

<p>Rotary District 1070</p> <p>Rotary Serving Humanity</p>  	 <p>Planting Peace Pole at Corby Primary School</p>	<p>Take Off District Governor's Newsletter</p> <p>Flight 019 March 2017</p>
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Good afternoon to all Rotarians and friends in District 1070. This month's Take Off has been delayed. Apologies. Some of you will be aware that, at my annual medical for flying at Christmas time, it became apparent that I needed a bit of re-plumbing. That came about at the end of February and will take a few weeks to resolve.

Clubs across our district have full and active programmes in our communities. I had enjoyed supporting many of you at those before the turn of the year and in January/February. These events have been imaginative and did a great job of engaging with the public. Charter Nights have been enjoyable affairs with an interesting range of generally excellent speakers and entertainers. Well done everyone in serving our communities, letting people know what Rotary is all about and enjoying yourselves.

			
Area AW/AE Purple Ball	Oadby Swimarathon	Crocuses at Leicester Botanical Gardens	Leicester Technology Tournament

With my current stint in hospital, I will not be able to attend and support events across the district for a while as I would have wished. I have asked DGE Chris and the remainder of the district team to ensure you get all the support you wish and need; I know they will do just that. Please liaise through Chris for now.

Just a few quick updates on news:

Champions of Change awards

I was pleased that some of our clubs nominated members for the prestigious Champions of Change Awards – awards given by RIBI to recognise outstanding efforts by Rotarians in achieving real change in communities. The awards are in two categories, Community and International. Only about 12 awards are made nationally each year, which makes it especially praiseworthy that two of our district's Rotarians have been given these awards:

- In the Community field, Janet Cooke (RC Peterborough Ortons) has been recognised for her wholehearted work in the Peterborough dementia café;
- For David Wallwork (RC Ramsey)'s international work, supporting the education of youngsters in Sierra Leone, has rightly been recognised. The two have been invited to the House of Lords in April to receive these awards. I am sure we all congratulate them fully.

Purple Jam, tea

We have received some very generous sponsorship in the early part of the year from both Wilkins' Jams and Typhoo Tea, both supporting our campaign to eradicate polio. We have done our best, within the very short lead-times we were given, to satisfy clubs' wishes for supplies of both. I apologise where this has not quite gone to plan, but nevertheless congratulate clubs on looking for imaginative ways to build on the generosity of the two sponsors and to further our own aims.

Developments at RIBI and Rotary

Some of us, both in the district team and in individual clubs, have spent a good deal of time over the past several weeks challenging and moving forward the organisational structure and controls of RIBI. This included what I hope you found a constructive discussion at District Council – our own governing body. I don't plan to go through the arguments again here; enough bits of paper and computer screens have been filled to date for you not to want to read it all again. As your District Governor, I believe that we identified a range of matters which clearly needed dealing with. Many solutions have now been put in place and controls strengthened. A wide range of activities are underway to ensure the relevance and value for money of all that RIBI does. If you wish to know more of all this, Chris Davies who led the presentation at the last District Council, will be happy to field questions.

One other organisational change has been announced in the past few weeks relating to Rotary's international organisation: the Zones into which districts are split for RI administrative purposes. I suspect few in the district will be aware we in D1070 are part of Rotary Zone 17, comprising all the clubs from the midlands to the north of England, all of Scotland and Ireland. The remaining clubs in Britain and Ireland, basically those in the south of England, are in Zone 18A. The RI Zones provide us with valuable support in membership, public relations and training. Our Rotary Foundation leadership in Britain and Ireland is an RI Zone function, not an RIBI one. The two zone teams work closely together in Britain and Ireland. One of my pushes during the RIBI organisational debate over the past few months has been to ensure RIBI is making better use of the zone teams in supporting RIBI too, avoiding the duplication that was happening there.

The change that will happen shortly is that the two zones in GB&I will be realigned and re-named. We will be in zone 19, covering all of GB&I other than the 7 districts along the south coast. They will become part of zone 20, along with districts in Portugal, Spain and The Netherlands.

I believe this will have little impact on us in D1070, but if anyone wants more details, District Secretary Roger has the full document.

Moving On

Our flight continues. Keep up the great work in Serving Humanity, however and wherever you are doing it. Keep supporting polio eradication (so close, only 3 cases this year world-wide). Celebrate the Centenary of Our Rotary Charity, with both events and gaining their help for projects. Keep enjoying all you do with Rotary.

I'll be out and about at events very shortly. In the meantime, with best wishes,



John Dehnel, john@jdehnel.net, 07774 231098 / 01572 787494

