

## Draft Press Release from the Rotary Clubs of Lowestoft

# ROTARY – BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT

The Rotary movement has been alive and well in Lowestoft for over 80 years. In that time Rotarians have made a significant difference by raising substantial sums of money, the majority of which has been reinvested in the town and by giving of their time to undertake worthwhile projects which benefit the community.

The world has changed dramatically since Rotary started in the town. **PHOTO OF TRADITIONAL ROTARIAN WITH GONG, BLACK TIE??** Today people who have families and busy working lives who want to do something for the community, just don't have the time or inclination to commit to weekly meetings with meals and formalities. It would be a tragedy if Rotary ceased to exist in Lowestoft and elsewhere. So working together, the three Lowestoft based Rotary Clubs, which remain very active, are forming a new group in the town under the name of the **Rotary Community Forum**.

This Forum will be ideal for women and men over 18 with just two or three hours a month to spare and with experience and/or skills which would add value to the Forum, to meet with like-minded people, make new friends and plan fund raising and community service projects. The new group will decide where and when it meets and what issues it wants to progress. **PHOTO OF NEW YOUNG ROTARY GROUP**

This model is being successfully progressed in various parts of the country and may become the Rotary blueprint for long into the future. The Forum will be part of the Rotary movement so it will be able to receive practical and financial support for what it wants to achieve.

Paul Tabiner, Chair of the Project Team leading on this project said: *“This is an exciting opportunity for interested women and men to make a real difference in our community. We are looking for as many as possible to come along to one of two short Information Meetings. The first will be held at 7pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May in Sam’s Coffee Shop on Bevan Street, Lowestoft and the second at The Jolly Sailors, Pakefield at 10am on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May. If family commitments would prevent anyone coming along, they are welcome to bring the family with them. After the meetings those interested in becoming members of the Forum will be given any help they need to get started but otherwise will be left to organise the Forum as they wish.”*

By way of examples of what impact Rotary has had on our town, in the early 2000s Rotary helped to establish Waveney Sailability, enabling disabled people to sail on Oulton Broad. Waveney Sailability is now a successful separate, freestanding charity. **PHOTO OF SAILABILITY BOAT ON OULTON BROAD** Annually every Year 3 Student (approaching 1000) in all Lowestoft primary schools are presented with a personal Dictionary4Life, **PHOTO OF DICTIONARY PRESENTATION OR JUST A DICTIONARY** an encyclopaedic dictionary, aimed at helping to improve literacy. Also annually, Year 6 Students across Waveney have the Crucial Crew experience where each student experiences eight danger scenarios and learns how to behave safely.

The three local Rotary Clubs will continue with these and many other projects as long as they are able. Anyone who has the time to commit and wants to consider joining one of the existing Clubs would be very welcome. Please make contact with one of the Rotarians listed below.

Since the basic premise of Rotary is 'putting something back into your community, whilst using your experience and personal talents' we need to do all we can to make sure the spirit of Rotary survives.

For further information about the Information Meetings or joining one of the existing Rotary Clubs please contact: