

About Rotary

An Introduction

The Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches

Our Club was set up 23 years ago and has a membership of 35 –40 drawn from a range of occupations and professions and covering a wide age span. Most of us live in the village of Burnham or in the nearby neighbourhoods of Farnham Common, Stoke Poges and Taplow or Maidenhead.

We are actively involved in fund-raising, local community, vocational service and youth and international projects.

Community

Much of our fund raising – for example the annual Donkey Derby and the Burnham Beeches Run – is directed to supporting local charity services such as cancer care nurses and hospices. Each year we are able to donate in excess of £20,000 to help fund these essential caring services in our local community.

Youth

We work closely with local schools in a number of projects. Every year we sponsor deserving youngsters to go on Tall Ship voyages where they learn a lot about themselves and the skills and enjoyment of working closely within teams. The Club sponsors School Achievement awards and assists in career planning by giving advice and interview practice to 120 final year students. Each year we organise a local football competition with 10 junior schools in our area. This will provide focus to young people on the benefits and rewards of sport as we move towards the 2012 Olympics.

For younger aspiring members there is a Rotaract Club, which reflects some of Rotary's aims but with a greater emphasis on fellowship.

International

The third anniversary of the Tsunami disaster was marked by the official opening of new classrooms and a fully equipped Computer Room in a school in the remote village of Kalmunai on the East Coast of Sri Lanka. A fund of over £65,000 had been raised by Rotary Clubs in the Thames Valley and, due to its past experience and contacts within Sri Lanka, the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches was appointed the lead Club for the project.

Other international involvements include the raising of funds in support of the Rotary Against Malaria project and No Landmines in Afghanistan. Funds have also been raised to enable cows to be supplied to poor rural communities in Uganda. This year saw the initiation of the Rotary Hand Up for Africa project which enables small loans to be made to poor entrepreneurs (mostly women) in Malawi to help raise themselves out of poverty by their own endeavours.

Friendship

Of course it's not all work and no play! An essential aspect of Rotary is fellowship and friendship.

We have a strong relationship with our friends in the French Club of Amberieu-en-Bugey and meet up with them annually. Also this year a number of Club members and

their spouses visited Chile where they saw for themselves the benefits of the Club's donations to help equip a local fire station... and climb a local volcano!
We meet weekly for dinner at the Tudor Barn in Burnham when we usually have a speaker covering an interesting (and often thought provoking) subject.

If you would like to learn more about our Club please visit our website www.rcbb.freeserve.co.uk which provides details of our full programme and much else besides. Alternatively stop one of our members on Donkey Derby day (we will be very visible in our bright yellow T-shirts) or call our Secretary Ken Smith on 01628-633 895.