



Rotary Congleton Projects & Activities

A number of Rotarians, particularly newer members sometimes are not sure what is involved with events and activities the club undertakes. This summary contains an outline of the main projects and events we participate in, purely as a guide and reference point for members.

Throughout the year we hold a number of fund-raising events for charity along with social events for friends and partners that raises money to help cover the clubs running costs. Our main objective is to help and to be involved with our town and its community. Please look through the information herein with a view to helping the project leaders whose details are attached.

Club Council:

The Club Council are senior Club Rotarians (President: President Elect; President Nominee; Past President; Treasurer; Secretary and the Compliance member) whose job it is to make decisions on all aspects of how the club is run and to put those decisions / recommendations to members at business meetings and when necessary to ask members to vote accordingly. All members are free to approach any member of the clubs' council in confidence with any issue relating to how the club operates. Minutes of council meetings are circulated to all members.

Membership Services:

The Membership Services Team is responsible for the welfare of members, public image and recruiting. They also plan projects & social events. The team comprises of: President Elect as chairman, President; Immediate past President; Treasurer, Foundation chairman, Social events chairman; Speaker secretary & the Compliance / H&S officer. All members are eligible to attend meetings but only those on the team are able to vote. Minutes of membership services meetings are circulated to all members.

Compliance of Personal Data:

In line with all voluntary organisation we are required to be compliant with current GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations.) As such we have an appointed Compliance Secretary who also looks after health and safety and vulnerable persons. Your personal information will never be divulged to anyone other than members for which you have signed a form agreeing that is held by the compliance secretary. For further details about compliance please contact the Compliance Secretary.

Youth Services:

Youth Services has a team leader who is responsible for overseeing the youth competitions the club stages and liaising with the District Youth Chairman. The club is currently running:

Young Artist; Young Chef; Young Photographer; Young Writer and Youth Speaks competitions.

The vast majority of work is done by the schools however, if you would like to assist with one or more of the competitions please contact the Youth Services leader.

Dictionaries4Life (D4L) is an annual July event whereby we fund a superb dictionary for presentation to every primary school child who is moving up to secondary education in Congleton. Help is always needed to write names into the front of the dictionary and to go to the primary schools to assist present them. Please contact the D4L project leader to offer help.

International Team:

As well as supporting local charities and good causes we may give financial help to countries that have suffered a disaster such as a tsunami or earthquake. This is normally done via the Rotary Disaster Aid organisation. We also use money to help individuals in third world countries. We do this via a Rotary scheme called "Lend with Care." We loan money to individuals to help them start or to develop a business who repay us once their business is making money. If you are interested in overseas work please contact the International team leader.

Rotary Foundation:

Foundation is our charity designed to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, support of education and alleviation of poverty. One or two members are responsible for keeping members updated with Foundation news & grants. The Rotary Foundation sponsor individuals worldwide through university and training establishments to become professional people such as doctors, teachers & specialists in many differing fields. Most then return to their own countries taking up positions to help their countrymen.

Bonfire:

For many years our club has organised and staged the towns annual bonfire in Congleton Park. Along with the Swimathon these are our two main charity fund-raising events. This is a mammoth undertaking and all able members are asked to help. The main help is needed in the days running up to the bonfire and on the day itself. However, members can assist with the bonfire planning which starts many months before November by contacting the project leader.

Community:

"Service above Self" – what better way to do this than with community involvement. Occasionally we are asked to help out with community events such as the Food & drink Festival, the Christmas Light Switch On etc. Rarely is the work onerous, indeed we are mainly there to assist people acting as stewards. It is an excellent way of promoting our public image and getting the Rotary name out and about. All members are asked to participate in at least two community events in any one year. Contact the Community Secretary about future events and to help out at community events when you are available.

Appeals and Grant Requests:

From time to time the club receives requests for monetary assistance. This could be by letter or word of mouth. Any member receiving such a request should refer the individual or organisation to the Appeals secretary who will send the applicant an Appeals form to complete and return. It is very important that all requests for help are submitted on our official form. By doing so we have a clear picture and standard that is acceptable to the Charities Commission. Once received Council will review the request and make a recommendation to members at the next business meeting.

Swimathon:

Along with the November Bonfire, this is our other major charity fund-raising event that brings in over £10,000. To encourage schools, clubs, business and organisations to take part 50% of what they raise through sponsorship is handed back to them. This year we introduced "Just Giving," an online way of donating that negates the use of paper sponsorship forms. This format was very well received by many entrants. Most of the organisation is done by a small team, however all Rotarians are asked to help with lane counting during the Swimathon. If you would like to get involved with the organisation and running of the event please contact the project leader.

Website & Facebook and Public Image:

We are very fortunate to have some experts amongst us who keep our website and Facebook up to date. We also have a professional photographer and copy writer who writes regular features for the local papers. However, our experts need feeding, they need feeding with information, stories and snippets they can use. We have an activity sheet (attached) members are requested to complete after an event or happening that will allow our experts to keep our media up to date. Most prospective new members will look at our website and Facebook site to find out about our club so it really is important to keep information, pictures and stories fresh. If any member is unsure about how to access / use our website or Facebook please contact the membership services chairman. Full details about forthcoming events and meetings are on the website in the members area.

Social Activities:

From time to time the social secretary will email members with suggestions to gauge interest for a social event – possibly a day trip somewhere, a dance or quiz evening, perhaps a long weekend break. Social events are of course optional and will only run if sufficient members are interested. If you would like to suggest or help run a social event please contact the social secretary.

Charter Night:

Each year the club holds Charter Night which is the anniversary of when the club was formed which was April 1947. It is a formal black-tie dinner, but, always great fun with after-dinner entertainment. Without doubt the highlight of the year and all members are encouraged to attend and support Congleton Rotary Club. It has been said many times that Congleton Charter Night is one of the very best in the District with superb food and service not to mention the magical Sandhole Farm venue.

Easter Egg, Christmas Concert and Last Night of the Proms Charity Fund-Raisers:

Three well established activities. The Easter Egg event always requires member help to place the giant Easter Eggs in pubs, restaurants and hairdressing salons etc and to collect the money afterwards. Each outlet willing to take a Rotary Easter Egg receives a football card with 60 teams listed. The outlet sells teams at £1 each to the public. When all teams have been sold the top of the card is scratched to reveal the winning team. The egg then goes to whoever bought the winning team and we collect £60 from the outlet. It's easy and very lucrative so the more outlets we can place an egg in the more money we make for charity. Members who would like help should give their name to the project leader.

The Christmas Concert at the Daneside theatre is an annual event that has been taking place for many years. It is well supported by the public but it also needs members to help by selling tickets to friends and family and to be there on the night for stewarding duties. Organisation is straight forward and two members look after this well before the event. In the weeks preceding the concert volunteers to help at the Daneside will be sought.

The Last Night of the Proms concert is a superb evening at New Life Church. Help is needed to set up before the event & to tidy up afterwards.

District & Conference:

Our district number is 1285 which covers the north west and is made up of approximately 69 clubs and is presided over by a District Governor. District has its own excellent website with lots of information about Rotary and its activities. If you haven't already done so please register on 1285 website and enter your profile details. It's not difficult but if you are unsure how to do this please contact our webmaster who will help.

The District hold training days and seminars throughout the year which all members are entitled to attend, an excellent way of finding out more about Rotary. Our secretary sends out regular district newsletters so look out for forthcoming events.

District stage an annual conference at a coastal location each year. Again, all members and their partners are able to attend and it is a great way to meet members from other clubs whilst learning more about Rotary and our district. Google: Rotary District 1285

RIBI, (Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland):

RIBI is the governing body of Rotary in the UK with the head office based in Alcester, Warwickshire where a small number of people are employed. The RIBI website is first class and well worth browsing as virtually everything you need to know about Rotary will be found on it including details about the world-wide conferences members can attend: www.rotarygbi.org

Rod Goodier
President Elect
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