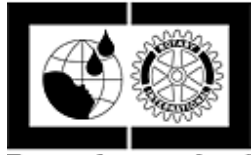


PolioPlus



Rotary International

# POLIO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

NEWSLETTER No 1 July 2008



## “NOW MORE THAN EVER: STOP POLIO FOREVER”

*"This tremendous initiative would never be where it is today without Rotary; and, most importantly, the ultimate success of this initiative will never be realized without the leadership, advocacy, and energy of Rotarians everywhere."*

Dr Bruce Aylward, Co-ordinator of the World Health Organisation's Polio Eradication Initiative

### **THE BILL and MELINDA GATES CHALLENGE**

The Gates Foundation has donated US\$100,000,000 to Rotary International to use in the Final Push to eradicate polio in the world once and for all. Rotary International has accepted the challenge to match this donation by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010.

### **THE DISTRICT CHALLENGE**

This is to raise the equivalent of £15 per Rotarian per year for the next three years or £45 per Rotarian by December 2010. This means that the district needs to raise £90,000 (or around US\$180,000) as its contribution to this Challenge.

**We are asking all Clubs to accept this challenge, which is over and above the normal contributions to the Rotary Foundation.**

It is mainly because of the commitment of Rotarians and the promise that Rotary International gave in 1985 to rid the world of polio that so much progress has been made.

Your help is needed once again so that we can achieve this challenge and maintain the impetus needed to complete the task.

**PLEASE TAKE UP THIS CHALLENGE!**

### **DISTRICT POLIO ERADICATION COMMITTEE**

To help Club's to achieve this challenge a committee has been formed and consists of:

**Keith Hammond** (Derby) Chairman 01332 347949

e-mail: [keithhammond@qcinternet.co.uk](mailto:keithhammond@qcinternet.co.uk)

**Tony Stimpson** (Keyworth and Ruddington) DGN 01509 880122

e-mail: [tonystimpson@btinternet.com](mailto:tonystimpson@btinternet.com)

**John Dain** District Foundation Chairman 01283 712613

e-mail: [johndain@vodafoneemail.co.uk](mailto:johndain@vodafoneemail.co.uk)

#### **Group Representatives**

**Central: David Power** (Nottingham) 0115 983 0400

e-mail: [dbjpower@clara.net](mailto:dbjpower@clara.net)

**Derwent: John Worsley** (Beeston) 0115 877 9375

e-mail: [john.worsley1@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.worsley1@ntlworld.com)

**Erewash: David Soul** (Belper) 01332 840259

e-mail: [david.soul@virgin.net](mailto:david.soul@virgin.net)

**Peak: Jill Bethell** (Drone Valley) 01246 413276

e-mail: [jillbethell@doctors.org.uk](mailto:jillbethell@doctors.org.uk)

**Sherwood: David Brown** (Mansfield) 01623 632525

e-mail: [dave\\_brown@tesco.net](mailto:dave_brown@tesco.net)

**Trent: David Curtis** (Mapperley) 0115 920 3147

e-mail: [david.curtis111@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.curtis111@ntlworld.com)

For help and advice please contact any of the Committee who will be pleased to try to help.

## **THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDS POLIO**

**Four countries** – India, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria - remain the only countries where polio is endemic. In these countries the areas still infected are reducing rapidly as is the number of cases.

It is true that some countries previously infected have had re-infections from imports from one of the four countries above but intensive campaigns of immunisation have brought, or are bringing, these under control and many are now polio free again.

But such re-infections stress the need for the campaign to continue because if our aim of a polio free world is not achieved the scourge of polio will persist and gradually more and more cases will start to occur. Immunisation must continue till the world has been polio free for three years at least.

**“None are safe till all are safe!”**

But compare this to 1985 when over 125 countries had endemic polio and there were over 350,000 cases of paralytic polio each year. Last year there were less than 2000 cases!

Intensive campaigns of immunisation in the endemic countries are taking place and use more powerful and effective vaccines.

### **Further information:**

1. We will be sending a newsletter to Club Presidents, Club Secretaries and Club Foundation Chairmen regularly by e-mail with ideas and information. You may wish to appoint another member to act as a polio liaison contact.

**Please let John Dain and Keith Hammond have your e-mail contacts**

2. We will be arranging a group meeting to tell clubs about the need to accept the challenge

3. Information can be found on several web sites:

RI: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) several areas to look at under Rotary Foundation

[www.rotary.org/endorpolio](http://www.rotary.org/endorpolio)

WHO [www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org)

RIBI [www.ribi.org](http://www.ribi.org) Under Rotary Foundation

## **What has been achieved since 1985?**

Over **\$600 million** committed already

**Polio now is only endemic in 4 countries**

One strain of the virus has not been recorded for over three years

Well over **2 billion children** immunised.

**5 million** running and playing who would have been crippled.

Once polio is eradicated **\$1 billion** around the world will be saved each year in immunisation costs alone.

## **DONATIONS**

**Cheques made payable to**

**“RF UK Ltd –Polio Eradication”**

as soon as possible after you have raised the money should be sent to **Keith Hammond** at 6 Vauxhall Avenue, Derby DE22 4DZ

**Keith will** forward the cheques to RIBI at Alcester after recording your contributions. Money sent to RIBI will be forwarded to the Rotary Foundation where it will be invested and used during the next few months

Gift Aid from individuals who are taxpayers will enhance their donations. If you have any queries re Gift Aid please contact **David Curtis**

## **DONATIONS SO FAR:**

**£7857.19** has been received.

The District has donated **£5,000** from the DDF.

A magnificent donation has been received from the **Rotary Club of Wirksworth for £2,000.**

Congratulations and many thanks.

Other contributions from the Rotary Clubs of Mapperley and Ravenshead, the Inner Wheel Club of Ravenshead, the Foundation Committee, District and individuals has raised the total to **£8102.19**

## **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

It would be a great help to the Committee to know what support Clubs are going to provide towards this challenge.

**Please let your Group representative for Polio have this information asap.**

### **What are the current plans in the worldwide campaign?**

1. To maintain high Immunisation levels in all affected areas with National Immunisation Days and Sub National Immunisation Days.
2. To continue with routine childhood immunisation programmes - essential throughout the world till polio is eradicated.
3. To respond quicker when outbreaks occur especially in countries that have been polio free. This is now possible as confirmation of the diagnosis of the disease is more rapid due to modern techniques.
4. To conduct house to house campaigns in such areas to ensure all children are immunised
5. To continue the use of newer monovalent polio vaccines which seem to be more effective.
6. To maintain continual surveillance to establish whether cases of paralysis are due to polio or not. The world will not be declared polio free until there have been no cases for 3 years.
7. To continue to promote the fact that polio still remains and must be eradicated and to warn against the risks of complacency.
8. To develop exit strategy plans for the time when polio has been eradicated.

### **Why must we continue?**

1. To complete the task set and the promise we made 20 years ago  
**“A polio free world”**
2. To make sure what has been gained is not lost Recent history shows how re-infections can occur  
**“None are safe till all are safe”**
3. Because those who are at the forefront of the campaign believe that the task is nearly achieved. **The necessary tools to eradicate polio are now in place.**

### **MISCONCEPTIONS**

Three commonly heard are

1. “We’ve done polio”
2. “Eradication can never be achieved”
3. The Rotary Foundation has plenty of money

#### **Answers:**

1. We are making **tremendous progress** in the effort to eradicate polio but **4 countries** still have wild poliovirus and cases of paralytic polio. The final lap is the difficult one due to conflicts, difficult terrain, natural disasters, cultural misunderstandings, poverty, overcrowding and high birth rates. But with continued intensive efforts success can and will be achieved. It is like a marathon – we must not fail in the last few miles!
2. **Eradication will be achieved** as long as we keep up the efforts. Even in war torn areas, **“Days of Tranquillity”** are negotiated by the UN and the WHO to allow vaccine and teams of volunteers to help with vaccination to be flown in to such areas – e.g. Afghanistan in late 2007.
3. **The Rotary Foundation appears to hold large reserves** but these are funds for three years’ programmes namely:  
Educational such as Ambassadorial Scholarships and GSE.  
Humanitarian such as Matching Grants as well as some remaining funds for polio. Other money is held in a **Permanent fund**, which will be held in perpetuity to raise money each year for the Annual programmes of the Foundation.

### **FOR TALKS AND INFORMATION CONTACT**

**Keith Hammond Tony Stimpson or any member of the committee. Contacts see Page 1**

### **Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO, as a debate on whether to continue the Global Polio Eradication Initiative:**

“We promised the children of the world that they would grow up in a world without polio, and that their children would not have to face the threat of this crippling and potentially fatal disease. If we are to fulfill that promise, we need to stay focused until there is no more wild polio virus.

We know that the only way to protect every child is to eradicate it completely. The strategies and the tools are known, and health experts agree that the challenges to stopping the spread of polio can be met. Since Rotary was the first organization to have the vision of a polio-free world, we need to sustain our commitment to creating a world with one less threat for every child.”

## **GROUP MEETINGS:**

The following meetings have been arranged. If you are unable to attend one your own group please try to visit one of the other group meetings. Please let the relevant Committee know of numbers coming:

**Wednesday 13th August: Derwent and Erewash Groups**

Kestrel at Marehay

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Presenters: Keith Hammond and Tony Stimpson

Organisers: David Soul and John Worsley

**Wednesday 3rd September Central and Trent Groups**

Vale Social Club, Vale Rd, Colwick, Nottingham

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Presenters: Keith Hammond and Tony Stimpson

Organisers: David Power and David Curtis

**Wednesday 17th September Sherwood Group**

The Towers, Botany Avenue Mansfield

7 for 7.30pm

Presenters: Tony Stimpson

Organiser: David Brown

**To be Arranged**

**Peak Group**

Keith Hammond

Chairman of District Polio Eradication Committee

17<sup>th</sup> July 2008