

**Annual Rotary KidsOut Newsletter 2023**

Jointly Compiled by: Rtn. Gordon Moulds CBE DL – Chief Executive KidsOut

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**Message from Rtn Gordon Moulds CBE DL - Chief Executive**

I must start by congratulating all Rotarians who once again rose magnificently to support some of the most vulnerable children in the UK at such a critical time due to the economic climate and also the horrendous war in Ukraine.

As most of you are aware, KidsOut is a Rotary charity, started by Rotary and run by Rotary. With a Rotarian Patron, 3 Rotarian Trustees and 26 Rotarian Ambassadors and District Coordinators, KidsOut is run on Rotary principles. Together in partnership in 2022, we have achieved more together than ever before. Not only to continue to support the mental health and well-being of children who have fled serious domestic violence but also provide thousands of toys for Ukrainian refugee children in the UK and also abroad in refugee camps.

Often forgotten, most families arrive in refuge with nothing other the clothes on their back and they cannot leave the refuge for fear of being found by the abuser. Further, many have no access to money and for weeks relying on food banks and rightly when they receive any funds they can only focus on essentials. KidsOut support of these children is vital for their welfare.

Thanks to the support from many Rotary Clubs, KidsOut this Christmas was able to provide every child in refuge with a toy box - a record 6130! KidsOut also provided a £20 supermarket voucher for every family and either a cinema or pantomime family ticket. This would not have been possible without the support of Rotarians. I must especially thank the KidsOut Rotarian Ambassadors for their role in getting the message out to every District.

Unusually and particularly pleasingly, this year a number of Rotary Clubs asked KidsOut to support Ukrainian refugee children. This resulted in KidsOut raising non Rotary funds which saw over 20k toys being distributed by Rotary Clubs for this one off initiative. It serves as an excellent example of Rotary using their KidsOut charity to support their own initiative.

I was delighted to see the Rotary KidsOut Day begin to grow again following the pandemic. With over 17k children taken out on the day and many thousands more *within a month of the official day. This is another staggering achievement and one that all Rotarians who were able to restart this initiative should be so proud of.*

KidsOut ensures that Rotary takes the credit for these services and as such are trying to find more volunteers to become a Rotary KidsOut Ambassador to help coordinate and expand our services.

Many Rotary Clubs are continuing to struggle to raise funds and that this is likely to again affect Clubs’ ability to support this year’s National Rotary KidsOut Day. For this reason, KidsOut intends to continue to provide a **£5 per** **child grant.** Unfortunately, Rotary KidsOut  *Baseball* Caps will not be available for 2023, *please speak to Steve Cartwright should this be an issue.*

Please remember, KidsOut only exists because of Rotary; that said, I am only too aware of the superb work that Rotary does in so many areas but still ask that your Club considers as a minimum to participate in the National Rotary KidsOut Day. I would appreciate your thoughts on how we can help you more in the future.

Checkout the KidsOut website: <http://www.kidsout.org.uk/>

**2023 UPDATE Rotary GB&I KidsOut Coordinator – Steve Cartwright**

I wish to reiterate Gordon’s comments and express my thanks to every District, Club and member that have been involved in ensuring Rotary KidsOut goes from strength to strength even during the Covid Pandemic ‘THANK YOU’

**ROTARY Christmas Toy Box *initiative 2022*:** As mentioned above by Gordon, the response from Rotary Districts, Clubs and members has been FANTASTIC. Whilst still finalising the accounts, ‘Rotary’ has donated over **£77,000** to this project, equating to **5,440** Christmas Toy Boxes sent to individual children residing in *Women’s Refuges* to escape domestic violence in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Such is the success of this fantastic *initiative*, that we will be doing it all again for Christmas 2023 (this year).

**National Rotary KidsOut Day (NRKD) 14 June 2023**

Throughout the pandemic, in order to ensure children are able to enjoy a great ‘day out’, the NRKD has been and could take place at any time of year, for 2023, KidsOut and Rotary hope that we can all again focus on having the NRKD event on the *second Wednesday* in June ie **14 June 2023.** The registration details/link are shown below.

*IF however your ‘NRKD’ event cannot be held on 14 June 2023, please contact Steve Cartwright as soon as possible.*

For complete details please take the opportunity to see the details about National Rotary KidsOut Day on the KidsOut website:

<https://www.kidsout.org.uk/what-we-do/national-rotary-kidsout-day/>

Alternatively you can access all the details and Registrations Forms by going to the KidsOut website: [http://www.kidsout.org.uk/](http://www.kidsout.org.uk/%20) – see menu at the top of the front page, select ‘*What we do’*, then ‘*National Rotary KidsOut Day’.* The Forms can be seen clearly stated in bold red type, just *click* on these as required.

**Rotary KidsOut Support for Ukrainian Refugee Children**

Again, noting Gordon’s comments, KidsOut will continue to support Ukrainian Refugee Children, however Rotary Clubs please note, this support is conditional on the charity having sufficient time and resources (personnel / toys), in most cases ‘loose toys’ will be supplied rather than ‘Toy Boxes’, with Book Tokens / Argos Vouchers being provided in lieu of toys. NB: Any such ‘Toys’ will need to be COLLECTED from KidsOut.

In the first instance please contact Sandra Doherty at KidsOut to discuss details.

Sandra.doherty@kidsout.org.uk

**MORE INFORMATION: Rotary District KidsOut Ambassadors / Coordinators**

Do you know who is your District ‘Ambassador / Coordinator’?

We currently have **vacancies in the following other 3** **Districts of Rotary GB&I**:

**D1020, D1180 & D1285** - can you help?

More details available from me.

**Want to be kept up to date with Rotary KidsOut Information?**

If so, please let me know youfull contact details including email address. *These details will not be used for marketing purposes, but will ensure that any KidsOut information will be sent out 2/3 times a year to the correct person(s).* Help ME to help YOU.

And finally, should you have any questions, queries or comments please do not hesitate to contact your Rotary District KidsOut Ambassador / Coordinator, or me.

Thank you (again) for your continued support for KidsOut, and please carry on the good work safely!

**Steve Cartwright**

**Rotary GB&I KidsOut Coordinator**

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