

Rotary



Newsletter April 2015

RotaryGBI International Committee.

Editorial

We are approaching the time of District / Club Assemblies, and of changing roles. If you are a District or Club International Service Chairman handing over to someone new, please share this and future newsletters with them.



Below are five suggestions to get your fellow Rotarians engaged in International (World Community) Service.

Believe in what you are doing – if you don't have a passion for International, then you are not going to get buy-in from your fellow Rotarians.

Have a plan – know what you want to achieve and how you will do it.

Surround yourself with a good team – International is a team effort.

Educate the top – explain how International fits in as an Avenue of Service and how it can bring value to a district / club.

Do your homework – know the detail and be prepared to explain that detail in understandable phrases.

Mike Parry – mjparry111@hotmail.com

Club twinning opportunity with a Paris Rotary Club



A great opportunity to twin with the Rotary Club of Paris Foch. The club is two years old with 40 members and an average age of 38 – sounds an opportunity too good to be true.

More details on the website – <http://www.rotaryclubparisfoch.com>

If interested, please contact Rotarian Mathieu via mathieu@tarrade.com

Lifestraw – a thank you and invite

In 2005 a Club in District 1150 – Southern Wales, started an international water project – now known as **LifeStraw**

During the last year very generous donations have enabled them to supply water filtration to countries all over the world with a potential 25,000,000 + litres of drinking water for those in need of the life giving substance.

LifeStraw would like to thank you all for your generous support and request your assistance in helping us celebrate our anniversary by attending our Anniversary Dinner at Bedwellty House in Tredgar on 23rd May 2015 – further details from Christine Bayliss via c.a.bayliss@talk21.com or 01873852036

What a difference a Tap makes!

Not many people in Britain need to have a watchman to guard their taps at night. There are lots of taps in the typical household, all ready with fresh, clean drinking water whenever you turn them on. We take this for granted. Now, suppose there were no taps and no water for miles around. If you want water, every day you have to carry it from a source three miles away, whatever the weather, no matter how you feel. That takes up a lot of time and energy especially if you're just ten years old and should be going to school. Water is heavy and difficult to carry; one litre weighs one kilogramme. Twenty litres weighs twenty kilogrammes. A tap could make a big difference to your school grades.



On 6th January 2015, Pomedde School in Uganda had the official opening of its first piped water supply by The Minister for Primary Health Care, the Hon. Sarah Aceng Opendi , accompanied by two local Rotarians, Betty Onyango (a former pupil) and Dennis Okathch. The head teacher and chair of the school promised to look after the



water pipe and to ensure its proper use. The head teacher has now reported increased class retention rates, improved health due to availability of safe drinking water and the establishment of accommodation /hostel for final year pupils. Shortly afterwards, the school in Gwaragwara was also visited by the Minister for an official opening of a piped water supply for their pupils. The head teacher and Chair of the managing committee promised to ensure proper use of their water and like Pomedde, they have employed a night guard to protect the tap and tank. The head teacher expressed his thanks to Cowbridge Rotary Club, 'Vale for Africa' and TOCIDA for making this happen. He informed his

audience that the water supply had led to increased class retention especially among girls (they no longer need to fetch water for drinking and cooking), improved health due to safe drinking water and he hoped also that grades would improve as the school was able to feed the pupils. Not only a water supply was achieved, but the club had been told that there was a chronic shortage of anywhere to sit in Tororo Library and people had to stand up to read books or to study. This is no way to encourage learning, and so whilst waiting for the water pipeline to be laid down, it was decided that it would be a good idea if a supply of chairs for the library could be found. A supplier was identified in Kampala, the capital, and suitable transport arranged, resulting in forty metal chairs being delivered to Tororo Library at the beginning of November. As you can see, this has made a lot of people happy and some of the pupils got up and spontaneously started 'Tap Dancing'!

Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group

Les Hoskins - leshoskins@gmail.com would be pleased to supply more information, for around £10 why not join?



Rotarian Action Groups conduct international service projects that further the Object of Rotary. In February 2011, Rotary International officially recognised the FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS Rotarian Action Group (RAG).

The Food Plant Solutions RAG was launched at the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans on Sunday, 22 May 2011, by former lead counsel at the World Bank and 2009-10 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award recipient, Peter Kyle. Total registrations and RAG memberships exceed 4000 Rotarians from more than 100 countries and all 540

Rotary Districts.

The objectives of Food Plant Solutions are to:

Promote the Food Plant Solutions program and its potential to Rotarians, clubs and districts internationally.

Facilitate the development of Food Plant Solutions programs in developing countries

Promote the incorporation of Food Plant Solutions into existing aid projects.

Develop a platform for communication between groups implementing Food Plant Solution programs to enable them to share information on the methods being used as well as information on the strategies that have been more or less successful.

Foster membership of the RAG and ensure the RAG is at all times compliant with RI regulations.

The purpose of the FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS RAG is to support the development of Food Plant Solutions programs based on the global database of Food Plants developed by Tasmanian agricultural scientist, Bruce French. FPS aims to provide support to Rotary groups and other aid providers to develop programs throughout the developing world. With support, each program group will undertake its own projects, in its own way, in its chosen country of need.

A rehabilitation centre for female substance abusers in Zanzibar

James Lovatt – james.lovatt@rotarygbi.org - would be pleased to hear from clubs interested in supporting a global grant to provide a fully integrated rehabilitation centre for female substance abusers in Zanzibar. The Centre, which will take women from recovery to reintegration into employment and society, will be the first of its type in East Africa. While there are 11 sober houses for men on the islands, the only rehabilitation centre for women was unsuccessful, did not provide treatment or education and recently closed down with only a temporary centre in its place. There are estimated to be 1,000 women who inject drugs in Zanzibar and they are often ostracised by their families and forced into illegal activities such as prostitution. It is understood that the Rotary Club of Guildford in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Zanzibar is already interested.

Literacy Box support for Districts and Clubs in 2015 /16



This update comes with a huge thank you for all the support from the 'family of Rotary' over the last year. You have invited us to speak at District Conferences, Rotary Club meetings and at events put on for the express purpose of raising money for Literacy Boxes. We have also partnered Rotary Clubs, as, using Literacy Boxes as a catalyst, they have set up RotaKids and Interact Clubs. These then, along with Inner Wheel and Rotaract, have all played their part, as through their donations, they help us give hope to the children in Zambia, that through education, they may have a better future.

Brochures: Available for your District Assemblies or meetings and contains a Gift Aid form.

A New DVD: This features a revised 10 minute information video that can be used by Clubs to inform their members of our work. Also featured is a New School Video for use by Rotary Clubs interested in working in schools to promote Rotary Service programmes, or to show in schools to encourage them to work with and support Literacy in a Box. Both videos are downloadable or the DVD is available on request.

Anything else? - If you need brochures, DVDs, advice on how Rotary Clubs use the Literacy Box to help set up RotaKids or Interact Clubs in their local schools, need a PowerPoint to help with a presentation on Literacy Boxes to your Club or have any specific needs regarding Literacy in a Box, please enquire using the contact details on our brochure or website: www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk

In 2014 we reached the landmark of sending 500 Literacy Boxes to Zambia - sent out on the Operation Sunshine container in December. The actual 500th box in our SchoolAd4Zambia programme was donated by Scarcliffe School, near Chesterfield. 20 Literacy Boxes were also sent to Tondo in the Philippines, courtesy of monies received from Roborough RC, the result of an application they made to the RIBI Donations Trust. 500 boxes sent!

Our major project this year was a partnership with Operation Sunshine, whose funds allowed a full refurbishment of Manaca School, Lusaka. Then, monies from Growth and Goodwill in Africa and several Rotary Clubs and their Districts, enabled Literacy Boxes and text books to be sent to ensure a good education for the pupils of Manaca. For all our news, please visit our website link: www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk

Deprivation and poverty in Ethiopia

David Kyd – dkyd@btinternet.com Chairman of Godalming Woolsack Rotary's International Committee shares the following.... The deprivation and poverty in Ethiopia is well known. Less than half the population has access to clean water and the country has a mortality rate of 52 per 1000 births. Drinking contaminated water is the cause of much ill health and death particularly in infancy and early childhood.

85% of the population are farmers who struggle to overcome the problems caused by nine months of drought a year.



The Rotary Club of Godalming Woolsack came into contact some years ago with Norman Coward and his partner, Carole, who, for the past 14 years, have devoted themselves to improving the health, education and clean water facilities for communities in the remote Amhara region. Norman has established good working relationships with many of the local councils (Woredas) and parish councils (Kebeles). As a consequence numerous health posts, classrooms and clean water supply projects have been completed largely funded by Norman.

Woolsack decided, as an International project, to fund the cost of providing a clean water supply to a remote mountain village identified by Norman. This is done by capping a spring and piping by gravity to a sealed storage tank near the village. The local knowledge of the villagers and a government hydrologist confirm that the spring provides a sustainable supply of water throughout the year. There are three separate outlets for cooking/drinking; a second feeds a washing trough and the third serves a cattle trough. The local water resources department of the Woreda undertakes to carry out any future maintenance needs.

Three other Rotary clubs, New Malden, Midhurst and Petworth and Godalming joined forces with Woolsack and contributed enough funds for two villages, Lanchecko and Marraz, to be provided with a clean water supply.

These two Spring Improvement projects have brought enormous health benefits to 750 people and their cattle for a cost of less than £5000. This project demonstrates once again the value of Rotary Clubs working together.

Disasters

The RIBI web site is regularly updated – as Rotarians we naturally look to the long term sustainable help we can provide but naturally think of the 'NOW' – please support the Rotary sponsored 'reactive' charities in their on-going work to provide shelter and other essential survival items.

Projects can be posted on the RI's crowdsourcing tool site. 'Rotary Ideas' and questions about contributing to Ebola relief at an RI level should be sent to relief@rotary.org
Vanuatu's President Baldwin Lonsdale has called for international help after **Cyclone Pam** ripped through the Pacific archipelago.



Aid agencies say the cyclone, which veered off its expected course on Saturday and struck populated areas, has caused "complete devastation".

At the time of writing, the International Service Committee have issued two briefing notes.

Located about a quarter of the way from Australia to Hawaii, Vanuatu has a population of 267,000 spread over 65 islands. About 47,000 people live in the capital, Port Vila.

"A disaster of this magnitude has not been experienced by Vanuatu in recent history - particularly in terms of the reach of the potential damage and the ferocity of the storm," said Sune Gudnitz, head of the agency's Pacific office.

Next edition



Yes, same image as the editor likes it!

Please keep your International news coming in – by sharing details we help remove even more darkness from the world and help Light Up Rotary.

The Committee appreciate that the Rotary logos are of both the old and new design, each month small steps towards change are being incorporated.

The International Service Committee hope you find this edition both interesting and informative.

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