

LUDLOW ROTARY SUPPORTS YOUNG LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Each year Ludlow Rotary Club aims to sponsor one or two young people who might benefit from the Rotary Youth Leadership Award scheme – RYLA for short. This year three youngsters have been successful in securing sponsorship by the Club. Arlo Watson (almost 16) and Evan Prosser (almost 17) both live and are educated in Ludlow while the third, Henry Dyer (16), comes from Cleobury Mortimer. While all three selected this year are boys, in the past the Club has sponsored both boys and girls.

RYLA is regarded as one of the most successful youth schemes run by Rotary. It offers a fun yet intensive training programme for young people, both boys and girls, aimed at nurturing and encouraging leadership and communication skills and giving participants a head start at an early age.

Over the course of the five-day residential camp, which this year is to be held in August at Albrighton on the Shropshire / Staffordshire border, activities are arranged which encourage initiative and organisational skills and which help participants to develop confidence and creative problem-solving methods. The youngsters work in teams and are supervised at all times by trained and qualified instructors. In line with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, outdoor pursuits are a crucial part of the experience. Debates and discussion are also encouraged.

In sponsoring the youngsters, Ludlow Rotary Club meets all fees and transports the candidates to and from the venue.

Sue Rew, who co-ordinates the Club's involvement in the programme, explained that the Club's interest in the youngsters does not end there: "Each year, after their return, the participants, together with their parents, are invited to a Rotary meeting to tell us about their experiences. Invariably it is enthusiastic. Over the years we have never failed to be impressed by how much the youngsters themselves recognise the positive impact and value that the programme has on their outlook as they begin to consider their future educational and career choices".

Sue added "In the months ahead, Ludlow Rotary will be on the search for participants for the 2025 RYLA programme, approaching local schools, colleges and youth groups in Ludlow and the surrounding area. We are also pleased to hear direct from potential applicants and their parents and are happy to provide further information and an application form. The only stipulation is that applicants must be over 16 and under 18 when the programme takes place in August 2025. I can be contacted at secretary@ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk."

Notes for Editors

1. For further information please contact: Barry Forrester at forrester.ludlow@gmail.com or 01584 878872 / 07786 078470.