



Rotary Alumni 1210 Newsletter

August 2016

Velkommen to Rotary Alumni 1210

Welcome to the 3rd newsletter of Alumni 1210: The Alumni Association of Rotary District 1210.



A special velkommen our 4 new members from Norway; Tore, Alex, Auden and Magnus were members of the Vocational Study Exchange Team from Norway.



A special welcome to new member Rotarian Robyn Davies PHF, an ex-Rotaractor and President of Rotary Club of The Wrekin



And a special welcome also to Ambassadorial Scholar Rotarian Ann Syrett PHF who became a member of Alumni 1210 during her return visit to District 1210, 43 years after spending her Ambassadorial study year here.

District 1210 Alumnus Dr Jeremy Johnson MBE is nominated for The Rotary Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award.

The Rotary Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award recognizes one outstanding Rotary alumnus each year whose humanitarian service and professional achievements demonstrate the impact of Rotary's programs. Each of Rotary's 34 Worldwide Zones are eligible to nominate an outstanding alumnus or alumna for the award. The Foundation Trustees then select ONLY ONE global winner from among the zone winners.



Jeremy was selected from the 15 Districts in Zone 17, to be the Zone 17 Winner. Zone 17 includes all Clubs in England, Wales, Scotland and the whole of Ireland. This itself is a wonderful achievement, but there is stiff competition from other Zone Winners around the world. Previous winners of the GASHA have been of such a stunning standard, and there can only be one winner each year. The winner will be announced in October 2016.

Jeremy became a Rotarian at the Rotary Club of Shrewsbury Darwin in 1999. Within 2 years he was appointed

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Chairman of the club's International Committee and worked tirelessly to forge links with the Rotary Club of Indiranagar, Bangalore, India, resulting in the two clubs forming a twinning agreement. Jeremy led the campaign to raise funds for the treatment of cancer, renal problems and a training programme for eye surgery to rectify problems caused by diabetes and cataracts. Jeremy's efforts and enthusiasm raised many thousands of dollars to alleviate the health problems of poor people in Bangalore.

After serving in numerous roles at the club, he was elected to serve as club President in 2006/7; he was appointed as Rotary Foundation GSE Team leader to District 4860, Argentina, in 2007/8. On his return, he became a member of both the District Foundation (2009/12) and GSE committees (2008/13). He became the vice chair of the District International Committee in 2008/9 and the Chairman from 2009 until 2012. In this capacity he introduced Shelter Boxes, Water Boxes and Life Straws to District 1210 and led the spearheading of numerous Matching Grant projects, in Africa, India and South America. The areas he was keen to promote were Health and Hunger, Water and sanitation and Literacy. His particular areas of interest were "correctable Blindness" and the promotion of Intercare: getting unused, in-date medicines out to areas of need in Africa.

Jeremy was a founder member of our District 1210 Alumni Association in 2009 and remains an enthusiastic member of our group. Even though he is now living and working in Bangalore, He maintains contact with the former members of his GSE Team and several other alumni.

It was Jeremy's experience as a Rotary Foundation GSE Team leader that encouraged him to make use of his worldwide acquaintances as opportunities for service. This included mentoring the Karunashraya Hospice in Bangalore for which he had been instrumental in its founding. The GSE experience also fostered a wish for Jeremy to expand his Rotary service by serving in many roles at District level as described above, which in turn led to humanitarian service on International projects by the use of matching grants and personal contact, particularly in India. As a result of the GSE experience he continues to use his considerable professional expertise in service to humanity, always maintaining the connection to Rotary ethics.

Congratulations Jeremy on your well-deserved nomination

Spotlight on Rotary Youth Competitions



Thousands of youngsters across Great Britain and Ireland take part every year in Rotary Youth Competitions which in most cases take the form of local, district and regional heats followed by a national final. The majority are categorised into 3 groups: junior for 7-10 year olds; intermediate for 11-13 year olds and the advanced age group category for those aged 14-17 years.



Rotary Clubs throughout District 1210 hold many of these competitions at local level. Talented youngsters can be seen throughout the District demonstrating their enthusiasm and their photographic, culinary, musical and public speaking skills in the various competitions. It is vital that we stay "connected" with these youngsters to maintain and nurture their interest in Rotary.



Rotary "Reconnect"

We are attempting to get in touch with any young person who has taken part in a Rotary programme with a view to them receiving Alumni 1210 Newsletter and Reconnecting with Rotary. If you are aware of any youngster, please let us know.



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Rotary Young Chef

Cooking amongst young people is a valuable life skill. Contestants are required to prepare, cook and serve a healthy 2 course meal for two people comprising a main course and dessert costing no more than £10 in total for the ingredients. A team of judges drawn from an expert panel assess the competitors on a range of skills, finally ensuring the meal is served at the correct temperature, taste and presentation.

Rotary Youth Speaks

To encourage speaking and presentation skills in young people this competition showcases superb quality speakers. Last year 2015-16, teams of young people were discussing topics from fracking to feminism.

Uttoxeter Rotary Club held their annual public speaking competition and again this year the standard of speaking was extremely high with topics as diverse as Cheating in Sport, Leaves and Birthdays.

The winners were: in first place James Bown with his talk entitled The Red Lizard, second place Yasmin Perrins whose talk was about Women's Football and Sophie Brown who spoke about Table Manners



Rotary Young Musician

Music is an international language and Great Britain and Ireland is home to some of the most talented young instrumentalists and vocalists in the world. The RIBI Young Musician competition encourages this talent by providing an opportunity for the thousands of young people who enter each year, to demonstrate their musical skills.

The competition is a celebration of the talent of young musicians who have progressed through local club competitions, district competitions and regional finals to reach the national final. There they compete to take home the prestigious title of RIBI Young Musician.

District 1210 was alive with the sound of music at this year's National Final on 30th April. Wrekin Rotarians were proud to help with the stewarding and running of a very impressive, successful and well organised event. Congratulations to Isabel Irvine and Xander Croft, who are the winners of this year's Rotary Young Musician competition!



Rotary Young Writer

A flair for creative writing is a special gift and this competition promotes and encourages the work of young people who show talent. The winning writers are subsequently published in Rotary magazines.

Rotary Young Citizen Awards

These showcase and celebrate the positive citizenship and important responsibilities demonstrated by people under the age of 25. In the year of the next Paralympic Games in Rio we also have a new award the "Rotary Young Citizen Wheelchair Sports Award" sponsored by the British Wheelchair Sport Charity Wheelpower, with whom Rotary has partnered to help transform the lives of disabled people through sport.

The Young Citizen Award is something that District 1210 has not been involved with at RIBI level. Rotary Club of Stafford Knot thought Geraldine Lownes worthy of recognition. At 23 she is the youngest volunteer involved with the Mid Staffordshire Monthly Alzheimer's Support Evening Group (MASE). Throughout District 1210 there are many Rotary Clubs that recognise similar good work and commitment from young people.

A presentation evening by Leek Rotary Club was held at St Edward's Academy to celebrate the winners of the Rotary Young Citizen Awards. These young people had given a huge amount of effort to raise funds in order to help others. Intermediate 11-13 years Group Award winners, nominated by Liz Clarke, were Harry Grime, Thomas Hewson, Dexter Skelding and Marcus Dawson. £100 was given to the Charity "Lucas' Legacy".

Rotary Young Photographer

Photography is a talent and an ever popular art form. Entrants submit three photographs on a theme in black and white or colour, along with a description of the inspiration for their photographs. Rotary



Young Photographer winner from Barr Beacon School sponsored by Aldridge Rotary



Vocational Study Exchange Team from Norway D2305

The Vocational Study Team from Norway arrived at Birmingham Airport on Saturday 30th April. Team Members: Alexander Samuelsen Foss, Audun Granskogen, Magnus Rynning Nielsen and Team Leader Tore Nilsen. The team spent two weeks investigating their vocations in this country, visiting Rotary Clubs as well as some local cultural visits. These included a Guided tour of the World of Wedgwood Museum and Factory, a Visit to the Keele University Sustainability Hub, spending a day with Stafford Citizens Advice Bureau, a Visit to the Mayor's Parlour at Stafford Borough Council hosted by The Worshipful the Mayor of Stafford, visiting RAF Cosford and a tour of Ironbridge.



"The VSE 2016 has been an excellent experience for the Team Members; creating opportunities for new knowledge, learning and practicing the English language, establishing new networks, and discovering new landscapes with its history, culture and people."

"We enjoyed a Team of District and Club officers and members that really were committed to serve us during the VSE 2016 fortnight. Bringing in mind that Rotary participation basically is a pastime activity, we were impressed by the members' response and follow-up of our visit. We are very grateful for that, and we hope to remain in contact District and Club-wise as well as personally."

Tore Nilsen. Team Leader VSE 2016 D1210/D2305

Vocational Study Exchange is an innovative scheme developed by District 1210, which arranges for non-Rotarians to study their vocation in another country. To find out more about the programme send us a message.

Message from DG John Sayer



I am delighted to contribute to this edition of the Rotary Alumni 1210 Newsletter. Rotary is large international family – and our alumni are part of that family, and we need to keep in touch with one another.

This year The Rotary Foundation celebrates its centenary – 100 years of doing

Good in the World. It funded the programmes that so many of you participated in, as well as so much more. We are also very close to achieving our long term aim of eliminating Polio from the World, and it would be wonderful if we could see the last case of Polio in this historic year.

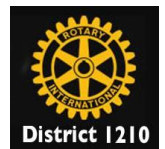
Our Vocational Study Exchange programme is a success and this year we are exchanging with a Rotary International District which is located in the South of Germany. We look forward to hearing all about our team's experiences when they return in September, and greeting the German team when they arrive here next Spring.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the events which are

being organised for Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week or perhaps at one of my many visits to Rotary meetings and events in this part of the world. Rotary is fun and also extremely rewarding – we all get a 'buzz' from putting something back into the community – so why not make contact with the Club which sponsored you on your programme and find out what they are up to.

You can also keep up to date with Rotary in this part of the world by taking a look at our monthly newsletter – it will be published early each month on our website: www.rotary1210.org

Best wishes
District Governor John Sayer



Reconnecting with Alumni 1210

Ann Syrett presented with her Alumni pin badge during her return visit to District 1210

We reported in our previous Newsletter of the upcoming visit of Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Alumna Ann Syrett PHF. Ann addressed the Rotary Club of Newcastle-under-Lyme on Tuesday 12 April at 1.00pm. Afterward she was welcomed as a member of Alumni 1210 and presented with her Alumni Pin Badge by DG Richard Green.

Take a look at her inspiring words -



By Ann Syrett, former Ambassadorial Scholar and member of the Rotary Club Sunrise of Road Town, British Virgin Islands

"In April, I paid an emotional visit to the Rotary Club of Newcastle-under-Lyme that had hosted my Ambassadorial Scholarship more than 40 years ago while I attended Keele University in North Staffordshire, England.

As I shared my experiences with them, I reflected upon how much the experience had changed my life. I grew up in Astoria, Oregon, and the cultural differences between small town USA and Keele University were immense. I was delighted by the warmth of my welcome and at the opportunity to speak to 35 Rotary clubs, Round Table clubs (an association of young business professionals founded by a British Rotarian in the 1920s), and similar organizations during my year. It gave me the confidence to pursue a career as a diplomat.

After my scholarship year, I graduated from the University of Birmingham with a Master's degree in West African history and economics. I signed up with the U.S. Foreign Service and spent the next 30 years traveling the world, representing my country in Rwanda, Great Britain, Haiti, France, Antigua, and Egypt. I also had several assignments at the U.S. State Department in Washington D.C., before retiring to the British Virgin Islands with my husband, Tony, a former Lt. Commander in the British Royal Navy. I am now heavily involved in the Rotary Club Sunrise of Road Town, British Virgin Islands.

Every dime, every cent, every dollar, every pound we give to The Rotary Foundation is put to good use.

As Rotary members, we are regularly asked to give to The Rotary Foundation. This may seem like a very big picture operation. However, that big picture is actually made up of thousands and thousands of individual pixels, representing the individual projects, scholarships, grants, etc., that the Foundation supports.

I was one of those pixels. My life was changed and directed by my year as an Ambassadorial Scholar. Going from small town American girl to worldly-wise Scholar to American diplomat with a 30 year career AND a wonderful English husband were all results of the journey Rotary set me upon. I can personally tell you that every dime, every cent, every dollar, every pound we give to the Foundation is put to good use.

The impact of those donations, given so long ago, are still felt strongly in my life. Your contributions to the Foundation resonate around the world, year in and year out. In my case, 43 years out!"

Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week 2016-17 9th October (Sunday) to 15th October (Saturday)



Save the date:

SUNDAY 9TH OCTOBER

Alumni 1210 will be celebrating Alumni Reconnect Week – Events are planned throughout the week. Our main event will take place on SUNDAY 9TH OCTOBER. Please keep this day free in your diary!

More details to follow



For the latest news,
updates and events

Alumni 1210: The Alumni Association of Rotary District 1210

Members of Alumni 1210 were inspired to develop Rotary Books4Home Project when reading an article in RotaryToday Magazine. They read about a scheme that the Rotary Club of South Worcestershire had developed from the Literacy Reading Project that many Rotary Clubs are involved with, where Rotarians go in to schools and listen to children read. Many of the Rotary Clubs in District 1210 are also involved in this work. The article explained that RC of South Worcestershire has discovered that the children in the school they are working in have very little access to books at home. In response to this The Rotary Club donates pre-used books to the school. The children are able to choose a book and take it home and keep it forever. This part of the article was inspiring.



A little further research revealed that it is not uncommon for children to have limited access to books at home. In England only one in 3 girls and only one in every 4 boys have a book of their own at home. That means almost four million children in the UK do not own a book according to a report by the National Literacy Trust. It suggested that a third of all children (33.2%) did not have books of their own.



Further studies show there is a direct correlation between book ownership and children's reading abilities. Children who own books are more likely than others to read every day. Of the children and young people with books of their own, more than half read above the level expected for their age, with fewer than one in 10 reading below the level. By contrast, among those without books of their own, nearly a fifth are failing to meet the expected reading level, with only a third reading above that level.



Alumni 1210 members discovered that many, many children living in District 1210 do not own a book of their own. It became obvious that there was clear and overwhelming need to set up a similar project to the one in South Worcestershire. In response to this Rotary Books4Home was established.

Books4Home is a project developed to give children more opportunities to read and own books. Studies show that children who read well have a better chance to succeed in life and so we want to help more children discover the joy of reading and owning books.

Books4Home have access to a large supply of sustainable donated pre-used children's books. Rotary Clubs donate these unwanted books to local schools where the children **choose a book -take it home -read it -keep it.**

This is a great way to empower children of all ages. The project is running in Nursery, Infant, Junior, High and Special Educational Needs schools throughout the whole area of District 1210. Many schools have returned time after time for replacement books to fill up empty shelves.

Rotary Books4Home Project is a huge success. Over 12,500 children have been given a book of their own, to take home and keep forever. There is still plenty of work to be done. Our aim is to ensure every child in District 1210 (and beyond) owns at least one book of their own.

It will be a book that they love to read, over and over again, and a book that they can keep at home forever and ever. **Contact us to get involved with this great project.**



Rotary Alumni 1210 Newsletter

District 1210
England

Contact Details

Co-chair: Bob Cliff
bobandlesley@btinternet.com
(RC Burslem)

Co-Chair: Beverley Ricketts
beverley@btinternet.com
(Alumni 1210)

www.RotaryAlumni1210.co.uk

email: alumni1210@btinternet.co.uk

Membership Information

Alumni 1210 has not established any dues or financial commitment for membership.

The members will seek to inform other Alumni about the Association and encourage their participation. They request the assistance of Rotary clubs in this endeavour.

The Association plans to meet annually at a District Event although the officers will meet more frequently.