

## Welcome from President Karen Looker



When I joined Rotary 4 years ago I was struck by how hardworking the Club was, and the enthusiasm and openness for change and flexibility to ensure its continued success. This has been a constant throughout my membership here. In that time the Club has changed significantly with a good number of new members and new ideas being welcomed and supported. I feel very proud and honoured to be asked to be the President for this year.

This Club is held up as an example to others in the District, for its fund raising, ideas, team work and ability to attract new members without losing the essence of the origins of the Club. The success of this club is not one individual but the team as a whole. It's our fellowship, humour and camaraderie, commitment to make a difference, and most of us being ever so slightly bonkers that keeps us all here.

We have a full and interesting fund-raising activity planned for the year, and money will of course be raised to support our ongoing commitments and also some new ones too.

The future success of the Club is dependent on growing the membership — this will enable us to continue the fund-raising, community support and ongoing and new international projects which have all made such a huge difference to all involved. The addition of new members gives us new ideas and energy. The social side of our club is also very important and the Supper Club, President's Walks, and partner/friends evenings are an excellent way of building long-term Rotary friendships.

Newer members have been particularly impressed with the lifelong friendships made within this club and other Rotary clubs nationwide and worldwide. And support given to fellow members who are struggling with ill-health or difficult personal circumstances. Another reason for us to concentrate on our club this year.

Our focus this year is to continue to support the fund-raising, Increase membership with all ages and backgrounds welcome.

Do this with humour, humility, understanding and fellowship.

***Karen Looker***

President, Rotary Club of Cuckfield & Lindfield

1 July 2017