



The Rotary Club of Reading Maiden Erlegh

District 1090 – Central Southern England



Service
Above Self

About Rotary

Rotarians — men and women alike — volunteer their efforts to improve the quality of life in their own communities and beyond their communities' borders. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are non-political, non-religious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds. Club membership represents a cross-section of local business and professional leaders. Rotary International is a worldwide organisation that began in Chicago, USA, in 1905. A lawyer named Paul Harris started it. The initial group met in rotation at each of the business premises of the members, hence the name "Rotary".

Rotary now has approximately 1.2 million members, men and women, in over 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. There are nearly 1,800 Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland with over 63,000 members. There is no age limit. Membership is by invitation.

Rotary is thus a worldwide fellowship of business and professional people, united in the ideal of service to those in need at local, national and international level. Rotary encourages high ethical standards in all vocations and encourages the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace.

Rotary Clubs operate independently. Meetings are held weekly and each member pledges to attend regularly. Every Rotarian has a right to attend any Club meeting anywhere in the world, so there is always somewhere to go, and people to meet, wherever business or leisure travel may take you. Weekly meetings promote acquaintance and fellowship, through which Rotarians find the inspiration to serve the community.

About Us

The Rotary Club of Reading Maiden Erlegh was founded (chartered) in May 1989. It is one of seven Rotary Clubs in Reading. It had 37 founding members, and now has 54.

The Club is managed by an elected Council, and operates through a number of committees. Every Club member is a member of one of the committees. These committees deal with matters such as helping the local community, arranging social events for members, fund raising, arranging speakers, membership, youth activities and public relations. Rotarians can get involved as much or as little as their time will allow.

We have a full social programme, and at most weekly meetings we have an invited speaker.

We raise funds in various ways throughout the year, but our main effort is prior to Christmas when we staff Father Christmas grottos at some local garden centres. Over the years we have raised over £300,000.

The territorial limits of our Club are the parishes of Earley, Woodley and Sandford, Sonning, Charvil, Twyford, Ruscombe, St Nicholas Hurst and Winnersh.

The emblem of our Club includes a water wheel commemorating the old flourmill that stood on the site of the present Moat House Hotel at Mill Lane, Sindlesham, and a black swan that once was a regular visitor to the River Loddon that flows through the Club's territory.

Helping Others

A few recent examples of service by our Club are:

- Funding a music studio for a local special needs school
- Sending handicapped youngsters on one week outward bound type courses
- Collecting food parcels for overseas disaster areas
- Providing a special outfit for a sufferer of cerebral palsy
- Providing counsellors to International Scholars studying at Reading University
- Supporting a local primary school by providing books, organising outings and helping with their reading skills
- A number of projects helping Royal Berks Hospital
- Supporting Thames Valley and Chilterns Air Ambulance
- Sponsoring a number of young people to participate in leadership and skills courses at an outdoor pursuits centre in North Wales
- Funding and attending an annual day of entertainment for a local special needs school
- Taking needy children on a day trip to Wellington Country Park
- Running a “silver surfers” service in a local old peoples’ home
- Collecting books for schools in Mongolia
- Supporting the British Legion by providing collectors for poppy day
- Supporting an orphanage/school in Tamil Nadu.

The Rotary Foundation

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty. The Rotary Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians.

The Foundation's Humanitarian Programmes fund international Rotary club and district projects to improve the quality of life, providing health care, clean water, food, education, and other essential needs primarily in the developing world. One of the major Humanitarian Programmes is PolioPlus, which seeks to eradicate the poliovirus worldwide. Through its Educational Programs, the Foundation provides funding for some 1,200 students to study abroad each year. Grants are also awarded to university teachers to teach in developing countries and for exchanges of business and professional people.

Why Join Rotary?

Friendship

In an increasingly complex world, Rotary provides one of the most basic human needs: the need for friendship and fellowship. It is one of two reasons why Rotary began in 1905.

Business Development

The second original reason for Rotary's beginning is business development. Everyone needs to network. Rotary consists of a cross section of every business community. Its members come from all walks of life. Rotarians help each other and collectively help others.

Citizenship in the Community

Membership in a Rotary club makes us a better community citizen. The average Rotary club consists of the most active citizens of any community.

Public Speaking Skills

Many individuals who joined Rotary were afraid to speak in public. Rotary develops confidence and skill in public communication and the opportunity to practice and perfect these skills.

Citizenship in the World

There are few places on the globe that do not have a Rotary club. Every Rotarian is welcome – even encouraged – to attend any of more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. This means instant friends in both one’s own community and in the world community.

The Development of Social Skills

Every week and at various events and functions, Rotary develops our personality, social skills and people skills. Rotary is for people who like people.

The Opportunity to Serve

Rotary is a service club. Its business is mankind. Its product is service. Rotarians provide community service to both local and international communities. This is perhaps the best reason for becoming a Rotarian: the chance to do something for somebody else and to sense the self-fulfillment that comes in the process and return of that satisfaction to our own life. It is richly rewarding.

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Meetings are held on Tuesday evenings
in the Senior Common Room,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights, off Pepper Lane,
Reading, Berkshire.
19:30 for 20:00

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For further information or to contact us, visit our web site: <http://www.readingmaidenerlegh.org/>