

1220 Youth Connect

The District 1220 Youth Activities newsletter for Rotary Clubs

Introduction

Welcome to the first District 1220 Youth Activities Newsletter of 2024/25. The aim is to let you know what's happening in the area of Youth Activities at a District level, so that you can make meaningful decisions as to the activities your club would like to be involved with and what assistance (if any) you may require from the District. I took on the role of overseeing District Youth Activities in July and am delighted that we can now outline these exciting plans for this Rotary year. The success or otherwise of activities for children and young people across the District, relies not on me, but on the enthusiasm and determination of all Clubs to make sure that we engage in a meaningful way with all young people, ensuring that their voices are heard and that we provide useful and stimulating activities that are relevant to them and to their schools.

Please read the newsletter thoroughly and make sure that everyone else in your club has a similar opportunity. If you have any questions or if you are unsure about anything I am just an email or a phone call away.

My email address is dave.ashley782@hotmail.co.uk and my mobile number is 07738 552178. And remember - The children of today are the Rotarians of tomorrow.

Enjoy - Dave Ashley



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) - Castleton

There will be two RYLA courses this Rotary year. The first one will be held at the Rotary Centre at Castleton between 15th and 18th February 2025, for young people aged 15 years to 17 years. It can accommodate 24 students. It is run, on behalf of the District, by the Rotary Club of Sheffield. The organisers are Rtms Robbie Burton and Jeremy Holmes, both of the Sheffield Club. You will find a copy of the Application Form and all the other information you need at **Appendix A** at the end of this newsletter. Completed application forms should be sent to Rtn. Jeremy Holmes at jeremypiglet@gmail.com. If you need any further information Jeremy can be contacted on 07703 441613. **There are still a number of vacancies on this course.**



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Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) - Dukes Barn

The other RYLA course will be held at Dukes Barn Outdoor Activity Centre located in Chatsworth Park in the picturesque village of Beeley over the weekend of Friday, 16th to Sunday 18th May, 2025. This will be the first time we have held RYLA here and it replaces the RYLA weekends previously held at White Hall, Buxton. It holds the promise of being a fantastic weekend for 12 to 15 year olds. A big emphasis of this weekend will be how we can look after our Environment. We are keen that whilst we are looking for youngsters with potential leadership skills, we target youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds etc.

We can accommodate up to 48 young people on this course. The organisers are Rtn Phil Stone from the Erewash Rotary Club and Rtn Dave Ashley from Belper & Duffield Club.

The cost of this three-day course is just £150 per student. The relevant information that you will need regarding this RYLA will be circulated to Clubs within the next couple of weeks. In the meantime if you have any queries or need additional information about it please contact Rtn Dave Ashley on dave.ashley782@hotmail.co.uk or on 07738 552178.



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Rotary Young Musicians Concert

In a change from recent years, we will not be holding a Young Musicians' **competition** this year. Instead, we are holding a **Concert**. Any child or young person who is under the age of 18 years on the date of the concert may apply to take part. Clearly numbers will be limited but hopefully we will be able to accommodate everyone who wishes to take part. The concert will be held at The Duchess Theatre, The Chatsworth Centre, West Gate, Long Eaton, Derbyshire, NG10 1EF on **Saturday, 25th January, 2025**.

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The aim is to give young people an opportunity to perform in a professional environment to a paying audience. Any youngster who can play an instrument, sing, is in a band or a duo/trio/group etc is welcome to apply to take part. This should help them with motivation, self-confidence, building relationships and many other life skills.

There will not be a requirement for youngsters seeking to take part to have achieved a particular grade of accomplishment, as was the case with the competitions. We think this may discriminate against youngsters who are self-taught or chose not to pay to take examinations. These may well be youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds, the very families that we should be trying to assist. All we will ask for is that they are **competent** and **confident** in whatever musical sphere they intend to perform. We will seek confirmation of their ability from their music teacher or club leader etc.

The concert is being organised by Rtn Barbara James, Long Eaton Rotary and Rtn Dave Ashley, Belper & Duffield Rotary. For any queries or information please initially contact Dave on dave.ashley782@hotmail.co.uk or on 07738 552178.

Tickets for the event, which will run from 2.30pm till approx. 5pm, will be available shortly from Ticket Source. Full details will be circulated in due course. Please try and support this event by seeking out suitable young performers and also by buying tickets and supporting the concert on the day. (£5.50p for adults and £3.50p for youngsters still at school). There is ample parking (pay & display) adjacent to the venue and the A52 and M1 are just a few minutes' drive from the venue.

The application forms are attached as "**Appendix B**" at the end of this Newsletter.



Rotary Young Writer Competition

This year the theme for the Rotary Young Writer competition is "Wonderful Water" and as with other competitions organised by RIBI there will be three age categories. They are Junior – up to and including 10 years, Intermediate – 11 years to 13 years and Senior – 14 years to 17 years. The cut off date for the age groups is 31st August 2024.

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There will be a National Final for which entries must be sent to RIBI digitally before 30th April, 2025. Entries from Clubs into the District Final must therefore be received by Rtn. John Bendall, The Rotary Club of Nottingham by 31st March 2025.

Entries in prose must be no longer than 550 words and for poetry there must be no more than 40 lines. Any entries that exceed these limits will be disqualified. Of course plagiarism and close copying is banned and there must not be any pictures or drawings accompanying the entry.

The Information Pack with all the relevant information can be found at “**Appendix C**” at the end of this newsletter.



Rotary Young Chef Competition



Rotary Young Chef has been one of the most popular competitions on offer for a number of years. The National Final of the competition will be held on **Saturday, 29th March 2025** at a venue yet to be notified. Prior to that there will be a “Cluster” Final that will be completed by early March. We are therefore aiming to hold the District Final on **Saturday, 8th February, 2025** at The Long Eaton School, Thoresby Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 3NP.

Clubs can introduce their own rules for their local heats but rules for the District, Cluster and National events are set in the Information Pack which can be found at **Appendix D** to this document or downloaded from the RGBI Website. Clubs who wish to hold a local competition for schools in their areas therefore will need to hold their event(s) no later than the end of January, 2025.

The Rotary Young Chef competition, sponsored by Filippo Berio, gives entrants the chance to develop their culinary skills and be judged by leading industry professionals. Entrants must plan and cook a two-course meal (main course and dessert), develop their food presentation skills, and gain experience in high-pressure situations to a set budget.

Entrants must be between the ages of 11 – 17 (as of 31st August 2024). The winner of the Rotary Young Chef National Final will receive a prize of a two-day trip to Tuscany, which includes cookery classes to learn the secrets of regional Italian cooking.

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Rotary Children's Fun Day



For more than three decades, Rotary has been giving disabled and disadvantaged young people the chance to enjoy new experiences, taste adventure and have fun trips and days out. More than 1 million children have enjoyed a break from the ordinary in a range of ways.

- Exciting activities within school settings
- A taste of the arts with theatre visits
- Trips out to theme parks, activity centres, zoos, seaside resorts and more

All of this is made possible thanks to Rotary clubs, who help to organise and fund activities, with many Rotary members also volunteering a helping hand. It brings fun into the lives of children who often have come from difficult backgrounds, escaped domestic violence, or are disadvantaged in a variety of ways.



For 2025, Rotary is planning to give at least another 30,000 children that special experience. The official day for the Rotary Children's Fun Day (RCFD) is **11th June, 2025**. If your club would like to get involved with the Rotary Children's Fun Day you will need to register on the RGBI website by 15th January, 2025. Clubs can organise any event they wish for RCFD and it need not be on 11th June, 2025, if a different date is more suitable for you.

Your chosen event could be a trip to the seaside, a theater or cinema visit or a a trip to the zoo. If however, you would like someone else to do the hard work of organising the event for you there will be an organised event at Twycross Zoo on 11th June. All you need to do is to find the children who deserve a day out. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds, children with special needs and young carers are just some of the groups that we should be tragetting.

Clubs will receive a subsidy of £5 for every child that they take on the Rotary Children's Fun Day. Every little helps. Full details can be found on the RGBI website.



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Rotary Christmas Toy Boxes

Rotary Christmas Toy Boxes 2024



Rotary Christmas Toy Boxes is an initiative to provide individual toy boxes to every child in every domestic abuse refuge across the UK and is part of the Rotary Children's Fun Day activities.

By donating just £25 you will be providing one toy box filled with age and gender specific new toys up to an approximate value of £80. You can donate for as many boxes as you would like. It is estimated that at least 5,600 children will be residing in a refuge this Christmas.

Kids in Mind are working closely with Rotary to source the toys, pack the boxes and deliver them to the refuges in time for Christmas.

Research across District 1220 has revealed that there are likely to be over 400 children living in a domestic abuse refuge within the District over the Christmas period. Any Rotary Club that would like to participate in this scheme is required to register their intentions and pay for the required number of boxes on the RGBI website by **30th**

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November 2024. It is then guaranteed that the boxes will be delivered in time for Christmas.

The cost to clubs is just £25 per box. Once paid for, each box will be filled with gender and age specific toys, to the value of £80. This cost will be borne by the children's charity, Kids in Mind. Should you wish, you can ask that the boxes that you have sponsored are directed towards a specific refuge(s). **But please do not attempt to contact any refuge directly.**

It is intended that every child in every refuge over the Christmas period will receive such a toy box. *Seems like a bit of a no brainer to me and great value for money.*



New Interact Clubs ???

It occurs to me that for many years Clubs have been urged by "District people", by RGBI and by others to go out and form Interact Clubs and Rotaract Clubs. However, when it comes to the vexing question of "**How should we go about that then?**" there never seemed to be much useful information forthcoming.

Well, now I am going to join that list of "District people" urging you to go out and form an Interact Club. Essentially Interact Clubs are for young people of Comprehensive School age, 11 years to 17 years. Most clubs will have comprehensive schools in their areas but I am well aware that getting into them and finding the right person to talk to is not easy and I am certainly not going to attempt to tell you how you should go about it.

I will however provide you with some information that may be useful as a lever to open the front door.

First of all, every school is now required to produce and keep updated a strategy for "**environmental, social and governance**" (ESG). It is a collective term covering a broad range of criteria that businesses, schools and other organisations can use to help operate responsibly and to measure their impact on the environment and society. From carbon emissions and recycling, relationships with employees and students, suppliers and communities, to leadership, succession planning and risk management: all fall under the umbrella of ESG.

ESG credentials are increasingly coming under the spotlight, as ESG issues receive greater scrutiny and interest throughout society. This is no less the case for a school. While no two schools are the same, generally speaking, all schools have a range of diverse stakeholders, for whom ESG is (or soon will be) on their agenda, including current and prospective parents, pupils, alumni, staff, **trustees**, regulators, potential investors, insurers, suppliers and **the local community**.

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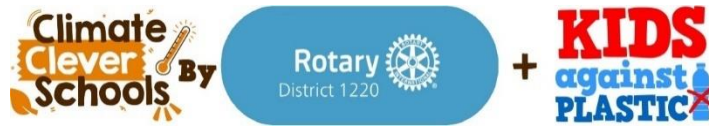
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Rotary is well able to assist schools in a number of these areas, particularly those relating to the environment, local community involvement, developing leadership skills and good community relationships etc in students.

Most clubs carry out work in their local communities. They know (and often indeed are) the local community leaders. They are involved with the local authorities and with a wide range of local, national and international charities and other organisations. Many Rotarians are School Governors. We are part of an international organisation and we have connections available to us across the globe.

As an example of the connections we have that schools may well find useful, I would refer you to the charities “Kids Against Plastic” and “The Great Green Read”, two charities that we have been engaged with and supporting for a number of years. Both can provide facilities for young people in schools that the schools themselves may well find invaluable. We can provide a much-needed link between the school and many such charities.

Kids Against Plastic has been supported by a number of clubs in District 1220 as it aims to reduce our reliance on single use plastics. They also have an initiative, “Kids Against Tat” which campaigns to persuade the publishers of children’s comics to stop putting free cheap plastic toys on their front covers as an incentive for kids to buy. Please see “Appendix E” for further details.



The Great Green Read, an initiative of the National Literacy Trust, is currently supported by Rotary Clubs in Nottingham and Doncaster. Its aims are to improve literacy in children whilst at the same time educating them about environmental issues. Both of these issues should be a good fit for raising the interest of schools and school-children. The National Literacy Trust’s website contains lots of useful information about this project. Just spend five minutes having a look at it and see what you think. The website is at <https://literacytrust.org.uk>



On another front we can provide Leadership Development training for students at the two Rotary Youth Leadership Awards courses that operate in the District at Castleton and at Beeley – as described above. There is no charge to the schools or the students for any of the activities I have

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mentioned, so that should be a relatively easy sell. Youngsters who attend RYLA courses should become great advocates for Rotary and the formation of Interact Clubs in their respective schools

Sticking with environmental issues there is a company based in Belper that provides a system for the supply of permanent containers for cleaning fluids, disinfectants and the like for commercial and industrial usage (including schools). The company supplies and refills the reusable containers as and when required thus saving on the purchase of large numbers of single use plastic bottles. As well as massively reducing the reliance on single use plastic bottles this can also achieve substantial financial savings – something most schools should jump at. The Interact Club at Belper School and Sixth Form Centre is currently negotiating with the school authorities to adopt this system as a part of Interact's environmental work.

Interact Clubs will take on responsibility for the organisation and planning of student-centred events, such as Christmas parties, help with familiarisation of new students into the school, social events etc. They can also raise substantial sums of money for charity, through fund raising events, potentially giving the school lots of welcome positive publicity. They are able to connect, via the internet, with other Interact Clubs in far flung parts of the world, allowing the students different perspectives on life.

Interact



I am sure I have only touched the surface of issues that we can offer schools through the formation of an Interact Club. You can probably think of many more that are specifically relevant to schools in your area.

I strongly believe that if Club members sit down, think about the issues and agree on a strategy for introducing themselves to schools and for outlining the massive advantages there are to the school from forming an Interact Club, then there is no reason why we cannot increase the number of Interact clubs across the District by a substantial number. At present there are just three.

I do have some experience of being involved with my own Rotary Club's creation of two Interact Clubs and I am more than willing to visit any Rotary Club in the District to assist in your endeavours in this respect, should you feel that I may be of some small use. Please feel free to contact me on 07738 552178 or on dave.ashley782@hotmail.co.uk to talk about it.



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Appendix A



The RYLA is a four-day course supporting the leadership development of 15 to 17 year olds.

Evening Tel; 07757 697398

Email: burtonrobbie@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Rotarians

RYLA at Castleton – Saturday 15th to Tuesday 18th February 2025

The RYLA course at Castleton is a 'leadership course' where we only use the outdoors as part of the tasks and challenges, and is not an outdoor adventure / activities course. Some of the activities do take place outdoors as part of the task given, so they need to bring suitable clothing and footwear.

If you would like further information or if you would like me to come and speak to your Club, then please contact me on the details above.

Clubs are invited to send 2 candidates, **one boy and one girl only**, aged between 15 and 17 (they must not be 18 by / on the date of the course) at a cost of £175.00 each for the 4-day course. There are places for 12 girls and 12 boys.

The candidates should be young people who are the potential leaders of the future. In the past we have had people involved with Cadets, Scouts, Guides, schools or have shown that they are of leadership material in the future.

May we suggest that your club interviews and selects the participants so that they are suitable for a leadership development course. The participants will be given the tools to be able to deliver a presentation to your club, after completion of the RYLA course.

A different participant takes the role of the 'team leader' for each task. After each task is completed, there is a debrief. This considers: how the team leader performed, leadership skills shown such as communication, delegation, adaptability, and any improvements that could have been made.

We feel that Castleton RYLA is similar to the Apprentice programme on the TV (but nobody gets fired!) where they take part in tasks after picking a 'team leader'.

Hopefully your club will be able to see what a great opportunity this is for young people to develop leadership skills, and you will then sponsor candidates for the Castleton RYLA course in 2025.

I enclose a copy of the application form, and could I ask that these are returned by the 14th December 2024 please! We will then send the 'Information and permission forms' direct to the candidate by email (please ensure their email address is clear on the form).

The application form needs to be sent to Jeremy Holmes – jeremypiglet@gmail.com – and he can be contacted on 07703 441613.

Places for your club can be reserved with a payment of a £50 deposit per place – payments to Rotary District 1220 either by bank transfer (quoting RYLAC in the reference section) or by cheque to me at the above address. The balance will be due by the end of January 2023. Please email Jeremy to say that you have paid.

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The course takes place at The Rotary Centre in Castleton in Derbyshire, shown on this website – www.rotarycentrecastleton.co.uk – on the ‘facilities’ page they will be able to see where they are staying.

We have run the course for the last 8 years (apart from in 2024 due to building work being carried out at the Centre) and it has proved to be a great success. It is run by Rotarians, many of whom are teachers, past head teachers and Scout leaders.

Yours in Rotary

Robbie Burton

RYLA at Castleton course leader
Rotary Sheffield

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“Appendix B”

Rotary International District 1220

Young Musicians’ Concert – 2.30pm Saturday, 25th January, 2025
The Duchess Theatre, The Chatsworth Centre, West Gate, Long Eaton,
Derbyshire, NG10 1EF.

Name of Entrant	
School Attended	
Name of Teacher /TA etc recommending Entrant	
Details of Proposed Performance (Vocalist/ instrument / group / etc **)	
Level of competence	
Sponsoring Rotary Club	
Name of contact Rotarian	
Email of Rotarian	
Mobile No of Rotarian	
Parent/Guardian – Name	
Parent/Guardian – Contact Details	
Parent/Guardian – Signature <i>(Agreeing to their child taking part in the concert and agreeing to the conditions overleaf)</i>	(Signature)
Any other Information.	

** A piano will be available on stage, however in the event of an entrant requiring piano accompaniment it is their responsibility to provide someone to play it.

Parents/Guardians **Please read the notes overleaf before signing your agreement**

Please return the completed form by email to Rtn Dave Ashley at dave.ashley782@hotmail.co.uk as early as possible but no later than Saturday, 11th January, 2025

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A parent/guardian is required to sign above indicating that they give permission for the following:-

- a) For the named Entrant to take part and be identified in the concert.
- b) For the information on this form to be used for all stages of the concert and be shared in accordance with the Privacy Notice with appropriate concert officials.
- c) For members of Rotary International District 1220 to make contact with the parent/guardian to discuss and agree possible public relations opportunities.
- d) Consent to provide Rotary International District 1220 with contact details for the purpose of planning and preparation of the event.
- e) No photographs of minors will be taken without the express written consent of the parent/guardian. This will be dealt with on the day of the concert.

By signing this form, you also acknowledge that you have read and agree to the Privacy Notices shown below in respect of the use of personal information.

Privacy Notice – Youth Competitions – Rotary International, District 1220

The use of the term 'you' and 'your' also means that of your child where the concert entrant is a minor, i.e. under the age of 18 years.

Members of Rotary International District 1220 ("we") value the trust you put in us to process your personal information and will always be open and honest about the information we collect and how we will use it. We will never do anything with your personal information that you wouldn't reasonably expect us to in relation to this concert. We will always take every effort to protect your privacy.

How we use your personal information for Youth Competitions

1. We are collecting your personal information and that of your child for the organisation and administration of this concert only. It will not be used for any other purpose.
2. Event organisers from Rotary International, District 1220 may use your personal information to make contact with you to discuss public relations opportunities and will gain your specific consent for the use of your information, such as photographs/interviews for newspaper articles, club or district websites etc. Where the entrant is a minor only the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Providing your personal information to others for Youth Competitions

3. The personal information will only be shared with others that require it for their role or the services they provide for the organisation and administration of the event.
4. It may be necessary to share some of your information with third parties such as providers of venue hire and catering services. Under such circumstances only the minimum amount of information for the third-party service will be provided, i.e. for caterers, only the name and allergy/special dietary requirement will be disclosed, no other information.
5. Those individuals and organisations that have access to the personal information are also bound by the Rotary GB&I Privacy Notice.

Retaining and deleting your personal information

6. All reasonable steps will be taken by those concerned to ensure the personal information they have access to be kept securely and will not be shared with anyone who does not have a legitimate reason to have access to it in relation to the organisation and administration of this competition/exhibition.
7. For all youth competitions, personal information will be kept on file for 3 months after the date of the event. After this date, the information will be securely destroyed (either by shredding, incineration or deletion from electronic devices). This timeframe is necessary to allow for any disputes to be settled before the personal information is destroyed.

By signing the front of this form, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to this Privacy Notices in respect of the use of personal information for yourself and your child, where applicable.

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“Appendix C”

Rotary Young Writer Information Pack for 2024-25

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THEME – ‘WONDERFUL WATER

The ‘Wonderful Water’ Theme can be interpreted as broadly as the Young Writer wishes and does not need to conform to the dictionary definition. Young people have the widest opportunity to share their creative talents in showing us what this Theme means to them.

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Introduction

The Rotary Young Writer competition is organised and promoted by Rotary GB&I.

There are three stages to the competition, each designed to support and encourage the development of writing skills. Some stages may have more than one round.

Aims and Objectives

This competition aims to encourage young people to:

- be creative
- use their writing skills
- write with imagination and creativity

Who can take part?

The competition is open to all young people in the age groups shown below. They may be an individual or from any group or community organisation including schools and colleges, home educated, other young peoples' community organisations, for example, community RotaKids, community Interact, Scout Groups, Girl Guides, etc.

The three age groups are:

Junior	Up to and including 10 years old
Intermediate	11 to 13 years old
Senior	14 to 17 years old

Entrants must not be above the age parameters for each group on 31st August 2024.

With the age qualifying date of 31st August 2024, it should be noted that some junior entrants may be 11, intermediate entrants may be 14 and some senior ones may be 18 at the time of some or all the stages of the competitions e.g., a competitor who may be 17 on 31st August but turns 18 on 1st September is allowed to enter. **Competitors must include their age on the application form.**

For entrants with motor control difficulties, an amanuensis may be used to record the entrant's work to paper.

Entrants should enter the competition organised by the local Rotary club through their respective group or community organisation or individually, as detailed above.

Local Rotary clubs can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website www.rotarygbi.org.

Entrants may participate in a competition held by a Rotary club outside of their geographical boundary but may compete in only one club event.

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The Three Stages of the Competition

Entrants need to complete an entry form, available from their local Rotary club and submit it along with their written piece of work, to the local organiser, by the date and time specified by them. It is essential that the name of the competitor and their written work is clearly linked with the right entry form.

Local Heats

These are organised by local Rotary clubs and are generally between September and December. The winners of each age group are entered into a Rotary district competition.

Local Rotary clubs can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website www.rotarygbi.org.

District Finals

These are organised by each Rotary district for the winners of the local heats for each age group. The winners of each age group in the district Finals are then entered into the National Final.

National Final

The National Final is organised by Rotary GB&I and only the winning entry per age group is submitted by each of the districts. Entries are to be sent digitally by the districts by the deadline of **30th April 2025** to the Rotary Support Centre.

The Rotary Young Writer competition team can be contacted by emailing young-writer@rotarygbi.org for any assistance needed.

The dates for local heats and district competitions will be determined locally. Entrants should check dates with their local Rotary club in the first instance. Any entries submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Competition Guidelines

Task

To produce a handwritten or typed story in prose or poem entitled '**Wonderful Water**'. The written entry could be fiction or nonfiction, as long as the piece relates to the theme and all entries must be legible.

Prose entries should be up to a maximum 550 words.

Poetry entries should be up to a maximum of 40 lines.

Entries that exceed these maximum numbers will be disqualified.

No pictures and/or drawings are to be part of the entry.

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Entries may not be returned unless specifically requested.

Plagiarism or Close Copied Images

Plagiarised or 'close-copied' images are not permitted in any competition. It is important that we protect the work of creative individuals. Whilst we are all inspired by the work of others, there is without doubt a grey area where inspiration carries over to close copying. For our competitions 'close copying' is where, to a reasonable person, the submitted entry appears remarkably similar in significant important respects to a body of work created elsewhere. We are looking for original pieces, not copies, which match the theme of the competition. Competitors **must not** use any apps which produce any part of their submission, if detected the entry will be disqualified.

Judges

The judges will be people with appropriate skills appointed by the organisers at the club and district levels for the Local Heats and District Finals accordingly.

At the National level the judges will be appointed by Rotary GB&I and will not be Rotarians.

The judging criteria is as set out below.

Judging Criteria

Judges will consider:

- imagination relative to the subject
- the ability to engage interest
- the ability to be consistent in the power of argument
- relevance to the Theme.

The judges will not enter any discussion or correspondence regarding their decision; the decision of the judges will be final and not subject to any appeal.

Recognition

At all stages of the competition, competitors will receive a Certificate of Participation.

How to enter

To enter a local heat, contact your local Rotary club which can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website www.rotarygbi.org. In case of difficulty, contact the Rotary Young Writer team by emailing young-writer@rotarygbi.org for assistance.

Entrants are required to complete an entry form and submit it along with their written piece of work, to the stage organiser by the time specified.

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Rotary Youth Competitions and other opportunities for young people

The Rotary Young Writer competition is one of a number of competitions for young people organised by Rotary GB&I. The others are: Rotary Young Artist; Rotary Young Chef; Rotary Young Musician; and Rotary Young Photographer. There are also annual Rotary Young Citizen Awards, a number of clubs organise Technology Tournaments and there are several Rotary specific programmes including RotaKids, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Developing Future Leaders and more. To find out more about these competitions and other opportunities please contact your local Rotary club in the first instance for what is happening locally and also take a look at <https://www.rotarygbi.org/projects/young-people/>.

Working with Children

Rotary GB&I has adopted this statement of policy in working with children, vulnerable adults and those with disability:

The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of their ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact during their Rotarian duties.

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“Appendix D”



Information Pack for 2024-25

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Rotary Young Chef Information Pack

Information Pack for 2024-25

Introduction

The Rotary Young Chef Competition is organised and promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (Rotary GB&I).

There are four stages to the competition, each designed to support and encourage the development of young people's culinary skills and confidence. Some stages may have more than one round.

Aims and Objectives

This competition aims to encourage young people to:

- learn how to cook a healthy meal
- develop food presentation skills
- consider food hygiene issues
- develop organisational and planning skills
- develop an ability to cope in a demanding situation

Who can take part?

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The competition is open to all young people between the ages of 11 and 17 on 31st August 2024. They may be an individual or from any group or community organisation including schools and colleges, home educated, or other young peoples' community organisations, for example, community RotaKids, community Interact, Scout Groups, Girl Guides, etc. It should be noted that a competitor who is 17 on 31st August but turns 18 on 1st September is allowed to enter whilst a young person who is 10 on 31st August would not.

This competition is intended for amateur chefs. An amateur is considered to be a person who is **not** in full, or regular part time, employment in the catering trade. Eligible entrants who have been temporarily employed by restaurants during the school holidays may take part. The competition is **not open to students who are enrolled on a full-time catering course studying for a qualification above "A" level (or equivalent) standard. Students in part-time (day release) education for catering are also not eligible to participate.**

The qualifying criteria of all entrants will be checked rigorously; any entrant who does not meet the above conditions will not be allowed to take part.

Entrants should enter the competition organised by the local Rotary club through their respective group or community organisation or individually, as detailed above.

Local Rotary Clubs can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website www.rotarygbi.org.

Entrants may participate in a competition held by a Rotary club outside of their geographical boundary but may compete in only one club event.

The Four Stages of the Competition

Entrants need to complete an entry form, available from their local Rotary club and submit it to the local organiser, by the date and time specified by them.

Local Heats

These are organised by local Rotary clubs and are generally between September and December. The winner of each local heat is entered into a Rotary District competition.

Local Rotary Clubs can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website www.rotarygbi.org.

District Finals

These are organised by each Rotary District and **are generally completed by mid-February**. In the case of a high number of entrants, it may be necessary to hold preliminary

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rounds prior to a district final. Any preliminary rounds must be completed within the same guidelines. The **winner** from the District Finals is then entered into the Cluster Final.

Districts are responsible for the refunding of competitors costs up to the cost of the ingredients (maximum £18).

Clubs sponsoring competitors are responsible for assisting them with food costs and/or travel costs to the District Final venue.

Cluster Finals

The Cluster Finals are organised by several Rotary Districts together and **are generally completed by early March**. The **winner** of the Cluster Final is then entered into the National Final.

Clusters are responsible for the refunding of competitors costs up to the cost of the ingredients (maximum £18).

Clubs sponsoring competitors are responsible for assisting them with food costs and/or travel costs to the Cluster Final venue.

National Final

The National Final is organised by Rotary GB&I and only the winning chef is entered by each of the Clusters. It will be held **on Saturday 29th March 2025** at a venue to be advised.

Rotary GB&I does not fund the expenses of the Cluster winners to attend the National Final. Sponsoring clubs are responsible in the first instance.

The dates for local heats, district and cluster finals competitions will be determined locally. Entrants should check dates with their local Rotary Club in the first instance. Any entries submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Competition Guidelines

Task *To prepare and serve, in two hours, a two-course healthy meal comprising a **main course** and **dessert** for two people and costing up to £18.00 sterling.*

The task for local heats and district and cluster finals may have local variations. Entrants should check the detailed requirements for each round with their local Rotary club.

Judges *The judges will be people with appropriate skills appointed by the organisers at the Club, District and Cluster levels.*

At the National level the judges will be appointed by Rotary GB&I and will not be Rotarians.

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Judging Criteria

Judges will allocate marks as follows:

Costing	5 points
Planning	5 points
Healthy choice of dishes	5 points
Correct use of knives & equipment	5 points
Meal served on time & at correct temperature	5 points
Neatness and organisation of working area and hygiene	5 points
Range of skills used	5 points
Presentation of display table	5 points
Taste and presentation of main course *	10 points
Taste and presentation of dessert *	10 points
Possible Total	60 points

Allocation of Points

5 points: Outstanding

4 points: Distinction

3 points: Commendable

2 points: Reasonable

1 point: Passable (OK)

Double points for Taste and Presentation of Main course and dessert.

Judges will deduct marks for courses presented outside the allotted time.

A suggested Judges score sheet will be added to this document by end July.

At the end of the competition, the organiser will collect the judges score sheets. These will be retained by the competition organiser for a maximum of 3 months after the date of the competition, after which they, and all other data collected, **will be destroyed** to comply with the [General Data Protection Regulations](#) and the Rotary Youth Competitions and Awards Privacy Policy.

A Rotarian with no interest in the participating teams will review the scores to ensure accuracy before the results are announced.

After the judges have determined the result of the competition one or more judges will comment on their observations of the competition before announcing the result.

The judges will not enter any discussion or correspondence regarding their decision; the decision of the judges will be final and not subject to any appeal.

Recognition

At all stages of the competition, competitors will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Prize for National Final

Further details relating to prizes for the National Final will be confirmed in due course.

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How to enter

To enter a local heat, contact your local Rotary club which can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website www.rotarygbi.org. In case of difficulty, contact the Rotary Young Chef team by emailing young-chef@rotarygbi.org for assistance.

Entrants are required to complete an entry form and submit it to the stage organiser by the time specified.

Competition Procedure

Arrival

Before each competition, the organiser will conduct a ballot to determine the **cooking area** allocated to each competitor.

On arrival competitors will be shown where to deposit their equipment and ingredients.

Introduction

Competitors and supporters will be welcomed, and competitors advised of the location of the judging and table display areas. Competitors will then be briefed by the judges including explaining what they are looking for in terms of the proper use of knives and cooking equipment.

Supporters will be advised of a rest area for their use during the competition.

Equipment

Ovens, hobs and refrigeration equipment will be available at the venue. Competitors should bring all other equipment, including any specialised equipment and utensils, they are likely to require. Any electrical equipment they bring must have an **up-to-date Portable Appliance Tested (PAT) certificate**. Any clarifications on equipment availability should be addressed to the competition stage organiser.

Organisers will allocate a table for presentation for the competitors to display their dishes for supporters to see. **Competitors should also display a menu and costings on their tables which will be judged.**

Prior to the competition start time, supporters may assist with the unpacking and organisation of the cooking area. Supporters must not assist with any food preparation and must leave the cooking area before the competition starts.

Competitors must

- not commence any food preparation until the competition begins

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- not use any ready or pre-prepared food or ingredients including marinated food
- make available their completed time plan (see below) and their completed menu and ingredients form (see below) for the judges to review.

The menu and ingredients form (attached below) should

- include all ingredients and the purchase cost of the quantity of ingredients to be used
- value at retail cost any home grown produce or 'free' ingredients to be used
- not include any small amounts of herbs, spices and seasonings
- have attached to it receipts for the ingredients, with the items clearly marked.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE

If any dish **contains nuts of any type**

- this must be made clear on the menu and ingredients form
- the competition organiser must be made aware of this on arrival so that appropriate separation can be arranged
- all utensils and surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned to avoid residue contamination.

Preparation Time

The preparation time of two hours will commence during which time competitors will prepare, cook and serve their meal.

During the last 45 minutes of the two-hour duration, competitors should stagger serving their courses in the correct order and at the correct temperature. One serving of each course should be placed in the judging area and the other serving on the display table for the supporters to see.

Clearing up may be completed after the two-hour period if necessary.

Results

After the judges have decided the result of the competition, one or more of them will comment on their observations before announcing the result.

Rotary Youth competitions and other opportunities for young people

The Rotary Young Chef competition is one of a number of competitions for young people organised by Rotary GB&I. The others are: Rotary Young Artist; Rotary Young Musician; Rotary Youth Speaks: A Debate; Rotary Young Photographer; and Rotary Young Writer. There are also annual Rotary Young Citizen Awards, a number of clubs organise Technology Tournaments and there are several Rotary specific programmes including RotaKids, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Rotary - Developing Future Leaders and more. To find out more about these competitions and other opportunities please contact your local Rotary club in the first instance for what is happening locally and also take a look at <https://www.rotarygbi.org/projects/young-people/>.

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“Appendix E”

Kids Against Plastic: Inspiring Change through Youth Leadership

In a world where environmental concerns are becoming increasingly urgent, young voices are stepping up to the challenge. Rotary District 1220 is proud to highlight the incredible work of Kids Against Plastic—a youth-led initiative that is making waves in the fight against plastic pollution.

A Mission Born from Passion

Kids Against Plastic (KAP) was founded in 2016 by sisters Amy and Ella Meek when they were just 12 and 10 years old. Inspired by their concern for the planet and the devastating effects of plastic waste on wildlife, they launched this campaign to raise awareness and take tangible steps toward reducing plastic pollution.

What began as a local movement has now gained national and international recognition. The core message is simple but powerful: educate, motivate, and empower people of all ages to reduce their plastic usage.

The Power of Youth Action

One of the most remarkable aspects of KAP is that it serves as a reminder of the transformative power of youth. Amy and Ella have not only made an impact by engaging schools, businesses, and government officials, but they’ve also inspired thousands of children and teenagers to take action in their own communities.

Their campaign encourages individuals to become "Plastic Clever" by reducing single-use plastic and making smarter choices in daily life. From reducing plastic packaging in schools to encouraging local councils to adopt more sustainable practices, their work has become a model for grassroots change.

Rotary's Role in Supporting Change

At Rotary District 1220, we believe in supporting initiatives that align with Rotary’s areas of focus, including protecting the environment. Kids Against Plastic embodies the values of leadership, service, and innovation that we strive to promote. We are proud to amplify their message and encourage Rotary members to get involved in supporting KAP’s mission.

Rotary clubs can collaborate with schools to adopt Plastic Clever programs, support beach clean-ups or river plastic-pick initiatives, and engage youth in educational programs that foster environmental stewardship. Together, we can help amplify this movement and create lasting change.

How You Can Get Involved

There are many ways to join the fight against plastic pollution. Whether you’re looking to bring KAP initiatives to your local community or support their wider goals, every action counts. You can:

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1. **Go Plastic Clever:** Visit the Kids Against Plastic website to learn how you can reduce your plastic footprint and become certified as a Plastic Clever school, business, or individual.
2. **Engage Rotary Youth:** Encourage Interact and Rotaract clubs to participate in KAP activities. It's a great way to empower younger generations to take on leadership roles in environmental sustainability.
3. **Host a Cleanup Event:** Organize a local litter-picking event to clear plastic waste from your community, parks, or waterways. Rotary clubs can play a huge role in mobilizing volunteers.
4. **Spread Awareness:** Use your platforms to share the important message of reducing single-use plastics. By creating awareness, we can change habits and shift toward a more sustainable lifestyle.

The Future is in Our Hands

The future of our planet depends on the steps we take today. Kids Against Plastic reminds us that age is no barrier to making a significant difference. By supporting their mission, we can work together to create a cleaner, more sustainable world for future generations.

In Rotary District 1220, we have the opportunity to be part of this global movement, nurturing young leaders and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility. Let's take action now—because every piece of plastic we avoid, and every positive choice we make, adds up to a better future for all.

For more information on how you can get involved with Kids Against Plastic, visit their website at www.kidsagainstplastic.co.uk.