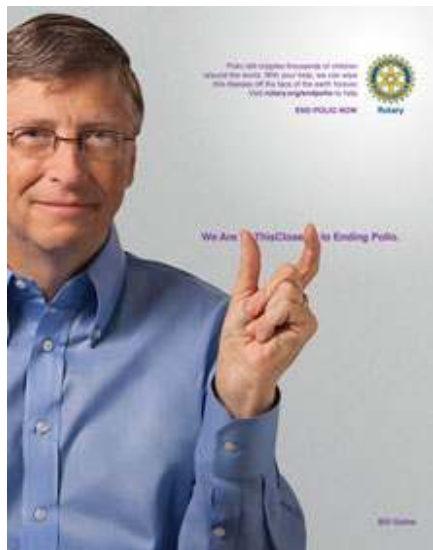


# POLIO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

NEWSLETTER No 9 November 2011



## “END POLIO NOW”

**“We are ‘This Close’ to ending polio!”**

**CONTRIBUTIONS received by 22nd November 2011 are as follows:**

**Many, many thanks for your efforts!! Please keep the contributions coming in. The group representatives can let you know your target figure.** The money is needed so that we don't miss this narrow opportunity to rid the world of this evil disease.

**Clubs have contributed £156,251.54 District Donations are £53,234.95**

**Total £209,486.49**

Please send all contributions made out to **“RFUK – Polio Eradication”** to **Keith Hammond** at **6, Vauxhall Avenue, Derby DE22 4DZ**

In dollar terms the District has contributed around **\$330,000** so far.

RI has so far received **US\$195.2 million** towards the **\$200million Challenge**

**THE BILL and MELINDA GATES CHALLENGE – A reminder of the challenge.** The Gates Foundation awarded Rotary International **\$355,000,000** for the “End Polio Now”. Rotary International accepted the challenge to match part of this and agreed to raise **\$200,000,000** by **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2012**.

### **What has been achieved since the Campaign started in 1985?**

1. \$1.2 billion donated by Rotary International. \$8 billion has been spent in total in polio eradication
2. Reduction from over 125 countries with polio at the start of the campaign to four that have never been free from polio.
3. Reduction from 350,000 cases of polio annually to 1350 cases last year.
4. Over 5 million children living normal happy lives rather than being crippled by polio.
5. Well over 2 billion children immunised against polio.

### **Further information on Polio :** Information can be found on several web sites:

- RI: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) several areas to look at under Rotary Foundation
- WHO: [www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org) This is well worth looking at and contains much information about the current state of the campaign.
- RIBI: [www.ribi.org](http://www.ribi.org) look under Rotary Foundation

## **POLIO CASES IN 2011**

Good progress continues to be made but there are some problems which show how vital it is that we continue intensive immunisation in the four endemic areas to reduce the reservoir of the disease, and in the re-infected areas to control the outbreaks.

**Firstly the Good news:** At 11th November the number of recorded cases worldwide was 502 of which 226 were in the four endemic countries which have never been polio free.

**The jewel in the crown is India where there has been one case in 2011 and that was in January.** This shows that polio **can** be eradicated.

**Afghanistan and Nigeria** have had 47 and 42 cases respectively – slightly higher than last year. **Pakistan** has shown a rise to 136 cases because of the difficulties of severe flooding and some political uncertainty. However in these three countries intensive days of immunisation are continuing and hopefully these will raise the levels of immunity and so reduce the numbers of cases.

**Secondly the less good news:** There have been some warning signs. During 2011 there have been three quite large outbreaks in Africa. **Chad** has had 114 cases; the **DRC** has had 84 cases and **Cote d'Ivoire** 35 cases. 8 other countries in Africa have had a total of 25 cases. For the first time for 12 years there have been cases in **China** and eighteen have been reported all within a small area.

I believe these outbreaks highlight the need for the intensive campaigns of mass immunisation in re-infected countries to continue because these cases have spread from the four endemic countries. They should act as timely reminders that it is essential that polio is finally eradicated because if it is not similar outbreaks will occur in many other countries and from these more cases will spread to neighbouring areas. In a highly mobile world any country is at risk of an importation, and high population immunity is the only protection against a large outbreak.

Despite these setbacks the **Global Polio Initiative**, (the leading players being Rotary International, UNICEF, WHO and the US Center for Disease Control), is confident that if the efforts are maintained polio can be eradicated in the foreseeable future. The use of new vaccines and more frequent immunisation seem to raising the levels of immunity in those immunised.

**The Future:** Polio will not suddenly cease at the end of the Gates \$200 million challenge. The Global Polio Initiative hopes to end transmission of wild polio by the end of 2012. Polio immunisation will have to continue worldwide for three years after the last case of polio has been recorded. Rotary International and all members of the Global Polio Initiative will have to continue the campaign to immunise and so funds will continue to be needed.

It is estimated that if we fail to eradicate this evil disease, polio, it will rebound and more than 10 million children could be paralysed in the next 40 years. We must ensure that this does not happen.

**Please keep polio eradication in your thoughts and Club programmes until we reach the state of a polio free world.**

### **Why should we be optimistic?**

1. India has had only 1 case so far this year and that was in January
2. There are 40% less cases this year compared to the same time last year
3. Type II polio has not been recorded for 12 years.



## Rotary Race Meeting at Southwell Racecourse.

There will be an evening of jump races on **Tuesday 15 May 2012** to raise funds for Polio Eradication. We will be selling discounted admission tickets for just £5 each and all of the funds will go towards Polio Eradication in addition to a portion of the race sponsorship monies.

All Clubs have received information and details regarding this event from Foundation Chairman, Terry Leivers

### FOR TALKS AND INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

**Keith Hammond** (Derby) Chairman 01332 347949 e-mail: [keith.hammond@my365mail.co.uk](mailto:keith.hammond@my365mail.co.uk)

**Gordon McGlone** (Wirksworth) DG 01629 735080 e-mail: [gordonandlorraine@btinternet.com](mailto:gordonandlorraine@btinternet.com)

**Terry Leivers** (Sherwood Sunrisers) District Foundation Chairman 0115 926 6618

e-mail: [terryleivers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:terryleivers@yahoo.co.uk)

**Tony Stimpson** (Keyworth and Ruddington) 01509 880122 e-mail: [tonystimpson@btinternet.com](mailto:tonystimpson@btinternet.com)

#### Group Representatives

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

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

**Derwent: John Dain** (Bretby) 01283 712613

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

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

e-mail: [davidsoul@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:davidsoul@mypostoffice.co.uk)

**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)



**Finally:** I believe that the goal of a polio free world is achievable as long as the pressure continues from all concerned. I have no doubt that Rotary International will be in the forefront of the campaigns, a fact which is recognised by all the partners within the Global Polio Initiative and many other corporate bodies such as the Gates Foundation.



When I was District Governor in 1998-99 the RI Theme was “Follow Your Rotary Dream”. With your help we shall achieve a polio free world and fulfil the promise given 25 years ago. The present economic times do make fund raising more difficult and the committee and I do appreciate that you have local and international projects that you want to support. The Committee hopes that you will continue to accept the challenge given to us to carry on with Polio Eradication high on the list of projects for fund raising over the next few years.

**We are “This Close” to ending polio.** A polio free world will “Make Dreams Real” for millions around the world

Keith Hammond District, “End Polio Now” Committee Chairman 25th November 2011