

Issue No: 6

10th January
2017

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 Governors Month

December saw a change in the nature of the appointments in my diary, no Club meetings to talk about our aims and aspirations for the current Rotary year – but several events as I joined Clubs who were preparing for Christmas.

The month started with the Inner Wheel Christmas meeting – a delightful affair, and my first Christmas lunch of the year. It was a shame that Chairman of Inner Wheel District 21, Linda Stockall, was unable to be there, but the meeting was ably led by her senior Vice Chairman Anne Ward. Good food, good company and Christmas carols – what more could you ask for?

On the 6th December Etruria's Big Breakfast was as ever an interesting event with the keynote speaker Becci Bryant, who heads up the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Later that day I made a whistle stop visit to Drayton Manor Park for the Kids Out Christmas party (photograph opposite) – the Kids Out Charity and Drayton Manor as always did a magnificent job.

Then it was onto Wednesbury where I was a guest at a Pensioners' lunch organised by the Interact Club at the Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School. A superb event and a credit to the Club



A few days later I was able to join my own Club (Stone) for their Christmas dinner (a joint meeting with the Stone Inner Wheel Club) followed by further Christmas events at Bilston & Wolverhampton West and the Stafford Knot Pensioners lunch, as well as dropping into the pop-up shop being operated by the Wolstanton Club. This is a good fund raiser for the Club and other Clubs might well give some thought to a similar effort.



Two views of the Wolstanton Shop in Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre

During the month I met Santa on several occasions – some by design and others by co-incidence as I was travelling around the District and sorting out my own personal shopping. Santa Sleighs, Tree of Lights and other Christmas regular events are good fund-raisers for most Clubs – congratulations to everybody who participated.



On Christmas Day I joined members of the Whitchurch Club as they served some 125 Christmas lunches for pensioners and others who would be on their own on that very special day.

I was on roast and mashed potato serving duty – and of course my Polio Bear went along with me.

Congratulations

Congratulations are due to the Honorary Secretary of the Whitchurch Club, Tom Kelly, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. A well deserved recognition for a very dedicated but humble man, who is insistent that the award is as much for his Club as it is for him.

RIBI Conference

The Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland Conference will be taking place in Manchester and there is still room if you haven't yet booked your seats.

With a wide range of speakers – Ade Adepitan, Russell Grant, Virginia McKenna and her son Will Travers, plus a wide range of Rotary speakers mean that it will be a Conference to remember.

Registration is £40 for a day ticket and £80 for the full three day package – please go to the RIBI website, www.rotarygbi.org for more details and the opportunity to Register.

Hopefully I will see many of you there.

Eve Conway

The President of Rotary In Britain and Ireland will be in the District on the 20th & 21st February.

Details are still being finalised, but I can confirm the following arrangements:

Monday 20th February - 6.00 pm for 6.15 pm
RC Stoke on Trent 90th Charter Celebration

Tuesday 21st February – 12.30 for 1.00 pm
RC Wolverhampton
Special Lunch to celebrate the centenary of the Rotary Foundation

Tuesday 21st February – 7.00 for 7.30 pm
RC Shrewsbury Severn

Purple4Polio Tea Parties

Members should by now be aware of the ***Purple4Polio*** tea parties to be held on Wednesday 8th March at 4.00 pm.

We would like as many Clubs as possible to host a tea party at that time, which will coincide with a high profile event in London to raise awareness of our End Polio Now Campaign. Wilkin & Sons (Tiptree Jam) and Typhoo tea are supporting these events – and we expect a jar of purple jam for every Rotarian in the District, which can be used for fundraising. More details when we get them, but please keep our Polio Champion (PDG Fraser Dukes) informed of your plans.

Future Events

- Friday 27th Jan:** **Burns Night**
Wroxeter Hotel (contact President Chris Mackrell, RC Telford Centre)
- Tuesday 31st Jan:** **International Showcase**
Parkhouse Hotel, Shifnal (contact Steve Evans – District International Chair)
- Monday 13th Feb:** **District Young Chef Final**
(contact Mike Campbell – District Youth Service Chair)
- Thursday 16th Feb:** **Rotary Club of Dudley - Sportsman's Evening**
Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton (contact President Ian Walden)
- Friday 17th Feb:** **Rotary Club of Blythe Bridge & District – President's Night**
The Upper House Hotel, Barlaston (contact President-elect Bruce Boucher)
- Saturday 18th Feb:** **Rotary Club of Aldridge – Beer & Buses Festival**
Transport Museum, Aldridge (contact President-elect Sally Roberts)
- Sunday 19th Feb:** **Rotary Club of Stafford – Charter Lunch**
The Chase Golf Club (contact President-elect Steve Turner)
- Monday 20th Feb:** **Rotary Club of Stoke-on-Trent 90th Charter Night**
Quality Hotel, Hanley (contact President Mike Herbert)
- Tuesday 21st Feb:** **Rotary Club of Wolverhampton – Foundation Celebration**
(lunchtime)
Linden House, Wolverhampton (contact IPDG Richard Green)
- Thursday 23rd Feb:** **O2 Walk – to raise funds for End Polio Now & Malaria Prevention**
O2 Arena – contact Adrian Brewer (adrian@rolloutthebarrel.org)
- Thursday 2nd March:** **Rex Bolton Lecture – RC Ironbridge**
Park House Hotel, Shifnal, (contact Steve Evans)
- Sunday 5th March:** **District Young Musician Final**
(contact Mike Campbell – District Youth Service Chair)
- Monday 6th March:** **District Youth Speaks Intermediate Final**
(contact Mike Campbell – District Youth Service Chair)
- Tuesday 7th March:** **District Council – Penkridge**
- Wednesday 8th March:** **District Youth Speaks Senior Final**
(contact Mike Campbell – District Youth Service Chair)
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- And later in the year:**
- Saturday 6th May:** **District Assembly – Telford**
- Sunday 7th May:** **RIBI Youth Speaks Final - Telford**
- Friday 19th May:** **A celebration of the 2016/17 Rotary year at Tern Hill Hall Hotel**
- Friday 30th June:** **District Handover Dinner – The Chase Golf Club,**
- (more details of these later events when available, but please keep the dates free in your diaries!)