



A passage to India – ending polio now

I cannot describe to you all the feelings and emotions something like this can evoke.

I would just like to say, I have come away with a far deeper understanding of what we can achieve through our Rotary Foundation and End Polio Now Campaign.

Indian Rotarians are out there doing this once in a lifetime experience for us, every six weeks, our contributions make this possible. It was a privilege and honour for us to be able to help on this one day.

Our group of 4 of immunized 490 children on the Sunday morning. But many more took place over India on that day, the total runs into millions.

I cannot express the gratitude of the Indian people and Rotarians for the contribution we make. Our support makes them feel what they do is very worthwhile. It helps them to carry on. They have been doing this for years; by going out in most cases at our own expense, we are showing it is not just their battle! We care as much.

It is impossible for us to be there all the time to give the “hands on service” the Indian Rotarians do, but at least we can make a contribution to support the campaign. If you were to see these children you wouldn't hesitate to want to do everything within your power to ensure they did not suffer from polio.

Not only this though, you would want to ensure they had a better future. Through our support of Foundation we can do this. We are enabling people to empower themselves through providing safe water, education and the freedom from hunger and disease.

We walked through the slums of Delhi (we certainly stood out with our yellow T-shirts “the yellow peril”) – our senses were totally bombarded. We saw, heard, smelt, felt authentic India! Not one toilet in over a 100 houses!!

There is no doubt when you visit India you see that Rotary is the “Catalyst for Change”... Rotary instigates and this encourages the government do to more, but Rotary is still there providing the confidence that the money will be used for the purposes for which it is meant.

This is what it is all about... eleven of us from 1070 and wow did we make an impact, wait until you see the DVD!!

Margaret Morley



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From the DG...

I trust that you all had a refreshing break with family and friends over the Christmas and New Year period and that now you are ready to tackle what I hope will be a busy and successful second half of this Rotary year.

I have been most impressed by the number of events you arranged in the run up to Christmas, with Santa fun runs and Santa sleighs very much to the fore. All of your activity in your own communities will have raised the profile of Rotary in a positive way and increased your charity coffers. Please do continue to seek both a PR and a membership dividend from everything that you do.

The next big event will be your activity in the 'Thanks for Life' week in support of the 'End Polio Now' campaign. Please do put all of your energy into making things happen and do seek to work with the other clubs in your vicinity to increase the impact of what you arrange. Your work with schools and young people will be really important in getting our message across and please don't forget that when engaged in activity with members of the public to have some additional capacity to tell them about what you do as a Rotary club as well as the Polio story.

Jilla joins me in wishing you all a happy, healthy, peaceful and fulfilling Rotary New Year.

Dick

Ten new members do it the Belvoir way

This has certainly not been an overnight success but the result of twelve months of continued and steady focus on all membership issues not just recruitment. There have been a number of key elements during that time which have specifically helped our membership drive. The Zone 18 Membership Seminar in October 2008 provided many useful ideas (see the RIBI 'Road Map to Rotary Membership' CD) which we were able to adapt and implement for our club. The formation of a dedicated Membership committee at the beginning of this Rotary year enabled a much better focus on recruitment.



As this is our 25th Anniversary year we also arranged a re-union with the club for founder and former members, this not only resulted in two previous members rejoining but also emphasised to existing members our particular strengths. These are that we are a fun-loving club and a club where all our members appreciate and enjoy quality fellowship. This latter point is one of

the most important of all for unless club meetings are interesting, fun and enjoyable, prospective members will not want to join.

Certainly we had some success, in September this year, with an Information Evening for prospective members; more importantly though, we found that recruitment is about every member wanting to share something worthwhile with others in the community. Another key element of our success is that we have worked hard to get maximum publicity for all our activities, especially in the local press. Our oldest new member is 87 and our youngest is 35 so we must have something that appeals to a wide cross section of the community!

The lessons we have learned over the last twelve months will hopefully, enable us to continue, successfully, with our membership recruitment and retention plans and we intend to repeat the Information Evening format again in March 2010.

Tony Wallis, President

DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Rotary Club of Blaby Meridian is again running a photographic competition. Details were issued at District Council in October to all clubs. For five pounds you can enter three photographs. Closing date is 28th February 2010. The proceeds of the competition will be donated to The Rotary Foundation. For details email Mike Ward. mikefward@aol.com

Mayor at Northampton Becket's International evening

The Mayor and Mayoress of Northampton attended a fund raising dinner, organised by the Rotary Club of Northampton Becket in November

Over one hundred Rotarians and their friends attended the event and helped to raise in excess of £1500. This sum will enable the club to pay for three containers from ShelterBox that are much needed with the increase in the disasters that are occurring in various parts of the world.

ShelterBox is an International disaster relief charity that delivers emergency assistance, shelter, warmth and

dignity to people affected by disaster worldwide. The charity instantly responds to disasters caused by earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, cyclones or tsunamis by delivering boxes of aid. Each box provides a tent, mosquito nets, blankets, a multi-fuelled stove, water purification kit, tools and other necessities to help a family of ten survive for six months.

In 2000 a Rotarian launched the ShelterBox scheme, with the first consignment of 143 boxes being sent to the earthquake victims in the Indian state of Gujarat in January 2001. Since then aid has been sent to help the Boxing Day Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and earthquake victims of the Kashmir region of Pakistan. More recently aid has been sent to the disaster areas in Samoa, Sumatra, Taiwan and, now, Haiti. To date some 55,000 boxes have been delivered worldwide.

Visit www.shelterbox.org for more information.





Golf Knockout Competition 2009



Bandits from St. Neots St. Marys

32 teams contested the District Golf Knockout competition for the Bob Cartwright Trophy. This total is very representative of the number of clubs who have contested the tournament in recent years. The winners of four groups, met to do battle in the District final at Kettering Golf Club on 9th September. This year those involved were Oadby Launde, St. Neots St. Marys,

Stamford Burghley and Leicester, and in a close contest with only 4 Stableford points separating the total scores of the best 4 members of the first three teams, St. Neots St. Marys came first with 126 points, one more than Oadby Launde with Stamford Burghley a strong third. Leicester was disadvantaged by not having a full team available and placed fourth.

The winner of the Millennium Trophy for the best individual score was a distinctly chuffed John Mayman of Stamford Burghley who beat Martin Kamper of St. Neots St. Mary on a count back – another close contest.

This year we were delighted that District Governor Dick Parsley presented the relevant trophies and also cheques payable to the Charity Accounts of the Rotary Clubs represented, according to their results on the day. Overall, St. Neots St. Marys and Stamford Burghley each received £200, Oadby Launde £150 and Leicester £50.

Planning for the 2010 season gets under way shortly. This will be the sixth and last year under present management, and a major requirement is to find a willing volunteer to take on this stimulating and enjoyable role for the future. Names, please, to me – the continued involvement of some 180 District golfers is dependent on the outcome!

Ray Freshfield, District Golf Organiser

Ashby fireworks at Conkers



Ashby de la Zouch Club were fortunate to have fine dry weather for their 2009 show at Conkers which many of the 6000 spectators thought one of the best displays yet. The club expects to donate healthy sums to local charities in January.

Photos by Kam McSpadyen

Left: A group of Ashby de la Zouch volunteers at their Fireworks display at Conkers



Editor's Comment

One of the benefits of being editor of News and Events is that you see the rich variety of work undertaken by Rotarians, the fun and friendship. February is the culmination of Thanks for Life Campaign that focuses not only on eradicating polio but creating a window of opportunity to show off Rotary and encourage others to be involved.

In this issue there are articles about the Polio Immunisation Day in India, an abundance of Santas and Young Chef competitions showing the commitment to encourage young people.

Membership marketing campaign



David Morris talking to interested attendees

Team leader comments...

After much hard work by the membership team the RIBI Marketing Campaign in District 1070 is over. The response was satisfactory, but nothing like the numbers suggested by the RIBI marketing team. My estimate is that as a direct result of the campaign there will be 50 new members.

The RIBI Campaign is now continuing throughout January and February in the North West, Bristol and Avon and Central Scotland. These regions have an advantage in that the campaign runs parallel with the "Thanks for Life" campaign and many Clubs have already planned activities which will raise the public awareness of who Rotary is and what it does. In this way the two campaigns will complement each other and inevitably produce more potential members than in the East Midlands.

In this District the Thanks for Life Campaign has the potential to increase membership. The East Midlands campaign is regarded as a success by RIBI and as team leader I am advising other areas about problems that had to be overcome and best practice.

Advertisements were placed in local newspapers in Northampton, Leicester and Kettering. Heart FM carried a jingle and clubs were asked to contribute by providing detail of activities. In addition detail could be picked up from the internet and responses sent to RIBI at Alcester.

Despite early optimism only one information meeting was held in Leicester at the end of the campaign.

The campaign only covered part of the geographic area of District 1070. Whilst the RIBI campaign is formally over, the membership team plans to use it as a springboard to achieve greater results and not lose the momentum.

David Morris

Etna a penny a foot

Not many seventy somethings with arthritis would voluntarily go off to climb Mount Etna, but well known for his fundraising, Tony Wakefield of Rotary Club of Stamford wanted to raise money for the Centre for Handicapped, which is looked after by their sister Rotary club in Kandy.

They receive no government help and currently have a backlog of about 25,000 artificial limbs to fit: many of these cases resulted from the tsunami of December 2004.

Tony's ascent did not start from sea level but could be compared with climbing Scafell Pike from Seathwaite (except of course for the effect of altitude!). The first part of the climb was by cable car and four-wheel drive, then by Shanks' pony! Tony had booked a guide and took a GPS so we would know how high he progressed. The thought was that 1p for every foot climbed over 8500 feet (with a maximum of 2500 feet) would bring in a bob or two for friends in Sri Lanka.

In typical Italian style the weather in the run-up to the day set for climbing was atrocious, but the day itself was bright and clear as can be seen from the photograph. However in spite of this, the extreme cold meant that the incredibly icy conditions limited Tony's climb to just over the 7000 feet mark, and he calculated that he had actually climbed 2165 feet.

The club's collection, boosted by our friends in The Deepings plus one or two donations still to come mean that Tony's efforts have raised just over £500 which will help The Centre for Handicapped immensely.



Racing to success

I was fortunate enough to attend Oundle Rotary Club's recent Charter Evening, what a night... great fun, great opportunities for socialising and something really different.

Under the leadership of President Adrian, Oundle Golf Club was turned into a mini Silverstone racing Circuit.

A full scale model Scalextric was set up and budding Champions were invited to take turns racing around the Circuit as spectators cheered them on. It would have been very difficult to tell the age of most of the Rotarians in the room that night.



A few bumps and crashes separated the professionals from the amateurs. As the excitement and tension grew eight players were left to take part in the final round. Skills were tested even more so in this race as cars had the extra task of pulling caravans.

It was great to see, Elaine Sefton and Margaret Bailey both from Huntingdon Cromwell holding up the side for the ladies. Elaine winning the prize for the best Ladies performance of the evening. Oundle emerged the winners with Corby Phoenix coming second.

It really was a great fun evening and amongst the guests were a couple of potential new members. One has already become a fully fledged Rotarian.

As President Adrian said... "We wanted a really good fun evening to help break away from the 'stuffy' reputation sometimes associated with Rotary..."

The evening showed the 'diversity' of the organisation really well and paid dividends with a new member.

*Margaret Morley
AG Area E*

Bob celebrates the hard way



Bob McCord is a member of the Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray and to celebrate reaching the ripe old age of 70 years he decided to cycle from John O'Groats to Lands End in support of The Prostate Cancer Charity.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. The risk of developing prostate cancer increases with age. Most men are diagnosed in their 70s

and more than 35,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year of whom 10,000 die.

The route from John O'Groats took him through Inverness over the Slochd Summit to Aviemore and across the Forth Road Bridge on to Lockerbie. From there south it took in Shap Summit and more hard climbs with a strong headwind onto Lancaster, Preston, Wigan and Warrington.

Southwards and on to Gloucester and Bristol and probably the worst piece of road for a cyclist - the A38. He was pleased leave that behind

and head for Crediton, Okehampton and onto Lands End.

He cycled 891 miles in 10 days and raised close to £1500, which with gift aid should exceed £2000 for the charity.

His wife Gill, who was the support team, resigned when he arrived at Lands End, so this will definitely be his last big ride.



Hallowe'en auction as easy as 1-2-3-4

Halloween brings the best out of people in Market Deeping, beware you might even meet a Rotarian. On 26 October the Rotary Club of the Deepings held their annual fund raising auction at the Towngate Inn where many attending entered into the spirit of the evening and dressed up as witches, grave diggers and wizards.

A grand total of £1,234 was raised for Rotary Charities during the evening which particularly swelled the fund to support the eradication of polio

Do you need to be reminded? In 1985 Rotary promised every child a world free from the threat of polio. Together with its partners, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF and the



volunteered to go to India to participate in the Rotary mass immunisation programme in November.

World Health Organisation, Rotary have been challenged to eradicate this disease for once and for all. Rotary is almost there with the number of endemic countries falling from 125 in 1985 to currently, just 4 – namely Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Nigeria.

The Rotary Club of the Deepings has contributed over £3,500 during the past two years but it has also been fun.

During the evening a cheque for £750 was presented by Ricky Fox, Vice President of the Club, to Nurses Anne Slimmon and Sue Harvey, who had

Friendship Exchange

In October a team of 1070 Rotarians and partners spent a fantastic two weeks meeting with and enjoying the company of Australian Rotarians in District 9640 (South of Brisbane). We began and ended our visit in the Gold Coast area. It didn't take long before we adopted the Aussie way of life (B-B-Q breakfast!). One of the best features of Friendship Exchange and staying with Rotarian families is that you are able to experience and gain a greater understanding of the culture and life style of the Country you are visiting. This was especially true when we travelled inland to visit the Rotary Clubs of Glen Innes and Stanthorpe located in small towns which are archetypal Australian. We were invited to visit their places of work, share in their hobbies and meet families and friends. And who better than an Australian to take you bush walking, show you the unique wildlife and explain the ever present dangers of drought and bushfires.

We look forward to May 2010 when we will welcome a team of Australian Rotarians on the return leg and show them the hospitality and beauty of District 1070.



The future shape of District Conference

Recent complaints about existing conference format had fallen into three main areas – cost – distance from district – difficulty in attending conference for those unable to travel on a Friday.

The working group examined ways in which a successful conference could be arranged, and which at the same time addressed these issues. The group researched and visited a range of possible venues.

In October 2009, three venues for the 2012 District Conference were presented. The result of a ballot clearly indicated Telford first choice.

A 'Future Conference Feedback Form' was circulated for to members, and here are some of the results:

- Out of 86 District Clubs members from 55 Clubs (64%) responded.
- Out of 2,750 Rotarians in District 1070, 322 (11.7%) responded.

About the conference – duration preference

2 day 56%, 3 day 44%

How important is travelling time from home to conference ?

very important 30%,
fairly important 47%
not important 23%

How important is the location ?

very important 43%
fairly important 51%
not important 6%

Does the programme influence your decision to attend?

definitely 21%, a bit 37%

not really 42%

For the future, would you be prepared to attend a full one-day conference in or near our District area instead ? – possibly Peterborough, Kettering, Milton Keynes.

yes 62%, no 38%

Some comments from Rotarians:

'We enjoy the current format of conference with Friday night entertainment, the formal Saturday dinner/dance and the variety of speakers to entertain and enthuse. Arriving on a Saturday or a 1 day conference would not be attractive.'

'Information, inspiration and social time are the key ingredients to be maintained. To encourage younger and more Rotarians to attend it has to be affordable and accessible – so considerations of cost, distance and possible crèche/nursery facilities need to be made'

'The cost of conference is disproportionate at circa £500 for self and spouse. For that money you can finance a continental short break which I find preferable'

'Cost is becoming a more important issue. Also the time driving long distances.'

'Distance is crucial for anyone who has to work on a Friday afternoon.'

'With 800-1100 attending each year something must be right'.

Chris Chew, DGNE

[Editor: Because of space requirements, the full report could not be printed in News and Events but the it has been issued on the District web site.]



Grantham Rotary Swimarathon

The Rotary Swimarathon in February is the 21st to be enjoyed by swimmers and their friends and families from the Grantham area. Started in 1990 it ran continuously for 24 hours with not a computer in sight but lots of paper. Swimmers are banded together in teams of 6 who collect sponsorship which is awarded to local charities. The event at Meres Leisure Centre and has become more popular each year. Local business support ensures that the costs are paid for and all the money raised by sponsorship goes back into the local community. A presentation evening is

Longest running Swimarathon – now in its 21st continuous year – breaks all records! £460,000 raised so far.

there is a roar of approval from the many hundreds of supporters that fill the auditorium of the poolside. The audience cheers when the number of lengths swum by each teams is read out every 15 minutes and the pool echoes to the sound of great songs and music



during the swimming to make the time pass with a swing and give the swimmers more energy.

Who benefits?

Over the years the Swimarathon has helped the purchase of specially adapted vehicles for local charities and groups which are regularly seen on the roads of Grantham. Disabled and disadvantaged people have benefited along with clubs and societies often run by volunteers.

A town's "Thank you"

The Swimarathon has captured the imagination of Grantham people. It is successful because it is run by local people involving local people to benefit the local community.

Expansion and medals!

The Rotary Club of Grantham has helped to set up many other Swimarathons across the country. One has also been set up in France and details have been sent to Australia. Swimmers receive a photographic certificate showing their team and in 2009 they were each presented with a special medal to commemorate the Swimarathon's 20th

year. A 21st Birthday is a very special event and so another medal will be awarded. From no computers in 1990 the Swimarathon has embraced the computer age with enthusiasm and now all the results are fed into spreadsheets after each swimming slot. Teams can enter in real time via the Swimarathon web site at www.rotaryswimarathon.org and obtain sponsorship money via www.justgiving.com/granthamrotaryclub

An Olympic Future?

Grantham's Swimarathon is set to continue with the milestone of half a million pounds being raised in sight in 2011. Planning for the next year begins soon after the presentation evening. The Olympic Games of course come to the UK in 2012 and Roger Graves, the Swimarathon master-



mind and Courtney Finn, the Club's President in 2012, are wondering how to galvanise every club in RIBI to hold a Swimarathon for ONE HOUR per club and raise just over £1,000 per club – to help the Rotary big push to end the scourge of Polio. Roger muses "1,840 clubs – that's over £2m – get the calculator out – it can't be that much? And yes he is even thinking of doing it worldwide and the Guinness Book of Records – now that is a lot of money – watch this space!

It could be with your help.

If you would like to visit the event in February or indeed have more information on how to run your own "Swimarathon" please contact Roger Graves at gravesrjg@btinternet.com or 07717-690102



held in June each year when cheques and awards for "The most lengths swum" and "highest funds raised" plus many others are handed out at a high profile social occasion.

The Swimarathon is given wide publicity in the local papers and is invariably visited by the Rotary District 1070 District Governor plus Grantham's Mayor and Chairman of the District Council. This year Rotary publicity will highlight *Thanks for Life* and with many hundreds of prospective Rotarians coming to the Swimarathon it will be an ideal shop window for Rotary.

What happens?

The 2010 event begins on Friday 5th February and ends on Sunday 7th February. It is fully booked with 1,400 swimmers in 232 teams. Over £36,000, including Gift Aid, was raised in 2009 with 26,440 lengths swum. The swimmers come from schools, local companies and firms, swimming, social and service clubs plus talented individual swimmers. Each group of 6 swim for 55 minutes. When finished





Rotary Club of St Ives Outward Bound Project

The St Ives Rotary Club had been involved with local youngsters for many years but were conscious that their projects were all aimed at existing talent. About three years ago they wondered if we could find a project involving less gifted youngsters. After lots of consultation, they eventually agreed that the world-acclaimed Outward Bound Trust would be the ideal partner for our plans. The Trust were very enthusiastic and tailored a course aimed to take our under-achieving young people out of their environment and to present them with scenarios that encouraged them to think, plan and communicate. These challenges required the youngsters to take individual responsibility to achieve shared objectives whilst working as a group.

They agreed that the ideal course would involve twelve boys and girls aged between 15 and 16 years old. All they needed was about £6000 to fund the project and twelve suitable candidates. Finding youngsters proved to be easier than we had expected thanks to the enthusiastic support of four local comprehensive schools who each nominated three candidates. Finding the money was a bit more



difficult. However, thanks to generous support from local organisations, a bursary from Outward Bound and a generous District Simplified Grant from District 1070 they found enough funding to commit the project and the course was duly held at the Outward Bound's Aberdovey Centre during August 2008.

So, during a wet and windy week in West Wales, twelve boys and girls found themselves working in groups to build rafts and rope bridges, map read around the rugged local countryside, scale walls using ropes and planks and lots of other adventures. At the end of the week they returned home tired but in good spirits. Over the following months, the schools told the club that

many of their youngsters were showing improved self confidence and better communication skills... job well done they felt!

Five St Ives Rotarians were involved in the detailed planning but the project touched the whole club who together drew pleasure in overcoming all the novel problems encountered. They were so encouraged by the project that they felt that they must organise another in 2009 and to incorporate all the lessons learned, the most important of these was to get the parents involved as well as the children. As before, funding was a major issue but again District gave us a grant to add to monies collected locally and almost £2000 raised from a sponsored walk. Building on the earlier experience, the 2009 course went even better and they subsequently have had some really fantastic feedback from schools and parents making it a very satisfying experience for the whole Club.

The success of the 2009 project made it inevitable that they will try again in 2010 and work on the next course is already well in hand. Again, funding will be the major problem but they are already working hard to raise the money needed.

Bourne Rotarians earn special award

The Rotary Club of Bourne received the Derrick Spink Award, for its work raising money towards a solar oven. It is given to a Rotary Club which has achieved a successful project for humanitarian aid.

The club was given the award for its work raising £4,000 for a solar oven in conjunction with matching grants from Rotary District and Rotary International.

The oven will be sent to the poor community of La Matanza in Argentina and will replace the wood fires the community previously used for cooking meals. It has been recognised by the Argentinian Government and national energy groups.

District Governor Dick Parsley presented the club with its award at a presentation lunch held at the Wishing Well pub in Dyke in October.

Leithan Cradick



President of The Rotary Club of Bourne Richard Wells and Rotarian John Lyon receive the Derrick Spink Award from District Governor Dick Parsley

Horse Show

The Rotary Club of Towcester held a Horse Show on 20th of September at the Plum Park Farm Equestrian Centre just south of Towcester.

There were two main rings plus a Clear Round Ring, which is mainly used for practicing and schooling of inexperienced ponies and horses.

Main Ring One was used for Jumping classes, which provided for a range of capabilities starting with less experienced riders (class 1 was for Under 10s) up to events with starting heights of 2'6".

Main Ring Two was for Working Hunters with separate Pony and Horse classes being offered.

The weather was beautiful and the two Rings looked superb, however, due to lack of rain in the preceding weeks, the ground was very firm and resulted a decreased number of entries from the very successful Show held in July.

All of the Rotarians who helped out on the day thoroughly enjoyed it and comments from participants both on the day and subsequently have been universally positive and congratulated us on an excellent Show, which means we must be doing something right.

Rotarian David Reed, Chairman of organising committee





Po-Leo's trip to India

The trip to India for the NID on 8th November was the most amazing experience in my life. Before we set off for Bareilly, an industrial town east of Delhi, we were given a lot of very interesting information about polio. There are two types of polio (types 1 & 3) that are still endemic in India. They have been concentrating on Type 1 which is the more dangerous. As a result, Type 3 cases began to rise again. In 2010, however, they will be using the new vaccine that will tackle both types.

The problems are exacerbated by very poor sanitation and hygiene, overcrowding, extreme poverty and some suspicions still held by villagers as to the real reason for the polio drops. Many of the children have constant diarrhoea due to the hygiene and sanitation conditions which reduce, or negate, the effect of the drops and they consequently have to receive further doses.

Our journey to Bareilly took 9½ hours – a very interesting coach ride not least because of the driving habits we encountered. Once there we were made most welcome by Rotary Clubs in the town who entertained and

looked after us all weekend. The Rotarians have to constantly drum up enthusiasm and produce publicity for these immunisation days which happen throughout the year and so they were delighted to have all their hard work recognised.

I visited three villages on 8th November to assist with giving the drops and publicising the need for having them. One village was quite small and many doses of drops had already been administered, but the organisers were very pleased to see us as it helped to encourage them to continue with their fight against the disease. We gave some gifts to the children.

The second, larger village was busy with children when we arrived. Many under 5s were already being given drops and all were delighted to see us. Their brothers and sisters brought them along and were very curious about people from another country. We walked round the village, calling in at each home to ask if the children had had their drops and checking up by looking at their "Purple Pinkies". It was apparent that the children had never come across a bear before and, after some initial fear of touching me, they were clamouring to hold my hand or carry me as we walked through the village. When we returned, Pied Piper

fashion, to the base we were given the responsibility of administering the drops. We left there feeling we had in a small way contributed to the event and raised awareness.

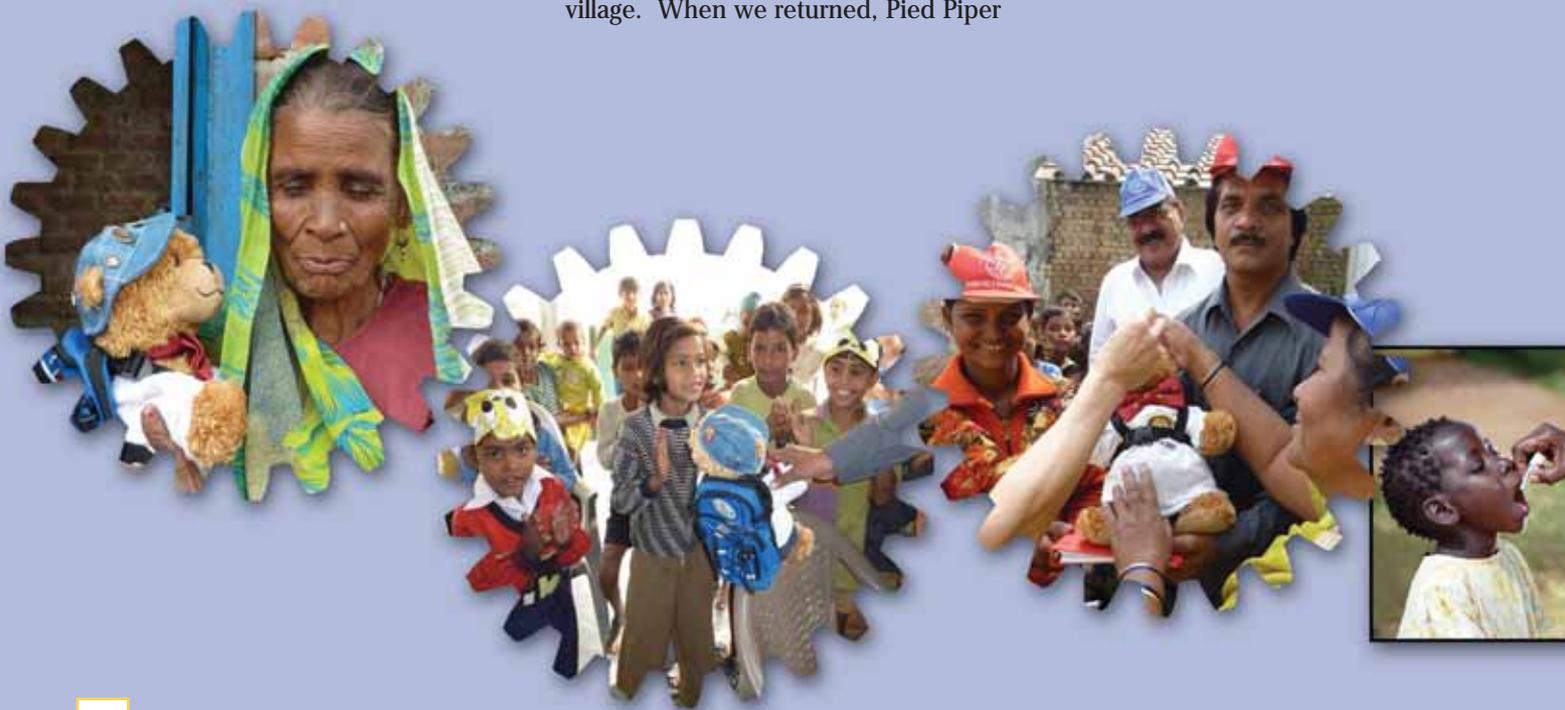
The third village was completely different – larger still and overflowing with excited children. I made a brief appearance but was in danger of losing an ear so I sought the safety of the car and left the Rotarians to meet the children.

The following day we walked round another village with a band of followers to give drops to some of those who had not received them the day before. Here they were much more wary about me and I think they thought I was very strange. I didn't see any other cuddly toys all the time I was in India.

We were very sorry to have to leave Bareilly as we had made many new friends and learnt a lot about the culture.

I also visited Agra and Jaipur. In Jaipur we were given a personal tour of the two limb centres by Mr Metha, the founder. The work they do there is unbelievable, having helped over 1 million people. That is another story.

Po-Leo



India National Immunisation Day

We were members of a party of Rotarians, including 8 from 1070, who flew to India for the National Immunisation Day (NID). On our arrival in Delhi we were fully briefed by the Indian immunisation team on the complexities of the polio immunisation programme and how the disease breeds in areas of overcrowding and poor sanitation. Children have to be immunised time and time again because of the prevalence of diarrhoea.

Rotarians in India have been involved in the programme for over 15 years and it was emphasised how important our visit was in order to encourage them to continue.

Incidentally we were told that the usual risk assessments had been carried out and that the only issue was that we might drop a baby!

Following the briefing we split into three groups – one remaining in Delhi and the others going to Lucknow and Bareilly. Our group, led by PDG Keith Paver, went to Bareilly, a large industrial town of 2 million, people where we were very warmly welcomed by Rotarians representing 8 clubs.

On the NID we were divided into small groups and taken to different locations in and around the town. We visited three villages on the outskirts of Bareilly. As soon as we arrived everyone was very keen for us to get involved in administering the drops, painting fingers and taking photos. We accompanied Bareilly Rotarians walking round the villages calling at the homes to check that all under 5s had been immunised. We gradually attracted a crowd of friendly

children who carried, or accompanied, their younger siblings to the immunisation centre. They were fascinated by our 1070 Bear and had obviously never seen a teddy before. Some touched it very gingerly, others were wary and some clamoured to carry it.

The following day we were involved in part of the “mopping up” process whereby an area is revisited to check whether all eligible children had been immunised and doors were marked as a record.

Going on this project was a very moving experience which we will never forget. We were very aware of the extreme poverty and unhygienic conditions in which people live but, in spite of that, they were very happy communities.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of the Bareilly Rotarians who entertained us all weekend. We were very impressed by the hard work they had put in over the years and also with their own artificial limb centre where they attach feet from the Jaipur Limb Centre to artificial limbs made in Bareilly.

We all became even more aware of the need to complete the Polio eradication programme and to give support to those on the “front line”. We came back feeling we had made a small contribution to this cause and gained many friends in the process. We would recommend this experience to everyone.

David & Mary Whitehead



Thanks for Life
Thanks Rotary

END POLIO NOW



Ramsey's Christmas float re-launch

Travelling home to Peterborough through Ramsey town centre in a car turned out to be an impossible task for the editor on Saturday, 28th November. The citizens were celebrated the turning on of Christmas lights and he now regrets not witnessing a spectacular sight.

A highlight of activity in the area is the Father Christmas Float. The week before and after almost a year and much hard work, the Rotary Club of Ramsey's brand new Christmas Float had its official launch. Club President June Green hosted the unveiling event, with over 50 guests in attendance, including the Mayor of Ramsey, and many of the sponsors.



The Float was completely stripped down and re-designed. Many local businesses kindly sponsored materials to help with the re-build. Rotarians spent many evenings working on the Float, with it finally being finished just under a week before it went back on the road.

Many thanks must go to Float re-build co-ordinator Mark Greenhalgh and local farmer Robert Stacey who provided the facility to house the float, and provided valuable assistance in the reconstruction.

A little extra help makes all the difference

Volunteer friends at Wreake Valley helped with their annual Santa Sleigh collection. This increased the club's personnel resources meaning they could collect and spread the festive spirit for an additional night.



Record entry at Burghley

Five hundred and sixty five Santas of all ages, shapes and sizes – even canine – took part in the third Stamford Santa Fun Run in the world famous Burghley Park December 13th 2009.

Stamford Burghley President, Chris Harrison Smith, said "The whole Club worked very hard to make this such a success. We had teams from all over the area

– the largest team of fifty three was from Melton Mowbray.

The Fun Run is an excellent way to raise funds, it is very likely we will exceed the £15,000 we raised last year".



Santa float reaps rich reward

Santa floats are clearly getting more high tec. The members of Shepshed Charnwood Rotary Club wish to thank the members of the public who were so very generous with their support for the Santa Float that toured the local villages just before Christmas.

The residents of Kegworth, East Leake, Sutton Bonington, Hathern and Shepshed helped to raise £2550 which will go to local and International Rotary Charities in the near future.



Members of the Rotary Club are pictured in front of the Santa Float.

Santas take it easy



Santas turned out in force for the Santa Saunter held in Wicksteed Park, Kettering. The event was organised by John Webster of the Rotary Club of Kettering Huxloe in support of Cransley Hospice, Kettering.

Those taking part were given a 'Santa suit' before starting their walk, and at the end they were rewarded with mince pies and coffee.

The saunter was such a success that it is planned to make it an annual event.

Lutterworth Santas

What a wonderful spectacle!!! A sea of red in Lutterworth was provided by 715 Santas as the Rotary Clubs of Lutterworth and Lutterworth Wycliffe joined forces for the first Santa Fun Run on November 29th. The response from the local people was overwhelming and more than £8000 will have been raised for Charity including Loros, Rainbows children's Hospice and Lutterworth Bill Piper's appeal. Such an event requires the assistance of many more people, thanks are due to the Lutterworth College, the One Stop Shop, marshals, sponsors, shopkeepers who distributed the outfits, the runners, the Lutterworth Council, the police and everyone who helped to make this such an enjoyable and successful event.

Keep your diaries free for the same weekend in 2010.



Team One Stop Shop



Rotary Young Chef 2009-10

The heat was on as five Mini Master Chefs battled it out to become Sleaford Rotary Young Chef 2009-10, in the local competition held at St George's College of Technology.

The competition was fierce as the students who ranged from 13-15 years in age.

They had ninety minutes to cook a healthy two course meal, designed from their own menu and based on a tight budget of £10.00. However the competition was not just judged on taste alone.

The marking began, as the clock struck 11 by Chef and Restaurateur John Blenkiron, from the *Tally Ho at Aswarby* and Rotarian David Mather, from *The Kitchen at Nocton Heath*. They were joined by Sally Elkington, presenter of *Lincs FM cookery programme*.

The judges had eleven categories to mark the students from, which included healthy choices, planning and hygiene along with presentation and taste. The results were extremely close,



with Jessica Bond (13) taking first place, closely followed by Mollie Selby (13) and Alice Mark (13). The judges said, "their organisation was so good, with excellent attention to detail and they were very confident". For John it was all about seeing young talent going to

go into the industry; in fact he was so impressed with the menu choices and range of skills demonstrated that he offered the winner the opportunity to gain some hands on experience working by his side in preparation for the District finals in January.

This is the second year that St George's College has hosted the competition. Debra Cressey from the Rotary club of Sleaford who organised this part of the competition was very impressed by "how calm and confident the chefs were and how good it all tasted at the finish".

Jessica will now go on to compete in the District finals, to be held at Hichingbrooke School on 30th January.

Grantham Chef



The Grantham Rotary Young Chef competition was held at Gratham College with a worthy winner being 11 year old David Theisler with James Newman as runner up. Both boys attend The King's School Grantham. The Mayor of Grantham,

Councillor Ray Wootten, presented David with his trophy. The certificates

were presented a week or so later when Prue Leith OBE came to The King's School to officially open new dining facilities. The school has been awarded £300,000 to construct a state of the art teaching kitchen/classroom to be ready in time for the compulsory teaching of Home Economics which the government plans to introduce in all secondary schools.

The days of turkey twizzlers are clearly numbered!

Coalville Rotary thanks the town

The Coalville Christmas Market took place on Saturday 28th. November, attracting record crowds. The Christmas lights were 'switched on' by X-Factor finalists 'Same Difference'. Coalville Rotary Club once again ran what used to be known as 'The Mulled Wine Stall'.

They had a fantastic afternoon, raising over £1,200, selling tea, coffee, hot dogs, mushy peas with mint sauce, and the ever popular mulled wine. All the Rotarians and partners involved worked extremely hard all day keeping the supply of food and drink flowing smoothly. The event was a huge success. The annual event raises money to support local charities in the area, this year the stall attracted a record number of customers thanks to the support of the people of Coalville.

Richard Geary

Students serve up the right stuff at Coalville



The Rotary Club of Coalville organised the Young Chef of the Year first heat at Newbridge High School in Coalville on 24th November 2009.

Three local schools competed in the first heat; these being Castle Rock, King Edward and Newbridge Schools, each having four pupils enter the competition.

The Club was fortunate enough to have Lee Ross, the catering manager of Stephenson College in Coalville, to judge the competition.

The standards were high, and only a few points separated first, second and third places.

The first heat was won by Miss Claudia Esposito-Edge from Castle Rock School, with Lewis Payne and Jack Holmes, both from Newbridge School in second and third places respectively.

Cumbria flood relief donation



Ashby de la Zouch Club has donated £500 to the flood relief fund in Cumbria. Members voted that the money should be used for immediate help to those who had been flooded out of their homes or businesses.

The photograph was taken by David Marriott who visited Bowness-on-Windermere at the height of the floods to check on the safety of his boat. Fortunately it was unscathed unlike the one in the photo.



Rotary passes a ball that's changing the world

“Everybody needs to wake up in the morning with a goal. That is the main thing. The Homeless World Cup brings this opportunity – to go training, to change your life.”

Eric Cantona, Ambassador, Homeless World Cup

Rotary has become a major supporter of a new initiative – The Football Box. Pioneered by the Homeless World Cup the Football Box trains and equips homeless players to become football coaches and role models in their community, helping to get more homeless people off the streets and onto the football field to change their lives.

For the last two years Rotary Clubs around the world have supported the growth and development of the Homeless World Cup, using football to change lives of homeless people around the world. There are all programmes for homeless people in over 70 nations and over 30,000 homeless people benefited from pre-tournament training and trials for the Milan 2009 Homeless World Cup in September.



Pascall Yellamati leads a training session, Slum Soccer, Nagpur, India

Now Rotary has gone one step further and become the first major organisation to fund the Football Box. Rotary Clubs have already funded nearly 20 Football Boxes at £500 each that will provide opportunities for homeless players to become coaches, trainers and instructors and get homeless people off the streets and on to the football field in 2010. The Football Box training programme was piloted successfully in India in the summer of 2009. Among the participants was Pascall Yellamati who played in the India Homeless World Cup squad in Melbourne 2008. Pascall explains; “The Homeless

World Cup has completely transformed me. I now feel like a useful part of the society and I want to give something back to my community”.

Scottish social entrepreneur, Mel Young, set up the Homeless World Cup in 2003. The Homeless World Cup continues to put the players at the centre of the solution, giving them the chance to change their lives. The impact is consistently profound and significant with over 70% of players changing their lives for the better by coming off drugs and alcohol, moving into

jobs, education, homes, training, reuniting with families and even going on to become players and coaches for pro or semi-pro football teams.

The Homeless World Cup supporters include UEFA, Nike, UN, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Ambassador Eric Cantona and international footballers Didier Drogba and Rio Ferdinand and now Rotary.

Get into the Homeless World Cup and support football changing lives.

The Rio 2010 Homeless World Cup takes place in September. Robin Tatler, President of the Rotary Club of Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Traquair and Fundraising Manager for the Homeless World Cup Foundation would like to speak to your Club about how you can support this project. Please contact him on 0131 652 8194 or email: robin@homelessworldcup.org.

Carol Service of the Rotary Club of Sleaford

District Governor Dick with wife Jilla returned to Sleaford to celebrate together with the President of the Rotary Club of Sleaford Norry Bell and wife Marilynne at the Annual Carol Service held in St Denys' Church, Sleaford in December

Also taking part were members of Sleaford Interact Club and the Sleaford Ukulele Orchestra who played at the service together with singers from the American University of Evansville studying at Harlaxton College and taking part in the Rotary 'Adopt a Family' scheme.

Local youngster boosted by sporting partnership



Talented young England U17 judo player Freya de Chastelain aged 15 from Sywell, Northampton has been awarded a grant by the Rotary Clubs of Northampton and Nene Valley in association with Sports Aid East Midlands to help her achieve her sporting dreams.

The Rotary Clubs of Northampton and Nene Valley have combined with the charity SportsAid to give Freya an award of £500 to help with coaching, travel, training and equipment costs in her chosen sport.

Sports Aid is a charity working to help talented young sportspersons compete at the highest levels in their chosen sports. Awards are given to competitors who are currently ranked in the top 10 nationally of their sport or are regular members of national age group squads. Rotary, nationally, seeks to support the celebration of achievements by young people and considers this to be an excellent way to assist talented sportspersons from their locality to fulfil their dreams.

Freya is a member of the England U17 Judo squad and is currently ranked No 1 in Great Britain in her U17 category at 48 kg.

She is the current British Champion after winning gold in October. Other recent achievements include: Gold – Heart of England, Gold – Irish Open, Silver – Antwerp Cup, Belgium and Gold – Midland Area Trials.

Freya is one of only fifteen girls (covering all weight groups) selected for the England Talent Squad this year and her long-term ambition is to compete in an Olympic Games or World Championships.

The award was presented to Freya by the Presidents of Rotary Clubs of Northampton and Nene Valley in November.



The ultimate garden makeover?

Market Bosworth Rotary Club members worked this autumn at Dorothy Goodman School, Hinckley, to create a new garden area for pupils with special needs to use



AR Demolition (led by Richard Dolman)
Midland Quarry Products
Theobalds Timber
Greaves Brothers
GB Enterprises

and enjoy. An overgrown garden has been transformed into 4 large raised beds surrounded by paving to allow easy access for pupils including those in wheelchairs.

With a grant from Rotary International, a startling change has been accomplished.

Rotarians started with a vigorous clearance operation, cutting back encroaching hedges and pruning trees and shrubs. Great assistance was generously provided by:-

In spring, rotary members plan to return to assist with grass seeding and planting of borders with aromatic and other sensory plants. The contents of the raised beds will be up to the pupils and staff of the Dorothy Goodman School to decide.



Before...



and after...



WOW factor, care of Rotary



Boston St Botolph Rotary Club brought an early Christmas present to the children of John Fielding Special School in the form of a bubble generator. With a gift of £2160, the next phase of the environmental soft play area, unanimously renamed by the children the *WOW Room*, was recently put into place. On Monday 7 December, members of St Botolph Rotary Club, led by their president Alan Dropkin, enjoyed a celebration of the achievement with Headmistress Sue Morrison and some of the children, one of whom, Luke Hill, took these photos.

Fellow pupil Georgina delighted everyone by being caught in a moment of deep interaction with the magic of random bubbles rising in the column as reflections shone all around her in the clever arrangement of mirrors. The *WOW Room* is designed to stimulate just such a reaction and, when complete, will provide a multitude of stimuli which can be activated by even the most disadvantaged child. The

project, which started as a dream 18 months ago, only needs another £8000 for completion. Organisations or individuals wishing to be associated with this wonderful project are invited to contact the Headmistress direct or Rotarian Mike on mike@pjspie.pub.com



Maamba Training Carpentry Workshop - Zambia



Trade Aid is one of the great successes in Rotary District 1070: here is news from Sister Nary Fallon of one of the projects being supported by the charity.

"The journey began for us here in Maamba at the beginning of June, and we have been moving steadily forward ever since. The first phase of our mission was to fit out the interior of the new purpose-built carpentry training workshop, a task which kept us engaged until mid-July. Assisted greatly by a team of local carpenters, progress was not long in coming. The dusty interior was soon transformed into a modern working environment, benches and machine stations constructed within, along with a storage unit to house all of our woodworking tools.

"During the fit-out of the centre we had made an effort to collect any scraps of wood we were left with, and these were offered to the students as a means to practice their skills on. It wasn't long before little creations began to appear – simple ideas at first, but developing surely and steadily into more complex objects. Carvings, small tables, children's chairs (owing to the size of the scrap wood), clothes hangers, ashtrays, indeed all manner of objects began to be produced.

"Even without advertising we are already gaining a name in Maamba for quality furniture, and have even an offer of a large scale project, outfitting newly built bedrooms and a bar at a nearby guesthouse. The future is bright, and I have no doubt that if we continue at the pace we have set ourselves we will have a fine crop of trainees sitting down to take their trade test in carpentry and joinery next June."



Obituaries

Richard Groome (1936-2009) **Rotary Club of Wellingborough** **Hatton**

Richard Groome affectionately known as Dick or Little Dick to his Rotary friends passed away on 6th November 2009, sadly losing his valiant battle with his illness.

Dick who was a founder member of Hatton and was the club's 10th President in 1995 was educated in Higham Ferrers before joining the motor trade as an apprentice mechanic.

After his National Service in the RAF in which part was served in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Dick returned to his old job in the motor trade progressing onto the sales side.

Eventually Dick formed his own company in Wellingborough (Longmarsh) where he kept a hands on approach in the business with his son Scott right up until his illness hospitalised him towards the end.

Dick worked very hard in Rotary and the local community, especially supporting the town's Castle Theatre and community projects.

Dick was a much beloved husband, father and grandfather to his family and will be missed by his wife Pam and all his family and friends.

Derek Wingrave

Brian Stevens **Rotary Club of St Neots**

Brian Stevens died unexpectedly of an aneurism on 13 October 2009 at the age of 79 after collapsing at the weekly Rotary Club meeting. He had been an active member of the Rotary Club of St Neots for 33 years and was currently Honorary Secretary of the Club. He had served as President on two occasions – 1987/8 and 2003/4 and had previously been Hon Sec for 11 years from 1992 – 2002. He served as the 1070 District Communications Committee Chairman from 2003 – 2006 and was made a Paul Harris Fellow in June 2000.

Brian was born in Wiltshire but grew up in Northampton. He was educated at Northampton (Town & County) Grammar School and following National Service in the RAF in 1948, he read geography and economics at Leicester University College. He went on to teach in secondary education in Cheshire and Lancashire before becoming Principal at Longsands Community College in St Neots, Cambs in

1975. He retired in January 1992. He was a former National President of the Secondary Heads Association and, following his retirement, he became a consultant for SHA, advising schools on the appointment of new head teachers and preparing schools for OFSTED inspections. He also served on his local Parish council.

Brian was a keen and formidable tennis and hockey player. He played for his University and at County level. He was an active member of St Neots Hockey Club and at the age of 50 became a Cambridgeshire hockey umpire. He met his wife Carol (who predeceased him in 2002) on the tennis courts in Leicester and they were married in Leicester Cathedral in 1956. They had two children – Jeremy and Judith – and four grandchildren. In later years Brian took up golf and played regularly for the seniors' team in St Neots.

Brian will be sadly missed by his friends and fellow Rotarians, both in St Neots and in District 1070, as was evident by the good attendance at his memorial service at Swineshead on 26th October 2009.

John Cartwright

Dennis Weaver **Rotary Club of Daventry**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death on 29th October of Dennis Weaver at the age of 95.

Dennis has been a stalwart of this club for longer than anyone can remember, and he was indeed by some 10 years our longest serving member.

He joined the Rotary Club of Daventry on 5th. October 1954, just 55 years ago, soon after he arrived in Daventry as Headmaster of Daventry Grammar School. He served as Headmaster until the school became comprehensive in the late 1960's, and he was then the first Head of the new school, William Parker. He was known to, and remembered by, several generations of Daventry children as their Headmaster and was held in great esteem by them.

In the same way Dennis served Rotary with enthusiasm and determination. He held virtually every post in the club at one time or another, and was elected President in 1961/62. He then served a further term as President in 1972/73, stepping in at short notice on the death of the President-elect. He was the first, and for many years the only, person to serve twice in that office. He was elected a Paul Harris

Fellow in 1984, and in 2001 when he decided at last to step down from active membership he was elected to an Honorary Membership for Life.

Nothing was too much trouble for Dennis, he never turned down a request to serve or to help, and he was an unfailing source of support and encouragement to all of us over many years.

His wife Maureen died some years ago, but since then, and despite his failing health, he remained cheerful and optimistic. Even on the day of his death he was chatting cheerfully to one of our members and remarking on how he was looking forward to the Christmas Dinner.

Dennis will be remembered by all those who knew him with very great affection.

Dr. D. P. B. Pound

Passed to Higher Service

- Derek Broughton**, St Ives
- * **Richard Groome**, Wellingborough Hatton
- * **Brian Stevens**, St Neots
- * **Ken Vaughan**, Market Bosworth
- * **Dennis Weaver**, Daventry
- * *Obituary provided*

New Members

New Members to 30 November 2009

Robert Allen, Sleaford.
Michelle Thresher, Danetre Daventry.
Sean Lee, Sleaford Kesteven.
David Woods, Sleaford Kesteven.
Donna Ward, Sleaford Kesteven.
Donna Ward, Stamford St. Martins.
Peter Brotherton, Corby Phoenix.
Judy Fitz-Hugh, Lutterworth Wycliffe.
Roderick Clark, Kimbolton Castle.
Michael Burton, Ise Valley.
John Wheeler, Biggleswade Ivel.
Patricia Wheeler, Biggleswade Ivel.
Patrick Blair, Brackley.
Susie Bromwich, Loughborough Beacon.
Brian Smith, Market Harborough.
Kay, Leicester Novus.
Dave, Leicester Novus.
Rikesh, Leicester Novus.
Paul Bayliss, Leicester de Montfort.
David Brown, Melton Mowbray Belvoir.
Jenny Barnes, Melton Mowbray Belvoir.
John Bartley, Melton Mowbray Belvoir.
Mic Hirst, Melton Mowbray Belvoir.
Martin Hart, Melton Mowbray Belvoir.
Stewart Wiltshire, Stamford St. Martins.
Jonathan Ross, Bedford Park.
Graham Madeley, Melton Mowbray Belvoir.
Mark Ormrod, Thrapston & Raunds.
David Dennis, Thrapston & Raunds.



Enough to make your hair turn orange

Ashby de la Zouch SVP David Marriott presented the Club with £1000 for children's charities at Christmas. He raised the money by not sending Christmas cards and also by attending his staff party dressed as a Jagerette. (His Company sells Jägermeister in the UK and their majorettes are known as Jagerettes.)

We understand that he quite enjoyed donning black tights, black nail varnish, tattoos, lip gloss, 38" bra with padding, and of course the compulsory orange hair! At the time of writing, his wife Margaret was unavailable for comment. He has been persuaded not to attend future Club meetings in the outfit – at least not after he is installed as President.



Ashby de la Zouch SVP David Marriott said if he had known that he could raise £1000 by donning a dress, he would do it more often!

Loughborough Beacon Hallowe'en dance nets £1300

Fearsome witches, gruesome ghouls and bloodthirsty-looking vampires raised £1300 for international causes, including Rebuilding Sri Lanka, at a Halloween charity dance attended by nearly a hundred members and guests of the Rotary Club of Loughborough Beacon. Organised by Rod Quirighetti and his international team, the event raised £800 on the night, which Rotary matched with a District Simplified Grant of £500, and local businesses donated raffle prizes.



Moustaches grown for charity

Many members of Ashby de la Zouch Club grew moustaches for charity last November at the encouragement of Robert Pope. The worldwide 'Movember' appeal urged men to grow 'Mos' (moustaches) during that month to highlight men's health, particularly awareness of prostate cancer.

Sponsorship of members' family and friends was sought with many agreeing to contribute only with the proviso that the offending hair was removed on 1 December! The nationwide effort in the UK was in aid of the Prostate Cancer UK charity, the Club was able to donate £1800 from direct sponsorship and from an indoor barbeque.



Pictured left: A group of Ashby's moustachioed members at the final event of Movember.

Deepings Interact

Caroline Tatum is the new President of the Deepings Interact Club and was officially inducted by President Geoff Card from the Rotary Club of the Deepings.

Caroline takes over the reins of the Club from Amy Brereton who is now studying at Sheffield University.

Formed three years ago at the Deepings School, it is run by the students of the school to play an active role in charitable projects, both at home and abroad.

At her inauguration, Caroline was accompanied by her Vice-President Sam Parker and Treasurer Will Edwards. They will be raising funds for the Exotic Pet Refuge by supermarket bag packing and assisting the Rotary Club and Lions with Santa's Grotto and Sleigh.



Mercy Ships on sea and land

Mercy Ships is a Christian charity that aims to help the people of West African countries, principally Liberia and Sierra Leone, to have access to medical and other life changing help. This is provided mainly by the 'Africa Mercy', a ship fitted out with 7 operating theatres and which, because of years of local civil war, is one of the few functioning hospitals in the area. Reconstructive surgery for cleft lip and palate and other deformities, and the correction of blindness, are procedures carried out on the ship and training of local healthcare workers also takes place.

Rotary International in Great Britain has adopted Mercy Ships as a charity to support and money raised and donated by Rotary Clubs has gone towards fitting out the 'Africa Mercy'.

Mercy Ships also help on land. Teams of volunteer Rotarians have visited Sierra Leone and have helped to build and equip the Aberdeen Fistula Centre in Freetown. This is a place where women suffering from obstetric fistula, a debilitating injury incurred during childbirth which leaves women incontinent and often abandoned by families, can come for corrective surgery and rehabilitation. John Dawson of Shephed Charnwood was part of a team which was involved with this project and he was able to describe the difficulties faced by these women but also the joy at seeing them reintegrate into their communities and resume a normal life after surgery. Mercy Ships is involved with helping to provide basic literacy and arithmetic training for disabled children, who are often excluded from schools, and training in areas such as clean water and sanitation services.

Haiti, yet another disaster

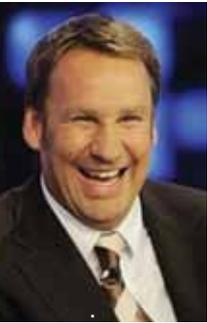
With reports of over 100,000 dead and an unimaginable number of people homeless, ShelterBox is asking for donations from clubs and the public to assist in their relief effort. Stocks of boxes were already depleted because of the Taiwan typhoon. It is essential to re-stock to meet demand.





Forthcoming events

- ◇ **75 years of Rotary in Rushden** – 19 February 2010, at 7.30pm, at the Park Hotel Sharnbrook.
Guest speaker – hijack victim Mr Michael John Thexton.
Further information from Graham Wise, Secretary, 01933 460211, graham@gwizz.plus.com
- ◇ **Peterborough Ortons – Choir in Harmony**, Westgate Church, Peterborough. Thursday 18th March at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 each, concessions and bookings over 10 £7.50. colin.yarwood@gmail.com
- ◇ **Kettering Sportsman's Dinner** – 18th March. Speakers: ex Arsenal and England star Paul Merson, Northampton Saints old boy and team manager Lenny Newman and comedian Billy Bean. Tickets £35. Call 01536 512217 daytime or 07771 816655 evenings or email duncan.childs@meadows-co.co.uk
- ◇ **Stamford St Martins – Moulin Rouge May Ball** – 8th May, Greetham Valley Golf Club. Nicole Lawrence in concert. Tickets £40. Information from www.moulinrougemayball.yolasite.com



DG's Diary Dates

JANUARY 2010

25th	Peterborough, District Council	E
27th	Kempston Charter	E
28th	Peterborough Minster Charter	E
30th	Towcester International Evening	E
31st	Northampton Charter	L

FEBRUARY 2010

1/2	Alcester, General Council	D
4th	Leicester Novus Club Visit	E
5th	Sandy Charter	E
6th	Grantham Swimathon	D
7th	Northampton West Charter	L
8th	Mkt Harboro' Celebration Dinner	E
11th	Stamford FV Update	E
13th	East Midland RIBI Assembly Planning	D
13th	Hinckley Presidents Night	E
14th	Huntingdon Charter	L
16th	Stamford, PETS Preparation	E

RIBI President Visits:-

18th	Peterborough Sailability Loughborough Beacon Ashby	D D E
19th	Northampton West Rushden Charter	L E
20th	Northampton Apollo	M
22nd	Wellingborough Charter	E
23rd	Alcester LDTC Meeting	D
24th	Biggleswade Interact Tree	D
24th	Wellingborough Youth Speaks Final	E
25th	Leicester, TFL Concert	E
26th	London Polio Reception	E

MARCH 2010

2nd	Ashby Castle Charter	E
3rd	Grantham Kesteven Charter	E
5th	Spalding Charter	E
6th	Loughborough, PETS	D
7th	Greetham, Foundation Lunch	L
11th	St Neots St Marys Sportsman Dinner	E
13th	Stamford, Secretary/ Treasurer Training Day	D
13th	Leicester Region 2 Young Chef	D
17th	Weston Favell Technology Tournament	D
18th	Stamford, Team Meeting	E
19th	St Neots IW 60th Charter	E
20th	TBC PDG Meeting	D
21st	Melton Mowbray Young Musician Final	D
22nd	Melton Mowbray Charter	E
26/28	NEC Birmingham, RIBI Assembly	D
31st	Stamford, District Executive	E

APRIL 2010

9th	Huntingdon Cromwell Charter	E
12th	Lutterworth Wycliffe Charter	E
13th	Biggleswade Charter	L
13th	Stamford, Assembly Planning	E
15/18	Bournemouth, RIBI Conference	D
20th	Peterborough, District Council	E
22nd	Ashby Charter	E
24th	TBC RIBI Young Chef Final	D
25th	Loughboro' Rgnl Young Musician	D
26th	Grantham Charter	E
27th	Sleaford Charter	E
28/30	Lake District Calvert Trust Visit	D

District Calendar

JANUARY – Awareness month

25	District Council	Peterborough
30	District Young Chef Southern Final	Huntingdon

FEBRUARY – World Understanding month

1-2	General Council	Alcester
2	Youth Speaks Senior Semi final	Grantham
3	Youth Speaks Senior Semi final	Bedford
4	Youth Speaks Senior Semi final	Leicester
6	District Young Chef Northern Final	Leicester
10	Foundation Committee	Lady Anne's
16	PETS preparation meeting for AGs	Lady Anne's
18-19	RIBI Presidents visit to the District	
19	Rushden 75th Charter	

23	ROTARY DAY	
24	Leadership, Development and Training Committee	Lady Anne's
24	Youth Speaks final	Wellingboro'
22-26	Rotary – Thanks for Life week	
25tbc	Thanks for Life concert	De Montfort Hall
27	Young Musician semi final North – Areas B & D	Melton
	East – Areas A, C & E	Thrapston
28	Young Musician semi final South – Areas F & G	Northampton

MARCH – Literacy month

	Rotary Technology Tournaments	
6	PETS	Loughboro'
7	District Foundation lunch	Greetham Valley GC
13	Rotary Young Chef Region 2 Final	Leicester
14	Youth Speaks – Region 2 Finals	Radcliffe on Trent

	10am-1pm Intermediate	
	2pm-4pm Senior	
18	District Team	Lady Anne's
21	Young Musician finals	Melton Mowbray
26-28	RIBI Assembly	Birmingham
31	District Executive	Lady Anne's

APRIL – Rotary Magazine month

7	Youth Opps Committee	Mkt. H'boro
13	District Assembly preparation for those chairing Groups	Tba
14	Communications Committee	Lutterworth
16-18	RIBI Conference	Bournem'th
17	Stroke & Health Awareness	All Clubs
20	District Council	Peterboro'
24	RIBI Young Chef final	Chichester
24-30	Calvert Trust	Keswick

