



DG 1210 NEWSLETTER



International President Ravi Ravindran has asked the European Zone Directors of RI, including our own Peter Offer, to urgently prepare a co-ordinated plan for Rotary to respond to the refugee crisis. I will circulate details as soon as they are received. In the meantime, if clubs wish to show immediate support, one recommended group is CalAid, who are seeking goods and donations for the refugees in Calais. Visit crowdfunding.justgiving.com/CalAid for details.

Ravi has introduced a new programme entitled Rotary Global Rewards, with the strap line 'The Good You Do Comes Back To You.' This facility offers discounts and special offers, available only to Rotarians, on car rentals, hotels, dining and entertainment worldwide.

To see what's on offer go to MyRotary, sign in with your personal account and follow the links.

I've appointed a District Champion for this, who is Past District Governor Trevor Davies and he'll be able to give further guidance.

Our new Vocational Study Exchange (VSE) project has been an outstanding success. The team, Anona Potts, Preet Bachu, Ashley Lovell and Hywel Benbow, under leader Geoff Cooper from Stafford Knot, arrived back with a wonderful fortnight of vocational experiences and warm home hosting in District 2305 Norway, to remember. They're looking forward to telling you all about it at the Welcome Home Rally on October 7th and by responding to your invitations for them to visit clubs. We will be welcoming the team from Norway in May.

Hilde Westgaard, President of the Rotary Club of Hanar Vest says 'thank you for sending such a nice team...we look forward to sending our team...' She adds that the team had a full programme of vocational experiences during the trip.





It was a great pleasure to be present when a very significant milestone was celebrated at the Shrewsbury Club on August 12th. A large number of Rotarians gathered to mark 55 years of service by Past District Governor Bob Toon.

Bob was awarded a double ruby Paul Harris Fellowship and received a personal letter and signed certificate from International President Ravi Ravindan.

On behalf of the very many Rotarians in our District and beyond who have the greatest respect for Bob's achievements, I offer my heartfelt congratulations.

I'm making so many extremely enjoyable visits to clubs (at least, IM enjoying them!) Every one gives me something to remember, including Walsall, where I was privileged to meet Antonia Sedgwick and Sarah Jane Bucknall, 2 young ladies from Aldridge school who are so impressed by Rotary that they are planning a Rotaract club at the school.





Another visit to remember was the one to Stone and District where (as well as at Walsall Saddlers and Stafford Knot) we were given the enormous pleasure of saying hello again to Dave Bennett accompanied by Myra, from Neepawa, Canada. Dave will be remembered by many of us as the Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team Leader from District 5550 in 2011. Was it really 5 years ago?

The photo shows DGE John Sayer, who was GSE Chair at the time, with Lorraine Boothman from Rugeley, the team leader, and 2 of her team who made the return visit to Canada.



Newport, Stafford Knot, Stoke on Trent and Wednesfield clubs readily gave their time and provided home hosting to work with Margie Haslop of the Newport club to provide a memorable holiday for children from Chernobyl, who are still being born with symptoms resulting from the nuclear disaster that took place there 29 years ago. The children had a wonderful holiday, which culminated in a party, and judging by the laughter and high spirits, they will never forget their stay with us. The photo shows the children who were accompanied by a translator – Natasha Shibiza and a doctor. Julia Barovskava.



Once again, the tremendous efforts put in by Dave Roberts of Market Drayton and his team of great helpers led to a superb RYLA week. We, and the RYLarians, owe Dave a huge debt of gratitude for all his dedication, planning and sheer hard work which go to make the RYLA camp a life changing experience for the 36 youngster who attended.

The 'RYLA's Got Talent' night was a laugh from beginning to end. The participation by yours truly in one of the jokes was a surprise to me, but the biggest laugh came when 2 of the RYLarians played a couple dining out in a clever sketch that somehow managed to end with them both covered in food, courtesy of Awesome Adventures. The photo shows the team that narrowly won the most points over the week to come out on top.



Although the Ebola crisis has moved on from the world's media attention, the after effects are still causing terrible hardships with children left as orphans in West Africa. Jane Bewick-Green of the charity Ebola Street Child, made a presentation at the District Assembly and subsequently at 2 clubs, as a result of which International Chairs Cliff Blakemore (Aldridge) and Ray Hatton (Whitchurch) are coordinating a fund raising drive which has already been well supported by many other clubs.

The aim is to apply for a Foundation Global Grant across the whole of RIBI to provide education and support for the estimated 30000 orphans. If you would like to get on board with this effort, please contact Cliff or Ray.

The photo shows Jane Bewick-Green with President Chris Smith of Whitchurch.



Our Rotarians are certainly 'ordinary people doing extraordinary things.' An example of this is Cormac Doyle of the Ironbridge club who has just completed a gruelling 1000 mile cycle ride from Lands End to John O' Groats to raise funds for the Jayne Sargent Foundation providing support for cancer sufferers and a charity supported by many of our clubs, WYCE, providing primary medical care on The Gambia. Many congratulations to Cormac. You see details of his ride and make a donation at: mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/cormacdoyle1.

See you all at The District Conference, where we'll all be 'Young At Heart!.'

DG Richard.

Diary Dates.**September:**

Sat. 12th - Stafford – concert to celebrate the end of WWII – Collegiate Church of St. Marys. DG attending.

Peter Boden -pboden@btinternet.com.

Fri. 18th - Brewood and District – 25th Charter anniversary – Linden House –DG attending.
Malcolm Lockey fr.mac1945@gmail.com.

Sun. 20th – Walsall -5 and 10k run – Walsall Arboretum- DG attending.
Nick Gray – ngray@graysofshenstone.co.uk

Thurs.24th – Brownhills – Wendy Moreton MP speaking on local issues at lunchtime meeting. Visiting Rotarians welcome.
Deryck Langford – croft16@gmail.com

Thurs.24th – Bilston and Wolverhampton West – virtuoso clarinet recital -Chillington Hall.
ken.dolman@talk21.com

25th/27th. DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

October:

1st -8th – Alumni Reconnect week – get in touch with your club's former GSE Team leaders and members, ex Rotaractors, Interactors and RYLarians.
Beverley Ricketts – beverley@btinternet.com

Weds. 7th. Wellington. Vocational Study Exchange (VSE) Welcome Home Rally.
Buckatree Hall Hotel, . DG attending.
Geoff Ford. admin@wellingtonrotary.org.uk

Fri. 9th - Wednesfield. Music and Laughter Show, Corpus Christi Social Club Wednesfield.
DG attending. Clive Childs cjc@uwclub.net

Sat. 24th – World Polio Day.

Newcastle under Lyme – supper and entertainment with Bill Durose.
Whitmore Village Hall. John Milner 01782 680583.

Uttoxeter -80th Charter Anniversary -Uttoxeter Racecourse. DG attending.
paul.lane@aggregate.com

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paul.lane@aggregate.com and/or lanes88@gmail.com

Sat. 31st. Stafford and Stafford Knot – cabaret evening of entertainment – Stafford Rangers football club.
Janet Stubbs – holyroodstubbs@yahoo.co.uk

Wolverhampton St. Georges – halloween party – Beckbury Village Hall.
cedric.randle@btinternet.com

The Wrekin – Charter Night – The Wroxeter Hotel.
jacquiwordsworth@brinternet.com

Advance Notice:

December:

Tues 8th. Etruria – Big Breakfast – Moat House Hotel, Festival Park, Stoke on Trent.