## **INFORMATION SHEET**



July 2012

**Interact** is a service and social club for young people ages 12-18. Interact Clubs can be created within a school or any other youth organisation where they can provide many of the national curriculum requirements for the development of citizenship among our young people.

Each club is sponsored by a Rotary club, which guides the Interactors in developing local and international service projects whilst the interactors run the club, elect officers and keep the books.

Interact derives its name from the words "international" and action," reflecting the nature of an organization that exists in 110 countries around the world and promotes active service at home and abroad.

With almost 200,000 members and more than 8,600 clubs worldwide, Interact provides a powerful force of youthful enthusiasm and energetic service.

**Interact** clubs are self-governing and self supporting, offering many opportunities for members to develop valuable leadership and teamwork skills. Clubs are encouraged to carry out local service projects that benefit the community or the school, such as sponsored swims and walks, bulb planting, collecting food for the elderly and helping at Rotary events and countless others. Interactors also develop skills that extends their understanding of the world and promotes goodwill by undertaking international projects such as Shelter Box, Adopt a Child, literacy and water projects.

## Citizenship

All in all, Interact is an excellent vehicle for a young person to demonstrate commitment to good citizenship and international understanding. In addition to the rewards gained from helping others through service, Interactors have the opportunity to: travel to other countries via Rotary's Youth Exchange programmes

- participate in other Rotary activities such as Youth Speaks, Young Chef and Young Musician
- broaden their horizons by getting to know the variety of people they serve - the elderly, children with disabilities and many others throughout the community
- develop a strong work ethic and sense of individual responsibility by organising projects to improve the environment, eradicate polio, promote drug awareness, and address other community problems
- learn more about other cultures by communicating and working with Interactors abroad.

**Interact** is a great way to meet people and make new friends. Interactors organise discos, sporting events, raffles, non-uniform days and other activities as a way to raise funds and have fun at the same time. Working together on car washes, bag packing, or environmental campaigns, club members get to know each other better and build many lasting friendships.

## **Rallies and Camps**

Every year, there is an International Rally in Great Britain and Ireland for Interactors to have a chance to have fun and to expand their network of Interact friendships and share ideas for projects and other club activities.

**Interact** offers a chance to make friends across borders and oceans. Through service projects with Interact clubs in other countries, Interactors learn about different cultures, promote goodwill between nations, and sometimes even travel abroad to work with their international service partners.

## Do You Need More Information?

More details and full support for participation in any of these programmes can be obtained from the New Generations Chairman of your local Rotary club.

Rotary Club contact details Rotary Club of:

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New Generations Chairman

Rotarian:.....

E-mail:....

www.ribi.org/youth

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for its work with children, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability.

- The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and persons with disability take priority.
- It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of his or her ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact in their Rotarian duties.

Rotarians should refer to the detailed "RIBI Protection Policy" when planning events and activities.

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