



Roger's Roundabout



ROTARY DISTRICT 1220

DECEMBER 2015

A BUSY MONTH

December proved to be both busy and eventful on the run up to the festive season. The spectrum of events I encountered ranged from attending concerts, Christmas parties, assisting Santa and presiding at a Club's weekly meeting.

Rotary continues to be at the forefront at providing support both from financial and by physical endeavours to the areas mainly in Cumbria, North and West Yorkshire devastated by unprecedented floods. Also the legions of families who continue to traverse many countries in search of a better and stable life for themselves and their dependents often placing their very lives at stake. These are just two of the headline hitting incidents where Rotary's collaborative efforts are active. These poignantly embrace this year's Rotary International theme '**Be a Gift to the World**' and my personal adopted them '**Local in Action, Global in Vision**'.

There are a number of members who are questioning Rotary's very existence and its future prospects both at RIBI and Rotary International. These selected two examples to which I have referred must attempt to alleviate their concerns. "Yes", Rotary faces challenges relating to falling membership numbers. In the Rotary year (2014/2015) we lost over 1000 members which have not been replaced, the increasing age demographics, RIBI has the highest age profile in the Rotary world, 76 years on average.

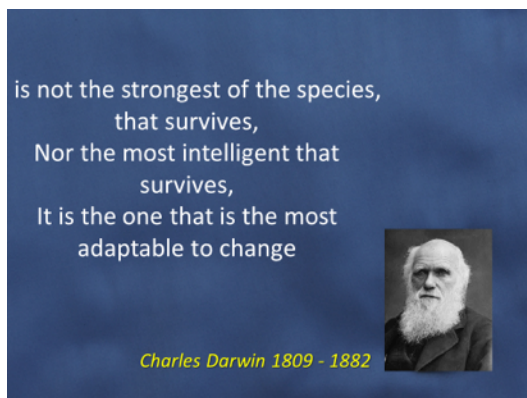


Dr Roger Summers

District Governor 2015-16 District 1220



However, if each of us examine the true values of Rotary membership we will not only face up to these challenges (which make no mistake are a real cause for concern). I am of the opinion we will overcome these difficulties and emerge stronger mainly by our individual service provision coupled with individual commitment and a renewed enthusiasm to make a real difference and a positive contribution to our ever changing world.



OLD YEAR OUT, NEW YEAR IN

As the New Year approaches, it is by tradition that we reflect on our personal journey over the past twelve months and what we as individuals may have achieved or situations that we neglected to address. One of my personal highlights of 2015 was to be elected as your District Governor. It has been and will continue to be both a privilege and pleasure to lead you as a team but without your support and encouragement my efforts would have been severely restricted.

"Together we can achieve Rotary's aims and objectives". "Together we will".

JANUARY DECISION

At the end of January 2016 I hope to be in a position to inform you all of Rotary International's decision in respect of those clubs who have elected to join District 1220 when their current District 1270 sadly ceases to function at the conclusion of this Rotary year.

A great deal of time and effort has been committed by my 3 District Governor colleagues (1270, 1070 and 1040) and myself in order to place our proposals before the appropriate Rotary International Committee. Following the outcome of their deliberations, additional energy and commitment will be required if we as a District are to integrate fully those clubs who have already made the commitment to join our progressive and all-embracing group of clubs who comprise District 1220.



UP FOR DEBATE

When my fellow District Governor (1270) Margaret Taylor ask if we would represent her at Queen Elizabeth's High School, Gainsborough for their Inter House debating competition I readily agreed to do so.

The event was most interesting, both the Inter and Senior house debates contained a great deal of substance, the chosen topics were thought provoking. Each group of participants had undertaken a great deal of research prior to making their respective presentations which outwardly displayed individual commitment, enthusiasm and independent positive ability. My fellow judges performed their allocated tasks with due diligence, ensuring that all decisions were made fairly without bias.

Indication of some of the topics debated: Inter house – Discrimination in our Society, The self-behind the 'Selfie' and what fairy tales taught us. Senior – Umuntu, can this African philosophy change the world? Should smoking be banned outright? And does size matter?



The Judging Panel

Left to Right: Fred Kirkham (Immediate Past President), Andrea Brocklebank (President Elect), Roger Summers (District Governor 1220), Mrs. J Pilsworth (Chair of Governors)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



In the company of Pauline, I was pleased to attend the rotary Club of Long Eaton's Christmas concert held at Trent College. The band of Derbyshire Army Cadet Force and friends played to a capacity audience. The bands chosen theme was to play tribute to the "Battle of Britain" together with a selection of traditional and modern Christmas music. Their repertoire included Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines, The Dam Busters, Yuletide Gallop and Do They Know its Christmas. Festive mulled wine and mince pies were served during the interval.

A big thank you to the members of Long Eaton for organising this splendid concert which has now established itself as a much anticipated event.



Band members in concert



WALK TALL

During my official District Governor's visit to the Rotary Club of Ilkeston, I was pleased to present a cheque on behalf of the club to its President Chris Smith from the monies raised by a raffle at the club's Charter Anniversary Dinner. The cheque will be donated to (RGA) Restricted Growth Association, the President's chosen charity.



Left to Right: Tony Storer (Assistant Governor), Chris Smith (President, Rotary Club of Ilkeston) and Roger Summers (District Governor)

DUKE'S BARN



Those who attended the District Conference held at Southport will recall with affection the captivating presentation given by Rob Eley, Chair of Trustees, Dukes Barn Outdoor Centre, Beeley, Derbyshire.

I am indebted to the centre for acting as hosts for a meeting of my Continuity group. Prior to the commencement of the meeting, those present were given a conducted tour of the premises and the excellent facilities which they provide for both able and less physically able students who participate at the specially designed courses offered by the centre. I have decided that my District Governor charity will be to support the excellent work undertaken by the staff at this truly inspirational centre.



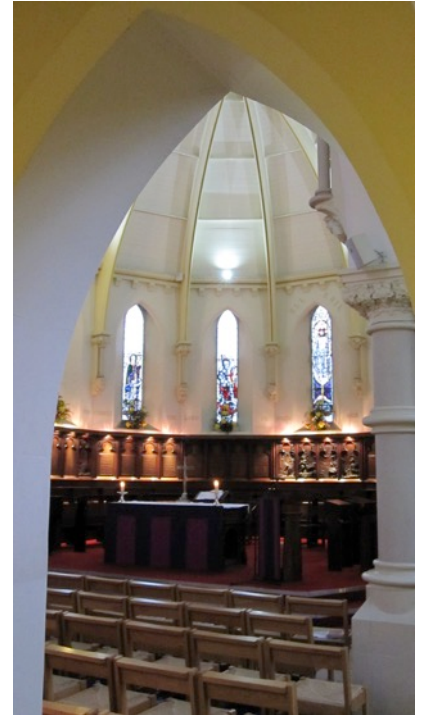
CAROL SERVICE

I was delighted to represent the District at this year's Inner Wheel District 22 and Rotary District 1220 Carol Service held in the Chapel, Trent College, Long Eaton. In accord with District Chairman Di Sardesai's wishes it was a family occasion with many members of the younger generation swelling the capacity congregation. The singing of traditional carols and lessons read by Rotary and Inner Wheel representatives were an integral part of the service.

Members of the Inner Wheel choir made a welcome contribution to the proceedings under their conductor Mrs. Sue Hall assisted by Margaret Kirk (pianist) and organist Rotarian John Berrington.



At the conclusion of the service, festive refreshments were enjoyed during which much to the delight of the children present, Santa made an unscheduled visit, dispensing presents to excited boys and girls.



District Chairman, Inner Wheel District 22, Di with granddaughter, Katie Sardesai who Read 'The Christmas Gift of Love' Wes Fessler



Inner Wheel District Chairman Di and Rotary District Governor Roger

In our dual quest, District Chairman Di and myself to work more closely together, this happy occasion can only act as a positive step in achieving our shared objectives.



I'VE SEEN SANTA!

I observed Santa and his sleigh in numerous locations within the District.



On this occasion my own club (Amber Valley) sleigh was tethered outside a leading supermarket minus an occupant.
Where was he?

Here he is! With DG's Lady sat on his knee.
Ho! Ho! Ho!



One of Santa's little helpers!

This year my club raised approximately £15,500, WOW! In support of local and International charities



BEST FOOT FORWARD

I joined fellow members of the Amber Valley walking group and their partners when we decided to walk off the excess indulgencies incurred over the festive season. The walk in the glorious Derbyshire countryside complemented by unseasonal sunshine.



DATES FOR YOUR NEW 2016 DIAIRES

2 nd February	DOPS 1
19 th / 21 st February	RIBI Assembly
23 rd February	DOPS 2
13 th March	PEPS
6 th April	DOPS 3
23 rd April	District Assembly

"Rotary is not an organisation for retrospection.
It is rather one whose worth and purpose lie in future activity rather than past performance."



Paul Harris
Founder of Rotary International

As Rotarians let us be ever mindful of the needs of others and those less fortunate than ourselves whoever and wherever they may be.

With parts of our world in turmoil through wars, unrest and hunger let us each "Be a Gift to the World".



R Summers

Myself and Pauline would like to wish fellow Rotarians and their partners a Happy and Healthy New Year enriched by Rotary Service.

Roger

