



DG 1210 NEWSLETTER



Hopefully some of you will have viewed this newsletter on Youtube.

I decided to send you this months Newsletter in a different way because we have so much to celebrate in the achievements of all our clubs in the first half of the Rotary year. For those of you who didn't see the Youtube version, here it is in the written format. Newsletters for the rest of the year will be in this more usual, written style.

Here's a few of the wonderful achievements of the first half of the year:



I'm used to Rotarians being generous with their time and money, but even I've been overwhelmed by your response to my appeal after the devastating floods.

Our clubs have so far donated £46,900. Additionally, two trailer loads of equipment have been delivered. This is a superb effort and I want to say a huge 'thank you' to all of you. I'd also like to record my appreciation of the support offered to us by Sainsbury's Supermarkets in providing collection points throughout our District.





The Telford Tree of light, operated by the Ironbridge, Wrekin, Wellington and Telford Centre clubs, reached its 20th year and the sum collected over that time now totals a staggering £501,619. I had the pleasure of visiting many of your Trees and Santa Sleighs over the Christmas period and I know what tremendous efforts you all made.



On the membership front, there's been an excellent recruiting record – this week I had the very great pleasure of writing my 50th letter of welcome to a new Rotarian. These include the new membership styles of Corporate and Associates but mostly they are traditional Rotarians.

The figure doesn't include the new Rotakids clubs which are springing up, the latest one of which is at St. Margarets Junior School in Wolstanton under the umbrella of the Stoke on Trent club. These clubs will hopefully provide Rotarians for the future.



A record number of applications for funding of Childrens Trust projects were received at £6900 and coordinator Peter Barke was able to make a substantial number of grants for clubs to provide wonderful experiences for disadvantaged children. The fund is now open for applications for 2016.

It's been a very successful year in our Rotary life so far and I'm only sorry that I haven't been able to mention all the terrific projects and Fellowship that I've seen at every club.

So – what lies ahead of us in the second half of the year?



Ironman will be passing through Staffordshire on June 12th and by providing stewards and marshalls, clubs can earn substantial contributions to their charity funds. Contact our co-ordinator, Janet Stubbs at Stafford Knot.



The Rotary Ride to raise awareness of prostate cancer will be taking place over the weekend of 18th and 19th June – please register your interest with our co-ordinators, Steve Holmes at Bloxwich Pheonix and David Attwood at Dudley

Kids Out is on June 8th at Drayton Manor Park, and we hope to stage a similar event again on the same day in the North of the District. This provides a great opportunity for children who wouldn't otherwise experience such a fun day. Their smiles are reward in themselves and it's well worth supporting. Your contact for this is District Secretary Brian Reilly.



The geographical name of our District is a bit of a mouthful and we'd really like to come with a short form of wording that describes where we are. So, we're running a competition.

We'd like to have your ideas for a catchy description of our territory. Send your ideas to me by the end of February and there'll be a very nice expensive bottle of wine for the winning entry.



**District 1210
Shropshire, Staffordshire
and parts of the West Midlands**

The Youth Service Competitions are now under way and I would urge clubs to support them – especially where they have entered youngsters into Youth Speaks, Young Chef, Photographer, Innovator and Musician – it makes all the difference to the competitors if they see their sponsoring clubs at the events.



We have the honour of staging the National Final of the RIBI Young Musician competition this year at Abraham Darby Academy, Telford on April 30th.



In all the Youth Competitions, the standard and talent of our young people is terrific, especially at the District, Regional, and National finals and at the Musicians National Final you will be amazed by what you hear. Do try and get along to it.



The EndPolio campaign is at a dangerous stage. We've been the victim of our own success as a result of the good news lately and donations are falling off alarmingly. The job's not done yet and polio will spread again like wildfire if we don't remove the virus completely. It's also dangerous because campaign workers are being murdered in Pakistan, yet still their colleagues carry on. They deserve our support.

I've enjoyed all my visits to your clubs and I really do want to make as many Fellowship visits again as I can – so, let me know if you'd like me to come.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**February:**

Saturday 13th. Ellesmere – 30th Charter Night. 6.45Pm for 7.30pm. Ellesmere Boathouse Restaurant. Black Tie.
ihutchings@aol.com.

Friday 19th. Blythe Bridge Presidents Night. Upper House Hotel Barlaston 7pm for 7.30pm. Entertainment by The Bluebird Belles and Midlands Photobooths.
£28. brianwhittaker@gmail.com.

Sunday 21st. Stafford – Charter Day Lunch. The Chase Golf Club, ST19 5RN. 12 noon for 12.30pm. £22.
brian-valwesterman@outlook.com

Monday 22nd. Newcastle under Lyme – Chinese Evening – Peaches Cantonese, Pooldam, Newcastle ST5 2TB. All You Can Eat Buffet, £16. Proceeds to EndPolio.
Carol Reddish. carolreddish@btinternet.com.

Saturday 27th, Audley – Race Night. Leycett Cricket Club.

The Wrekin – Big Breakfast – The Salvation Army Centre, Oakengates
TF2 6AQ. 9Am until 12 noon.

March:

Thursday 3rd. Ironbridge – Annual Rex Bolton Lecture – Park House Hotel, Shifnal 7pm for 7.30pm. Jane Green, Ebola Street Child.
£15. davesilcock@blueyonder.co.uk

Thursday 10th. Wellington = Annual Sportsmans Night – Telford Whitehouse Hotel Wellington, TF1 2NJ. 7Pm for 7.30pm.
Fergus Slattery – Irish and British Lions International rugby star.
and comedian Billy Flywheel.
mike_dorri@hotmail.com

Friday 11th. Shrewsbury – Annual Charity Dinner. Albright Hussey Manor Hotel.
£25. Themed evening. Proceeds to The Shrewsbury Ark.
Dress code – smart casual or animal costume!
bobbie.fisher@btinternet.com.

Saturday 12th. Newcastle under Lyme – Race Night – Whitmore Village Hall (on the A53.)
£10 includes food. Proceeds to the Rotary Foundation and Club International Charities.
Rob Wilcox – robertwilcox@btinternet.com

Sunday 13th. Stoke on Trent South. Jazz and Blues Brunch. Keele Hall, Keele University.
12Noon until 4pm.
Terry Brunt New Orleans Jazz Band and Dave Cotterill.
Tickets £21. winston.hathaway@sky.com.

*Monday 14th. District Membership Services Committee – Celebration of Membership services
Come and discuss all the support provided by the Service Committee, including
District Sports.
We'll then hear how clubs have successfully recruited new members and
practical experience of Corporate Membership, Satellite meetings and
Associate Members.*

Saturday 19th. Audley – Presidents Night. The Madeley Centre.

April:

*Friday 1st. Bilston and Wolverhampton West – Something Different – Murder At The
Mount. A murder mystery evening with dinner.
The Mount Hotel, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8HL.
7pm for 7.30pm. Black Tie.
£35 jcrockett@blueyonder.co.uk*