



Rotaract Newswire

Update from the Chairman

Well it's been a busy start to the year already!

First of all I would like to thank Claire and her committee for all of their efforts throughout the previous year, it was a very successful year for Rotaract in GB & I. Winning bid to host EUCO 2008 has to be a highlight of 2006/07 and I know that Lisa and her team are currently working exceptionally hard in preparation for what I am sure will be a stunning 4 days in London between 30th April- 4th May 2008.

I would encourage as many Rotaractors and Rotarians to attend this wonderful event please look on the EUCO website at www.euco2008.com and book yourselves in as soon as possible as places are selling fast!!.

In the short space of time that I have been RGBI Chairman I've visited a number of clubs and district events including Banbury Weekend, D1160 Conference (Ireland), Plympton Interest club and Deben Fancy Dress Charity Pub Crawl! Also recently I attended the Scunthorpe and Brigg Charter Night

At this point I would like to thank Emma Donovan and her Banbury crew for a superb weekend of socialising and fun - the Burnett's worked incredibly hard in the very hot kitchen and as always the food was top!

D1160 Conference in Dublin was both fun and informative, the city centre venue was superb, as were all of the speakers including a Special Olympian Paula, District Chairman Niamh and Rotary District Governor Ray - my thanks to all.

There are some really good events that are coming up in the calendar so please keep looking at the RGBI website and attend these events if possible.

Yours in Rotaract

Paul

RGBI Chairman 2007/08

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RGBI Council Meeting Dates:

- ♦ Sunday 11th November 2007 - Bournemouth
- ♦ Sunday 10th February 2008 - Camberley

Use the resources available to you, visit the RGBI website for ideas on club projects, how to increase your membership, upcoming events and news items.

www.rotaract.org.uk



Booking as fast as a 'T hunderball'

What are your plans for the beginning of next May... sitting around the house, watching the rain fall, wishing for summer to come????

Or, are you going to experience London in a completely new way that you'll never be able to repeat, at EUCO 2008!

We're pleased to announce that registrations for EUCO 2008 has hit the 660 mark! There is also a total of 32 countries represented so far...with a few more yet to book.

So go on, what are you waiting for...snap up those remaining places...you'd be a fool to miss out!

As of right now there are only **80 silver, 42 bronze and 94 Gala Ball only** packages left. Given this is only about **30%** of the total number of tickets, and it'll sell out even quicker as people start "panic buying", now is the time to register for EUCO.

Remember you have to pay to confirm your place, if you just register on the site then your place can be "stolen" out from under you.

We look forward to welcoming you to EUCO 2008.

Lisa Burnett

EUCO Co-ordinator



EUCO 2008 - Pants?

Yes pants, teddies, bags and brollies. The selection of EUCO products that you can buy, **in advance**, for the conference is great.

Including your traditional T-shirt, this year not only can you be in the height of fashion but you can be dressed for the occasion on arrival.

Visit the EUCO shop on the website to order all your EUCO merchandise now and be the envy of the delegates who miss out!



What's happening @ EucO 2008? Cont...

Gala Dinner

Celebrate 40 years of Rotaract, 20 years of ERIC and 10 years of EUCO Conferences in style, join us for the main event of EUCO 2008...the Grand Gala Ball.

Taking place at the Novotel London West in Hammersmith, London, it is the ideal setting for the biggest party in Europe.

The evening will include fantastic food, fun and entertainment from a great DJ. We're even taking music requests from all delegates, once logged into the EUCO website visit the "Fun Stuff" section and vote for your top tunes.



Do you like G R A P E S ?



Guidelines for **R**isk **A**ssessment, **P**rotection, **E**vent Planning and **S**afety (G.R.A.P.E.S)

Despite the increasing importance of volunteering, (22 million people volunteer each year), the legal obligations of organisations towards their volunteers with regard to health and safety are less clear than they are for employees. Nevertheless, organisations do have legal obligations towards their volunteers and the people they help.

Risk Assessment

Risk assessment is a technique for identifying and controlling hazards of an organisation's activities. It is not just about chemicals and dangerous factories, and is as relevant to the voluntary sector as it is to the private sector.

- A hazard is anything that has the potential to cause harm, such as a faulty electrical socket.
- Risk is the likelihood of it causing harm and the degree of harm it could cause, such as an electrical shock which could lead to a fatality.

Risk assessment involves identifying all hazards, assessing the risks, and putting in place measures to control unacceptable risks. Risk assessment should always involve employees and volunteers, therefore, and should never just be left to the 'experts'.

Risk assessments are an excellent way to identify and overcome health and safety problems.

Protection

The Rotary Family - Rotary, Rotaract, Inner Wheel, Probus, Interact - is the 'number one' service organisation in Great Britain and Ireland. As such it must take the lead in the important matter of child and vulnerable adult protection. We recognise that there is a moral and legal responsibility to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, and that there is a need to demonstrate that an organisation such as Rotaract is doing everything possible to protect those with whom we work.

Where Rotaract clubs provide a service to children and vulnerable adults, it is important that Rotaractors plan and provide service to the community in such a manner that the reputation and interests of Rotaract or of individual Rotaractors cannot be brought into question.

Everyone has the right to have fun, feel secure and be protected when participating in a Rotaract event. That is why these matters are important.

Event Planning

It is impossible to give a fully comprehensive list of things to be planned when looking at Protection or Health and Safety issues. The following headings will give you many of the areas that you need to consider when planning an event.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin planning as early as possible• Carry out a full risk assessment.• Ensure that Health and Safety legislation and guidelines are followed• Ensure Health and Food Safety regulations are followed if the provision of food is involved• Make sure that supervision of children and vulnerable adults is adequate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consult and involve people with knowledge and expertise• Ensure advice on photography of children is followed• Check credentials and suitability of all outside contractors and organisations used.• What type of event?• Who is attending?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where?• How many people?• Is it suitable and safe?• Do we need help?• Is there enough time to organize and run it?• Who will plan and run the event?• Make sure that the project has a leader who is taking overall charge of the event• Check Insurance
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Safety

Safety covers a whole variety of areas that you need to be aware of when planning and holding any events, such as working with equipment, fire safety, first aid and reporting & recording of incidents/accidents.

You need to ensure that your volunteers can work in a risk-free and safe environment.

For more information on any of these subjects please visit the [RGI website Resource Section](http://www.rotaract.org.uk) or contact [RGI Protection Officer, Keith Pickles protection@rotaract.org.uk](mailto:protection@rotaract.org.uk)

Edinburgh & Deggendorf Twinning Dinner



The Rotaract Club of Edinburgh began long, long ago – about 2006AD. It was formed as three German dudes from the Rotaract Club of Deggendorf began their trip to Edinburgh for one year of study at Ye-Olde Napier University. The three sensible lads knew their lives would not be the same without Rotaract, and were disappointed to find a lack of said Rotaract clubs in Edinburgh.

They contacted Bobby Dodds (Rotarian and District Rotaract Officer), who began to help them in their quest to create a new Rotaract club. This new Rotaract club was founded months later in June 2007, after some new Rotaractors had been found to charter their club. They all lived happily ever after... UNTIL...

The Rotaract Club of Deggendorf missed the Scottish Rotaractors so much they invited them to join them for one long weekend of fun in Germany. So on the 6th of September, President Claire, Vice- President Barry and Treasurer Craig took the long and unusual plane journey direct from Edinburgh to Munich. (It was only unusual because we decided to have a club council meeting whilst air-borne). Also traveling at the same time to Munich, was another founder member and Ambassadorial Scholar Julia who had returned home to North Germany, but was making the trip South to attend our twinning dinner.

Located within the Bavarian Forest, the small village of Kaikenried boasts the wonderful 'Hotel Oswald' – a beautiful 4 star, traditional Bavarian hotel run by our Founder Vice-President and his family. The first evening was spent catching up with our German friends.

During the rest of the weekend we spent some time in the surrounding area, climbing a hill in the near-by mountain range to have lunch in a cabin owned by our Past-Presidents parents. We certainly enjoyed wonderful views, although our legs ached substantially afterwards!

That evening we visited one of the tradition Bavarian club/pub near(ish) the hotel. Some rather unusual types of drinks were consumed that evening, one in particular – green beer!

The next day we headed off to visit the beautiful city of Passau, the home town of one of the club members. The beautiful castle, the wonderfully ornate cathedral and the delicious ice-cream is only some of what we got up to that day. The evening was spent at a traditional Beer-Fest, apparently very like the Oktober-fest but smaller.

The next day saw a trip across to the Czech Republic for lunch. Only one tip when visiting this area – pretend you don't speak Chinese or German or Czech and you won't be made to buy anything.

The last night of the trip was possibly what I had been most excited about and yet dreading all at the same time – our official twinning dinner. I was excited for obvious reasons. Dreading it because I had had a sudden realisation in the middle of the night, which had prevented me from getting back to sleep. While I had already written my speech, I'd written it in English – and I knew for a fact that at least a couple of the members didn't speak any English. I spent 45 minutes with Julia writing out my speech phonetically and trying to read it out to her, but in one slip of my tongue, managed to call the German club fat (something I fortunately didn't repeat later.)

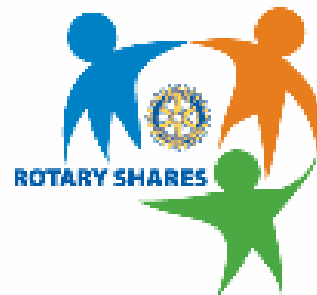
All in all, a wonderful weekend – a fantastic start to our partnership. We look forward to welcoming the members of the Rotaract Club of Deggendorf to Edinburgh for the New Year celebrations.



2007/08 Executive

Well another Rotaract Year is upon us so I wanted to introduce this years RGBI Executive team:

- In the role of Vice Chairman - **EMMA DONOVAN** (High Wycombe, 1090)
- In the role of Secretary - **PJ MITCHELL** (Leytonstone & Woodford, 1130)
- In the role of Treasurer - **ANDY KING** (Carmarthan, 1250)
- In the role of Assistant Treasurer - **MATT REDFEARN** (Caversham & Reading, 1090)
- In the role of Membership & Extension Officer - **NIAMH MULHOLLAND** (Dublin North, 1160)
- In the role of International Officer - **CLAIRE TENNANT** (Deben, 1080)
- In the role of Protection Officer - **KEITH PICKLES** (Harts and Rushmoor, 1180)
- In the role of Publicity Officer - **MARK BENNETT** (Deben, 1080)
- In the role of Internet Officer - **JONATHAN NISH** (Putney Rotary, 1130)
- In the role of EUCO Co-Ordinator - **LISA BURNETT** (Maidenhead, 1090)
- In the role of Newswire Editor - **MARTIN COATES** (Congleton, 1050)
- In the role of Past Chairman - **CLAIRE MERCER** (Rushden 1070)



Congratulations to you all.



Keith Pickles RGBI
Protection Officer

Getting to know your exec...

This month we talk to Keith Pickles, RGBI Protection Officer...

Why did you join Rotaract?

Because my boss made me, well that was the reason I went to the interest meeting around setting Hart and Rushmoor up. Geoff Sumner, Fleet Rotarian, was also my Area Manager at Nationwide Building Society. He asked me to attend to help with numbers, but I loved the idea and energy of Rotaract so much, that over 3 years later, here I still am! It's nice to have something other than just work!

What do I do when I'm not Rotaracting?

When I'm not Rotaracting I work, no seriously I also love to read and attempt to write! I also have some great friends inside and outside of Rotaract and love to socialise and go to weird and wonderful new places with them. Last Halloween we ended up in some Castle's ruins in the Dark, with candles scaring each other as much as we could :)

Which Friends character do you most associate with?

I would love to say Phoebe, as she is so funny and quirky. But I think in truth I am most like Monica, because I am particular and can be bossy, when the moment requires it. Remember people the pen lid goes all the way down till it clicks - organised fun!

Tell us one thing we don't know about you?

Well, this one time, at band camp... ..no really, I think some people may already know this, but I am a bit of a Trekkie, and have my own Star Fleet Uniform! I can't remember all the small details (thankfully) but I do love it. but also alongside such classic as Firefly, Buffy, South Park and Lord of the Rings --> OMG I'm a geek! :)

What Superhero Power would you like to have and why?

After really getting into Heroes (another attribute towards my geek status I hear you say) I would have to say it would be like Hiro, to be able to control the Space Time Continuum, so I could travel through time, Freeze Time and teleport to different locations. Just imagine what you could do. Job one, win the National Lottery! :)

RGBI Chairman 2007/08
Paul Simon

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*The views and opinions
expressed in this newsletter do
not necessarily reflect the views
of the Exec Team or the Council
of Rotaract in Great Britain &
Ireland.*

Rotaract is on the
move...so join in the action



Have Your Say...

If you have any articles or stories that you think other clubs may be interested in please send them to me (chairman@rotaract.org.uk) and to the Newswire Editor, Martin (editor@rotaract.org.uk) for the November Edition

*Please send your articles and photos to us no later than
15th November*

Upcoming Events

Sat 10 Nov	Bournemouth Rotaract	Back to Front Dinner
Sat 10 Nov	Hart & Rushmoor Rotaract	Salsa Night II
Sun 11 Nov	RGBI	RGBI Council meeting
Sat 17 Nov	Colchester Rotaract	Colchester Rotaract Race Night
Fri 23 Nov	District 1220	District 1220 Charity Quiz Night
Fri 25 Jan -	Rotaract Europe	Winter Meeting - Thessaloniki.

RGBI 2007/08 Exec

Feel free to contact any member of the RGBI 2007/08 Exec team if you have any questions, concerns or ideas that can help to keep Rotaract on the move...

Chairman	Paul Simon (Colchester 1240)	chairman@rotaract.org.uk
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