



Geoff Cooper
geoffcooper29@gmail.com

I feel hugely privileged to be leading the first District 1210 Vocational Study Exchange (VSE) team. I am a relatively new Rotarian and am honoured by the faith put in me to do this.

I am now retired but I was Headteacher of an 11-18 High School for 16 years followed by 2 years advising schools of all kinds in leadership and management matters. This was such a wonderful opportunity to have an impact on so many young people's lives. On retiring, my wife, Jane, and I spent 2 rewarding years living and working as volunteers in Ethiopia. My work was with school leaders in the north of the country, an exciting but humbling experience.

Jane and I have three children. The five grandchildren occupy much of our time but there is still plenty of time to commit to Rotary. Jane and I are members of the Rotary Club of Stafford Knot. We have a particular interest in the Polio Programme, having been to India to support vaccinations. We also do voluntary work for the Red Cross and I help on the local canals. We love to travel and I enjoy regular games of golf. Beyond that, I am an enthusiast for real ale and have my own small microbrewery.

Anona Potts
anona1@hotmail.co.uk

I'm 21 and I am a trainee tree surgeon. I work for a local housing association, the Accord Group. My colleagues and I carry out maintenance and repair work on trees owned by housing associations within the Accord Group. As I am still a trainee, most of the work I do is on the ground: chipping, stump grinding, detangling ropes, refuelling machinery and keeping the site safe for residents and the general public. I am qualified to use a chainsaw to fell



small trees and hope to begin my climbing training very soon. I can't wait to join my colleagues in the trees!

I have a passion for wildlife and the outdoors, especially birds. In my spare time I volunteer at Sutton Park NNR. At a recent event called Bioblitz I discovered a species of digger wasp that had not been recorded since 1904! My other passions are working on my wildlife garden at home, listening to music, tattoos and Transformers. I would like to thank Willenhall Rotary Club very much for being my sponsor.



Preet Bhachu
preetbhachu11@gmail.com

I live with my parents, Gurjeet and Satminder, and my younger sisters Dheep and Moneet. We live in Perry Barr, Birmingham. I graduated from the University of Wolverhampton in September 2014 with a 2:1 in Psychology.

Around the same time, I began work as a Graduate Intern in Admissions at the University of Wolverhampton. My ultimate goal is to become an Educational Psychologist, so in order to gain the required experience, I will be starting the PGCE Primary Education with Mathematics course at the University of Wolverhampton. The course is due to start 2 days after we land back in the UK in September!

I enjoy volunteering in my spare time, regularly working with a charity organization called Let Us Play (Wolverhampton). I thoroughly enjoy this work, as I know that the young people get the chance to try activities they may not usually have access to, such as sensory play and cooking. My favourite activity is arts & craft. Recently, I've taken up photography and really enjoy taking photographs of nature – specifically flowers. I often find myself wishing I'd brought my camera along with me, spotting 'perfect photo opportunities' all the time! I can't wait to photograph Norway!

I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Walsall Saddlers, who will be sponsoring me. I will do my very best to put their investment to good use!

Ashley Lovell
ashley.lovell@accordgroup.org.uk



I am 24 and I live in Darlaston with my parents. After leaving school I studied ICT and Business management at college for four years. While studying I was elected as the Student Union President and I was also a Governor for four years. While at college I set up the college's LGBT group and held a number of talks on equality at conferences. I was then an apprentice and I have recently completed an online event management course.

In my spare time I love reading and drawing. I have also been active politically, having run in two local elections and campaigned on a range of issues. Five months ago I was scared of water; so learning to swim has been my biggest achievement for some time. I now go to the gym and I also take part in a three mile run on Saturdays.

I currently work for a social housing provider as a Customer Engagement Officer which is incredibly varied and is evolving on a monthly basis. Currently my role includes supporting customer forums, planning and leading on projects and events such as the customer conference. I also monitor the team's performance and ensure that all our customers are happy with the service we provide. I use a range of methods to ensure that our customers have a voice within the organisation. I am very grateful to Darlaston Rotary Club for sponsoring me



Hywel Benbow
hywelbenbow@outlook.com

I work for Ofsted as an Analyst. Ofsted is a Government Department that inspects and regulates educational settings and social services for children and young people. I have worked for Ofsted for almost three years, prior to this I worked in local government.

I'm looking forward to learning about the Norwegian

public sector, its challenges and successes and sharing ideas.

My home town of Oswestry is situated very close to the border with Wales. I try to travel as much as possible and I hope to experience as much of the world and meet as many people as I can. I also love cooking and probably own too many cook books.

I'm very excited about meeting host families, learning traditions and values and tasting all the wonders Norway has to offer! I am being sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ellesmere for which I'm extremely grateful and I look forward to telling club members all about the exchange and my experience on my return.



Carol Reilly

careilly50@gmail.com

District VSE Chair

District 1210 Governor 2017-18

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

We are extremely honoured and proud to be able to undertake our inaugural VSE visit with District 2305, during the Rotary

year 2015-16. The District 1210 Team led by Team Leader Geoff are very much looking forward to their exchange in August. We are just as excited about receiving your team later in the Rotary year.

In District 1210, we really value friendships and partnerships made across the Rotary world and I am sure we will build on this in the years to come. I know both teams will be ambassadors for Rotary and our Districts, by their learning and cross-fertilisation of ideas and projects. Both teams I am sure will 'Be a Gift to the World'.

The District 1210 VSE Committee send their personal greetings to all Rotarians in District 2305 and they thank you very much for your hard work and supporting this project to the benefit and development of young people in both our Districts.



Richard Green

richard.green51@talktalk.net

District 1210 Governor, 2015-16

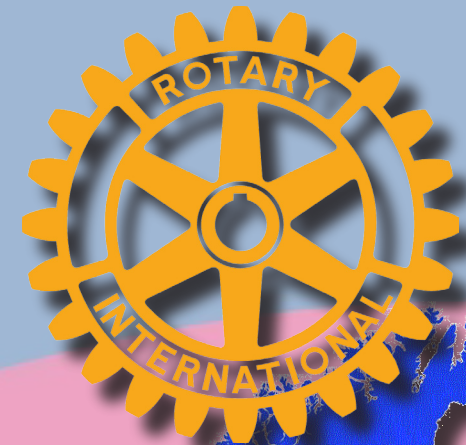
I am very pleased to be able to send Greetings to all our friends in Rotary International District 2305. Our District is located in the heart of England and includes the counties of Shropshire, Staffordshire and parts of the West Midlands.

Shropshire is largely rural, having beautiful countryside and historic market towns including the fine market town of Shrewsbury, the birthplace of Charles Darwin. It also includes Telford which incorporates the Ironbridge Gorge on the River Severn, a UNESCO World Heritage site, known throughout the world as the birthplace of the industrial revolution.

Staffordshire includes large towns such as Stoke on Trent and Stafford as well as attractive countryside. Stoke is world famous for its pottery industry with internationally known names such as Wedgwood, Spode and Royal Doulton. The West Midlands area is colloquially known as the 'Black Country' because of the smoke its factories and mines once produced. In modern times newer, cleaner industries such as Jaguar Land Rover in Wolverhampton have become established.

Our District has 55 clubs with 1650 Rotarians, and there are at least 3 new Flexible and Innovative or Satellite clubs being formed, and the new venture of a VSE project is typical of the forward, enthusiastic thinking shown by our members.

We are delighted that we have been able to forge strong links with the Rotarians in District 2305. I send my personal greetings to District Governor Odd Hagen, who I have had the pleasure of meeting both at the Rotary International Assembly and the recent Rotary International Convention; I also send Greetings from all the clubs in our District to our fellow Rotarians in District 2305.



Vocational Study Exchange 2015

District 1210 visit to District 2305

