



DG 1210 NEWSLETTER



At this season of festive goodwill, it's pleasing to be able to report two items of good news.

The Rotary Foundation, our own, and only, charity has been named in the top ten charities in the world. Charity Navigator, a service that provides information about the propriety of charities, by measuring finances, management and achievements, has ranked the Rotary Foundation at 96.31, on a scale of 1 to 100.

We can all take pride in this announcement, which justifies the support you, and the public, give.

The second piece of good news concerns membership in or District. As we approach the half way point of the Rotary year, it's pleasing to report that I have just written the 43^d. letter of welcome to new Rotarians. Well done – this is a superb effort of recruitment, and I must make a special mention of the Ludlow club, who have inducted 12 new Rotarians!

At the Rotary International Institute in Kenilworth, I was privileged, on your behalf, to take part in the Flag Ceremony and I felt especially proud to be asked to bear the flag of Sri Lanka, which is, of course, the home nation of our International President Ravi Ravindran. As many of you have heard me say during my club visits, Ravi is a man of great dignity and presence, yet, as you talk to him, he also has a wicked sense of humour and he is proving to be a terrific worldwide leader.





The Institute also raised the profile of District 1210 in another very satisfying way. We had arranged for our pioneering Vocational Study Exchange project to have a display in the House Of Friendship.

There was a lot of interest from a large number of delegates, coming not only from within RIBI, but from many countries in wider Europe and Scandinavia. President Ravi visited the display and was very impressed as DGE John Sayer, DGN Carol Reilly and DGD Ashley Gray, ably assisted by Lynne, and District Secretary Brian Reilly, explained the project to him.



It has been my very great pleasure to visit a large number of clubs' Tree of Light or Remembrance ceremonies, including those at Telford and area clubs, Wolverhampton, Ludlow and Church Stretton/Craven Arms and the response from the public has been tremendous. I wish all the clubs well with your fund raising efforts.



Another wonderful Christmas event was the annual concert at Newport. There was a difference this year in that it was organised by NewportLite and featured a large number of young people in the area, including the stunningly good Burton Borough School Big Band – they just get better and better. The concert organisation was led by Angie Wood and Jane Evans and they did a superb job – President Maurice Randall, and Father Christmas are rightly proud of the Newportlite members.



Stafford Knot, Aldridge and Cannock were among the District 1210 clubs that gave disabled and disadvantaged children a day out they will remember for a very long time at Drayton Manor Park under the Kids Out Christmas event. The delight on the children's faces as they enjoyed the rides and visited the zoo was a reminder of what being a Rotarian is all about. Next year's Christmas Day Out is already scheduled for Tuesday, December 6th and I urge clubs to put this date into their diaries to ensure many more children go along.

Recent District Conferences have received almost universal praise from those who attended. A small number of suggestions have been received that could lead to improvements, so the District Executive has decided to conduct a survey to help with the planning of future conferences. Assistant Secretary Roger Garland will shortly be issuing the questionnaire by email to every Rotarian in the District to seek your views.

I send you all my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

The Rotarians in District 1190, Lancashire and Cumbria, have mobilised to give community support following the devastating floods in the NorthWest. I have asked our District Emergency Response officer, Lawrence Wallace to co-ordinate donations and offers of support on behalf of District 1210. Clubs in District 1190, via their District Governor, have asked that we use one point of contact for this, to avoid their time, which is much needed on the local disaster response, being spent on responding to well meaning, but wasteful multiple phone calls.

I will be issuing further information about this in the next 2 days.

Dates for your diaries:

December 2015:

16th. Stafford – Christmas Social – Brocton Hall Golf Club. 7pm. £27. Black tie or smart casual.
C.E. Simpson. 01785 256922.

20th. - Six Towns Stoke on Trent – 2.45pm – Trentham Gardens – Santa Sleigh. Meet at Chivelstone Convenience Store Burington Drive, also – 21st. - 5.45pm Meir Haye – meet at Dominos Pizza, Amison Street, and, 22nd. - 5.45pm - Lightwood, meet at New Florence Inn, Lightwood Road.

January 2016:

13th. Six Towns Stoke on Trent – the provisional club is moving well towards being chartered and they deserve our support. The club is meeting at it's new venue – Crossways Micropub, 246, Uttoxeter Rd, Blythe Bridge. 7pm.

21st. Aldridge – International Night. Littleton Restaurant, Wiseman Campus, Littleton Street West, Walsall, WS2 8ES.
6.30pm. £16. Speaker – Jane Berwick-Green, Ebola Street Child.
Brian Mayling. 07836 507732.

22nd. Walsall – Burns Night. Calderfields Golf Club. £24.95. Black tie or kilts!
Nick Gray – ngray@graysofshenstonee.co.uk

22nd. Telford Centre – Burns Night. Wroxeter Hotel, SY5 6TH. £25.
Alan Baguley. alan.baguley@gmail.com.

28th. Brownhills – Concert – 7.30pm - Shire Oak Academy Jazz Orchestra and Aldridge Ukele band.
7.30pm, Silver Street Methodist Church, Brownhills, WS8 6ER.

To raise funds to purchase a defibrillator for Brownhills High Street.
Deryck Langford -croft16@gmail.com.

February 2016:

5th. Bilston and Wolverhampton West – Comedy Showstoppers variety show. 7pm. Springvale Social Club, WV14 0QB.
£10. Raising funds for Green Park School.
Ken Dolman – ken.dolman@talk21.com

