

October 2022



I am Rotarian Barbara Middleton, from Brookmans Park Rotary club in District 1260 in England. This District covers the counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. I live in Potters Bar a small town in Hertfordshire just outside London (Junction 24 of the M25 a large motorway which circles London). Brookmans Park is a small village on the outskirts of Potters Bar and I joined this club because they met in the evenings whereas the Potters Bar club met at lunch times, which was important when I joined as I was working full time so an evening club suited me better.

I am now retired, but worked for 34 years as a Police Officer, mostly as a Detective working on child abuse and sexual abuse investigations for the Metropolitan Police in London, culminating in a period working as a specialist interview trainer for the last 4 years or so. I then carried on the specialist interview training as a civilian consultant for Hertfordshire Police for a further 4 years before retiring altogether.

I joined Rotary in 2003 and was President of my Club in 2012-13. During my initial years of membership, I was the Club's Youth chair and developed a good partnership with the equivalent officers in 3 neighbouring clubs to run all the many youth competitions collaboratively and very successfully. Whilst I was President, I was able to travel to India as part of a contingent of British Rotarians to take part in a National Immunisation Day in January 2013 to help immunise children under 5 in an area of Delhi. I really enjoyed this experience & have become passionate about the eradication of polio worldwide so travelled back to India in 2017 again as part of a British contingent immunising in the Amritsar region. Then I returned in 2018 to immunise in the Kolkata area and in 2019 when I was part of a smaller group invited by the Rotary club of Biwardi to immunise in that area but to also look at joint projects our Districts could develop towards a possible Global grant in the future. After each trip I would speak at my Club and others about my experiences and the importance of continued fundraising and advocacy in India and other areas of the world to help eradicate polio completely. I was also involved in fundraising and awareness raising work within my District. In 2021 I was awarded a People of Action Polio Award by Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland.

I have been an AG since 2019 working with Club Presidents and representing the District Team when attending Club meetings. I have continued to run fundraising events within my Club as well as acting as Youth chair and running successful Youth Speaks and Young Writer competitions within my local area. I am also on the District Youth team helping to organise the District rounds for all the Youth competitions run within Great Britain & Ireland. I am enjoying working collaboratively with fellow DGEs in the Central and East of England cluster and we are planning to run a Multi District PETS in March 2023.

I am looking forward to meeting Rotarians from Vero Beach and learning more about your Club and the area, as I have never been to Florida before and would like to thank you all for the opportunity to be able to do this.