

Issue No: 4

1st November
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

October has been another busy month, in which I have attended two Committee Information evenings – Youth Service and Community Service. Some really interesting and rewarding presentations made, it is a pity that more Clubs are not represented – you might get some ideas to enhance your service to your Communities.

Early in the month I attended, along with our International Chairman, Steve Evans, the District 21 Inner Wheel International Rally. We heard some interesting presentations, and I know that Steve now has some more ideas for International projects for Rotary.



Inner Wheel District 21 Chairman Linda Stockall with Rotary's Representatives at the Inner Wheel District 21 International Rally (DG John and International Chair Steve Evans)

A little later in the month we had the Vocational Service Exchange Welcome Home meeting, kindly hosted by Walsall Saddlers. Our team had returned from District 1930 where they had spent two weeks learning about their vocations and the culture of Southern Germany. It was clearly an experience that has been of benefit to all of them. I was proud to be able to induct them as Rotary Alumni. I also joined the Rotary Club of Uttoxeter when our team gave another excellent presentation.



Our Vocational Study Exchange Team at the Welcome Home Meeting, with VSE Chair, Trevor Davies and DGE Carol Reilly, and DG John (photo – Ian Johnstone)

It was a pleasure to be able to join about 50 members at the Alumni Reconnect Tea Party in Cannock. One of the topics of conversation, of course, was the recent award of Alumni Association of the year to our Alumni Association. This is a tremendous achievement and I offer my congratulations to our Alumni leadership, Beverley Ricketts and Bob Cliff.



The Alumni Reconnect Event, held at St Luke's Church Centre in Cannock was well attended

The major event of the month was District Conference, held this year in Southport. I am probably biased, but I thought it was excellent, and my thanks are due to the team that organised Conference, so ably led by PDG Ron Marshall. All of the speakers were excellent, and I was certainly inspired by the weekend. The two evenings were also memorable for all the right reasons. (A few photographs on page 4 of this Newsletter)

I have also attended crocus planting sessions at Pattingham (with RC Albrighton) and Bridgnorth, who managed to plant 15,000 crocuses one Sunday morning.



Polio Bear, Fraser Dukes and I went along to support Bridgnorth Rotary as they planted 15,000 crocus corms one Sunday morning

Children from the local School joined forces with Rotarians from Albrighton Rotary to help them plant crocus corms in the village centre. The children sang some autumn themed songs for us as well.



In addition I have visited 8 clubs in October, my thanks to the members of Bridgnorth, Brownhills, Burntwood, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent, Whitchurch, Wolstanton and Wolverhampton St Georges for their warm welcome and hospitality.

District Conference 2016 – a few random photographs



Some memorable moments from the fancy dress evening, some of the speakers, and just what were the stewards so interested in? (Photographs by – Tim Joyce & Ken Rogers)

Champions of Change

This is the fourth year of the prestigious Champions of Change award and Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland is looking to recognise 12 unsung heroes from within our membership again this year.

The International Man and Woman award will this year be extended and included within Champions of Change as we seek to simultaneously recognise outstanding non-Rotarian volunteers from within our communities, with the introduction of the **Community Champion Award** (Domestic and International).

A reminder that Nominees should be active participants/leaders/organisers of the projects. The projects involved should address one of Rotary's six Areas of Focus:

- o Disease Prevention and Treatment
- o Maternal and Child Health
- o Economic and Community Development
- o Education and Literacy
- o Peace and Conflict Resolution
- o Water and Sanitation

Projects involved in mentoring, job training, "at risk" youth and hunger are also welcome. International candidates may also be considered for their work on polio eradication. Ideal nominees need to be involved in activities beyond fundraising.

Nominees should be involved with projects that are currently active or concluded no earlier than 1st June 2015 (i.e. projects that completed work on or before 31st May 2015 are not eligible)

Nominations need to be sent to me by 1st December - so please tell me who you would like to nominate



**CHAMPIONS
of CHANGE
Awards**

**Recognising ordinary Rotarians
doing extraordinary things at home
and abroad.**

**You know them - you may sit next to one
at your Club. Tell your District Governor
and we'll do the rest.**

TAKE ACTION:
rotarygbi.org

Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland

Youth Unemployment

We hear that some of the Department of Work and Pensions Jobseekers Centres in Kent and London are contacting their local Rotary clubs to find out about Rotary in Sidcup's Youth Unemployment Scheme. Following an MP visit to Ashford club where he was alerted to the initiative, Work and Pensions Minister Damian Green quickly sent round some information through the DWP communication channels. If your Club is contacted by a Jobseekers Centre then please be aware of this – and contact our Vocational Chair Graham Dean for more information.

Future Events

Tuesday 6th Dec **RC Etruria Big Breakfast**
The Moat House Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent
(contact: Tom Lawrence)

Tuesday 6th Dec **Kids Out Christmas Party**
Drayton Manor
(contact Brian Reilly)

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Tuesday 31st Jan **International Showcase**
Park House Hotel, Shifnal
(contact Steve Evans)

Friday 17th Feb **Rotary Club of Blythe Bridge & District – President's Night**
The Upper House Hotel, Barlaston
(contact Lynne Deavin)



Purple 4 Polio

The logo features the text "Purple 4 Polio" in a stylized, handwritten font. The word "Purple" is in a dark purple color, the number "4" is in a bright magenta color, and the word "Polio" is in a dark purple color. The text is set against a light purple background.