



MANNINGTREE
STOUR VALLEY
ROTARY CLUB

Rotary and its beginnings

The Rotary movement started in Chicago in 1905. A lawyer, Paul Harris, suggested to his friend that they meet regularly and invite other businessmen to join them for fellowship. Just four people came to the first meeting but the numbers steadily increased and 'Rotary' was born.

Rotary soon spread across the USA and then throughout the world. This was the world's first service club and it developed four main focuses.

- A Community service - to provide support and help in the community.
- An International service - to encourage peace and the relief of suffering throughout the world.
- A Vocational service – to promote a code of high ethical standards for businesses and professions.
- A Youth service – to support the young by teaching job skills and assisting those with disabilities.

Today, there are 1.2 million members in over 30,000 Rotary Clubs around the world. 'Rotary International in Britain and Ireland', (RIBI) oversees the many Districts and numerous individual clubs throughout this country.

Having started out as a men-only organisation, Rotary has evolved and many women have now become Rotarians.



Providing Shelter in War-torn Kenya

