



Special points of interest:

- Blood Pressure Day is 7/8 April
- Youth Competitions - District Finals coming
- Sponsor a new Rotaract Club for this Rotaract Week
- Polio now in just 4 countries

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March 2006

District Governor's
Newsletter

Youth Matters

This month and next see the culmination of much hard work on Youth Activities projects.

Both the East and the West/North-west areas will be holding their respective Rotary Technology Tournaments. Students work in groups of 4, on a task that is not known until the day, to design, build and test a mechanical model. Local schools are pleased to take part because the tasks set fit well with the different Key Stages of the National Curriculum.

The various local competitions for the ever popular Rotary Youth Speaks will come together with the District Final on Sunday 19th March; from 2.30pm. We have a great venue in the City of London School, the Boys School on the River Bank next to the Millennium Bridge. The ability to speak confidently in public is so important and the standard achieved by the three age groups is always so high. Do come along and support your local team. The winners of the District Final will represent us at the RIBI Southern Area competition on 30th April.

The District Final of Rotary Young Chef is in May and in the meantime local competitions are being held across the District.



A number of Clubs have established good links with their local schools through these various competitions. Having got the school interested in one event, the teachers and students have been as keen to develop the partnership as Rotary Clubs are and thus get involved in another of the opportunities available through these Rotary initiatives. This partnership should also be a good springboard to setting up the perfect Citizenship curriculum activity, an Interact Club.

All of these activities need full support from local Rotarians; to prepare the venues, supervise the day and using the talents of Rotarians in the judging of the competing teams. Don't leave it to someone else; offer to assist in some way and give today's youth an opportunity to develop and an involvement in a Rotary sponsored programme. Some events are in the evening, so even working Rotarians can be involved.



Youth Exchange students at this year's London Experience

Check on Continuity

We are now entering that time in the Rotary calendar when President-elects have their Training and Club plans and goals for the next Rotary year are being contemplated.

A vital marker in the calendar, but do ensure it is only that; a marker. Whether your Club be large or small, the President-elect and their future committee must work with the current President and their team.

There are still several months for this year's projects and goals to be progressed. Also, to ensure the smooth handover of the Club in the summer, there needs to be a development of this year's ideas, not a sudden change of direction. Some projects will continue and some new ideas will be put forward, so that Rotary in general and your Club in particular strengthens and grows.

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ROTARY IN LONDON
R.I. DISTRICT 1130

Robert's Ruminations

Coming Up Soon

The **Blood Pressure campaign** with the Stroke Association continues. This year 7-8 April are the days to get our in your community and make the public aware of the dangers of High Blood Pressure; through access to free blood pressure measurements. Clubs will have recently received details of how to get the pack of free resources, to run the event and how to approach media coverage.



The annual Rotary **Dragonboat Race** day, organised by Canary Wharf Club is a great opportunity for fun and fellowship; well OK there is also some hard paddling to do. Teams are needed, which can consist of friends of Rotary as much as Club members. Prepare now for Sunday 21st May.

Rotaract Week Worldwide is March 13-19. Please make a special effort to support and promote Rotaract during this special celebration week.. One of Rotaract's goals this year is to start a new Rotaract Club in every Rotary District around the world. Seem unlikely, then think again. At least a dozen Districts in RIBI alone have new Rotaract Clubs and growth. It is easy to start a new Rotaract Club and the benefits are great for the sponsoring Club.

Convention 2013

Our small group of hard working Rotarians continue to pursue the opportunity for this District to host the RI Convention in 2013. Meetings have taken place with the London Assembly, Visit London, the Excel Centre and others; letters gone to potential sponsors and so forth now lead us to the rapid task of writing a script for the submission.

The year after the Olympics will be our great opportunity to continue to show the world that this really is the greatest city across the globe.

Rotary International

RIBI Breakfast at the RI Convention

On Monday 12th June, those at the RI Convention in Copenhagen will be able to enjoy the RIBI Breakfast. This will take place in the Nimb Restaurant, which is part of the famous Tivoli Gardens. Details on this and hotel bookings are available from our coordinator, John Evans of Northwick Park.

RI Convention

Are you booked yet to join us at this year's event? So local you surely can't say no. It should be a great Convention.



RI Convention mascot

RIBI President's visit

President Mike and Alison's visit to London in February was well received and representatives of at least 50 Clubs met them over their three day stay. Two joint Club meetings a day were interspersed with a full programme of visits to Club supported projects; from the Chigwell Riding Trust in the East,



Garden at St George's Hospital

to the newly opened Shooting Star Children's Hospice to the West; from Mine Clearance courtesy of the eClub to the Rainbow School for Autistic children that is supported by the Joint Rotary Clubs of Wandsworth.

At the Indian Evening on Saturday, hosted by Golders Green, some 250 Rotarians and non-Rotarians saw DG Robert pass over a cheque from the Club for £5000 to Hearing Dogs.

My thanks to all the Clubs and Rotarians who helped make this hectic but fun visit a real success.



Music room at the Shooting Star Hospice

A Dogs Life

At the last District Council meeting, we heard about the first of the Hearing Dogs that you have sponsored, Guy. Thanks to the positive way Clubs across the District have supported this cause, we have now succeeded in sponsoring three Hearing Dogs and are on our way to no.4.



RI President's Citation

Be proud of your Club successes. Now is the time to fill in and send your completed Forms to me; so I can sign them and submit all the forms to RI HQ before 15 April. Your Club will then receive its signed Certificate from the RI President; in recognition of the effort and success you've had this year.

Get over 50% of Club's to acknowledge their successes and I also get a certificate, so go for it.

Travel is a good corrective for mental near-sightedness, if the traveller will cast aside his prejudices

Paul Harris

The Rotary Foundation

Group Study Exchange

The Outbound GSE team from London have just arrived back from their tour of D.3040, Madhya Pradesh. Team leader Suresh, together with Karen, Marie and David had a fantastic reception in each of the 5 main cities during their tour and the vocational tours seem to have been well suited to their jobs. Their first Club talk will be at St Pancras on Tuesday evening 28th March and they will be at Tooting Club on 10th April.

The Incoming team will arrive on the Saturday afternoon 15th April (Easter Bank Holiday weekend). We are still looking for host families for the the team to stay with for a few days; as well as Clubs to host meetings for them to talk at and in particular for Clubs to arrange the vocational tours. Mike Hodge awaits your call.

Ambassadorial Scholars

Radlett are hosting their annual Scholars Dinner on Saturday 25th March. Hopefully every host counselor and their scholar will attend this event. Scholars should see this as an integral part of their obligation to attend Clubs in their host District during their study year.

Foundation Giving Challenge

In keeping with the theme of the RIBI Conference, the challenge is for our District to increase its Annual Per-Capita Giving to the Foundation compared to the last Rotary year. The pro-rata amount will be calculated at 31st March and a suitable bottle of "incentive" will be given to the triumphant District at the Conference. Meet the Challenge and get your contributions to Foundation in before the end of March.

Tea Caddy Report

The sale of 1650 tea caddies in our District has raised £3,300 for Rotary Foundation. Thank you to the large number of you who took part in this tasty fund-raiser.

Alumni Reception

In an effort to keep in touch with Foundation Alumni a reception was recently held in the West End. Be they past Group Study Exchange members or Ambassadorial Scholars; they have already shown their positive attitude to Rotary ideals. We hope to rekindle their involvement and even to get them to join Rotary. If you have details of a past scholar then please pass this on to Tim Raath.



Our own Charity

Double your Money

Have you held a Quiz Night or Race Night and thought how good it would be if you could double your contribution to that charity with less work from your committee? Well try contacting your local Bank and see about them both hosting and sponsoring the event. Barclays Bank and others have staff members who will come along as Comperes to a Quiz Night, even bringing the questions for you, and will match the funds raised for charity. This amounts to double your money for less work than you've done before.

Polio Update

The number of countries with indigenous polio has dropped to an all-time low of four. On 1 February 2006, Egypt was officially declared polio-free and all of the cases in Niger were determined to be the result of imported polio cases. Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are now the only countries considered endemic for wild polio.

Bulgaria's "Sunny Times" news



Smiles cost nothing, but they illuminate life's pathway wonderfully.
Paul Harris

RIBI News

"Meet the Presidents"

Alongside this year's RIBI Assembly, on **Saturday 1st April** there will again be an opportunity for all Rotarians to meet and hear the RI President-Elect Bill Boyd, from New Zealand; as well as the RIBI President Mike Webb and President-Elect Peter Offer. The day will include Workshops, giving attendees a chance to contribute to the discussions on Rotary and its future path.

Marketing Strategy

During the RIBI Conference, both the new Marketing Strategy and Branding for Rotary in these islands will be launched. It is hoped that all Rotary Clubs will support these moves and take on board the Branding, in a concerted effort for Rotary to present a common professional image to the outside world and thus raise public awareness of us and our work.



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SERVICE Above Self

District Governor's Diary and Club Visits

MARCH

2nd Th L **Elstree & Borehamwood**
2nd Th **Kennington**
4th-5th Sa-Su RIBI Assembly Planning
5th Su GSE team return
7th Tu **Hampstead**
8th We L East Area - Youth
Technology Tournament
9th Th **Graveney**
11th Sa P.E.T.S
16th Th L **Snaresbrook & Wanstead**
16th Th New Members Evening
19th Su L Rty Youth Speaks D Final
23rd Th District Council
27th We L West/ NW Area - Youth
Technology Tournament

28th Tu 1st GSE team presentation
29th We District Executive
30th Th Loughton & BH 70th

APRIL

Magazine Month
1st-3rd Fr-Su RIBI Assembly
6th Th District Officers Training
7th Fr L "Africa Mercy"
7th-9th Fr-Su D.1260 Conference—Cardiff
15th Sa Incoming GSE team arrive
from D.3040
21st-23rd Fr-Su RIBI Conference—Belfast
27th Th D Services & Executive
29th Sa Harrow 75th
30th Su Youth Speaks Regional Final

Seize the Moment – Meet the Challenge...

and discover a Historic, Vibrant, Safe and Friendly City - Belfast

Now is the time to do just that and get your booking off, for what promises to be a great Conference. Belfast is a vibrant city, waiting to give you a truly Irish hand in friendship. District coordinator John Evans has identified a

hotel for our group to stay in, that is close to the city centre.

Superb Speakers, Excellent Evening Entertainment, a great modern venue, a chance to meet friends old and new; even a chance to WIN A CAR.

The AGM/Business Session will take place on Saturday afternoon at the Waterfront Hall; adjacent to the main Odessey venue.

For more details see www.rotary-ribi.org.

RIBI Conference 2006 Belfast

Seize the Moment – Meet the Challenge...

Programme at a Glance

Friday 21 April

Frugal Lunch and **Welcome to Ireland** - Odyssey
Flute Band & Elsie Fourie
Rotary World Peace Fellow
In aid of Rotary Foundation.

First Plenary Session - Odyssey

Including: RI President
Denis Murray - BBC NI Correspondent
Nick Phillips - Matching Grants
Julie Spencer-Cingoz BBIC & GSE
Don Stephens - Mercy Ships

When Irish Eyes Are Smiling – Odyssey

Storyteller / Fiddler / Irish Dancing

Saturday 22 April

Am: Plenary Session - Odyssey

Including: President Inner Wheel
Climate Change BBC Weather Forecaster Peter Gibbs
Caroline Casey - SightSavers

Hearing Dogs - Don Stephens
Debate / Question time chaired by Diana Madill
Simon King

Saturday Pm

Business session - Waterfront Hall

Partners' Visit - [Ulster Folk & Transport Museum](http://www.ulsterfolkandtransportmuseum.com)

Saturday evening

The Grand Belfast Ball - Odyssey.

Big Band sound, Ceilidh band and Booze Brothers.

Cavalcade of Song (AIMS) - Waterfront Hall

Dancers / Singers - acting scenes from West End Shows & Irish music

Sunday 23 April

Thought for the Day – Odyssey

Dr Willie J McBride MBE

Final Plenary Session - Odyssey

Including: Ben Page - MORI
Emma Sambrook - KidsOut
Interact / Rotaract
Primate of All Ireland Lord Eames

