we really are bridging the gap. What I learnt this weekend is that there are over 125,000 people who are suffering from Post Polio Syndrome, in GBI. So there is still much support Rotary can give.

So the next main event is our District Conference in Torquay. Over the 3 days of 17-19th March, we will gather with over 475 Rotarians and partners. The programme is on the website right in the middle of the home page. I point of clarity!! Those would have booked in to the Grand for the Murder Mystery buffet, but are not resident there, are welcome to join in from 6.30p.m. So you do not have to eat out first!! . The Gala Dinner is

black tie and full bling on the Saturday. So I must take an early opportunity to say a big thank you on all our behalf to PDG Jan Harris and her Conference Team for doing a sterling job with all the preparations.

I am also delighted to confirm that we have been successful in gaining 2 candidates for the Rotary Champion of Change awards in the House of Lords in April. 1 was for helping many Young Adults, with Special needs, in the Gloucester Area; and the other was for very special help for people in Nepal. I will update you more after Helen and I have taken the winners to London.

I have been delighted to hear about the great success of the Youth Competitions. The Young Chef event was another great final. And the Young Musician District event is this Sunday the 12th at Dean Close School, in Cheltenham. We put a great deal of time and effort into all of these opportunities for our children. Long may this continue!!

I also had great pleasure in going to the official charter opening of a second Interact Club in Worcestershire. I would ask all incoming Presidents to consider opening 1 of these in their year. It really is inspirational to see what these students can achieve as well as all the other things they do in the curriculum.

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