

Rotary is a world-wide organisation of people who are pledged to serve the community, locally, nationally and globally, promote the highest ethical standards in all areas of working life and work for peace and goodwill world-wide.

Each club is representative of the local business and professional community. Fellowship and the exchange of ideas and experience through regular meetings are at the heart of Rotary activities.

Every Rotarian is welcome at any club anywhere in the world.

In addition to meetings, clubs have a social programme and fund-raising activities. There are also over 60 special interest groups of Rotarians – covering caravanning, flying, sailing and scuba diving to mention a few.

Rotarians place a strong emphasis on personal service to the community. Through vocational projects, they support employment development, literacy and numeracy training as well as many environmental initiatives.

Many members give service overseas, particularly in third world countries. Some run eye camps and provide for other medical needs, others are involved in educational and engineering projects such as the provision of books for schools and building wells and water filtration units.

Rotarian professionals bring vital expertise to poorer countries, helping people to help themselves in a spirit of enterprise and self-development.

All this is central to Rotary's commitment to fostering global goodwill, breaking down prejudice and promoting understanding of other cultures.

**The Rotary Club of Diss and District
meets on a Tuesday at
The Park Hotel, Diss IP22 4LE
Telephone 01379 642244**

**The club meets at 6:30 for 7pm except
on the first Tuesday of each month
when the meeting starts at 1:00 for
1:10pm. If there is a fifth Tuesday in the
month, this is also 1:00 for 1:10pm.
There are no meetings on the Tuesdays
following Bank Holidays except on those
following New Year's Day and May Day.
Information may be obtained from the
Secretary:**

Andrew Eaglen Tel 01379 643190.

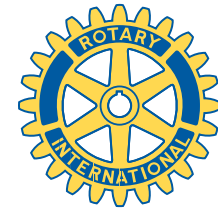
www.dissrotary.org.uk



Diss and District Inner Wheel Club was founded in 1949 to complement Diss Rotary Club. Like Rotary, Inner Wheel has a varied programme including speakers, social and service activities.

The club meets on the first Monday in every month except August at 7:30pm. On Bank Holiday Mondays, the day is changed so please contact the Secretary:

Norma Howell Tel 01379 643482



The Rotary Club of Diss & District



**Club No 620
District 1080
RIBI**



Service above Self



The Rotary Club of Diss and District

The Rotary Club of Diss and District is one of nearly 34,000 clubs in Rotary International (RI). RI was founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1905 by Paul Harris and its headquarters are still in Illinois, in Evanston. There are now nearly 1.25 million Rotarians in clubs in 200 countries worldwide. Each club is semi-autonomous and has a President and Council. Clubs are grouped into over 500 districts.

In Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) there are over 55,000 Rotarians in 1800 clubs in 29 districts. Uniquely, RIBI is a territorial unit of RI, with its own governing body and constitution.

The Rotary Club of Diss and District is one of 77 clubs in District 1080, which covers most of East Anglia.

Diss is a small market town on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. The most remarkable feature of Diss is the Mere.

To celebrate the Millennium, the R/C of Diss & District raised funds to finance the construction of a floating fountain on the Mere and presented it to the Diss Town Council.

The very first meeting to consider the formation of a Rotary club in Diss was held in April 1947 when 14 prospective members attended under the chairmanship of the man who became the founder president, Charles Denny.

In January 1948, the club received its charter from Rotary International. The club grew rapidly and by 1986 had moved its meeting place to the Park Hotel.

Membership is now around 60, making the club one of the largest in RI District 1080.

The club has always had a healthy membership, largely due to a policy of active recruitment, and it has always been active in promoting true "Service above Self", combined with fun and fellowship. The club is dual gender, as is the whole of Rotary, and welcomes new members of both sexes.

The R/C of Diss is always active in support of programmes to better the lives of others both at home and overseas.

Waveney Words – Club members helped to found, and are still active in, Waveney Words, the local talking newspaper for the blind.

Birthday Parcels – Every year, dozens of local old folk get birthday parcels and are invited to a Christmas Party hosted by the club.

The Diss Community Woodland Project was instigated by the R/C of Diss and it is affiliated with the Green Light Trust, which brings communities to life by working with nature to involve all sections of the community in developing the woodland as a lasting amenity. Land for the Quaker Wood was purchased by the Diss Community Woodland Project in 2005 and members of Diss Rotary have been involved in the programme of planting and improvement.

Links Abroad - The Diss club has links with the Rotary Club of Hadsten in Denmark and there are also strong ties with the Rotary Club of Oscoda in Michigan, USA. Exchange visits regularly take place between the clubs.

At home and abroad, Rotary is noted for its humanitarian response to natural disasters. Earthquakes, Tsunamis, floods and hurricanes all create dire circumstances for which Rotary has in place a number of initiatives.

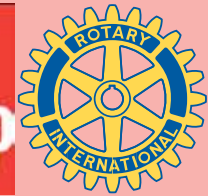
The ShelterBox scheme - A ShelterBox consists of a tent and sufficient living materials for 10 people who have been made homeless. The ShelterBox initiative has grown with depots world-wide and response teams ready to go to disaster areas to assess needs and call for the necessary boxes. The R/C of Diss is one of many clubs that provide ShelterBoxes at times of need.

Village Water - The R/C of Diss supports this programme with a sustainable water and sanitation programme in Zambia. The programme is sustained by regular monitoring, by community involvement and ownership by a long-term Village Water commitment. Diss club members have visited on more than one occasion to offer practical support and monitoring of progress.

Rotary recognises the benefits of delivering water with sanitation and hygiene education through the Village Water programme, which provides clean water from an easily accessible and properly protected source. The programme also provides an understanding of good hygiene practice. The dramatic improvements in health lead to greater opportunities for education, income generation and community building.



Aquaboxes - The R/C of Diss regularly sponsors Aquaboxes, which are an official project of RIBI. The aim is to provide a rapid response provision of safe drinking water and welfare aid items in the wake of both man-made and natural disasters. An Aquabox is an inexpensive (under 1p per litre), easily transported and simple-to-operate method of restoring safe drinking water, thus helping to minimise the outbreak of disease. An Aquabox is filled with a selection of warm clothing, kitchen utensils, small hand tools, useful general hardware and hygiene items. It also contains a filter cartridge and a matching supply of water treatment tablets. Once the welfare items are removed, each Aquabox can be used to purify up to 100 litres of polluted water at a time.



The Rotary Foundation

This is Rotary's own international charity and the Diss club regularly contributes to it.

The Foundation's mission is to improve world understanding and the prospect of peace by supporting the local, national and international humanitarian, educational and cultural programmes of Rotarians and Rotary clubs world-wide.

The most ambitious project for the Rotary Foundation has been the eradication of Polio. Since 1985, when the disease was endemic in 125 countries and there were 350,000 cases annually, RI has worked with others in supporting UNICEF and the World Health Organisation to immunise the children of the world against this crippling disease. Such is the success of the campaign that polio is now only found in four countries with a very small number of cases.