

# Rotary South News

Newsletter of Rotary South District 1145 bringing together 97 Rotary Clubs in 6 Greater London Boroughs, Surrey, East & West Sussex and North East Hampshire to develop fellowship and service opportunities

September 2018

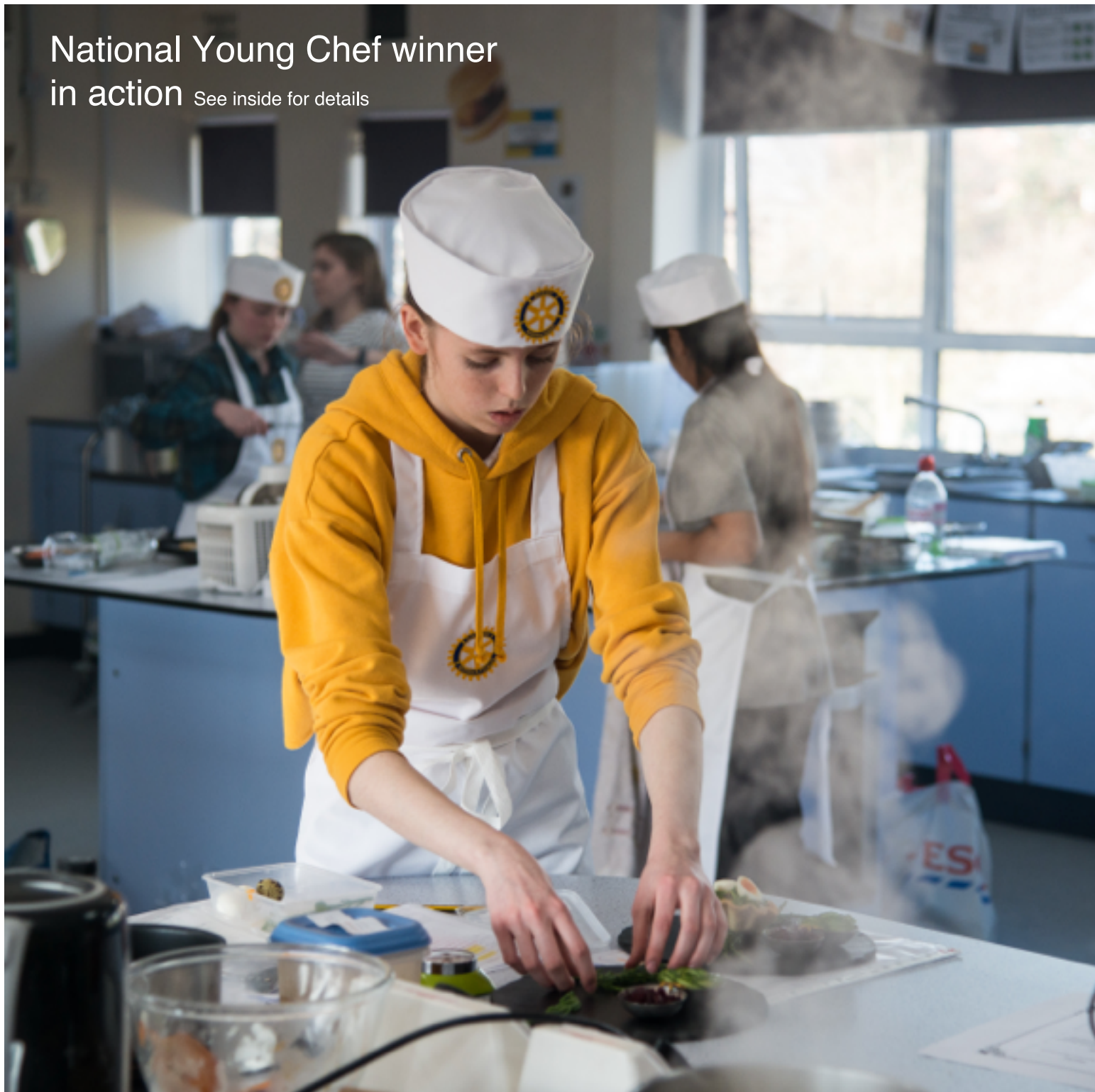
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## National Young Chef winner in action

See inside for details



# National Winners Young Chef & Young Writer



Seven cooking enthusiasts aged between 13 and 16 battled it out in the kitchens of the Abraham Darby Academy. The judges tasted dishes, examined the presentation and the methods used, and after much deliberation chose their champion.

Huge congratulations to **Kitty Grosse, 15**, sponsored by **Fleet Rotary**, who was named as the victor.

The competition attracted nearly 3,000 entrants across Great Britain and Ireland, which is an indication of the skill and talent needed to get through to the final.

Kitty is thrilled to have won, "I was so surprised to find out that I had won as I didn't think I'd get to the finals to say the least. I was filled

with nerves but when I found my feet there was no holding me back. My friends at St Nicholas School are so happy for me but I think they just want me to make my panna cotta for them!"

The task for the young chefs is to cook a healthy three-course meal for two people, with a time limit of two hours and a modest budget.

The heat is off for Kitty now as she looks forward to enjoying her prize, a trip to Tuscany's Toscana Saporita Cooking School, courtesy of sponsors Filippo Berio. Kitty will also enjoy a morning of truffle hunting and a little sightseeing of Pisa.

## **Kitty's winning menu**

*To start: Smoked haddock and leek tartlet*

*For mains: Pork wrapped in bacon with a vermouth sauce served with gratin dauphinoise, Romanesco cauliflower and braised carrots.*

*Sweet treat: Rosewater panna cotta served with tuile biscuits*

Original article from RotaryGBI website. Photos by Anthony Beevor at District Final



**Sienna Lakin** of St Teresa's School, Dorking, sponsored by **Dorking Rotary**, has won the National Final of Rotary's Young Writer competition, at Senior level for 14 to 17 year olds. The task set was to write approx. 500 words on the theme 'A Different Perspective', interpreting this topic as they chose.

*Perspectives.* They encompass us. Human nature. Each and every one of us has our own perspective on an element of our world. Opinions, whether oppressed or expressed, they are our perspectives.

One thing we all differ in is perspective on what is perfect. What we view as being most desired. Yet what is perfection? When did an individual ever grasp their own clear vision of what perfection was to them? Was it that seemingly perfect girl, that gorgeous, flawless model on that front page of the magazine that provided a view on what was perfect?. Or the way the sun splinters into thousands of delicate shards of light, a stain of orange, gold and scarlet red when it sets? Or when someone whom you adore with all your heart laughs, and the little lines crease beside their smile and their eyes sparkle, twinkling stars in midnight, fluttering fireflies. There could be thousands of perspectives on what is considered perfect, a perfect feeling, a perfect moment. Moments where simply, quite simply, everything just fits. Comfort, is that a

perfect feeling? What all humans seem to crave is security and comfort. We all seem to know what a perfect life would be, we see a glimpse into another's life and gain some invalid, unreliable & foolish understanding that their life is so much more 'perfect' than our own.

We need to stop defining perfect.

We don't need to feel 'perfect' to feel worth, self-value, self-appreciation. We need to love ourselves, our peers, our neighbours. Whether typically perfect or not. A rose, a scarlet hue of furred petal, soft and delicate, has thorns- sharp and cruel. A fire, trails of coloured flame, beautiful flickers, powerful ripples of warmth- has the potential to burn, to scar and to kill. The ocean, turquoise waves, laced with wondrous creatures- has the ability to engulf a ship, to sink a body of thousands. Not everything is as it seems. Perfection is imperfection's very own parallel.

My sister was born on the 17th August 2008. The first moment, the seemingly perfect moment was when she first curled her little fingers around my thumb as I held her on the hospital bed, and her eyelids fluttered and her mouth stirred. Then the doctors told my mother, "We are so sorry, she has Downs Syndrome" and went on to describe how it was a "genetic disorder", an *imperfection* of her genes, for she has an extra chromosome". She is one of those judged in the world- pitied and apologised for. She needs no apology. She to me, is perfect. She is a beautiful being. This is my perspective, but I wish, more than anything, that the world saw her perfection, in the way she sings along to the radio, out of tune, but joyous nevertheless, the way she wakes up, her hair a strewn corn field, yet a messy sort of perfect. Or the way she doesn't always get things right, but she always tries.

All people, all the flaws we have, mental or physical, they mark our journey; our battles, our successes. We need to acknowledge the power of acceptance, and accept all, whether deemed 'perfect' or not. Society ought to grow. Grow in mind, in understanding, eradicating bitter judgements.

Let's stop ourselves from making comments that leave anyone feeling imperfect.

Let's learn to find a new and different perspective.

Let's redefine 'perfect'.



# From the District Team



## District Governor's Message

September has arrived and we are already over two months into the Rotary year 2018-2019! I have already visited over 30 clubs. What a pleasure it has been to meet so many members and hear of the fantastic work that is being done to improve the lives of others. Rotarians are truly 'The Inspiration' to others. We are now busy preparing for the District Conference at Sinah Warren (Abba outfit sourced).

September is designated Education and Literacy month. Clubs and Rotarians in this District are actively engaged in work that enriches the life prospects of many by work done in this area. These include working in schools, supplying dictionaries and supporting education projects overseas.

In the words of Nobel Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai:  
"One Child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world"

It is estimated that one billion people - one sixth of the world's population - are unable to read. Illiteracy among adults and children is a global concern in both highly industrialised nations and developing countries. The tragedy of illiteracy is that those who cannot read are denied personal independence and they become victims of unscrupulous manipulation, poverty and the loss of human dignity. Illiteracy is demeaning, it is a major obstacle to achieving economic, political, social, and personal development and is a barrier to international understanding, cooperation and global peace.

- An additional 1.7 million teachers are needed worldwide to meet the goal of universal primary education.
- 57 million children worldwide are not in school
- 781 million people over the age of 15 - 60% of them women - are illiterate

Rotarians in our District play a vitally important role in and around their communities and in developing countries, by promoting projects to facilitate opportunities that are linked with the ability to read.

Another strand that D1145 plays is the sponsoring of Global Grant Scholars who then go out into the world to improve the lives of others and promote peace. They study a number of subjects in order to achieve their goals. We recently had the pleasure of sponsoring Kae Yoshino from Japan (R I District 2780) who was studying for an MA in International Education and Development at Sussex University. As part of her studies she undertook studies in Malawi. Part of her research is included in the article below:

## Basic Education and Literacy in Malawi

Malawi is a land-locked country in southeast Africa with a population of 18.1 million. GDP per capita is USD \$1,183 per year, with 87.6% of the population living on less than USD \$3.10 a day. Malawi has similar national characteristics to Japan such as respect for authority and giving priority to cooperativeness in communities.

Since its independence in 1964, the Malawi government has been struggling to improve equity and quality in education. A significant change for the equity issue was led by the Free Primary Education (FPE) policy in 1994, based on the idea of 'Education for All'. The FPE policy made a great impact on increasing access to primary education, especially for children from low-income families. The adjusted net enrolment rate for primary school increased to 96.3%. This number seems to show successful achievement, but in reality, the rapid adoption of the policy caused several new challenges: a lack of teachers, high dropout and repetition rates, and excessive class sizes. In terms of adult literacy, the rate of Malawi is approximately 62% (15 years and older) which is lower than the average of sub-Saharan Africa.

In general, parents believe in the importance of education. This will be because 20 years of the FPE policy implementation made parents recognise the power of schooling to change both children's lives and their societies. However, the number of students who can continue studying at secondary education is less than a third because of their family's financial situation or the practice of early marriage and pregnancy. Therefore, secondary school graduates are 'elite' in their respective communities.

In May - June 2018 I conducted field research at six secondary schools in the northern region of Malawi, to examine the ways in which the Social Studies curriculum in Malawian secondary schools has the power to foster students to become active participants in community development. The interviews with students revealed that they have a strong passion to change society. A male student commented that: 'One serious challenge in my community is that many people are illiterate. That's why I want to be a teacher'. Social Studies is an important subject that provides potential future leaders with practical and the conceptual knowledge and skills. They can directly address the issues in communities. However, students' active participation and critical thinking is limited due to classroom practices. Furthermore, lack of teachers with appropriate qualifications is serious. How to develop students' critical-analysis skills which enable them to address societal inequality is the key challenge of Social Studies lessons in Malawi.

David Easton

# News from Around the District

## PEPS I 2018 - PRESIDENTS ELECT

A reminder to all Presidents Elect – preparation for your year starts shortly... full details have been circulated by email to you or via your club Secretary on 10th September - make sure you have responded to the invitation – any problems contact [simoncrowther7@gmail.com](mailto:simoncrowther7@gmail.com)

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24th - REIGATE BAPTIST CHURCH



Basic Education and Literacy in Malawi  
At a Community Day Secondary School. Because of lack of classrooms, students need to learn outside

## St Catherine's Hospice Capital Funding Appeal

St Catherine's Hospice in Crawley has provided care for patients across West Sussex and East Surrey since 1983, and has long been supported by donations from local Rotary clubs. I worked as a GP in Horley from 1981 – 2009 and had many patients who received truly impressive care from the hospice.

The Hospice has outgrown its site and a new building is being designed and developed in Pease Pottage. It is planned to open around 2021 but approx £10m needs to be raised to fund the new build. I came up with the idea that perhaps local clubs should combine their efforts and seek to raise a significant amount towards the Capital Appeal. This would give 'naming rights' to an area of the new Hospice and so enable the clubs to have a plaque recognising their efforts, both for the capital appeal and over the preceding years.

I am pleased to report that there are now 7 clubs (including Horley) committed to this joint effort. Others have been unable to commit or decided to make donations to the appeal on their own. I may, however, not have reached all the clubs who feel they have a connection with St Catherine's and so might wish to participate. If you feel this applies to your club then do please get in touch with me.

It is heartening that local clubs have managed to join together in this way and hopefully, at the end of the process, there will be a significant donation to the new hospice build.

Jim House [jim\\_house@btinternet.com](mailto:jim_house@btinternet.com)  
Rotary Club of Horley

**Leatherhead Rotary's 27th Annual Charity Golf Day** on 24 August attracted eighty-eight keen golfers. Fortified by a sandwich lunch, the teams teed off and played 18 holes at Effingham Golf Club. Two teams finished top of the leaderboard with a Stableford score of 122 points, with Three Men and a Lady very narrowly beating last year's winners, The WAGGs, on a countback.

Winner of the John Lawrence Memorial Shield for highest individual score was Vaughn Harman, with an impressive 42 points. The event was held in aid of Prostate Cancer UK, and the total raised for the charity was over £5,000.



## Conference at Sinah Warren

If you are attending conference this year we trust you will have an enjoyable and informative weekend on Hayling Island. If you have a camera with you and who hasn't these days, then send photos to the District Editor as we will be having a bumper edition with a conference report in next month's edition of Rotary South News.

### Editor

Lesley Robinson  
email: [editor@rotarysouth.org.uk](mailto:editor@rotarysouth.org.uk)

Please send all contributions to the District Editor

# News from Around the District

## Melanoma Summer Skin Health Clinic

With summer temperatures reaching 30°, it was so tempting to bask in the sun. But too much sun can be dangerous. East Grinstead Rotary sponsored a timely Melanoma Fund Summer Skin Health Clinic, where members of the public were able to consult either a melanoma surgeon, who offered advice and spot checks for melanoma and other forms of skin cancer, or a master pharmacist, who provided advice on sun protection and UV related skin damage.

Of the 78 people seen, 25% were referred to GPs, proving how important this service is. Not only did the Clinic help detect skin problems early, the advice given was aimed at making people think more carefully about their skin health and how to avoid problems.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Global Sight Solutions (GSS) was founded in the 1990s by Guildford RC member and consultant ophthalmologist Dr S N Das MBE. The Charity establishes eye hospitals in India, Africa and soon elsewhere, and provides assessment camps, surgical equipment and surgeon training so that free eye operations and treatments are available to the poor.

Unlike other charities, by establishing eye hospitals GSS ensures that an ongoing and continuous programme of sight-saving operations can be carried out. GSS's hospitals primarily provide treatment/surgery for glaucoma, retinal detachment, diabetic retinopathy and cataracts. Currently GSS has established 50+ hospitals with a further 25 planned. These hospitals currently carry out over 100,000 cataract operations per annum with a target of 180,000 per year in place!

GSS funds virtually everything it does via the marvels of Rotary Global Grants and can therefore provide a cataract operation for a donation of just £5.

### Why the name change?

The vast majority of support for GSS has traditionally come from Rotary Clubs, and long may that continue. Let's remember that GSS remains very much a Rotary charity!

A couple of years ago the decision was made to garner additional support from the corporate world and general public. Market surveys showed that the name The Guildford Rotary Eye Project did not convey to these two important groups what the charity does. After careful thought the name Global Sight Solutions was trade marked.

If you go to the website: [www.globalsightsolutions.org](http://www.globalsightsolutions.org) you'll discover the Gift of Sight Lottery, for £1 you can win £25,000, and over 4000 retail opportunities!

To find out more, book a speaker, or offer help as a volunteer please call 01483 481856 or go to: [info@globalsightsolutions.org](mailto:info@globalsightsolutions.org) Help us to help others: [www.globalsightsolutions.org/donate](http://www.globalsightsolutions.org/donate)

Celebrate GSS's silver anniversary - Rolling Stones fans might like to attend the GSS Guildford Concert on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019. Book at: <https://glive.co.uk/Online/tickets-rollin-stoned-guildford-2019>



## Rocket man roars into Woking

There was a packed house at the HG Wells Conference and Event Centre in Woking on 25 July when Richard Noble, OBE, delivered the prestige lecture "Bloodhound SSC" - the mission to break the land speed record.

Richard, a famous former world land speed record holder, is director of the Bloodhound project to develop a unique high-tech supersonic vehicle designed to reach speeds in excess of 1,000 mph.

The 300-strong audience listened raptly as Richard spoke eloquently and enthusiastically about the project – a vehicle with no tyres, a Jaguar engine coupled to a Rolls-Royce jet engine and a rocket system to propel this 'car' to a new world record. He described the aerodynamics and the difficulties in engineering the means of propulsion. Richard said the project is driven by a strong team spirit, and this was shown during the quest for a driver. RAF pilot Andy Green was chosen not just for his exceptional ability and nerves of steel, but because he regarded the team as equals. The evening was organised by the Rotary Club of Woking District and raised approx £6,000 for local charities.

Len Walker, Woking District Rotary