

Issue No: 5

8<sup>th</sup> December  
2016

## John's Jottings



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

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***With the Christmas Season Approaching I send Seasonal Greetings to all of our Members, Family and Friends. May it be a time of goodwill and peace for everybody.***

### The District Governor's Month

It was another busy month – with General Council - and a very full Agenda - in the first week. General Council is the Governing body of Rotary in Britain and Ireland, and each of the 25 District Governors is automatically a member, along with the RIBI Officers. Members can read the General Council newsletter on the RIBI website, and I do encourage you to take a look. The minutes are also available on the website, but are a much longer read. You will see that we are taking a good long hard look at the way that RIBI operates, with a short term (1 to 2 year) business plan being developed and a longer term strategic plan.

Membership remains a key concern – despite a great deal of hard work in the last Rotary year our membership in RIBI fell by some 1,500, and in this District by 56. We really do have to reverse the trend both locally and within RIBI. Our Membership Chairman, Howard Leese, is doing a sterling job, but it is down to all of us to Invite our friends and other contacts to come along to our activities and hopefully become enthused with Rotary and join us.

#### **A Date for your Diaries**

##### **End of Year Celebration Dinner**

It has become customary for the District Governor to organise an End of Year Celebration Dinner to mark the success of the current year.

This year's event will be on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Tern Hill Hall Hotel.**

More details in the New Year

The highlight of the month, with all due respects to everything else that has happened elsewhere in the District, has to be the presentation of their Charter to our Rotaract Club at Keele University on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

I am delighted that after many years with no Rotaract Club in the District we now have one – and my thanks to the Rotary Club of Newcastle-under-Lyme for sponsoring the Club and helping them to become established.

The Rotaract Club has already raised funds for the End Polio Now campaign and for the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent's charities – what an excellent start



*Our new Rotaractors, with President of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Club, Carol Reddish, DGE Carol Reilly and myself. (Apologies for the 'halo' above my head!)*

Earlier in the month, it was my pleasure to be at the Telford Tree of Light on the 10th November to see Christine Trevanion (the auctioneer and television antiques expert) press the switch. This is a tremendous fundraiser for the Telford Clubs, in excess of £40,000 last year and hopefully more this year.

Later in the month I joined members and friends of the Rotary Club of Cannock for their 10K road race – it was great to see so many of the other Clubs in the vicinity helping with marshalling and stewarding.



Christine Trevanion with my Polio Bear at the Telford Tree of Light 'switch on'.  
*(photo – David Lovatt)*

During the month I have visited eight 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: Boscobel Oak Provisional Club, Cheadle, Rugeley, Six Towns Satellite Club, Stoke-on-Trent South, Stone, Telford Centre and Uttoxeter

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## End Polio Now

A reminder that the guess the mileage competition is still open – please get your Club's entries to me as soon as possible. The competition entry form is attached to this month's Newsletter.

And a suggestion - at this time of year many of our members will be receiving a Winter Fuel Payment from the Government – and it can be up to £300.

Some of us feel uncomfortable about receiving this money – and have already decided to donate it to charity. If you are in that group then please consider making a donation to the End Polio Now fund.

Purple 4 Polio

# Future Events

- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan**      **Burns Night**  
Wroxeter Hotel (contact President Chris Mackrell, RC Telford Centre)
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan**      **International Showcase**  
Parkhouse Hotel, Shifnal (contact Steve Evans)
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb:**      **District Young Chef Final**  
(contact Mike Campbell – District Youth Service Chair)
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb**      **Rotary Club of Blythe Bridge & District – President’s Night**  
The Upper House Hotel, Barlaston (contact President-elect Bruce Boucher)
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb:**      **Rotary Club of Stoke-on-Trent 90<sup>th</sup> Charter Night**  
Quality Hotel, Hanley (contact President Mike Herbert)
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb:**      **Rotary Club of Wolverhampton – Foundation Celebration**  
(lunchtime)  
Linden House, Wolverhampton (contact IPDG Richard Green)
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb:**      **O2 Walk – to raise funds for End Polio Now & Malaria Prevention**  
O2 Arena – contact Adrian Brewer ([adrian@rolloutthebarrel.org](mailto:adrian@rolloutthebarrel.org))
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:**      **Rex Bolton Lecture – RC Ironbridge**  
Park House Hotel, Shifnal, (contact Steve Evans)
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March**      **District Young Musician Final**  
(contact Mike Campbell – District Youth Service Chair)
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March:**      **District Youth Speaks Intermediate Final**  
(contact Mike Campbell – District Youth Service Chair)
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March**      **District Council – Penkridge**
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March:**      **District Youth Speaks Senior Final**  
(contact Mike Campbell – District Youth Service Chair)

