

THE ROTARY TIMES

MAY 2021 Edition.

News of Youth Programmes & Activities.

To start, a little information about Rotary

Rotary is one of the world's leading membership and humanitarian service organisations and has been around for over 100 years, with 1.2 million members in over 35,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries.

Through membership of their local club, individuals volunteer on community and humanitarian projects and activities which make a difference locally, nationally, and globally.

Rotary members are People of Action, ready to turn their ideas and vision into lasting change, by creating opportunities, supporting those who need it most and transforming their lives.

Where others see problems, Rotary members see solutions: tapping into their professional skills, expertise, and knowledge to make a difference. People of Action use their time, energy, and passion to mobilise their communities to get the job done.

Rotary members are determined to tackle some of the world's biggest humanitarian challenges through Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus:

- Peacebuilding and conflict prevention
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Community economic development
- The Environment

These areas underpin all of Rotary's projects, activities, and initiatives.

The greatest example of this is Rotary's campaign to eradicate the world of polio, a paralysing disease affecting children. In 1985, Rotary pledged to rid the world of the disease, at a time when there were 1,000 cases per day in 125 countries.

Over three decades later, with the tireless volunteering and fundraising efforts from Rotary members, in collaboration with international partners, the number of cases worldwide has reduced by 99.9%, with over 2.5 billion children receiving a potentially life-saving vaccination.

Other international projects include supporting victims of environmental disasters with shelter, facilitating the building of sand dams to give communities access to safe drinking water or building schools to educate communities out of poverty.

Fact: Recently, Rotary made a US\$1.125 million Grant to Mercy Ships – who have a Stevenage office – which helped equip their new hospital ship, the “Global Mercy” – (mercyships.org.uk).

Closer to home, one of Rotary’s other leading commitments is to offer young people the platforms and opportunities for them to unlock their potential, develop their skills and broaden their horizons.

Through RotaKids, Interact and Rotaract, the junior branches of Rotary for young people aged 8 – 30, enthusiastic young people have the chance to engage in social action and volunteering in safe and supportive environments.

Thousands of young people also take part each year in Rotary’s Youth Competitions. Hosted in a range of creative and academic subjects, the competitions provide young people with an opportunity to develop their skills and showcase their talents.

As well as improving the lives of others, Rotary members take their own personal satisfaction from being part of a global community.

Rotary was formed as a networking organisation and this still plays a part in Rotary life today. Rotary provides the opportunity to expand both personal and professional circles, meet new people and make lasting friendships, all while having fun and making a difference.

If you’re looking to get involved in volunteering in your community, get in touch via contact@stevenagerotary.org.uk to find out more.

Things for young people to do

Through your school, group, or organisation, you may participate in any of these Competitions:

Young Chef, Young Musician, Youth Speaks (debating), Young Photographer, Young Artist, Young Writer, Young Filmmaker, Young Environmentalist, Young Scientist, and the annual Technology Tournament.

There is also a Young Citizen Award, The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), the LAMP Project (Leadership & Management), a Camp in July 2022, volunteering opportunities – some can go towards your DofE Award – the National Citizen Scheme, New Generations Service Exchange, foreign travel opportunities with both short - and long-term stays - and there may well be other things to follow!

Fact: Amongst others, Rotary supports Shelterbox (shelterbox.org) and Aquabox (aquabox.org) – and there are many ways you too, can help these excellent charities.

A Message from our Youth coordinator ...

Hello!

Seen something here that's already caught your eye? Need some more detail - or perhaps a visit to meet and discuss your ideas at school? Then I'm the person to contact (you may already know me from Crucial Crew!) – and here's how to get in touch

E mail: Alex Lang PHF, contact@stevenagerotary.org.uk

Did you know that Rotary can also offer other services to schools? We can mentor, assist with reading, provide job interview experience, career carousels, help with environmental issues ranging from litter-picking to tree planting

How you can be involved

- i) Enter the Competitions
- ii) Start a RotaKids or Interact Club in your school/organisation
- iii) Join our Community Corps – volunteer on local projects
- iv) Nominate a Young Citizen for a Rotary Award
- v) Nominate a candidate for RYLA
- vi) Investigate an Exchange visit
- vii) Consider participating in a LAMP Project (Certificated via Inst. Of Management)
- viii) Volunteer with us towards your DofE Award
- ix) Gap Year? Think about our New Generations Service Exchange

Fact: Rotary has its own Charity – 'The Rotary Foundation' – that raises millions each year for worthwhile causes ...

The Competitions in more detail

Young Chef – for all those budding young chefs!

- Secondary age group (school years 7 to 13)
- For young people who enjoy cooking
- Produce a healthy economical meal for two people
- Show good cooking and presentation skills
- Develop good organisational skills
- Often students motivated by TV chefs and media
- Club intention to enter to District by mid-January
- Candidate entry form to reach District Organiser by early February
- District Final end February, Regional Final usually Mid-March, Rotary GB&I Final late April/May

Young Musician – for solo instrumentalists and vocalists

- All age groups
- Solo instrumentalists and vocalists
- Finalists have an opportunity to play to an audience
- Club intention to enter to organiser by mid-February
- Candidate application forms to organiser by mid-March
- District Final in March / April
- Regional Final usually April
- Rotary Final usually May

Youth Speaks – a test of debating and presentation skills

Intermediate (11/13yo) and Senior age groups (14/17yo)

- Teams of three – Chairperson, Speaker & Vote of Thanks
- Subjects chosen by entrants
- Opportunity to speak on a public platform
- Improves self-confidence and presentation skills. Learn to work as a team
- Club competitions Autumn term
- Regional Final usually mid-April
- Rotary Final in May

Stevenage Speaks – a test of Public Speaking for Years 5 & 6 ...

- Teams of three – Chairperson, Speaker & Vote of Thanks
- Subjects chosen by entrants
- Opportunity to speak on a public platform
- Improves self-confidence and presentation skills. Learn to work as a team
- Club competition held at UH in mid-June

Young Photographer - Rotary GB&I celebrates photography as a talent and an art form by offering thousands of young people the chance to demonstrate their photographic skills through the Rotary Young Photographer competition. The theme this year is "Wild Nature". This competition encourages young people to experiment with photography, use digital and/or traditional methods of photography, demonstrate their interpretation of the theme and express their ideas through the medium of photography. Each contestant produces a portfolio of three photographs which may be in colour or black and white.

Young Artist - In this popular competition the young artists demonstrate their talent by producing a two-dimensional unframed piece of artwork up to a maximum A2 size which may be in the medium of pen & ink, paint, collage or print making and the theme this year is "Wild Nature"

Young Writer - For young people who like creative writing, our Young Writer competition is a must! The theme this year is "My Happiest Day" and on this theme our young writer can produce a written or typed story (up to 500 words) in prose which can be fiction or non-fiction, prose, or a poem (up to 40 lines), as long as the piece relates to the theme.

Young Filmmaker - This Rotary GB&I competition was new in 2019 and aims to encourage young people to:

experiment with filmmaking, use digital and/or traditional methods of filmmaking, express their ideas through filmmaking and demonstrate their interpretation of the theme which this year is "Challenge".

The film should be of up to five minutes duration and may be made using either mobile or cameras and each entrant must provide a brief sentence describing the relationship of their film to the theme.

Young Environmentalist - Another new competition, introduced in 2019, but which is very topical for young people today!

The competition aims to encourage young people to interact with the environment, address serious environmental issues, develop and explore solutions to the issues and explore, investigate, research and undertake an environmental sustainability project. This competition is open to individuals and, in the junior and intermediate age groups to small teams of up to four young people. The theme this year is "Climate Change and Carbon Reduction."

Young Scientist (please check back with us on this one – we're still working on it!)

Senior Technology Tournament – for budding engineers.....

- Age Group 11-17yo (Key Stages 3,4 & 5)
- An all-day event run by local clubs to a nationally set challenge
- Young people construct a device that meets the challenge
- Three levels of competition appropriate to age or ability
- Encourages young people to see design and technology as attractive and challenging
- Develops teamwork, communication, problem solving & practical skills
- Creates interest and a sense of achievement and fun
- An Annual Event in Stevenage – usually held in mid-March in conjunction with Stempoint Herts and North Hertfordshire College.

Junior Technology Tournament – for young engineers and mechanics

- Designed specifically for 8/11yo in partnership with The Rochester Bridge Trust.
- Tests the knowledge, innovation, and problem-solving skills of the participants and their ability to work in a team.
- Teams have to solve an interactive technology-based task and are required to design, model, and build a solution with the materials supplied.
- The Junior Technology Tournaments can take place across a whole day, two half days or four 'twilight' sessions of around one hour.
- Every participant successfully completing a Technology Tournament can apply for a CREST Award.

Fact: in the UK, Rotary has 45,000 Members in 1,700 Clubs

Other Rotary initiatives not to be missed

Rotary Support to Schools - Many Rotarians offer support to local schools through Mock interviews, Reading Assistance, as School Governors or regularly helping schools with various functions and events. Some Rotary competitions are run in conjunction with schools.

RotaKids Clubs - Rotary also has RotaKids Clubs where young people aged between 7 and 12 years can learn to run their own club and projects for their school and community and also have a lot of fun while they do it.

Interact Clubs - Interact Clubs (for 12/18-year-olds) may be formed in schools or community organisations and provide valuable experience of working together on activities and projects to benefit communities locally, nationally or internationally. Interact service can also count as the service element of a young person's Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Rotaract Clubs - Rotaract Clubs are for 18/30yo and can be formed in colleges, universities or community organisations and can also work on projects of value to their communities.

RYLA - For young people wishing to acquire leadership skills, places on short training courses known as Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) are offered each year and, under the skilled supervision of the RYLA instructors, the young people learn to take on and successfully manage challenges that, before joining the course, of which they would not have thought themselves capable. They emerge as leaders!

LAMP Project - An opportunity to engage with young people from Interact and Rotaract clubs as well as other youth organisations, enabling them to develop leadership and management skills through the planning and implementation of a group project and to gain a nationally recognised qualification.

- A programme originally developed in Rotary District 1090 in 2015, run as a pilot scheme in that district, delivered in Zambia and now being adopted in other Rotary districts across the UK.
- An award equivalent to a City and Guilds level 2 qualification approved by the Institute of Leadership and Management, resulting in certificates being awarded to successful candidates signed jointly by Rotary and the Institute.
- The integrity of the programme is maintained through a full assessment and verification process carried out by the Rotary Project team. There is an external verification process and external monitoring undertaken by the Institute of Leadership and Management.

Rotary Community Corps (RCC) - a Rotary Community Corps is a group of non-Rotarians who share our commitment to changing the world through service projects.

RCC members plan and carry out projects in their communities and support local Rotary club projects.

There are more than 10,000 corps in 100 countries. RCCs are active everywhere Rotary is present: in urban and rural areas, and in both developed and developing countries.

Young Citizen Award - Rotary recognises that there are many young positive role-models who are going out of their way to make a positive difference to our world. The Rotary Young Citizen Award does not limit who can enter by category and services through which an individual may qualify can be from a wide range. Individual young people and groups of young people, **aged under 25 years, can be nominated by individual Rotary clubs.** The Rotary Young Citizen Awards showcase the good that exceptional young people are doing and the stories of their success. Included in the Young Citizen Award scheme are Rotary Young Citizen Sporting Hero Awards and Rotary Young Citizen Peacemaker Awards.

Rotary Youth Exchange - Through Rotary Youth Exchange, young people can explore new cultures, gain international understanding, and learn skills that will help them succeed as future community leaders. At present, all Youth Exchanges are suspended because of the Covid 19 pandemic but, as soon as it is safe to do so, the programme will resume and offer the following opportunities.

Youth Camps - Across the world many Rotary Youth Camps are held and the applicable age range for each one is individually specified. Typically, one camp may be for 15/18 yo., others for 18 -25yo. Some camps may be individually themed so applicants should study the prospectus carefully. District 1260 expects to run the camp in July 2022. An important feature of all the camps is the international dimension so all applicants attend a camp abroad.

Short Term Exchange Programme – (STEP) allows 15/17yo the opportunity to travel abroad and stay with the family of their STEP exchange partner in the family home and for reciprocal hospitality to be provided on the exchange visit. STEP is organised through the District Youth Exchange Officer (DYEO) and a worldwide network of Rotary Youth Exchange Associations in each country. Visits typically last up to three weeks in each direction.

Long Term Exchange Programme – (LTEP) At present Rotary are unable to organise LTEP as the programme cannot comply with UK Border Control Visa requirements. Where LTEP can take place it involves a year, including schooling, at the location abroad for 16/17yo (typically the Year 12 or Lower VIth school year).

New Generations Service Exchange – (NGSE) For young people between the ages of 18 and 30 with a skill to offer, NGSE offers a unique opportunity to use their skills and knowledge to improve the lives of people abroad through “hands on” vocational or humanitarian service while simultaneously gaining an opportunity for

personal or professional development. The activity should support one of Rotary's seven Areas of Focus. Individual NGSE can often be arranged at a convenient time to fit in with academic or career timetables and preferred length of stay (usually limited to a maximum of three months) there are some opportunities for Group NGSE.

STOP PRESS – BREAKING NEWS ...

The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire is inviting schools across the area to take part in the Young Leaders Award, a fully resourced leadership and character education programme, designed by the Archbishop of York Youth Trust, to be delivered by teaching staff within the classroom. Available at KS1 to KS4/+16, the YLA has clear links to SMSC, British Values, PSHE, Character Education, Citizenship, RE and SIAMS. If you'd like more information, visit abyyt.com/young-leaders-award or email yla@abyyt.com.

Expression of Interest:

To request further information on any of the above Rotary Competitions or Activities, please complete the form below and e mail to: contact@stevenagerotary.org.uk

School/Group/Organisation etc.,	
Your Name:	
Contact Details – e mail/mobile	
I am interested in the following:	
1)	
2)	
3)	
4)	
5)	
6)	
7)	
8)	

We aim to reply by return – occasionally, it's within twenty-four hours