



# District 1260 Governor's Newsletter

*Service above Self*

Please circulate to all members • Issue No 7 • February 2006

## What Paul Harris said –

‘Rotary has satisfactorily demonstrated the fact that friendship can easily hurdle national and religious boundary lines’.

## New Rotarians

On your behalf I extend a very warm welcome to the following who have joined us since I last wrote to you:

Barry Love - Wolverton & Stony Stratford

Heather Rogers - Wolverton & Stony Stratford

Mrs. Pat Armstrong - Amersham

Allan Ross - Ware

Gerald Rees - Rickmansworth

This brings our number of new Rotarians to 56 so far this year. Can we double that number by June 30th? I am very grateful to all those clubs who are actively inviting new members to join our great organisation.

Please let me have details of any others who have joined us recently so that I can welcome them.

## Wonderful World Wide Student Art Contest

If you think any of the schools in your area might be interested in the following perhaps you could kindly let them know.

The Rotary Club of Otorohanga New Zealand is running an International High School Student Art Contest. Entries can be submitted by digital image.

Prizes include a three week fully funded return trip to New Zealand. Entries close on May 1st.

For further information see the web site:

[www.oto-rotary.org](http://www.oto-rotary.org)

## Paul Harris Fellowship Awards

During the last two weeks I have had the honour and privilege of making three Paul Harris Awards. Stevenage Grange Rotary Club invited me to award one to Ian Begg for his tireless efforts in getting the low cost ophthalmoscope to its launch and his high level of commitment to all club projects over many years. To say he was speechless when receiving the award would be understating the case. A very well deserved reward for a true Rotarian in every sense.

The following week Hertford Rotary Club afforded me the honour of presenting two awards – one to Frank Vigus and the other to Brian Skinner. Frank could best be described as Hertford's ‘Mr. Rotary’ having been involved in pretty well everything to do

with the club's activities for well over forty years. Brian has brought great credit to the club, firstly as RIBI Commodore of the International Fellowship of Yachting Rotarians and latterly on his nomination to the office of World Commodore which he begins in 2007. Again, two very well deserved awards.

## Polioplus – Good News!

The Global Polio Initiative has announced that Polio has been driven out of Egypt and Niger which brings the number of polio endemic countries down to four, an all time low.

## Buncefield

My thanks to the twenty clubs in the District that sent donations to Hemel Hempstead Rotary Club in the aftermath of the disaster. You might also like to know that eleven clubs from Districts 1080, 1090, 1110 and 1180 sent donations totalling £1450.

## RI Awards

I mentioned the Club Membership award and the Presidential Citation in last month's newsletter. If you intend applying please remember to let me have your applications as soon as possible. I have to return them to Headquarters by the end of March.

## DG's Diary

I still have two clubs to visit (because of postponements). Thank you so much for the warm welcome I've received. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you and look forward to attending your special club events during the remainder of my ‘year’.

My diary for February is as follows:

- 1st Amersham (induction meeting).
- 2nd Com-Voc half yearly meeting.
- 4th Hitchin Tilehouse young chef competition.
- 5th/6th General Council – Alcester.
- 6th Amwell five clubs evening.
- 16th Presidents' half yearly meeting.
- 17th Watford & The Langleys quiz night.
- 20th Milton Keynes.
- 20th Newport Pagnell Jaipur dinner.
- 21st Rickmansworth.
- 22nd District Council.
- 24th Chesham Technology Tournament.
- 25th Aylesbury Young Chef Final.

continued on next page . . . .

- 26th Past Governors lunch
- 27th Aylesbury Hundreds Technology Tournament
- 27th Watford Clarendon
- 28th Hitchin Priory Pancake Race
- 28th Wolverton

**District Conference**

There are one or two clubs yet to register. Could you please do so a.s.a.p and please make all bookings (including hotels) through John Hiscock the Registrar.

**Rotary Doctor Bank**

There is a shortfall of £6500 in the money needed to complete this year’s programme. If your club has any surplus funds please consider helping this very worthwhile charity.

**Special Club Events**

If you have any events that you would like me to attend please ask. If my diary is free I will be there!

**Mercy Ships**

The newly refitted ‘Africa Mercy’ will be in London during the latter part of the week beginning April 3rd. The district has been offered 10 tickets to a reception on board on Friday April 7th. Because of the District Conference I will be unable to attend but if anyone who is not going to conference (why not???) would like to be considered for tickets please let me know a.s.a.p. (like yesterday!).

The good news is that donations to Mercy Ships can be ‘matched’. The bad news is that only eight in RIBI will be considered. If you have already made a substantial donation why not get it matched. Details can be obtained from HQ at Alcester.

**RIBI Conference**

I have been asked to urge all members of the District Service Team to attend the Belfast Conference. Some pretty far reaching decisions will be taken at this conference and we need as many Rotarians as possible to be there. Only those present will be eligible to vote. I know that Brian Doggrell has organised the hotel so please give him a call and book your place.

**A Rotary Club can not be a charity**

Trust Funds in England and Wales are regulated by the 1992 and 1993 Charities Act under which they must be formally registered if the gross annual income from any source is £1000 or more.

It is the policy of RIBI that each Rotary Club should establish its own Trust Fund in which to keep monies

raised for Community and other Service Projects and to have that Trust Fund formally recognised as a Charity.

It is also important to recognise that a Rotary Club is an unincorporated Association, which is deemed to exist for the benefit of its members, and consequently, a Rotary Club cannot itself be a charity or be formally recognised as a Trust Fund.

The correct registration with the Charity Commission is ‘The Rotary Club of XYZ Trust Fund’ to differentiate from the Rotary Club itself.

Copies of the relevant paperwork are available from the Secretariat at Alcester, if required.

And finally .....

**Pause for thought**

‘If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something’.

(from the classroom) .....

‘When your Dad is angry and asks you: ‘Do I look stupid?’ - don’t answer him!’

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**OPHTHALMOSCOPE SUCCESS STORY**

On the opposite page you can read about the breakthrough invention which is here being demonstrated by the inventor, Roger Armour on Ian Begg.



*This is an ophthalmologist’s view of a retina.*



# District 1260 News ~ February 2006



## LOCAL ROTARY INITIATIVE TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS

Every so often the right ingredients for success come together. When a simple, effective invention, lively Rotarians with imagination and worldwide humanitarian need come together, something is going to happen. In fact, this has just happened in District 1260 and the effects will be felt for years to come.

- The invention is a lens-free, lightweight, robust, simple to use, low cost ophthalmoscope, called the Optyse™ (opt-eyes). The inventor, Roger Armour, is a retired surgeon from the Lister Hospital in Stevenage.

- Rotarians “on the case” were led by Ian Begg, then President of Stevenage Grange. Ian had the imagination, and the club backed him.

- The need is in the developing world; eye problems awaiting detection for signs of diseases, ranging from glaucoma and diabetes to cerebral malaria and brain tumours.

### ROI - Into Action!

The Rotary Ophthalmoscope Initiative (ROI) has been launched by Stevenage Grange to encourage Rotary clubs in RIBI, and the rest of the world, to donate Rotary Optyses for distribution to ophthalmic medical personnel in Africa and South Asia. The target is to distribute 25,000 Optyses within the next five years.

The special price for a Rotary-engraved Optyse is £25. If every club in the district donates at least four units, then ROI will be on its way to the target. If every club in RIBI supports ROI, then we will be over a quarter of the way towards the target!

The order form for Optyses is on the Stevenage Grange website: [www.sgrc.co.uk](http://www.sgrc.co.uk)

Just download it and fill it in. When donations have been received for 500 units, instructions will be sent to Ophthalmos, the manufacturers, to dispatch them to Sight Savers International, who are collaborating with Stevenage Grange on the distribution.

### Seeing Is Believing

The Optyse is amazingly simple to use. All at District Conference in Cardiff, and RIBI Conference in Belfast, will be able to try out the unit on a sympathetic friend! Two years ago when Roger Armour was testing out his idea, he had to rely on his wife, Gillian, and their cooperative cat!

Roger will be coming to Cardiff, to hold the hands of those requiring support.

In January, Roger was a finalist in New York in the Saachi & Saachi World Changing Ideas competition for 2005.

From the eleven finalists, he went on to win the Edward de Bono “Medal for Thinking” for 2005. His device was chosen by Edward de Bono for its simplicity and application.

The Optyse, recognised as an RIBI Centennial Project, is destined play an important part in the Vision 2020 drive to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

### It Is Always The People That Matter

In the first phase of ROI, Roger created the invention and deeply appreciated support from Ian Begg and the Rotary Club of Stevenage Grange for his ophthalmoscope project.

“I presented my ophthalmoscope to the Club in February 2004 and the interest shown boosted my confidence that my idea could be realised. Club enthusiasm was also helpful when raising funding for the development work required, and the name of Rotary has been a useful reference in interesting other organisations working to help blind people.”

The project has now entered its second phase, making an idea into a humanitarian reality, with the launch of the ROI Target on January 30th.

Bryan Cornish names three objectives:

- ~ Support for Vision 2020 in eradicating unnecessary blindness

- ~ Promoting awareness of the wider Rotary movement

- ~ Supporting local innovation

Most successful Rotary projects, like AquaBox, begin in a club with vision and drive. The rest of us must then appreciate the power of the idea, and provide our full support. So come on, 1260!



*Ray Turner, Bryan Cornish, Roger Armour, Ian Begg and Stephen Sypula*



# REFRESHING NEWS

## SERVICE LAUNCHED ON RIBI WEBSITE

If you go down to the RIBI website today you'll be sure of a nice surprise. On Feb 1st an Internet based news alerting service was launched. This provides a scrolling display of the 20 latest daily news items covering anything to do with Rotary in the UK. The service is provided by Magenta News, who provide the news feed for the RIBI web site home page 'Rotary in the Press'. The full articles can be accessed by clicking on the title in the news feed.

In future the feed is expected to become available to District and Club web pages.

**GO AND HAVE A LOOK NOW!**

Whichever way you look at it .... this big idea is a little gem. This low-cost ophthalmoscope is desperately needed in the developing world. Funding the manufacture in large quantity will start to meet that need. That's the challenge!



## ROTARY at WORK

Robert Boulton . . . .

### **Calling all Clubs!**

Conference 2006 at Cardiff will offer the ideal opportunity for you and your club to share. . . . ideas ... results of events ...

news of activities ... plans for the future, or whatever you have been involved with in your own Club, which other Rotary clubs may be interested to imitate ~ **if it works for your own club** then **it's sure to work for others.**

Using an idea that has proved itself can only benefit Rotary International as a whole!

### **FREE CONFERENCE PUBLICITY**

We are looking for clubs with ideas to bring to conference a small display with photos and some literature about their activity(ies).

There will be no group sessions this year, so on Saturday morning all delegates can look around the displays, talk to exhibitors, network and take away with them some refreshing new ideas.

Yours may be just the ideas that will help other clubs to achieve great things in a new way among their fellow Rotarians!

Make this **A SESSION TO REMEMBER**, let all of District know your club is alive, or, if you would just like to know more,

**NOW** is the moment to call

Robert Boulton of Ware Club:

(W) 01992 446316

(H) 01992 537855

e-mail [robert@gillaniandco.co.uk](mailto:robert@gillaniandco.co.uk)

## ENJOY ROTARY FELLOWSHIP WITH SPORT

Bridge, Quizzes, Darts, Bowls, Tennis, Golf and Ten-Pin Bowling – all sports organised within our District, bring with them the opportunity to meet and compete with fellow Rotarians.

It's funny, but those Rotarians who take part are no different from you; some are 'young and active' whilst others like a sedate life. As you have observed, there's a 'sport' to suit every one.

"Oh, no chess? No six-a-side cricket?" But those listed above are not just provided, they're organised each year by Rotarians from around the District, usually because they have enjoyed themselves, and the fellowship. Also, in most cases, because they were winners of the District competition in the previous year.

So if you want to play a different sport, just send a circular to all the clubs, seek their interest (the District Secretary will help with distribution). It only takes one or two clubs to respond positively to get your event going. Do, please, inform your District Sports Officer.

Amwell took the initiative this year in organising a District Triples Indoor Bowls Gala to be played in the Gosling Stadium, Welwyn Garden City on the 9th March.

Presently the Darts, being run this year by Leighton Linslade, has started with the League part of the competition already in progress.

You should have heard or be hearing shortly from Brookmans Park about the Ten-Pin Bowling.

Chesham have run the Bridge tournament with the finals scheduled for Chesham Town Hall at 2 pm on 18th February.

This Rotary year, Bushey & Oxhey organised the Outdoor Bowls, won by Amersham in September, whilst last month Harpenden Village ran the Quiz, won by Luton North.

Finally, we know the timing when the usual events are organised each year. If you haven't heard anything, please don't just sit back and grumble. Perhaps the information hasn't been passed on in your Club or the notification didn't arrive. So please ring or e-mail the District Sports Officer, who will try to sort things out.

John Jones, District Sports Officer  
email: [jones.jr@virgin.net](mailto:jones.jr@virgin.net)



*Geoffrey Farr, Alastair Hay, Leslie Robertson and Peter Wakefield - the winning Quiz Team.*

### LAST MINUTE DRAMA

The District Quiz Competition, organised by Harpenden Village RC at the Wheathampstead Memorial Hall, involved real drama!

All evening no team was able to gain a dominant position. So, when we came to the last round, three teams were within two points of each other. And a dozen other teams harboured aspirations of still being able to win.

What happened - three teams ended with the **same score**: Hatfield, Luton North and Leighton Linslade. So to the tie break question -

*What is the number of parliamentary seats in the House of Commons?*

None of the teams knew the answer, but Luton North were the closest and therefore declared the winners. DG Meirion, who was there all evening keeping order and seeing fair play, presented the winners with the trophy.

27 teams from across the District took part and made the most of the refreshments supplied by Harpenden Village Inner Wheel.

Answer to the tie break - see below.

### DISTRICT GOLF FIXTURES

**Conference Golf** - Fri 7th April Dinas Powys GC  
**Spring Meeting** - Thurs 25th May South Beds GC  
**Autumn Meeting** - Thurs 21st Sept Mentmore GC

For you golfers, more information about these events can be obtained from the organiser Brian Billinghamurst who can be e-mailed for details:

[whhqs@aol.com](mailto:whhqs@aol.com)

The answer to the tie-break is 645

## COMMUNITY AND VOCATIONAL HALF YEARLY MEETING

Cold weather does not deter Rotarians thirsty for knowledge, as proved at Tilsworth Golf Centre on Thursday 2nd of February, when DG Meirion warmly welcomed about 30 Rotarians keen to improve the wellbeing of others.

### National Literacy Trust

The first speaker was Stephen Torsi from National Literacy Trust. This year Literacy & Education is one of the four emphases of the RI President, and is also supported by DG Meirion.

After presenting a number of facts and figures on the lack of this basic skill, Stephen emphasised the feeling of exclusion that was experienced by people who had either limited reading and writing skills, or possibly none at all. He spoke of his own experience of feeling discouraged from reading books at school, instancing the difficulties in understanding classic standard works such as Shakespearean plays.

It is not considered 'cool' especially for boys to admit a liking of reading. For this reason, part of Stephen's work is to recruit famous sports and entertainment personalities to 'champion' literacy, particularly amongst boys. There were naturally many questions; Stephen gave details of various web sites and other contacts as well as providing some leaflets.

At the District Council meeting on Wednesday 22nd of February, the RIBI Literacy Co-ordinator, David Fowler, will be making a presentation.

### Health and Safety

Ray Burman promotes awareness of Health and Safety matters throughout RIBI. Ray gave a robust account of the subject, emphasising its importance for Clubs when organising events which involve the general public. He illustrated the point with some well chosen and graphic illustrations. Reference was made to the RIBI Health and Safety policy document, and to the necessity for risk assessments, examples of which were available.

Clubs were reminded that compliance with such policies, and assessments, are required by Rotary's insurers for cover to be provided. A further important point made by Ray was the early recording of any incident that has occurred at a public event. The PowerPoint presentation has been copied onto the District's laptop so that it can be seen by Clubs.

### The Scope of Community and Vocational

To end the meeting, the Com/Voc Committee gave an update on the current District projects. Details were given on . . .

- Prostate Cancer Awareness
- Lend a Hand scheme
- RYLA
- Kids Out
- Stroke Awareness Day
- First Responders/Defibrillators
- Environmental Awards and
- Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Twenty Clubs were represented on the evening. In his concluding remarks, David Cassell, the incoming Committee Chairman, thanked the speakers and other Rotarians for their attendance.



*Ray Burman takes safety seriously!*

### PLEASE NOTE

To include comments of interest to Rotarians in District 1260 and for news of YOUR CLUB to appear in a future issue of this Newsletter, send details and any photos to Peter Lardi  
email: [lardi@btinternet.com](mailto:lardi@btinternet.com)

## **ALL-TIME-LOW RESIDUE OF POLIO: FOUR ENDEMIC COUNTRIES LEFT**

Since 1986 RI has been at the forefront of eradicating polio in the world, as part of The Global Polio Eradication Initiative. It is the largest ever humanitarian programme of Rotary International. This is an update of the success.

Between 1988 and 2004, global eradication efforts reduced the number of polio cases from 350,000 annually to a low of 1,189 cases. In 2005 the number of cases rose again to 1,831 (as of 17 January 2006). At the peak the epidemic, originating in northern Nigeria, infected 21 previously polio-free countries between 2003 and 2005.

### **Four To Go!**

The number of countries with indigenous polio has dropped to an all-time low: four. Polio eradication efforts are now in a new phase involving the use of next-generation monovalent vaccines targeted at the two surviving strains of virus.

In 2006, monovalent vaccines - aimed at individual virus strains - will be the primary platform for eradication in all remaining polio-affected areas, enabling the eradication drive to focus on poliovirus types 1 and 3.

This new phase has been announced alongside confirmation that indigenous poliovirus has not circulated in Egypt and Niger for over 12 months. This is the first time in three years that the number of polio-endemic countries has fallen, leaving Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan - the only four countries that have never stopped indigenous polio transmission.

### **Gone From Egypt**

The last wild poliovirus reported in Egypt was found in an environmental sample on 13 January 2005. **“Polio has been endemic in our country for all of recorded history,”** said Egyptian Minister of Health, Dr. Hatem Mostafa El-Gabaly. “The best tools of our age finally defeated this enemy who has been with us from pharaonic times.”

### **Gone From Niger**

Egypt's crowded cities challenged polio eradication, there highly efficient transmission presented unique problems. But in Niger a sparse population, some of it nomadic, is scattered over a vast country sharing a heavily-travelled border with Nigeria, the largest reservoir of poliovirus in the world.

Multiple immunisation campaigns in Niger were painstakingly planned so as to ensure that all children were being vaccinated, even in the remotest and border areas.

In 2005, the nine polio cases reported in Niger were all the result of importations, crossing over this border.

Success in Niger and Egypt is the result of intense efforts in 2004-05 to halt Africa's polio epidemic and fast-track the introduction of monovalent polio vaccines into selected areas.

### **Still Work To Do**

The number of cases of polio in India and Pakistan in the last quarter of 2005 also fell by more than half compared with the previous year, due to more effective immunisation strategies and the use of monovalent vaccine.

“To fully exploit these new tools, government commitment in Nigeria must remain high at all levels to ensure that all children are vaccinated,” said Jonathan Majiyagbe, Past President of RI, speaking from Kano.

Ninety per cent of polio cases in Nigeria are concentrated in just eight of the country's 37 states.

In 2006, in addition to mass immunisation with monovalent vaccines in the four endemic countries, large-scale campaigns with these vaccines will need to take place in eight countries - including Somalia, Indonesia and Yemen, in order to stop recently imported polioviruses.

### **The Polio Virus**

Polio is caused by poliovirus type -1, -2, or -3.

Type-2 poliovirus was eliminated in 1999.

Monovalent oral polio vaccines (OPV) targeted at poliovirus types 1 or 3 - appear to work faster than traditional trivalent OPV to build immunity against these specific polio types. Used for the first time in the eradication initiative during 2005, monovalent OPV appears to have stopped transmission in Egypt and parts of India.

Kay Adams photographed by Millie Skelton in India on Friday

20th February 2004, “Polio Awareness Day”, when 150 million people were immunised in the sub-continent. Covers on cycle wheels spread news of the campaign.



(Reproduced in Hoddesdon Bulletin No 55)

## CHESHAM SPONSORED HORSE RIDE

Teams of Chesham Rotarians, equipped with trimmers, trimmers, hammers and various tools will be out in the fields and woods of the Chiltern Hills this summer, as they are most years. Their task? Inspecting, preparing and repairing up to 30 jumps ready for the club's Sponsored Horse Ride on September 2nd.

The event has brought in tens of thousands of pounds for club projects since it started in 1976. This year's ride will be the 27th – it has not been held every year, but is now so popular that it is a permanent fixture in the club calendar.

The ride covers an average of 30 jumps over a six-mile course around the home of one club member Katharine Matthews at Dundridge Manor, St Leonards.

Around 100 horses and riders take part each year, one last year from as far away as the Isle of Wight. Riders are sponsored for each jump completed, in addition to paying an entry fee. The 2005 ride raised around £4,000. Trophies, rosettes and feed vouchers are awarded to the winners in the senior and junior riders sections. There are three trophies, one of which is the Tim Matthews Memorial Shield, given in memory of Katharine's late husband, who was also a member and former President of the club.

The overall winner, Catherine Brock, in 2005 raised £135 in sponsorship, and picked up the *Bucks Examiner* Cup, a rosette and vouchers to the value of £60.

The Tim Matthews Shield for the best senior rider went to Caroline Matthews and the Peter Knowles Cup for the best junior to 13-year-old Michael Bowden, who raised £119.



## DISTRICT YOUTH SPEAKS RESULT

After four exciting and high quality semi-finals held during the first full week in February, the following twelve teams have made it through to the District Youth Speaks final at 6.00 pm, Thursday March 2nd at the Lindop Building, College Lane Campus, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield

This building is close to Junction 3 of the A1 and A414 - at the southern end of the Hatfield tunnel.

### Intermediate Level

Beaumont School, St Albans

*One world language*

Bridgewater School, Berkhamstead

*Blondes: definitely not stupid*

John F Kennedy School, Hemel Hempstead

*In defence of .....*

Monk's Walk School, Welwyn

*Wilbert Awdry; Politically correct*

Sir John Laws School, Harpenden

*Live-8 and self promotion*

Tring School

*Are teenagers growing up too fast*

### Upper Level

Aylesbury Grammar School

*Poverty and global warming*

John F Kennedy School, Hemel Hempstead

*Living by numbers*

Sandringham School, St Albans

*The British Monarchy*

Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, Aylesbury

*Dare to share*

St Columba's College, St Albans

*England and national pride*

The Princess Helena College, Hitchin

*Do we have the right to protect our property*

The winner at each level will go forward to represent District 1260 at the RIBI Regional Final at the University of Essex, Colchester, on Sunday 30th April at 2.00 pm.