

Issue No: 3

1st October
2016

John's Jottings



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

Late News

Our Alumni Association has been named the Alumni Association of the 2016/17 Rotary Year by the Board of Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation Trustees. A well deserved award – and my congratulations to the Alumni Leadership of Beverley Ricketts and Bob Cliff.



The District Governor's Month

Another busy month for your District Governor – on the 3rd September I was privileged to be present when the Staffordshire Wing of the ATC celebrated 75 years of service with a March Past and Drumhead Service in Stafford. Later that day I joined members of the Eccleshall Mercia Club, and other members of the District team, as we provided a presence at a very windy Eccleshall Show.

Following District Council on the 8th September, I was delighted to be with the Darlaston Club for the Mencap Sailing Day at Aldridge Reservoir on Saturday 10th September. Aldridge and Walsall Saddlers were also there to present boats for the use of the disabled.



Right: A light hearted moment at the MenCap Sailing Day on the 10th September. (Photograph – Ian Johnstone)

The following day saw the District Disability Sports Fun Day at our new venue of Fenton Manor in Stoke-on-Trent.

Another light hearted moment at the District Disability Sports Fun Day, with Eccleshall Mercia's Hook-Duck. (Photograph – Ian Johnstone)



Later in the month I was able to present the Charter certificate to the members of the new Interact Club at Wodensborough Ormiston Academy in Wednesbury. They are very active in their community and their parents, the school and the Wednesbury Club should be proud of the young people who have come together to form the Interact Club.



The Wodensborough Ormiston Academy Interact Club with Steve Dale, President of the Wednesbury Club and the District Governor

The following weekend a fundraiser with the Stafford and Stafford Knot Clubs and the Walsall Fun Run made two contrasting but enjoyable events. I enjoyed being able to sound the horn to start the Fun Run (I have always wanted to do that!) and I also had my photograph taken with Miss Walsall.



Starting the Walsall Fun Run



President Keith Anderson, the District Governor and Miss Walsall at the Walsall Fun Run

(both photographs by Eileen Mason)

The final week of the month saw me at two Charter Evenings, Stafford Castle on the 27th September and Uttoxeter on the 1st October. Two very enjoyable evenings – and Polio Bear had the opportunity of meeting Olympic Gold Medallist Adam Peaty at the Uttoxeter event.

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: Albrighton, Bloxwich Phoenix, Blythe Bridge, Brewood, Cannock, Eccleshall Mercia, Ellesmere, Ludlow, Newport, Penkrigde, Shrewsbury Severn, Wednesbury and The Wrekin

Uttoxeter's Charter Night had a special guest – Olympic Gold Medallist, Adam Peaty, who was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship by President Paul Lane during the evening. Polio Bear just crept into the photograph!



Rotary Children's Holiday Trust

The Trust provides Grants to Rotary Clubs to enable them to provide a short holiday or days out for Disadvantaged Children. It can be a supervised holiday, a Day Out (but NOT 'Kids Out') by a registered organisation or accompanied by approved carers or family, or it could be to help with the additional costs for a disabled child.

It could be a trip to the pantomime, zoo, leisure park or a traditional trip to the seaside.

This is a simple way of helping disadvantaged children in our communities who might not otherwise have a holiday or a short break.

The fund is limited – so the actual value of the Grant will depend on the number of qualifying claims made in the period from 1st January to 31st December 2016, and you will need to provide receipts.

Want to know more – contact PDG Peter Barke – his details are in the District Directory

Purple  Polio

Events not to be Missed!

Four of our District teams will be holding events in the next few weeks:

On **Wednesday 5th October** the **Youth Services** Team will be having their Annual Information Event at **Bishops Wood Village Hall**, Ivetsey Bank Road, Bishops Wood, ST19 9AE. The evening starts at 6.30 pm, with short talks on most of the Youth events, including an opportunity to meet some of the young people who have taken part recently.

On **Monday 10th October**, the **Community Services** Team will be highlighting some of their activities, and introducing a new project for this year – Riding for the Disabled. There will also be brief talks on other projects, including The Shakespeare Schools Festival and our Community Emergency Response plans. This showcase will be at the District's usual home – **The Mercure Hotel at Penkridge**. The evening starts at 7.30 pm.

On **Monday 7th November**, the **Foundation Seminar**, at **The Mercure Hotel, Penkridge**, commencing at 7.00 pm. Remember that if your Club wishes to receive a Foundation Grant then attendance is mandatory.

On **Wednesday 9th November**, the **Compliance Seminar**, at **The Mercure Hotel, Penkridge**, commencing at 7.00 pm. This year the emphasis will be on Christmas events, including risk assessment and safeguarding issues, all very important when children are involved. Clubs are strongly advised to send a representative!

These are ideal opportunities for the Rotarians in our Clubs to come along and meet the District Teams who are here to help you to achieve more in your Communities.

How many miles will the Polio Bear travel?

The Polio Bear continues to travel with the District Governor and is clocking up a few miles now – don't forget the 'Guess the Mileage' competition – the entry form is attached to this Newsletter.

The photograph shows him with Robyn Davies, President of The Wrekin Club when the District Governor came to call



Future Events:

- Wednesday 5th Oct.** **Youth Services Information Evening**
(contact Mike Campbell)
- Sunday 9th Oct** **Rotary Alumni Reunion**
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm St Lukes Church Centre Cannock WS11 1DE
(contact Beverley Ricketts)
- Monday 10th Oct** **Community Service Information Evening**
(contact Adrian Wilcox)
- Tuesday 11th Oct** **Vocational Study Exchange Team – Welcome Home**
Beverley Hotel, Walsall
(contact Carol Reilly)
- Tuesday 18th Oct** **Vocational Study Exchange Team – another chance to meet our team**
Uttoxeter Golf Club
(contact Paul Lane, RC Uttoxeter)
- Friday 21st to** **District Conference**
Sunday 23rd Oct Southport
- Saturday 29th Oct:** **Rotary Club of The Wrekin – Charter Night**
Hadley Park House Hotel
(contact Malcolm Hallewell)
- Monday 7th Nov:** **Foundation Seminar**
The Mercure Hotel, Penkridge
(contact Ken Wagstaffe)
- Wednesday 9th Nov:** **Compliance Seminar**
The Mercure Hotel, Penkridge
(contact Barry Picken)
- 2017** =====
- Friday 17th Feb** **Rotary Club of Blythe Bridge & District – President’s Night**
The Upper House Hotel, Barlaston
(contact Lynne Deavin)



The Polio Bear's Travels

Purple4Polio

The Polio Bear will be accompanying the District Governor on all of his travels on Rotary business this Rotary year, and he will cover very many miles.

In order to raise funds to End Polio Now and have a little bit of fun – we are running a very simple competition, guess how many miles he covers between **1st July 2016 and 21st May 2017** (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 the District Governor's travels on Rotary business will count, including Club visits, District meetings and travels on RIBI business (such as General Council in Alcester). Attending Club and District social and fundraising events will also count.
-) 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 the District Governor 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, if appropriate)
-) 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

The entry form is overleaf

