



### Time for a Spring Clean the Rotary Way

Operation Spring Clean originates in Wellingborough, some would say a typical town in middle England. Throughout Great Britain and Ireland, clubs have been taking up the challenge to pick up five (pieces of litter) a day. Why not be as clean outside as inside your own home?

Much of the rubbish had been left in the roadside bushes. In one case, several bottles and cans, together with food wrappers and crisp packets, had been put in a bag and put into the centre of shrubs several feet from the pavement. "Why would anyone go to the trouble of putting everything in a plastic bag and then not take it home to put in their dustbin?" asked one of the collectors.

Minister of Clean, Bob Parfitt believes that "Cleaning Days" happening three times a year would soon make others get the message and has loads of other ideas. He has even considered asking Rotarians to follow the Olympic torch around the country with rubbish bins. Now that would be interesting publicity for the campaign.



*Bedford Borough Council are running a "Pride in Bedford" scheme and the Kempston Rotarians joined forces to collect even more bags of rubbish, shopping trolleys, road cones, and have asked to be kept on Pride in Bedford's mailing list for future events.*

*In Wellingborough, enthusiasts have cleaned out a brook where locals had deposited an unbelievable amount of rubbish: six shopping trolleys (two still had £1 coins in), two baby buggies (no babies), a mattress, a huge carpet, armchair, bricks, numerous pieces of wood, plastic and metal, plastic and glass bottles, cans, of which six were still full, unopened and in date, and many bags of general rubbish.*



*Oadby Rotarians have loads of bottle and nine members decided to celebrate Rotary Day on 23rd February by finding dozens including drinks cans among thousands of pieces of litter. Using tongs and green bags loaned by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, the volunteers spent ninety minutes picking litter from the pavements and verges along Glen Road the A6, from near the entrance to Sainsbury's up to near Glen Gorse Golf Club. Better still the rubbish was disposed of at the County Council recycling centre in Wigston Road.*



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**DG corner March 2012**

With the coming of Spring many clubs are getting out and about doing projects. How is "Rotary Spring Cleaning" going on in your club? There have been some strange finds. No doubt you will have stories from your Spring Clean.

In February, the Vocational Training Team (VTT) had a very successful visit to Thika in Kenya. This project has replaced the Group Study Exchange programme and certainly made a big impact on the school for disabled children in Thika. We sent a team of Special Needs Teachers, Physio-therapists and an Occupational Therapist. They helped the staff with training and looked at ways of providing special equipment to help the children. Much hard work was done by our Foundation Team in planning the event and making sure it was delivered efficiently. Many thanks to the Team for a very professional visit with some very committed people. If you are interested in hearing more from the Team, please contact the Team leader, AG Geoff Blurton.

Grantham's Swimarathon has hit the headlines all around the Rotary World. It was a magnificent event with swims taking place in many different countries at the same time – quite a feat, which I was pleased to be able to witness at Grantham. Congratulations to the Grantham Club for achieving such a big event on the global stage. Thanks also to the clubs who ran events in support of Grantham on that day.

There have been many Charter Events, some following the standard pattern others with a different format, but they have all been celebrations.



We have been very lucky to have the RIBI President, Ray Burman, at some of these events, Northampton's 90th Charter, plus Sandy and St Neots St Marys. He will also be present at Lutterworth Wycliffe's 25th Charter in April and Wreake Valley's 25th Charter in June, so there is still chance for members to hear him speak in our District.

The youth events are now nearly completed. One weekend in March was hectic with the District Presentations for winners of Young Photographer and Young Writer plus the Regional Finals for Young Musician all at the same event. In addition the Regional Youth Speaks and Regional Young Chef Finals, also took place in the same weekend. A big thank you to our New Generations Team who spent nine very busy weeks delivering all the District Semi-Finals and Finals. Unfortunately this year we only have one representation in the Youth Finals, which is the Senior Youth Speaks Team from Bourne Grammar School. Good luck to them at the RIBI Finals at Wrexham on Saturday 28 April.

We were very pleased to have Paul Nyibeck, our Peace Scholar studying at Bradford University, join us for the annual Foundation Lunch. He is clearly very involved with his studies and has some interesting plans for his summer away project which many of us look forward to hearing. Why not consider going to the annual Peace Seminar at Bradford at the beginning of November? You will hear all the scholars, including Paul, speak about their work over this last year.

*Linda*

**Pray for rain**

Not really, but for just a tenner you can really publicise Rotary come rain or shine.

For sale at the District Council in January (there must be more available?), every Rotarian should have a Rotary umbrella. What better way to display the wheel at fetes, as background for publicity, sports events, in fact anywhere.



**Environmental award**

The Environmental Salver was presented to the Rotary Club of Oadby on 16th February for a project to carry out work in the local area in conjunction with the local council especially in parks and open areas. The award was shared by Oadby and the Rotary Club of Loughborough Beacon. In both cases the benefit to the Community was tremendous and showed the real spirit of Rotary.



*Bill Watson*

**Annual Macmillan quiz**

On Friday 24th February the Rotary Club of Peterborough organized its 4th Annual Macmillan Quiz. This was one of 105 identical quizzes taking place around the country at the same time, the aim being to get into the Guinness Book of Records as the largest single quiz ever held.



Peterborough Quiz held at Thorney Lakes Golf Club. The Quiz Master was DJ Keith Dalton. Players enjoyed a fish & chip supper in the interval.

The winning side with 85% correct were the "Ramsey Rebels" but the big winner was a donation of over £1,400 for Macmillan and local Peterborough Charities.



**What IS PENHA?**



The Rotary Club of South Holland decided to support PENHA as one of their overseas projects in the year 2010-11 and through the help and support of Kees Maxey, the brother of one of the club's members who has been able monitor the progress and develop-

ment of the equipment identified by PENHA and supplied South Holland.

PENHA's mission is to reduce poverty among the pastoralists in the Horn of Africa. Its objectives are: to empower pastoralist communities and their institutions to play a full role in their own development and to influence development policy and design programmes to foster sustainable livelihoods among pastoralists. PENHA is an international non-government organisation led and inspired by Africans, mostly from the Horn Region. It was founded in 1989 based on the commitment of professionals and development workers from the Horn of Africa to address issues of pastoralist concerns from a regional perspective. With a small office in London, PENHA has established country offices in Uganda, Somaliland, Eritrea and Sudan. The country offices are mainly led by local professionals who are regularly supported by the international team in London.

With the support of Trade Aid and the Rotary Club of Grantham, the South Holland Club sent out three Education Boxes to Kassala in Eastern Sudan.

If you would like to become involved in helping PENHA, please look at their web site: [www.penhainetwork.org](http://www.penhainetwork.org) and then, for further information, please contact Rtn Tom Maxey, International Chairman at the Rotary Club of South Holland.

**Help for Birstall under sevens**

When Soar Valley Rotary Club was contacted by Helen Chamberlain with a request to help a junior football team that was being started in Birstall, the Rotary club was keen to help get it off to a good start. In consultation with Mrs Chamberlain, it was decided that providing a team strip would be very useful. The kit was handed over to the delighted members of Birstall United Juniors Football Club under 7's. Rotary President Alastair Wood said the delight shown by the children was obvious and he was most impressed by their enthusiasm and energy. He hoped that their commitment would lead to many wins in the coming seasons. Helen said she was thrilled with the kit and said that she was sure it would give the team a real boost.



**Frugal supper benefits others**

Every year at Christmas time Rushden Chichele have what they call a "Frugal Supper", usually just a bread roll and soup, instead of their regular Monday evening meal. The idea is to share their good fortune with those less well off by donating the cost of their usual meal to good causes. In the past this has included local elderly people and famine victims abroad.

The Rotary Club of Rushden Chichele was the bringer of Christmas cheer to two local groups recently. At the Darsdale Home for the Blind in Raunds on Monday 19th December, a choir of 14 Rotarians and wives sang carols to the residents before President George Alder presented a cheque for £400 to the manager Sue Henderson.

**No need for Gok Wan at St Ives**

In March, St Ives Rotary Club organised a 'Charity Fashion Show' in aid of 'Help for Heroes' at the Burgess Hall, attended by 320 people who were entertained by fashion displays from Cavell's of Oakham, Townrow's and Lady Jayne Lingerie of St Ives.

Rotary Club organiser, Juliet Cole, was very grateful to the people of St Ives, Huntingdon and the surrounding villages for

supporting the evening with such a wonderful turnout and volunteer models.

The evening was made even more entertaining by the inclusion of many fashion and accessory stalls.

The club estimate that the evening will have raised a total of over £2,500 for 'Help for Heores' whose spokesperson, Katie Wilson, gave a very illuminating talk





### Teddy mania!!!



It all started with a very small advert in the Barwell Parish magazine asking for knitters to knit tiny blankets and body warmers for the neo-natal units at Leicester Royal Infirmary and Walsgrave Hospital. A further request was made to knit teddies for traumatised children at home and abroad.

Rotarian Elaine Turner saw this and enjoyed the challenge of knitting with a purpose and wondered if others might like to join in.

A small article in local newspapers brought an overwhelming response which has resulted in over 400 teddies being received from as far afield as Sussex.

Several small blankets, body warmers and two large blankets (which the Red Cross have been pleased to accept for fire victims) have also been knitted and distributed.

Private enterprises in the county are taking teddies to Ethiopia, others to orphanages in Portugal.

The organisation which the Barwell Parish support is SEED (Social

Educational Economic Development) with several parishioners going to Kosovo and Albania to 'enrich the lives of the many 'Romany' families,' who live in impoverished conditions.

They are also working with a school of 1500 youngsters. Some of the teddies will be taken with them. A little after the visit, a lorry is expected to go out with much needed supplies of clothing, shoes and school consumables. Also it is hoped to take out vegetable seeds.

If you can help with any such items, the telephone number is 01455 446587.

Intercare, who send unused medicines to Africa (Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Siera Leone, Tanzania, and Zambia) which the Lutterworth Wycliffe Medical Practice collect on their behalf and sorted by Lutterworth Rotarians each month, are sending a large box of these Teddies and two boxes of children's pyjamas ( kindly donated by Asda) with the medicines to these African Countries who are so desperately poor, for use in their clinics, hospitals and orphanages.

Anyone wishing to knit teddies or tiny blankets or body warmers can apply to Elaine Turner 01455 553425 for a pattern. Also gratefully received would be gifts of oddments of double knitting wool.

A sincere thank you to everyone who have risen to the challenge and produced so many lovely teddies.

*Peter J Osborn*

### Bereavement

The completely revamped and newly designed bereavement centre opened at the Leicester Royal Infirmary on 9th February where Leicester's City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby, cut the red ribbon. This was all thanks to the Rotary Club of Leicester who raised the £100,000 for the work with funds originally collected to support Leicester's Bone Bank. The money was not needed for the bone bank after a change in recommendations by the Department of Health, so the Rotary Club of Leicester members voted for the renovation of the Bereavement Centre to benefit from the funds.

The centre is designed as a peaceful place for relatives of patients who have died at the Royal Infirmary to sit and wait while paperwork and other formalities are completed. The new centre will replace the old, cramped office and small waiting rooms with two upgraded private rooms with views and access to a new courtyard garden.

Sharon Maughan, senior bereavement services officer, said: "The Rotary Club's generous donation has transformed the Bereavement Services Office. It's fantastic. The family rooms and courtyard are like a small oasis of calm in what is a very busy hospital. We are all delighted with what the donation has helped to achieve."

### Oundle helps the aged in South Africa

The Rotary Club of Oundle, in conjunction with the Rotary District Foundation Committee have recently provided jointly £1,000 to buy a new computer, electric fans and garden furniture for a senior citizens home in South Africa.

The funding was provided 50/50 by the Club and the District in response to a request from the Rotary Club of Scottburgh to provide the equipment to the Alexandra Park Home for the Aged.

Alexandra Park is a non-profit organisation that is a registered Home for the Aged situated at Scottburgh, a coastal town that is 65 kilometres south of Durban in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

This is the second collaboration between the two Rotary Clubs and District 1070. In 2009, the combined financial and practical input provided a total of 21 water storage tanks to crèches, schools and community centres thereby benefitting approximately 4000 people.

The photograph shows the Home's administrators receiving one of the electric fans prior to its installation.





## Newsletter

My club was appalled by the recent newsheet issued by RIBI and authorised me to put our views to fellow members.

The October edition of Rotary Today carried an excellent letter from Bob Thomson, District 1010, about joining Rotary at a later age, finding new friends and helping to make a difference by using his lifetime of experience now he had time on his hands after retirement. What a wonderful advert I thought to show friends and colleagues of my age, near retirement, who have the same mindset, the time, skills and resources, physical and monetary, to devote to Rotary.

I'm sure all of those who identify with the above were surprised to find that we have been airbrushed out of the Rotary publicity newspaper.

Hardly a grey hair or a wrinkle insight and a male/female split in the photos that is completely misrepresentative of the actual balance in the organisation. Publicity or propaganda? The inside pages are excellent publicity advertising the wide range of things we do and do well.

The outside pages fall under the second category, to equate joining Rotary to having a business opportunity is an offence to the Object of Rotary; it's not about the opportunities to network it's about the opportunity to serve and that word appears in all four parts of the Object.

The omission of any true photo likeness of the majority of clubs is compounded by the crass remark about retired white males, long lunches and occasional charity cheques.

Instead of repeating a perceived market research fallacy why not take the opportunity to promote the achievements of active pre and post retirement Rotarians as an alternative to the University of the Third Age and Bridge Clubs.

The same night as our club received the newsheet the BBC carried an excellent item on its news programmes about polio eradication in India giving great coverage to Rotary and all the grey haired Rotarians administering vaccines. This is the true face of Rotary in both service and age profile, the publicists/propagandists at RIBI need a harsh lesson in club service and ethics to remind them of the roots of a great organisation.

We all know that clubs need a regular infusion of members and younger ones with the prospect of a lifetime of service are particularly welcome, but so are older newcomers with a lifetime of skills as eloquently illustrated by Bob Thomson. Remember RIBI you alienate the silent majority at your peril.

*Nigel Brotherton, Market Harborough Rotary Club*

**Editor's response:** If I remember correctly Rotary started with a guy called Paul Harris networking with some business colleagues in Chicago but also wanting to help the community, one of their first projects was public convenience. When I joined in 1993 Rotarians were on average a lot younger than now, business clubs were just forming, and the University of the Third Age was not too strong. There is now competition from many organisations for committed organisers, women contribute more in business and perhaps Rotary should reflect the changing world. Younger generations are more mobile and have more opportunities. Individual charities are more active and many organisations have huge publicity machines, speculate to generate and openly encourage members to promote. We are not good at it in Rotary. You have to make people Rotary Aware to Care.

Whilst I accept the news sheet is biased to younger people, I believe Rotary would be healthier with a rich mix of both young and old as long as they are active, there are people on the rear cover who are not too young and the split of genders does reflect modern life. It is pleasing that older clubs continue to recruit others of the same age group but you need younger people. The problem is that we are losing members because they are getting older and dying and not recruiting enough younger active members to regenerate.

It was pleasing to receive the letter, it shows you care and perhaps others will respond. The newsletter did generally receive a positive response from Rotarians but it definitely interested others with its presentation and I await other comments.

Oh that I had been provided with finance for such promotions.

## Help for school pond renovation



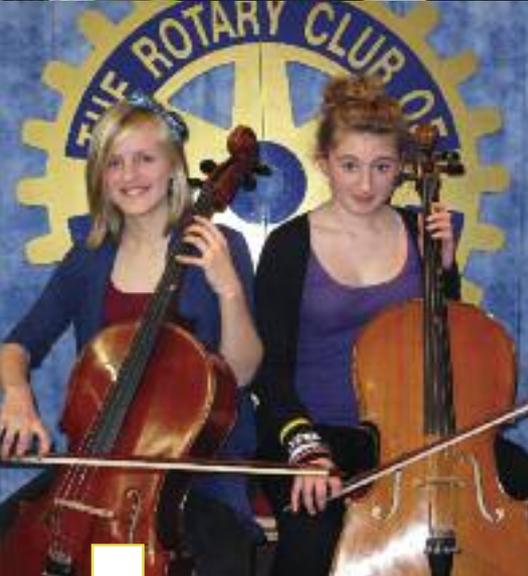
Members of the Rotary Club of Sleaford Kesteven have spent a morning renovating the pond at the Winchelsea Primary School in Ruskington. The area had become overgrown and the pond liner had split, so a new one was fitted and the pond refilled. Headteacher Helen Duckett was on hand to watch the proceedings. "The pond renovation is the first stage in developing this area of the school. I am currently running a Family Learning Course where parents and grandparents come in and work alongside their children and a tutor to 'Grow your Own,'" she said. "The group have learnt about planting and land cultivation, how to make their own compost, build bird feeders and scarecrows, and much more. The adults have been so enthused that they want to continue developing their skills and they are currently setting up a gardening club and seeking support from local businesses. They plan to develop allotments to grow their own fruit and veg and they are planning that this will be used by our cookery club in school, support our healthy schools' agenda and also be sold so that the club can become self-sustaining. They are planning to put bird feeders and wormeries in the environmental area and much more. The Club is liaising as building work comes to an end to acquire some of their picnic tables that they no longer need, to renovate and place in the area so that children can work comfortably in the outdoor environment. When it is complete, the school council will canvas the children for name suggestions and we are hoping to have a grand opening!"

## Stamford St Martins on tour in Edinburgh





Youth



How do you condense 2405 words (after initial editing), six months of work by a dedicated New Generations team, not to mention all the students, teachers and parents who have taken part in Youth Speaks, Young Musician, Photographer, Writer and Technology Tournaments. The answer is with great difficulty but hopefully this goes some way, with the help of photographs, to set the scene from preliminary rounds to regional finals, all roads lead to national finals. A journey full of talented young people.

**Young Musician**

In late January at Rushden, 230 took part in the heats of Young Musician with 45 individual entries, juniors, intermediates and seniors. William Mantle a cornet player set the standard, Rachel Capper won the junior vocal section together with Finedon Muslo Handchimes and Whitefriars Juniors in sections for choirs. In the intermediates Dana Millington-Wood on clarinet, vocalist Matt Hill and the Rushden Junior Quartet the ensemble section. Late into the evening even the most ardent classical fan requires light relief and the Ferriers Folk band got all the feet tapping. Rose Atkinson won the Pauline Longland Memorial Cup for excellence, the silence was eerie at 23.20!

At Thrapston it was more relaxed with 17 entries where the Curve rock band playing a Beatles medley caused some to close their eyes and remember better times. With strong performances by Lula Elbow and Molly Beverly, the Raunds Manor School dominated the senior sections where the biggest sound of the day came from the winning Little Combo.

Successful vocalists competing at the regional finals were Megan Ellis from Thrapston, Lauren Jones from Northampton, and Natalie Davies from Ramsey. Instrumentalists were Eleanor Wood, 'cello, Anna Tulchinskaya, violin and Robert Burton, St. Ives, but unfortunately there was no overall 1070 winner.

**Young Chef**

Young Chef is a marvellous competition, particularly if you are a judge. It was held in Huntingdon and Leicester for students from 11-14 and 15-17 years of age.

At the Samworth Enterprise Academy winner, Lydia Smith from Melton cooked:

- Curried parsnip and apple soup
- Filo pork with apricot stuffing and ratatouille
- Lime cheesecake cream on a biscuit base

Jana-Liss Cooper was second and Isobel Ormerod, only 11 and a star of the future, third. For those who had not eaten, a selection of pork pies was available from the sponsors.

At Hinchingsbrooke School, Huntingdon, Ben Newlyn, representing Towcester, delighted with:

- Thai pea soup
- Stuffed pork fillet with pear and perry sauce, roast sweet potato, asparagus tips and puree.

If you were not full then you could feast on chocolate soufflé. Fortunately? There were no pies to sample afterwards.

Lucy Gregory was second and Jodie Vye third with special merit awards to Jessica Newton and David shire.





**activities**

Judges Roger Sanderson, Simon Benning, Mick Gunney and Anne Crabtree all passed on tips to entrants. Sponsors Dickinson and Morris Pork Pies continue to support the competition (and provide sample pies).

At the regional final, the winner menu included a main course of Anise Spiced Goosemarg Duck Breast with Spatzle and Cherry Jus which needs a bit of working out to decide what it contains.

**Youth Speaks**

Competition is always fierce at Youth Speaks where teams from both state and independent schools enjoy the challenge and intermediate and senior categories do battle.

At the District Final, intermediate section Catmose College, Kings School Grantham, Kim Bolton, Etonbury Middle School, Ivanhoe and Loughborough Endowed Schools participated.

In the senior section Bourne Grammar, Catmose College, Northampton High for Girls, Chenderit, Ashby School and an independent team all performed.

Thus on a foggy morning, Bourne Grammar, Northampton High for Girls, Ivanhoe College and Kimbolton School travelled to the regional finals in sunny Scarborough. The high standard of presentation was maintained and Bourne Grammar came out overall winner, with Chloe Smithers winner of the best speaker award.

**Young Photographer and Young Writer**

Presentations to Young Photographers and Young Writers took place on a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon at the Melton Baptist Church preceding the Regional Young Musician Finals.

The Young Photographers were congratulated on the very good entries reflecting the theme of "Olympic Dreams" or "Olympic Spirit". Prizes were presented to the first three in each age group. The David Green Trophy for the best overall individual photograph was won by Rebecca Millar.

Winners of the first prizes are as follows:

**Young Photographer**

Junior: Leah O'Shea, Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Intermediate: Evie Jenkinson, Wigston

Senior: Zoe Hillmer, Bedford Castle

**Young Writer**

Extracts were read from the Best Junior Writer and best overall Writer entries.

Junior Prose: Tom Turner, Biggleswade & Biggleswade Ivel

Junior Poetry: Anushka Shukla, Kimbolton Castle

Intermediate Prose: Georgia, Rutland

Intermediate Poetry: Hannah Erlebach, Leicester

Senior Prose: Dana McConkey, Biggleswade & Biggleswade Ivel

Senior Poetry: Max Lewis-Clarke, Oadby Launde

Winner of the Best Junior Writer Trophy: Anushka Shukla

Winner of the Best Writer Trophy: Georgia Farr

If you have read the article and viewed the photographs why not try next year's competitions?





## More than 2533?

Dreams do come true. Not too long ago in a little Lincolnshire town called Grantham, Roger Graves searched the Guinness Book of Records and believed it would be possible to beat the world record for swimmers completing one hundred metres in a pool in one hour. Being a Rotarian, he also believed that this might earn a few pennies for the End Polio Now Campaign to hold it on or about Rotary Day, 23rd February. Thus was born the Rotary Global Swimarathon.

One of the key ideals was to establish an enduring global legacy of annual Swimarathon events that would help Rotary reach out to the heart of so many more communities around the world.

Paul Wilson, a self-confessed computer geek, provided his skills and, having created a web site also used Facebook and Twitter to spread the word and use the internet for on line communication.

Social media has been fantastic for generating interest and proved to be an incredible powerful way of sharing the stories, the photographs, and the videos.

An East Midlands journalist wrote "When you think of fundraisers on a world-wide scale, your mind's eye will probably conjure up visions of the likes of Bob Geldof, Lenny Henry or perhaps the emotional wailings of U2's Bono. Comic Relief, Sport Relief and of course Band Aid are all etched into the British Public consciousness as mammoth efforts. But do you know what, Grantham could one day be credited with kick-starting what may well become one of THE most famous and inclusive benevolent funds in the history of mankind".

Extraordinary stories have come in from all over the world. Moin is a 14-year old boy and, during his life, has suffered more than 200 fractures, in spite of which he started learning swimming in 2009. Now he is capable of swimming 200 meters at a time and also can float for more than an hour. Though he had four fractures and had been advised by the doctor to take rest for a month, Moin had

requested his doctor to allow him to take part in the event. This shows his determination to swim for Eradication of Polio from the World.

To qualify for the record all events had to take place between 12.00 and 13.00 GMT, so at the Interact Club of Redwood, Pakistan it was tea time, in Townsville, Cairns and Tenant Creek in the Outback of Australia flares lighted the pools from 22.00, in Feilding, New Zealand it was well into the night, dawn was breaking at 5.00 as they finished in San Diego and it time for a cowboy breakfast time 6.00 in Red Wing USA. In Peterborough one anxious organiser paced up and down but was relieved as thirty seven hardy souls turned up to do their bit.

There were 104 participating clubs. There had to be a minimum 25 swimmers at each venue to qualify for the record and a total of 5,244 people swam in 23 countries and 15 time zones. A further 23 just swam, some in Mauritius on holiday, to raise money. It was great fun.

The result is that as at 25th March an amazing £60,334 or \$95,574 has been raised and more is still coming in. The record has to be verified with loads of paperwork and, slowly but surely, it is arriving back at Swimarathon headquarters. The Grantham club alone raised £2,350.





You can find out even more detail on:  
[www.rotaryglobalswimarathon.org](http://www.rotaryglobalswimarathon.org) or better still see the feeds on Facebook **Rotary Global Swimarathon Official Support.**

*If you want to see the power of social media, this is it.*

And by the way, next year's event has already been arranged for Saturday 23rd February 2013, this time between 00.00 and 23.59 GMT; get practising and log in.





### Into the future



Santa's helpers were extra busy in the run up to Christmas. The terrible weather last year highlighted the problem of towing The Rotary Club of Holbeach's large Santa Grotto around the streets in the ice and snow so a plan was hatched to build something much lighter and more manageable. After receiving a donation of a canoe trailer, it was all systems go. The team worked hard to build a sleigh on top of the base. Christmas Committee Chairman, Andrew Bines said "This will make life so much easier. Not only will anyone with a tow bar be able to pull the sleigh but we can now visit places that we couldn't take the old grotto because of the problems of turning it round. It will also ensure that we can use the Grotto for static collections and at the Holbeach Christmas Fayre for many years to come"

### Rotary people are busy people



Rotarian Debra Cressey, President of the Rotary Club of Sleaford, has had a busy time during the past few weeks. Amongst her numerous duties she hosted HRH Princess Anne during her visit to Sleaford purposely to open the new interview area and extension of the Citizens Advice Bureau, largely funded by the Rotary Club from a legacy left to them from the late Rotarian Geoff Holmes. Debra then joined with family and friends by entering a team in the club's annual swimathon to raise funds for her charities and in aid of Polio.

### Let the sun come through

The sun has been shining for at least 5000 million years, all life depends on its energy which is free and renewable. A source of heat, light and electricity, it can help to reduce reliance on oil and other forms of fuel.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Bourne, Humberto del Puertois his wife Blanca and Rita Jimenez relax under a clear sky operating a solar oven provided by Microenergia in Argentina. They won a competition to operate the oven five years ago. It took two years to raise the required funding and a further two to clear the paperwork! The club provided 50% of the funding, it has been a long haul. The reaction of the local people was initially sceptical to the unusual machine, but when they saw the bread and golden cakes, they were amazed. The community bakery can produce 100 pieces of sweetbread but also prepares bread, pasties, pizzas and cakes.

The solar oven relies on the heat generated from the sun which is made of eight aluminium panels with a hermetically sealed box to retain the heat with a glass cover. It is vital that the oven is set up in the correct orientation to the sun which reaches 180°C and in very hot days it can reach 200°C. There has to be a plan B and, with money earned and a loan, a gas oven has had to be purchased for when it rains or is very cloudy.



Could it be possible that such an oven could be used in Europe? There is no doubt with the cost of oil and gas escalating at considerable speed and with global warming that it is a possibility particularly in Southern Europe.

The photographs are the best way to show the operation which frankly is difficult to describe in words.

### Young writers and photographers star at Rushden

Friday 27 February saw the completion of the first two of our local heats for the Rotary Young Writer and Young Photographer competitions when certificates and prizes were presented to a number of pupils from the South End Junior School, at what was billed as their 'Celebratory School Assembly'. "I can't remember school assemblies being quite like this event, but it was 55 years ago when I was at junior school!", commented Graham Wise.

In the Young Writer heats, a winner was chosen from each of the year groups, with the overall prose winner being Elise Chambers from year 10 and the poetry winner Julia Coupe from year 5, whose entry will be forwarded to represent the Rushden Club in the District Competition.

In respect of the Young Photographer Competition, six entries were received from year 6 pupils, but unfortunately the entries did not fully comply with the District Rules and were therefore adjudicated as a local competition only. The winner of this local competition was Lucas Tucker.

Our photograph shows all the winners, Elsie, Ellie, Lucas, Kirsty, Lilly and Julia.





**Super slim Wendy makes the Olympics special**

Wendy Martin from the Rotary Club of Stamford St Martin's has made it through the gruelling auditions to take part in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the London Olympic games in 2012; addicts of Facebook will know of her fitness regime.

This is Wendy's story...  
 "I'm in the Olympics... well kind of!!! As anyone who knows me will testify, I am certainly built for comfort and not speed! Yet I am still able to be part of sporting history.



Last year I registered my interest in being involved in the Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies. My dancing skills are less developed than my athletic ones, but the advert assured me that they were looking for all sorts of people. Not thinking I had any real chance I sent off the application. The initial stage was a ballot and then, those who got through, were invited to an audition, which was followed up by a second one. This was back in 2011 and it wasn't until January 2012 that I got the email I had been waiting for which confirms that I will be taking part in both ceremonies.

To say I was excited was an understatement. It's a big birthday for me this year too, so 2012 looks like it is going to be a fun-packed year, and I can't wait. There is a significant time commitment required for rehearsals, which start in May before the Opening Ceremony on 27th July 2012. Fortunately I work in London so am able to get to rehearsals fairly easily.

I'm not entirely sure what my part is yet, but to be honest I really don't care – just to be part of it will be amazing. So when you are sat at home watching the ceremonies, look out for me – you probably won't see me amongst the other thousands, but I will know I was there and part of something really special.

Having volunteered eighteen months ago, Al Good from Peterborough Werrington will be driving a courtesy car for two weeks around London's Olympic highways and may just be allowed leave of absence from secretarial duties.

Rumour has it that Chris Knight is also a chosen one.

**Water to Mali**

The Melton Mowbray club are pleased to have been able to support the installation of clean flowing water supplies to the village of Dinfara in Mali. Long denied clean water, the villagers are now smiling when they turn on the taps feeding water from the new installation.



Dinfara is a remote village of about 80km from the capital city of Mali, Bamako. It lacks access to drinkable water and health facilities. Thanks to two Rotarians from the Cumbria and one from Mali, who visited it in 2007 during the Timbuktu challenge epic rally, some cars were auctioned to raise money. That money has funded building the eight-ward Eden Medical centre for the area. Water is needed here for clinical purposes, and also by the nearby

school and for consumption by the villagers. Looking for water was taking a great toll from the villagers who spent almost all day going to far-away streams to fetch water. Since these waters are open, they are prone to diseases. As there are no health services nearby any outbreak of water-borne disease could be disastrous to the lives of the villagers.

The Rotarians from Cumbria and Mali designed a water project to drill, pump, store and distribute water. Potable drinking water was supplied from a borehole to a water reservoir of 10 cubic metres, and on to supply several water spigots around the village, the hospital centre and the school. The project has now been completed, as can be seen from the pictures.

**Cheque for a Chopper!**



On the same day as the East Anglian Air Ambulance took delivery of their smart new chopper, a small deputation including club president, Mike Scott-Worthington, and Luke Gibbon from the Rotary Club of Biggleswade arrived to hand over a cheque for £2,500, to make the presentation at the Air Ambulance base at Cambridge Airport.

The money was raised from the annual Golf Charity Day, supported by 25 teams, and sponsored by a number of firms and organisations. Golfers played at The John O'Gaunt Golf Club near Biggleswade. Good weather on Friday 16th September found about 100 players poised for a shotgun start after bacon butties, eighteen holes, late lunch and prize giving raising almost £5,000, half of which was donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance – a wonderful organisation that provides a unique and vital service to this area and with no Government support.

The Rotary Club Golf Day together with the Club's annual Swimathon each February collectively raise something close to £10,000 or more each year for local and other causes.

**Indian Polio Check List**

- ❖ 800,000 vaccination booths
- ❖ 2.3 Million vaccinators
- ❖ 1.2 Million vaccination teams
- ❖ 155,000 supervisors
- ❖ 155,000 vehicles (cars, motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, boats, elephants, camels, etc)
- ❖ 220 Million doses of Polio Vaccine
- ❖ 2.0 Million vaccine carrier bags
- ❖ 6.3 Million ice packs
- ❖ 91 Million homes visited
- ❖ 170 Million children immunized

Good eh!!!

Bob Parfitt



### Oh to be young



Over the past two years an awful amount of work has gone into to making District 1070 Youth Exchange the shining example of the project in the country. Although based initially in Peterborough, Colin

Yarwood from Peterborough Ortons and a team of helpers are spreading their wings to provide opportunities to travel to all parts of the world as exchanges or camps.

King's School Peterborough was the setting for the orientation day, full of information and tales of previous experience, where some sixty plus students listened intently. Local club presidents were greeted as they attended and even the Mayor of Peterborough came along to demonstrate civic pride.

Students really are going all over the world, to Thailand, the United States and Turkey to name but a few destinations. Clubs have sponsored a number of students and the demand has been so great that more could be accommodated. Students from last year related their experiences, the dos and the don'ts the change it had made to their confidence and benefit to their life.

There will be a reunion on 31st August where tales of their adventures can be shared and also visits to clubs who have sponsored the students.

### Olympic donation



The Rotary Club of Huntingdon were delighted to be able to donate £500 to the Huntingdon Gym to assist in their training programme for the Olympic Games.

### Immunisation reunion

Sixty-seven people enjoyed a curry buffet in Leicester on Wednesday, March 7, ten days after the World Health Organisation declared India polio-free.

The event was an opportunity for Rotarians who had been to India on National Immunisation Days to meet again and for others who wanted to learn about the NID experience.

Seeing it as an opportunity to promote Rotary as well as End Polio Now, Jim Matthews invited others in the Leicester Mercury and it was repeated by District Governor Linda May on BBC Radio Leicester.

The event's first aim was achieved. The 2006 District 1070 team of Terry Watts, Tarak Ghosh, Clive Smith and Mike Kellett was reunited for the first time. Jim and wife Sally invited those from November 2010 Bryan Woodward, John Berrington, Jolanta Lis, (Bicester) and Peter and Lizzie Yeeles (Bourne End and Cookham) who drove for three hours from Buckinghamshire to be there. Just back from the February NID were Susan Bird and Bob Parfitt.

The second aim of allowing others to learn from those who had been to on NID trips was achieved, and prospective volunteers took the chance

to learn from those who had been; some of whom were wearing their distinctive yellow T-shirts.

The third aim was also achieved, with four showing a real interest in Rotary. Charles King, a new member of Shepshed Charnwood only a week earlier, took his sister-in-law.

Foundation chairman John Dehnel gave an update from the Delhi Polio Summit that leaves only Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria, where new cases of polio continue to occur. John stressed that regular immunisation days in India have to continue until the whole world is polio-free – just as all children in the UK continue to need immunising against polio. So more effort is needed, although we are "this close".



*Pictured Bryan Woodward, Sally Matthews, Peter Yeeles, Jolanta Lis, Lizzie Yeeles and Jim Matthews. The six were last together in Delhi in 2010.*

### Lucky Wales?

Former Welsh International and British Lions rugby player Scott Quinnell recalled his triumphs at home and abroad as well as taking the opportunity to make fun of the England rugby team and helped to raise £10,700 for charity at the Club's 23rd Sportsman's Night recently.



Scott, who helped Wales reach the quarter finals of the Rugby World Cup in 1999, provided an insight into the world of international rugby to the audience of 300 local business people including Assistant District Governor Tim Tucker and the Mayor of St Neots, Barry Chapman.

Quinnell is the latest in a long line of

sporting celebrities to have spoken at the evening which started in 1990 and which has now raised over £170,000 since inception. These have included snooker player Dennis Taylor, boxing legend Sir Henry Cooper, world cup football heroes Nobby Stiles and Gordon

Banks, golf commentator Alex Hay, cricketers Geoff Miller and Graham Fowler.

Next year's event is already being organised with ex Premier League football referee Graham Poll as the sporting speaker.

Pictured are President Mike Matthews and Scott Quinnell.



### Huntingdon Cromwell Project Gambia

The Rotary Club of Huntingdon Cromwell in association with the Lisa Kent Memorial Trust ([www.lisakenttrust.org](http://www.lisakenttrust.org)) and Huntingdon Regional College ([www.huntingdon.ac.uk](http://www.huntingdon.ac.uk)) have been instrumental in providing a life changing experience for eleven 2nd year BTEC students. The students, who were accompanied by two tutors, experienced life in a typical Gambian village from 9 March for a 2 weeks.

The students were drawn from the college's highly successful Sports Department and are both motivated and committed to the project. The BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Sciences is an academic course closely related to a practical environment. Equivalent to 3 A Levels for University applications (Ext Dip), they learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.



The main aims of venture were to provide students with a better understanding of life in a 3rd world country whilst actively participating in a community project to improve

educational facilities for Gambian youngsters. In addition to providing sports coaching for 5 to 8 year olds and gaining practical coaching skills experience, they spent half of their two week visit helping to complete a second school in the village of Sanchaba Sulay, Jobe near the southern coast.

The Lisa Kent Memorial Trust has been operating in the Gambia for some years and has already built, furnished and staffed the first school in Sanchaba Sulay. The students coach and mentor young Gambians from 8 local schools. Although the visit is short it has the potential to be a life changing experience for both our students and young Gambians who are involved.

Like most projects of this type, each participant has to be funded and a total of £16,000 was been raised to provide such things as air travel, accommodation and daily living costs. The



Rotary Club of Huntingdon Cromwell has donated £5,000 to the project and the students themselves have been heavily involved in various fund raising activities such as, bags packing, raffle, sponsored cycle, and a bucket collection at the local Racecourse. The club see this link with the Gambia, Lisa Kent, and the Regional College as a long term commitment with visits by students bi-annually thus providing a range of varying skill sets to the Gambian community.

There is no reason why this project could not be rolled out across the district, for more details contact the club secretary.

### Taking therapeutic skills to the disabled in Kenya

A team of dedicated specialists went to Kenya on an exploratory two-week mission to deliver training in therapy for the disabled.

Two physiotherapists, two special needs teachers and an occupational therapist worked at the Joytown Schools for the disabled and the Mugomo Ini School (which specialises in autism) in the market town of Thika, which is some 75 miles north of Nairobi. The team used their considerable skills to deliver much needed training to local staff, assess the facilities available and will identify key equipment requirements.

The Mugomo-Ini project was

included following a visit by team leader, Geoff Blurton in September and the two Special Needs Teachers helped to establish a unit for autistic children, only the second of its kind in Kenya. The Rotary Club of Kettering provided the initial funding for this project which was the inspiration of Rtn Jennifer Wanjiru of the RC of Thika.

The mission was assisted by a £25,000 grant from Rotary's corporate charity, the Rotary Foundation, and has brought together special needs teacher Janet Dye from Leicester, occupational therapist Liz Mc Cartney from Broom (Bedfordshire), special needs teacher Laura Jeffs from Enderby (Leicester-

shire), physiotherapist Pam Marmelstein from Bedford, physiotherapist Bernie Birkett from Wellingborough (Northants), physiotherapist Angela Jones from Brixworth (Northants) and led by Geoff Blurton from the Rotary Club of Kettering who has vast experience in humanitarian work in Africa. The challenge has delivered a lasting benefit to the disabled in Thika.

The Vocational Training Team will be giving a Presentation at District Conference in September but visits to Clubs in District 1070 are already taking place. Clubs are invited to contact AG Geoff Blurton to arrange visits.





### Paul Harris Fellows



Al Good, Peterborough Werrington



Elaine Turner, Lutterworth

### If in doubt, paint it

One of the community projects of the Deepings club has included helping with the redecoration of the local community centre, a focal point of many activities and is utilised by a large cross-section of the community in the Deepings.

Earlier in the year, the Club started with the repainting of the "Lionel Beck Room", a meeting room dedicated to the Founder President of the Rotary Club of the Deepings in 1974. The decorating swiftly continued on to the centre's reception area.

More recently, members of the club were to be seen to be applying a lick of paint in two of the centre's kitchens, and will be continuing on to a third kitchen and two offices in the near future.



### New members

Ted Barcock, transfer to Honorary, Bedford  
 Nigel Bones, Lutterworth Wycliffe  
 Carole Breeze, Grantham Kesteven  
 Hilary Holmes, Soar Valley  
 Charles Thomas King, Soar Valley  
 John Day, Bedford  
 Dominic McGuinness, Nene Valley  
 Steve Hudson, Grantham  
 Richard Green, Wigston  
 Colin Gibbons, Stamford St. Martins  
 Philip Elliot, Bedford de Parys  
 Martyn Lewis, Bedford de Parys  
 Steve Peacey, Bedford de Parys  
 Keith Osborne, Kettering  
 Jamie Asplund, Sleaford  
 Stephen Woodhouse, Kibworth & Fleckney  
 Ben Whetsone, Bedford Park  
 John Mayes, Bedford Park \*  
 Paul Robinson, Oundle  
 Kenneth Shaw, Corby \*  
 Barrie Watters, Rutland  
 James Miller, Rutland  
 Robert Naylor, Rutland  
 Jonathan Berg, Northampton Becket

Dick Hedley, Towcester  
 Elaine Haralambous, Huntingdon Cromwell  
 Bruce Nelson, Grantham  
 Dennis Halliday, Rushden  
 Peter Baba Aluzee-ele, Loughborough Beacon  
 Graham Hind Godley, Loughborough Beacon  
 Norman Jones, Brackley \*  
 Barry Dowson, Bourne  
 Nerina Farmer, Grantham  
 Peter Robinson, Kettering Huxloe \*  
 Martin Woodhead, Kimbolton Castle  
 Paul Goldsmith, Oundle  
 Clare Goldsmith, Oundle  
 John Roy, Nene Valley \*  
 Gordon Thorpe, St. Neots  
 Raymond Clark, Boston  
 Mike Fowler, Huntingdon  
 Helen Mallett, Huntingdon  
 Jenny Davies, Boston  
 Sheila Dale, Ashby Castle  
 Peter Griffin, Loughborough  
 Tony Frankland, Wellingborough Hatton  
 Karin Hardy, Grantham  
 Chris Davies, Kimbolton Castle

\* Transfer or returning member

### Moving home – 24 times in a day!

Two dozen Oadby residents moved home on Saturday, 3rd March 2012, with the help of members of the Rotaract Club of Leicester, the Rotary Club of Oadby and the Rotary Club of Leicester Novus.

Lock stock and barrel they moved from their rooms in the Aigburth Methodist Homes for the Aged at 21 Manor Road, Oadby, to sparkling new rooms in the brand-new building behind the existing listed building.

Preparation had started a fortnight earlier when Oadby Rotarian David Greig had visited the site and, working with manager Angie Boyes and the home's new volunteer co-ordinator Karen Storey, produced a strategy and risk assessment to make things go smoothly and keep our volunteers safe.

Jim Matthews (RC Oadby) collected Leicester Novus member Gemma Kiddy on his way through town and she joined the Oadby volunteers Sally Matthews, Jeremy and Doreen (whose mother had lived in the old building) Jim Walker, Martin Wragg and David Knight for a quick tour of the new building and a risk assessment briefing. Things were fairly slow for the first hour or so as residents' families helped the elderly residents prepare for the move.

But soon the cages borrowed by Karen Storey were fair whizzing into the cramped lift in the old building, down to the ground floor, out of the side door, along the drive to the rear, into the new building, up (or sometimes down) in the lift along to the bedrooms.

The pace quickened when the second shift of Rotaract members Ewa Zelazna, Ricky Hallam and Meagan Singleton arrived. The work was relentless and the fitness of the youngsters was much needed. The families of the residents were full of gratitude and praise for Rotary and Rotaract. Angie, Karen and their colleagues Pete, his son Jaye, Jo and Phil were also keen to express their gratitude. They had been on duty from 0730. Some did not finish until 2300 that day, six hours after the last of our volunteers had helped move the piano and very heavy electric reclining chairs.

And despite the occasional curse as a chair landed on a toe, or a finger took a knock, the only physical problems were treated with a stiff drink that night and healed after a couple of days of aches.

Such opportunities for service are also opportunities to promote Rotary and make connections.



## Obituaries

### Bryan Brittin

A feeling of great sadness was felt by all members of the Thrapston and Raunds Rotary Club before and after Christmas. Bryan died peacefully at home on 15th November after a short and unexpected illness, leaving his wife Mary and children, Simon and Sally and 5 grandchildren. A founder member of the club and President in 2000, he was a very active member throughout this whole period, despite running his grocery and general provisions shop six days per week. In early years he organised social and vocational events which included visits round the UK and he was also closely involved in annual safari suppers which did much to establish the close fellowship of the members of the Club which continues today. Bryan held numerous fundraising events, including the annual trolley dash at Raunds Co-op. Following his retirement in 1997, Bryan immediately set about taking in unwanted books for resale in aid of charities. In particular he raised over one thousand pounds annually for MacMillan Cancer Care, and over time thousands of pounds for smaller charitable organisations. All this he did in the name of Rotary and he even found time to be Club President in 2000.

He was also involved within the community, served on Raunds Urban District Council including being Chairman, and was the backbone of the Raunds History Society. Bryan was, without a doubt, a man of the community, and he will be greatly missed, not least for his outstanding Rotary service.

### Canon Stan Condon

Stan Condon, who died suddenly on 22nd January, was a founder member of the Thrapston and Raunds Rotary Club. He was a character, respected by all in the community, regardless of faith or denomination. He served as Club Secretary for several years, was bulletin editor, compositor and printer. He would take his turn 'doing the Grace', all of which were relevant to the moment, with affection we recall, 'God bless this bunch, and the lunch they munch'. He remained a member in spite of leaving the locality to move to parishes in Bedford and Bedfordshire and on retirement decided to return to Raunds. He was asked many times, but was reluctant to take on Presidency of the Club but at our last visit a week before he died he said that he regretted that he had not taken our

advice, his only regret. Whenever there was an 'outside' event Father Stan was in charge of the weather. He rarely let us down! As 'Speaker Finder' he arranged numerous very interesting talks, and his own 'Job Talk' became a three week epic! He had a wonderful sense of humour and appreciated the Rotary Ethic, and certainly believed in the Rotary Motto 'Service above Self'. His popularity was evident at his funeral at which a Requiem Mass was performed by the Bishop of Northampton.

### Andrew Willmott

Andrew Willmott, a founder member of Rushden Chichele Rotary Club, passed away on February 7th February 2012 aged 66.

Andrew was the source of both smiles and service in the club and will be greatly missed by all. First to welcome new Rotarians and to engage them in conversations that made them feel "at home" he could be deadly serious, but he could also be the source of outrageous fun. He could be relied on to perpetrate merry japes on Presidents and fellow Rotarians and to deflate atmospheres that threatened to become too tedious and serious.

He was also a hands-on Rotarian, President three years ago and had recently been Chairman of Foundation and International Committees. And supported all our service projects and events and then found time to support Northampton Saints, Rushden and Diamonds, The Cobblers, County Cricket and serious opera.

He had a wide-ranging library, was a railway enthusiast, and had been a keen sailor. His work involved walking the fields of East Anglia with farmers, giving advice on what was best for their crops, but he also enjoyed social walking and intended to walk the Coast to Coast Path as soon as he retired and looked forward to enjoying his grandchildren as they grew up. Sadly, this was not to be.

### Passed to higher service

Frank Philips, Market Harborough  
Rev. Stan Condon,

Thrapston & Raunds \*  
Bryan Brittin, Thrapston & Raunds \*  
Andrew Willmott, Rushden Chichele\*  
Mike Blades, The Deepings  
Frank Plummer, Towcester  
*Obituary included \**

## Bedford flying high

It has been a successful year of fund raising for Bedford Castle President Paul Heerey, an Englishman seen here in a kilt celebrating Burn's Night, following a successful concert by the London Welsh Male Voice Choir.

The choir concert, attended by over 600 people in the Great Hall of Bedford School, coupled with a sponsored cycle from London to Paris and the club's annual celebrity charity lunch have raised over £23,000, of which cheques totalling £15,000 were presented to nine local charities including SportsAid, The Alzheimer's Society, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Sportstraider and St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger at the charity lunch on 9 March.

At this event Paul also took the opportunity to launch the Club's latest charity initiative The Spark Project which aims to donate up to £1,000 to those under the age of 25 who have a sustainable and imaginative project for the benefit of their community. Both new and existing projects are eligible and the money can be used for either start-up or continuing running costs. The Spark project is supported by the Bedfordshire on Sunday newspaper group.



## Rotaract Leicester



For more information on Rotaract, visit [www.facebook.com/groups/leicester.rotaract](http://www.facebook.com/groups/leicester.rotaract), or email either [gemma.kiddy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gemma.kiddy@yahoo.co.uk) or [chris.battye@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chris.battye@tiscali.co.uk).



District Calendar

APRIL

- 17 District Council, Corby
- 21 RIBI Young Chef Final, Abingdon
- 23 Lutterworth Wycliffe 25th Charter
- 28 RIBI Youth Speaks Final, Wrexham

MAY

- 6-9 RI Convention, Bangkok
- 12 District Assembly, Loughborough
- 29 Team Meeting, Corby

JUNE

- 6 Executive, Corby
- 9-10 RIBI General Council, Alcester
- 13 Wreake Valley 25th Charter
- 30 Kettering Tresham Charter Presentation

JULY

- 1 District Handover, Greetham
- 3 RIBI Handover 2012/13, Perth
- 5 District Council, Corby
- 13-14 RIBI General Council

Coming Events

**Saturday 28th April:** Stroke Awareness Day

**Sunday 20th May:** Plant and Craft Fair Misterton Hall, Lutterworth

**Sunday 20th May:** It's a Knockout, Stamford Rugby Club

**Sunday 27th May:** It's a Knockout, Rotary Club of Rushden Higham

**Sunday 27th May:** Victorian Cricket Festival, The Meadows, Stamford

**28-30th September:** District Conference, Telford. Also see the District website.

**Sunday 30th September:** Rushden Higham Fun Run (see website)

**Sunday 7th October:** Rotaryswim, Peterborough



Choose Telford to inspire

As you travel along your way there are places that you pass by and never realise their rich heritage; and so you miss the opportunity to be inspired on your journey.

It was perhaps a surprise that Chris Chew and the District Conference Committee decided that the 2012 Conference should be at the new town of Telford just at the end of the M54 and between Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury. Further research shows that this is not only a new town with modern facilities but one of the homes of the industrial revolution set in magnificent scenery. Nobody can complain about the distance or the cost of accommodation that is significantly less than previous venues or the distance to the conference centre from the adjacent hotels. For those who are employed, it is a relatively short journey to reach Telford on late Friday afternoon.

Time is always short on Saturday afternoon, however, close by is the Ironbridge Gorge, a World Heritage site and at Coalbrookdale it is possible to see where the first iron structures were formed, as well as view the magnificent Iron Bridge. For those whose second

childhood is not yet over, there is the Severn Valley Railway and the Blists Hill Victorian Village, RAF Cosford museum or you could climb the Wrekin! The

original frames of Cound Bridge, one of Telford's first Bridges that once spanned the A5 has been used to form a pedestrian bridge over a road in the town centre. In fact, because of the distance and excellent road connections, it will not be necessary to head off home until late on the Sunday afternoon to enable delegates to enjoy more of the area.

To match the surroundings, all three days of the conference programme have a rich variety to suit all tastes. The "energetic" can totter around the golf course before listening to the Jackfield Band and Hadley Male Voice Choir at Friday night's Last Night of the Proms. Speakers on Saturday include Hope and Homes for Children Mark Cook and Nick Hewer, Malcolm Wells of Canine Partners and a reminder of Trade Aid. On Sunday hear about our Vocational Training Teams inspirational visit to Kenya and the final speaker Michael Portillo on behalf of DEBRA. Do not forget the Gala Dinner Dance on the Saturday evening.



*Why not enjoy the weekend, Telford is different, be inspired.*

Check out the District web site,

Contact Bill Hill e. [ajwahill@btinternet.com](mailto:ajwahill@btinternet.com) for hotel booking or Neville Thompson, Conference Manager e. [isitneville@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:isitneville@hotmail.co.uk)

You might even find us on Facebook

Launched with a splash!

The 2012 SwiMarathon at Market Harborough took place on 21st-22nd April. The photograph was taken on launch day. Swimmers even had local radio Harborough FM broadcasting live from the event.

