

What does Rotary do here in Stevenage?

We enjoy a range of service and social activities.
Here's a flavour



Locally

Stevenage Carnival. Was run by Rotary since its inception in 1962 until 2003. In the last 10 or so years, Carnival raised over £100,000 for the benefit of people with disabilities in the local community. At today's prices, since it began, some £1/4m has been distributed to over a hundred local groups. Carnival was followed by **Sounds from the Street** in 2004. Given insurance & other logistical challenges no new Town wide, street based activities are currently planned.

Support for children with disabilities. We have long-standing links with Lonsdale School, visiting the school and pupils at least twice a year. The Stevenage Clubs also fund & accompany teachers and carers from Lonsdale, Greenside and Larwood schools on Rotary's annual 'Kids Out' day to Whipsnade Zoo. In 2004, with the help of a matching grant from District the Grange donated £1,800 to Greenside school to purchase two interactive bubble tubes for their refurbished sensory room.

Support for youth in general. Our Clubs organise or support a range of youth programmes. They include the Youth Speaks competition; Technology Tournament (Secondary) & Technology days (Primary); and a youth leadership and development weekend (RYLA). We support schools' PSHE programmes by sponsoring Rotary's CD Rom programme on drugs, bullying & other issues. We have sponsored two students' attendance at the Fusion Performing Arts Youth Festival week.

Support for elderly & other needy people. We have funded and taken elderly people on our 'Seniors Out' outing. Stevenage Club funds & distributes over £3,000 worth of Christmas parcels in the Town. The Grange supports the Town's ShopMobility scheme. In May 2005, Stevenage Club inaugurated 'Lend a Hand Day': They together with the Grange and colleagues in Mimram Valley spent a day doing odd jobs for the elderly and infirm. The latter initiative has since been taken up District wide in Herts, Beds & Bucks.

Support for the sick & terminally ill. We run events and provide support for The North Herts Hospice, Macmillan Nurses, and the Pasque Children's Hospice in Luton. In 2005 the Grange donated £1,000 of your money to purchase a bed for the Sue Ryder Foundation. We designed & installed The Wishing Well at Lister.

Support for other caring organisations. We support the 'Living Room', a new Stevenage churches based charity. It provides counselling and support for people of all ages and circumstance debilitated by drug, alcohol or substance abuse. We organised a Charity Cabaret Night for their benefit. We also make donations to & support similar groups.

Support of innovative developments having wide-scale benefit

From 2003 to its launch in January 2006, the Grange actively encouraged and supported a sight saving invention, pioneered by Dr Roger Armour, retired Surgeon at the Lister Hospital.

In January 2006, the Club launched the Rotary Ophthalmos Initiative (ROI). This facilitates the donation by Rotary Clubs worldwide of the Optsye™ lens free ophthalmoscope for distribution by SightSavers International, & other approved agencies to the developing world. The low cost, pen sized ophthalmoscope has the potential to improve the sight and general health of millions worldwide. See our web page entitled *Ophthalmoscope* for more details.

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