

Issue No: 1

1st August 2016

John's Jottings



The Newsletter from John Sayer, District Governor of Rotary International District 1210 (covering most of Staffordshire, Shropshire, Walsall and Wolverhampton)

The District Governor's Month

The month really started on 24th June at the District Handover Dinner, an opportunity for the District to come together to celebrate the end of the 2015/2016 Rotary year and to look forward with optimism to the new Rotary year.

One of my key objectives for this year is to increase the level of contributions to the End Polio Now Campaign, and I see my role as raising awareness – so I was 'delighted' to be persuaded to wear purple nail varnish on two of my finger nails. Thank you to the two PDGs who conceived the idea and then put it into practice that evening. Fortunately the varnish came off before I went to the supermarket the following morning.



Presenting IPDG Richard with his PDG Jewel (photo Tim Joyce)

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I was invited to attend the Handover Dinner of the Shawbury & Mid-Shropshire Club and formally present them with their certificate to confirm their new name, Shrewsbury Severn, which took effect from 1st July.

The weekend of the 2nd & 3rd July was a busy time for me – Wolverhampton Best Foot Forward on the morning of the 2nd, followed by the RIBI handover event and launch of the Purple4polio campaign in London that evening, and then on Sunday a quick return to home ground to join the Ellesmere Club at their Regatta.



Wolverhampton Best Foot Forward – with President Stuart Williams and End Polio Now Champion Fraser Dukes



Ellesmere Regatta – the winning men's team (photo Clare Stone)

On Tuesday 5th July I was at the Charter event of the Wrexham Glyndwr Club – in District 1180, the Club was formed and chartered in just 5 months – if they can do it, so can we!

A really rewarding day at the Wrekin Sports Day for the Disabled on 9th July, I helped out in the morning and early afternoon, before changing into my more formal jacket and tie to present medals alongside the Mayor of Telford & Wrekin.



What a great day we had at the Wrekin Sports Day for the Disabled (photo Trevor Davies)

I was delighted to attend the Pre-tour concert of the Wolverhampton Youth Orchestra and present the Musician of the year with the Rotary prize (a quite sizeable cheque). They are such talented young people.

It was a privilege to be able to thank David Cave for his many years of support to the Youth Orchestra in particular as well as Rotary in general. He is a superb photographer who can make anybody look much better than they are in real life (just look at the photograph on the header of this Newsletter). Thank you David for all that you have done in the past – and hopefully in the future.



Thank you David for all that you have done for Rotary (photo Brian Reilly)

Sunday 24th July saw me at the Ludlow Club's Fun Dog Day – a really enjoyable day out which I believe will have raised a great deal of cash for the Club's charities.

During the month I have visited thirteen Clubs to meet the members, hear all about their successes, speak about our plans for the current Rotary year and listen to their concerns. My thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality shown to me at: Aldridge, Church Stretton, Darlaston, Dudley, Endon-Stockton Brook, Ironbridge, Newcastle, Shrewsbury, Stafford, Tettenhall, Wednesfield, Wellington and Wolverhampton.

Featured District Activity:

Each month I intend to mention just one of the many activities which we undertake with such success in this Rotary District. This month **Lendwithcare**

Lendwithcare brings together entrepreneurs in developing countries with people with the power to help them - people like us. Run by one of the world's leading aid and development organisations, Lendwithcare is a revolutionary way for us to help people in the developing world to transform their lives

In this District Mike Evans (RC Stafford Castle) became interested in microfinance about five years ago. After looking into the idea and 'road-testing' it he has, through our District International team, encouraged Clubs to participate. We now have 25 clubs taking part in the programme and have exceeded £50,000 of total loans (including reinvestment of loan repayments). No defaults have been reported with loan contributions to 1200 small businesses in developing countries. We are now the 6th largest team (out of 523) on the Lendwithcare website having just moved up one place.

If you would like to know more, get in touch with Mike, or me.

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End Polio Now:

Many of you will by now be aware that each of the District Governors in Britain and Ireland has a Teddy Bear to help us to raise awareness of the End Polio Now campaign – and the **Purple4Polio** campaign which was launched at the RIBI Handover in London on 2nd July.

The Teddy Bear will be travelling with me on all of my travels as District Governor and he (if indeed it is a he) will cover very many miles. I am going to run a very simple competition and I hope that every Rotarian in the District takes part – guess how many miles the Teddy Bear will cover between 1st July 2016 and 21st May 2017. (I have chosen that date as it is the Sunday prior to the last District Council in the current year)

The rules are very simple:

-) Only travel by car will count and mileage will be calculated using the AA route planner
-) All of my travels on Rotary business will count, including Club visits, District meetings and travels on RIBI business (such as General Council in Alcester)
-) Each estimate (or guess) will cost a minimum donation of £1 to the End Polio Now campaign, payable through your Club account with The Rotary Foundation (RFUK)
-) The consolidated entries from each Club to be sent to me by a Club Officer by 31st December 2016, with a signed declaration that the donations have been paid to the End Polio Now campaign. (By handling it in this way, your Club receives the recognition from Foundation, and RFUK can reclaim Gift Aid)
-) The mileage calculation will be verified by three members of District Executive
-) The judges' decision is final!

The prize – a Teddy Bear, plus a bottle of a decent wine

A simple entry form is attached.

The Polio Bear's Escapades

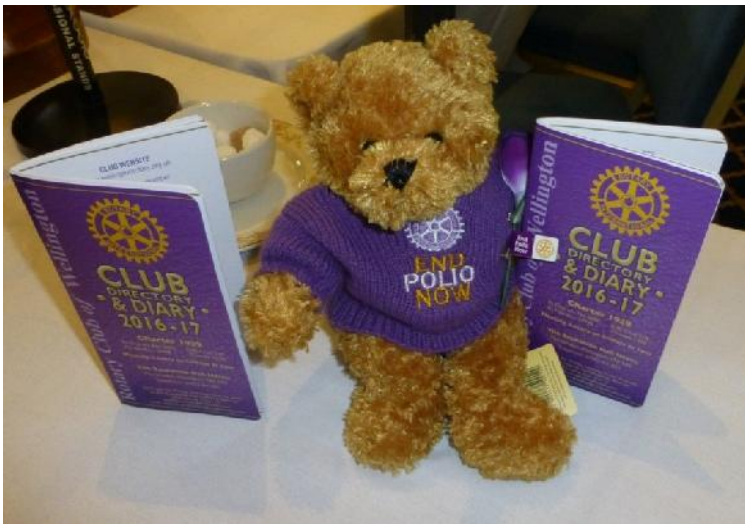
A few photographs showing how the Polio Bear has got himself into some interesting situations during my travels:



Enjoying a quick drink at the District Handover Dinner (photo Tim Joyce)



Trying on a suit of armour at the Tettenhall Club (photo Tettenhall Club)



Enjoying the matching colours at Wellington!



An undignified position outside the Park House Hotel at Shifnal, after the Ironbridge meeting

Future Events

- Thursday 4th August** **Gardeners Question Time (organised by RC Aldridge)**
Wheats Garden Centre, Aldridge WS 9 0PU
(Contact President Paul Roberts)
- Thursday 18th August** **The D1210 Vocational Study Exchange Team Bon Voyage Presentation**
Hadley Park Hotel, Telford
(Contact AG Malcolm Hallewell for details)
- Monday 22nd August** **V Festival Clear Up**
Tuesday 23rd August (contact Mike Hampson)
- Thursday 25th August** **RYLA Talent Night**
(contact RYLA Director David Roberts)
- Thursday 8th Sept.** **District Council (6.45 for 7.15 start)**
Mercure Hotel Penkridge
- Sunday 11th Sept** **District Disability Sports Funday**
Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke-on-Trent
(contact AG Brian Reilly)
- Saturday 24th Sept** **Stafford & Stafford Knot Comedy Magic Fundraiser**
Stafford Rangers FC
(Contact: Presidents Gary Sharpe or Brian Westerman)
- Sunday 25th Sept** **Walsall Fun Run**
(Contact RC Walsall President Keith Anderson)

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And finally, I couldn't resist this photograph, taken at the Ludlow Fun Dog Day:



Photograph by anna-photography who can be contacted at anyquestions@anna-photography.co.uk