

# Rotary

Cheltenham Sunrise



## President Gwynne Tucker-Brown 2003-2004



# Sun rises on whole new sphere of care

IN 1993, Severn Sound managing director Penny Holton decided to put something back into the community.

Having heard about Rotary, she visited a local club and was given an insight into the organisation's local, national and international activities.

Enthusied by what she heard, Penny decided Rotary offered her the opportunity to help others less fortunate and enjoy the fellowship of like-minded people.

However, a weekly lunchtime meeting did not fit her hectic schedule so she instigated the founding of a new Rotary Club, and in June 2004 the Rotary Club of Cheltenham Sunrise was chartered.

As the name implies, it meets in the morning at Overton Lodge, St George's Road, Cheltenham, at 7.15am for a 7.30 start on Tuesdays, finishing at 8.30am so members can enjoy Rotary with minimal impact on their working day. As a result, 97.5% of its members are in full time employment.

Like many Rotary clubs, membership includes a bank manager, an accountant, a business advisor, a company manager, an IT specialist and a business owner. The difference with Cheltenham Sunrise is that they are women.

In fact, a third of its membership are ladies and share the same club opportunities and responsibilities as

by John Lovell

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their male colleagues.

The club's annual fundraiser is a "Last Night at the Proms" at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham. This year it's on Sunday, November 7.

The event has enabled the club to distribute nearly £50,000 to those in need in the last five years. Projects include disaster relief, support for talented young athletes, education and health related projects overseas and financial support for local charities.

As part of Rotary's Centenary celebrations the club is supporting Cheltenham's Sea Cadet Unit. The cadets have the opportunity to crew a training ship where they learn social, technical and teamworking skills. There is a financial cost to the cadets and the club has made a five-year commitment to support those who might otherwise miss out.

Celia Gordon-Smith, the Sea Cadets' chairman, said: "Without the bursary from the Rotary Club of Cheltenham Sunrise, we could not send so many cadets on our training ship and give them the experience of a lifetime."

Rotary is not just about fundraising. It also believes in a hands-on approach. It provides mentors for pupils at Pittville School to assist with mock interviews, regularly cleans the local dial-a-ride buses, marshals the annual Race for Life event and



■ UP WITH THE LARK: Rotary District President Mike Gelder with last year's Sunrise president Gwynne Tucker-Browne at her club's 10th anniversary dinner.

provides practical assistance to those with difficulties in the community.

The Everyman Club is a social club for adults with learning difficulties run by Jan and Noel Stafford on Tuesday evenings at Parklands Community Centre, Whaddon. The Rotarians have given it support, both financially and actively during the past four years.

Jan said: "We really appreciate the money which has enabled us to buy equipment, but even more the hands-on work of the Rotarians, who organised our last two Christmas

parties, set up and decorated the room for the Christmas dinners (90 guests!), helped with waiting at table and doing the mountain of washing up."

A Paul Harris Fellowship, one of Rotary International's highest honours, was presented to Jan, in recognition of her valuable work in the community. The Everyman Club welcomes more members and helpers. For details contact Jan on 01242 254 676.

■ For details on the Rotary Club of Cheltenham Sunrise call 01242 575 059.

## Lots of help for auction

A FASCINATING collection of pledges topped by a book signed by the Prince of Wales is being compiled for a Rotary auction in October.

The event is being organised by the Rotary Club of Gloucester and proceeds will go towards providing an overnight room for parents and relatives of seriously ill children in the new children's wing of the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

The Prince's book, entitled *Highgrove - The Gardens*, is one of many attractive pledges which include holiday homes, theatre trips, wine tastings, airport delivery and collection, a painting of the Cheltenham Cricket Festival, a case of champagne and a dinner for six in a romantic thatched manor.

The auction might have particular appeal to anyone thinking of getting away for Christmas. On offer is a week's stay, either this year, or next, or both, at Broome Park - Lord Kitchener's former stately home near Canterbury.

Chairman of the organising committee Rotarian Colin Eynon is aiming to have well in excess of 100 pledges when the event takes place on Friday, October 15, at King's School. He would be delighted to hear from any readers or businesses prepared to either offer a pledge or sponsorship. Call phone him on 01242 234 549, or John Smith on 01452 532 728.

The children's room will cost around £50,000 and has been chosen as a project to mark Rotary's centenary by the Rotary Club of Gloucester and its two daughter clubs, Gloucester North and Gloucester Severn, both of which are sharing the cost.

Rotary club news every Monday in **The Citizen**