



Roger's Roundabout



ROTARY DISTRICT 1220
AUGUST 2015

ON THE MOVE!

The Rotary clubs in District 1270 voted in June this year that District 1270 should disband. The Clubs in 1270- have until the 31st August 2015 to make the decision of which nearby District they would choose to join. The Governors of the neighbouring Districts including myself will be meeting soon after the closing date to look at the club's choices and plan for the future. I hope to be able to bring some positive definite information at our District Council meeting on Monday 14th September 2015.

Ey Up Mi Duck

The annual Riverside Festival organized by Nottingham City Council took place on the banks of the River Trent in Nottingham. This well attended event was staged over the first weekend in August. An integral part of these festivities is the 'Duck Race' organized jointly by the Rotary Clubs of Carlton and Trent Bridge who first staged their event back in 2003 and since then have been responsible for raising well over £130,000 for local charities.



This year 3,500 plastic ducks were launched from the Suspension Bridge which spans the River Trent adjacent to County Hall. Each duck (hopefully) swims a designated course before reaching the finishing line.

Rotarians and helpers were hard at work selling tickets which secured a duck for the purchaser whilst others were busy imputing computers with the ticket purchaser's information and duck allocation.

Shortly after 3.30pm on a Sunday afternoon, the ducks took flight before landing on the Trent avoiding any obstacles which may have impeded their journey to the finish. Over £8000 was raised which will be given to local charities at the clubs discretion.



A happy band of ticket sellers



President of Carlton, Peter Conway and friends



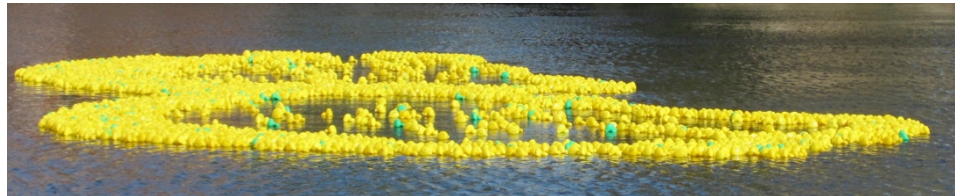
Getting to know the locals



District Governor Elect, Colin Gell and me encouraging customers



And they're off! All 3,500 of them



Nice day for a swim with friends

The D.G, after too many Rotary dinners!



REFRESHING ROTARY

I attended a coffee morning hosted by the Rotary Club of Swadlincote at the Town Hall.

Passing shoppers were invited to sample a taste of Rotary hospitality and at the same time hear about Rotary and its many and varied functions both locally and internationally.

A steady flow of customers insured that Rotarians were kept busy serving refreshments to those who had shown an interest in what Rotary membership had to offer.

DG Roger enticing immediate Past President Kim Coe to take a well-earned break whilst the Chairman of South Derbyshire District Council Neil Atkins looks on in anticipation



WHERE'S YOU BEAN?

At the end of August, I will have completed 37 official club visits and on each occasions I have been made to feel most welcome. Hospitality and fellowship have been much in evidence.

During my visit to Ravenshead and Blidworth club I received an unusual but nonetheless welcome gift. Rotarian John Middleton, a keen organic gardener presented me with a bag full of organically grown runner beans which were a welcome addition at Sunday lunch.



(left to right) DG Roger, President Dr. Raj Chandran, Rtn. John Middleton and the bouquet of runner beans.

HAIR WE GO!

My visit to Derby Daybreak proved to be a hair raising experience when club President Gail Cox (a professional hairdresser) decided that I was in need of a quick tidy up prior to meeting her fellow Rotarians! The meeting proved to be both vibrant and interesting.



A hair raising experience for the DG, provided by President Gail



(left to right) President of Derby Daybreak Gail Cox, DG, Assistant Governor (Derwent Group) Olivia Dean



ROTARY AND INNER WHEEL IN ACTION



Preparations are well under way for when we provide important assistance to the Royal British Legion during their annual Poppy Appeal Collections.

Past District Governor Val Leivers, Inner Wheel District Chairman, Di Sardesai and myself have had fruitful meetings with the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Community Fund raisers for the legion.

In the time honoured tradition, Rotarians will be in action as they provide support at the various locations within the two counties for the duration of this annual fund raising event.

HISTORY OF THE POPPY APPEAL

The first official Legion Poppy Day was held in Britain on 11 November 1921, inspired by the poem in Flanders' Fields written by John McCrae. Since then the Poppy Appeal has been a key annual event in the nation's calendar.

How It All Began

The Flanders Poppy was first described as the "Flower of Remembrance" by Colonel John McCrae who, before the First World War, was a well-known Professor of Medicine at McGill University in Montreal.

He had previously served as a gunner in the South African War, and at the outbreak of the First World War decided to join the fighting ranks. However, the powers that be decided that his abilities could be used to better advantage, and so he landed in France as a Medical Officer with the first Canadian Army contingent.



CHARTERS

As I write this newsletter the Charter season will soon be upon us, the first of which is by tradition Alfreton on Monday 7th September when members of my own Club, Amber Valley will as in previous years be in attendance en mass. I look forward to joining you at the many Charters throughout this Rotary year when we can help celebrate what is in effect a Birthday party to celebrate the occasions when clubs received their charters.

THE CASTLETON CAMP – SHEFFIELD ROTARY CLUB

I have asked some members from Sheffield Rotary Club to give a presentation about the history, the achievements and possible futures of the Castleton Camp at our next District Council Meeting at 7.15pm on Monday 14th September at the Derbyshire Hotel.

The Rotary Centre is the home of the longest running Rotary Club project in the world.

In 1920 the members of the newly formed Rotary Club of Sheffield decided to take a group of boys (whose fathers had been killed in the First World War) away for a week long holiday. In 1935 the land was purchased in Castleton to make a permanent base for these holidays and they have continued right up to the present day. Children aged 9 - 13 who are recommended as deserving a residential activity holiday due to their circumstances are actively encouraged to attend.



THE FINAL COUNT-DOWN

Just a reminder to those of you who haven't yet booked for this year's District Conference to be held between 2nd – 4th October at the Conference Centre, Southport. **TIME IS RUNNING OUT!**

A full programme of events and entertainment awaits you, where Rotary fun and fellowship will be in abundance, complemented by an impressive line-up of internationally renowned speakers. I look forward to seeing many of you there. **GO ON, GIVE IT A GO!**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It is worth reminding ourselves there are 34,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographic regions across the world boasting in excess of 1.2 million members. In Great Britain and Ireland alone there are more than 51,000 Rotarians in 1,810 clubs.



“Rotary is not an organisation for retrospection. It is rather one who's worth and purpose lie in future activity rather than past performance”.

Paul Harris
Founder of Rotary International

Please reflect on this year's Rotary International Theme '**BE A GIFT TO THE WORLD**' and where possible within your respective clubs try and implement it in some form or other.

