

## Rotary; the best kept secret

Most people have heard of Rotary but exactly what it does and why it does it is something of a mystery to many people. In some ways this isn't surprising as the aim of Rotary is not self promotion, rather "service above self".

The local Rotary **Club** is the basic unit of Rotary activity. Most clubs meet weekly, usually at breakfast, lunch or dinner time, although these days, because of the demands on people's time, a number of variations of Clubs are in operation. Informality is becoming the norm and there are for example e clubs and clubs that don't always have a meal each time they meet.

The style of the club very much reflects the needs and style of its members, what is common however is that all Clubs undertake in their different ways the business of Rotary, conducting various service projects within their local community, and participating in special projects involving other clubs in their district, and occasionally a special project in a "sister club" in another nation.

Activities within a club are usually grouped into four areas.

**"Club Service"** which involves all of the activities necessary for Rotarians to perform to make their club function successfully.

**"Vocational Service"** is the opportunity each Rotarian has to demonstrate their particular vocational ethics, skills and experience to the other members of the club.

**"Community Service"** covers those activities which Rotarians undertake to improve the quality of life in their community and it frequently involves assistance to youth, the aged, handicapped and others who look to Rotary as a source of hope for a better life.

**"International Service,"** describes the many programmes and activities which Rotarians undertake to advance international understanding, goodwill and peace. International Service projects are designed to meet humanitarian needs of people in many lands and include significant activities like the eradication of polio.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional people united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. It is a secular organization open to all persons regardless of race, colour, creed, religion, gender, or political preference

Rotary is about people. People who give and people who need. It is made up of over 1.2 million volunteer Rotarian men and women throughout the world and their aims and objectives are simple:-

To help and support less fortunate people at local, national and international levels, whilst enjoying themselves in social events and activities within their Rotary club and the wider world of Rotary. Also to apply the following Rotary code of ethics to what they think, say or do. Is it the truth, Is it fair to all concerned, will it build goodwill and better friendships and will it be beneficial to all concerned. Rotarians are good people to do business with.