

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 1210

DISTRICT GOVERNOR CAROL
REILLY
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www.rotary1210.org

Out and About With DG Carol



Please send your news for future editions
to
DG Carol Reilly as this Newsletter is ours.

Conference 2018

ACC Liverpool

12th to 14th October

Registration Now Open.

Information on District
Website.



D1210 Welcomes: To Rotary Membership.

Colin Tyler - Church Stretton
Phil Page - Bilston and
Wolverhampton West



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NEWSLETTER

District 1210

Rotary



A Message From District Governor Carol Reilly

Hi Everyone,
Happy New Year to You All.

Welcome to the January News-
letter, January is Vocational
Service Month. Vocation being
the backbone to Rotary.

I hope you all had a restful time
over Christmas and New Year
after all your hard work prior to
the Christmas Season. Through
this edition you will see news
from Rotary in Great Britain and
Ireland as well as examples of
how Rotarians in D1210 are
"Making that Difference", whilst
having lots of FUN and FEL-
LOWSHIP.

I would like to acknowledge all
the New members and newly
awarded Paula Harris Fellows
this month.

Can I first and foremost Thank
you for the warmth and wel-
come given to me, as I continue
my visits to you all. I still have a
few remaining official visits,
then I look forward to support-
ing you in your future activities,
especially the Youth Projects
and Health Awareness Day
Event planning.

I enjoyed the fun and fellowship
with Rotarians across RIBI in
the New Year's Day Parade to
promote Purple 4 Polio. A great
start to the year after joining
Clubs for their Christmas fund-
raising activities throughout
December as well as Carol
Singing at many Club Christ-
mas Festivities including in the
Square with the RC Church
Stretton.

It was a pleasure to be at the
induction of a few new Rotari-
ans during December, Enjoy
your Rotary, having Fun and
Fellowship with fellow Rotari-
ans and your community.

Please do let me know when
you have New Members, in
order that I can personally
welcome them into Rotary and
District 1210.

Looking forward to RIBI Presi-
dent Denis visiting our District
at the end of January. Thank
you to those Clubs who are
supporting his visit and host-
ing him.

Good luck in your prepara-
tions for the Youth Competi-
tions and the next round of the
District Quiz. Thank you to the
teams and committees in-
volved in these programs.

I am sure you would like to
join me in wishing DGE Ash-
ley and his wife Lynne a safe
trip to San Diego for the Rota-
ry International Training. On
his return Ashley will be work-
ing with his team in the initial
preparation for the 2018/19
Rotary Year. February is
Peace and Conflict Preven-
tion/Resolution Month as well
as the month that hosts Rota-
ry Day. We look forward to the
International Peace Seminar
during this time and working
with the winner of our Peace
Poster Competition.

I am also pleased to an-
nounce the launch of the Ro-
tary "2 Campaign, which is

aimed at encouraging the
starting of new and more
flexible clubs within RIBI
and additionally providing
social media resources to
boost our current clubs.

The MER Committee of the
district have launched a
"Membership Facebook"
page where all these videos
will be placed, they will also
be on the District Website,
can I ask you all to share and
circulate these with your
friends, families and contacts
as we can really achieve a
membership growth.?

Whatever motivation each of
us had into joining Rotary, it
is the satisfaction we find that
causes us to remain, the
satisfaction of knowing that
week by week, year by year,
"we are part of Rotary:
Making a Difference".

Carol.



January & February 2018 with DG Carol

Fisher House QE Hospital	19th
Wolv St Georges Charter	21st
RC Wednesfield	24th
RC Tel Centre Burns Night	26th
Keele Rotaract Club	29th
District Council	31st
Shrewsbury D Charter	2nd
RC Sedgley & W Concert	3rd
Wolverhampton Y Musician	4th
RC Liverpool Sth	5th
Dist. Young Chef	6th
RC Burntwood	7th
Dist. Officer Briefing	10th
RIBI General Council	11th
Dist. Peace Poster Final	12th
Telford Youth Speaks	13th
HAD Meetings	14/15
RC Willenhall Race Night	16th
RC Stafford Charter Lunch	18th
MER Meeting	22nd
Foundation Supper	23rd
International President	24th
Peace Conference	& 25th
Telford Tree of Light Pres	27th

RC Wolstanton - Charity shop project. "Rotary Making A Difference"

The Club decided 4 years ago to discontinue their main Christmas fund raising activity through street collections via Santa's sleigh, due mainly to the emerging health and safety issues to ageing members becoming more susceptible to injury from braving winter conditions.

An alternative method of fund raising was suggested by one of our more creative members, Brian Bentley, who came up with the idea of opening a pop-up charity shop for three months over the Christmas/New Year period.

Our first effort was in 2013/4 when we opened a shop in central Newcastle-Under-Lyme. It was a shot in the dark. At

the time we had no idea whether we could acquire premises, accumulate stock, find people to operate the shop and, most importantly, attract customers.

Using the experience, skills and contacts of club members, we managed to successfully operate a shop that first year.

Finding a suitable shop relied upon contacts with local agents and walking the streets to identify vacant properties. At that time a charity shop had relocated and we managed to acquire a short term licence to operate the vacant premises for 3 months. We negotiated a pepper-corn rent and the local authority provided a generous rate rebate.

Stock for the shop was mainly supplied by club members, their families and friends. After the shop opened we were amazed by the number of donations we received from unsolicited deposits from the local community.

Staffing the shop was undertaken through a rota system of two shifts of 3 hours per day. At least two people were required on each shift. The administration of this task is immense. It also requires a major commitment from all our members (25 in total) and their spouses to support this requirement over the three months.

Having opened the shop and publicised its existence we were extremely grateful that customers visited the shop. The numbers far exceeded our expectations and in that first year we managed to raise in excess of £5000 for local charities.

To date, we have raised almost £20,000 from our shop activities.

The shop has been beneficial to the local community, it has provided the opportunity to give a public face to Rotary activities and has provided a vehicle to create greater fellowship within the club.

This year we encountered great difficulty acquiring a vacant shop but, by the skin of our teeth, we managed to obtain one for a two month period over December and January. We are now all back being shop keepers again.

Vernon Wilson - President, Rotary Club of Wolstanton.



RC Stafford Knot - Pensioners Christmas Party.

"Rotary Are People of Action"

This is the third Pensioners Christmas Party that RCKS have held. They go from strength to strength and involves all the members and many of the partners to ensure it is a success.

We cannot take credit for the idea, which we borrowed from something we hear on the news. About four years ago a retired teacher, realised there were many elderly people in her village that had no one at Christmas. She gave an open invitation to the pensioners to come for a Christmas lunch, at the local pub. She paid for it out of her own pocket. It was on the Midlands news, who focuses on the pensioners and how appreciative they were. This touched some many members of the public, who subsequently donated money to the retired teacher, to cover her costs.

RCKS liked the idea and decided to hold the Christmas lunch the Friday before Christmas. The target audience were pensioners who lived alone. The funding of it was to come from local businesses. At a cost of £20.00 a head, a sponsor could contribute to the real spirit of Christmas.

As with anything worth doing, it entails some leg work. Towards the end of August, we walk the town and small industrial estates, explaining to business owners of our idea and ask them to contribute £20 or pledge it. We found that it is the small family businesses on the whole who are willing to contribute. The likes of General Electric, M&S and the national companies tend to have designated charities for a year, as they get overwhelmed by requests for donations.

This year we had about forty sponsoring businesses who donated between £20 a £100. Other companies donated in kind. ASDA provided us with 100 mince pies and Mr. Simms sweet shop made 100 packets of sweet for our guests.

Original we had asked businesses to nominate a pensioner that they may know. An example would be the local hair dresser or butcher nominating one of their customers. However, this didn't work out quite as we had thought. Business owners were reticent on asking a pensioner, in case it implied that they were lonely or in need of

a good meal. Certain organisations, were in fear of breaching data protection. We managed to get round this by approaching a few key people who we knew were involved with the elderly. They had the right relationship with them and were happy to ask, if the pensioner would like to come along?



A couple of examples are, Ann one of our members, helps at a luncheon club on a Tuesday, where they meet, for soup a roll and a cup of tea. When she was trying to organise their Christmas lunch, it became apparent that some of the pensioners could not afford the £15, to go out to the pub for lunch. There income as a widow or widower was so tight. This was a source of guest for us. We knew a local post mistress, who saw pensioners regularly and again had that relationship with her customers to be able to ask and subsequently invite them to our luncheon. All the people referred to us, had been asked by someone they know and trust, were happy to provide contact details, which enable us to then contact them and finalise the details. We complete a form, with telephone and contact details, mobility and medical and dietary needs. We ensure there is a first aided at the venue, just in case.

The aim of the day is to collect each pensioner if they require it, give them a drink on arrival, a two course Christmas lunch, entertainment, mince pies and chocolates, followed by Santa and a small gift, before a farewell Christmas Carol, being driven them home and seeing them safely in their front door. Because this is a one off arrangement, we feel we are covered DBS check wise. Several of our members are DBS check authority, but not all. This may be an appropriate place to mention risk assessment, which is completed and briefed to the members prior to the event.

RC Stafford Castle, have a mini bus with wheelchair lift and fetch the less mobile people. Rotarians collect two or

three pensioners, who they have previously spoken to and know who and when they are being collected. Some of our associate members help as well, to ensure everyone arrives on time.

As with any big do, there is table plans to organise, storing coats, escorting our guests to their table and making sure they have everything they need. The venue isn't the biggest, but it is all on ground level, with easy parking and central to where our guests are from. We serve lunch at 12.30, entertainment comes on at 2.15, followed by Santa and they

are on their way home by 3.45. Our guests get nervous if they are out after dark and several that drive themselves, find it more difficult to drive in the dark. It's these little things that ensures everything goes with a bang.

In organising this event we like to ensure that the sponsors feel valued, so we create an event page on our website. We put sponsors details on the web page and sometimes on Facebook. Some companies want that publicity, demonstrating to their customers that they are doing their bit for charity and the local community. We always send a thank you letter on receipt of the donation and a receipt, so they can provide it for the accountant. More recently we are finding companies want to pay by BAC transfer, which is ok, but you are dependent on them making the transfer. There is nothing better than walking out of the shop with a twenty pound note in your hand. Following the event, we will write to the companies filling them in on how the event went and once again thank them for their support. This year. Had a good article in the local paper, which again spreads the meaning of Rotary and how we help the community.

I hope you find the article interesting and if you want any more information we are willing to share our experiences.

Janet Stubbs RC Stafford Knot.



Rotary District 1210



PEACE POSTER CONTEST

Theme: "Peace In Our Communities, Rotary Making A Difference".

Three age categories: Junior, Intermediate and Senior

A Youth Services Competition Open To All Youth Groups within The Community.



Entries to AG Malcolm Hallowell

Purple for Polio Banger Rally 21st to 24th May 2018

Entry Forms via RIBI Web Site!!

