

machines to help make small African communities more self-sufficient have been sent through the Rotary international network that ensures the aid and equipment is delivered.

Business people and young people from different countries are brought together to encourage international understanding and promote peace.

Not forgetting the social side of our organisation with events, get-togethers, an annual conference of the 85 clubs in the district and many ways that you can be involved.

So now we have you interested in joining Rotary -- what do you do next?

Contact us through 01474 567915.

Or e-mail to
president@gravesendrotary.org.uk

We will invite you to come and meet us to hear more about the world of Rotary and why we need more Rotarians to be part of a thriving Club.

www.gravesendrotary.org.uk



Here there and



everywhere



The Rotary Club of Gravesend
Join people who help people!

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Rotary International is a World-wide association of local clubs for men and women in business and professions who:-

Service the local, national and international community

Encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and

Work together for goodwill and peace throughout the World.

There are 1,200,000 Rotarians in 166 countries.



The Rotary motto is 'Service Above Self'

In Great Britain and Ireland there are 58,000 Rotarians. Gravesend Rotary Club is part of District 1120 covering Kent, East Sussex and South London.

The Gravesend Club was founded in 1927 and has members who live or work locally and over the years have drawn members from occupations as diverse as accountants, car dealers, builders, estate agents, doctors and right through the alphabet.

Weekly meetings are held on the outskirts of the town where Club business is discussed and members are updated on local and

international issues and needs. Rotarians are expected to attend meetings as regularly as they can for a cornerstone of Rotary is the 'development of acquaintance as a means of serving society.'



When there is a first Monday in the month then the usual meeting is replaced with an evening meeting where wives, partners, husbands and family members are welcome. The first Monday often now includes interesting speakers too.

Rotary includes all political, religious and cultural groups.

Rotary was not started as a fundraising organisation and we still try to give personal service wherever we can. But now that the needs of the community are being increasingly served by government and public bodies, funds that we raise are being used to support individuals and charitable organisations both local and international in their work.

A fine example of our support for international aid is the drive to eliminate polio throughout the remaining few countries in the World where it is found. Funds raised by Rotary locally go to be combined with substantial donations by Bill Gates of Microsoft pledged because of Rotary's world-wide commitment to End Polio Now.

Locally we are best known for our annual sponsored cycle ride which in the last 24 years has raised over £400,000 for charities and has the reputation of being one of the best organised events in the South East. Riders of all ages come from across the UK and even beyond to help us raise money that has helped hospices, the Air Ambulance, disability help groups and to individuals aiding their personal development. www.onyourbike.org.uk

Service has supplied transport for outings, mock interviews for local school pupils, a competition to encourage tidy schools and promoting community safety.

Internationally the Gravesend club continues to support places in all parts of the World where help is needed in emergencies. Emergency boxes containing shelter, water purification and considerable other survival gear have been funded most recently for Haiti and Pakistan where they give homeless families a new start. Medical equipment to relieve blindness, sewing

