

Rotary

The Official Magazine of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

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October/November 2020



14 AFRICA'S FINEST HOUR

Historic milestone reached in global battle to wipe out polio

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DAVE KING

Black Lives Matter: a sign of the times

The tidal wave of emotion around Black Lives Matter has sparked serious debate about our culture and history. But where does Rotary fit into this, and what part can it play?

THE agonising death of George Floyd last May, at the knee of a Minneapolis police officer and which was shockingly captured on video, was a game-changer for the anti-racism movement.

With parallels to the ‘#MeToo’ women’s marches of 2017 and 2018, the protests against police brutality, and ultimately the growth of the global ‘Black Lives Matter’ campaign, became bigger, fiercer and even more sustained.

It was as if the conscience of the world had suddenly woken up.

Some have suggested that the timing of the incident, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, helped to heighten the protests’ momentum – more people at home, with more time to consume news.

The concept of ‘vicarious traumatisation’ – being traumatised by seeing images of real violence which didn’t happen to you personally – also had a part to play, say experts.

Suddenly, this was not merely a protest about police brutality and equal rights. Black Lives Matter has captured the moment to become the catalyst to re-evaluate a complete historical dialogue.

A statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Parliament Square, Westminster was defaced with the words ‘was a racist’. And a defaced statue of the slave trader, Edward Colston, was toppled during an anti-racism protest in Bristol, before being thrown into

the harbour.

In Devon, opinion has been drawn about the reputations of two key figures from the county’s maritime history.

Sir John Hawkins, and his cousin Sir Francis Drake, were both involved in slave trading and privateering during the Elizabethan era in the 16th century.

This has sparked rival petitions by residents in Plymouth and Tavistock, one calling for the removal of both statues of Sir Francis Drake from public display, the other pressing for their preservation.

Tavistock is an ancient stannary and market town in West Devon with a richly diverse history. Alongside its role as gateway to the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site, it is also the birthplace of Drake.

Acknowledging his role as a one of the town’s most famous sons, in 1883 the Austrian born sculptor, Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm, a member of the Royal Academy and sculptor to Queen Victoria, was commissioned to create a 10ft high bronze statue as a memorial to ‘the memory of its old citizen, patriot, warrior and navigator’.

Although commissioned by the people of Tavistock, the cost of the statue was borne by Hastings Russell, the 9th Duke of Bedford. A second statue cast from the same mould was erected on Plymouth Hoe.

According to Rotarian Geri Parlbly, the Grade II listed statue, has formed a key part of the townscape of Tavistock for 135 years.

Reflecting on the Black Lives Matter protests, Geri, who is an art historian and chairman of the Tavistock Heritage Trust, said: “In many places, these global protests have led people to question the way in which statues tell the stories of, or celebrate the past, reigniting an ongoing debate as to how we should remember and memorialise historical figures, particularly those with ties to slavery.”

So with Tavistock split on the fate of its favourite son, the town council voted in June to keep the statue, but to create an interpretation panel to examine Drake’s involvement in the slave trade.

The council reached out to the Tavistock Heritage Trust to create the panel.

In turn, Geri contacted her Rotary club, as well as fellow Rotarian, historian and archaeologist Win Scutt from Plympton Rotary, to discuss how best to tackle such a delicate situation.

“We agreed to work together to initiate a discussion around the whole history of Drake, the story of Devon’s involvement in both the development of the slave trade and its ultimate abolition, the effects of racial discrimination and the reality of modern day slavery,” explained Geri.

“I must confess some Rotarians from other clubs felt the whole topic was too political for a non-political organisation to become involved with, but we felt the protests around the statues transcended politics. This was a situation desperately in

“The results of the survey were fascinating and made us realise that young people wanted a far deeper understanding of history on their doorstep, even if it did expose a darker side to some of their traditional heroes’ lives.”

need of peacebuilding and education, two of Rotary International’s key areas of focus”.

The group’s first move was to speak to the two schools in Tavistock; Tavistock College and Mount Kelly, a private independent boarding school which is also a corporate member of Tavistock Rotary.

Tavistock College had already received letters from former pupils asking for Drake’s name to be removed from one of the school’s houses.

“We collaborated with the college to set up a students’ questionnaire so we could discover their understanding of the issues surrounding not only the history of Sir Francis Drake, but also that of black history, racial discrimination and modern slavery,” said Geri.

“The results of the survey were fascinating and made us realise that young people wanted a far deeper understanding of history on their doorstep, even if it did expose a darker side to some of their traditional heroes’ lives.

“It also made us realise how important it was to spread a wider message about racial discrimination and slavery, both throughout history and in the 21st century.

“The horrifying truth is that slavery is still with us today. Sadly, we can’t change history, but we can do our best to ensure it isn’t constantly repeated.”

Creating a school-based educational programme, or designing and producing a full-scale interpretation panel is not ▶



something easily covered by Rotary funds, especially during the current climate of COVID-19.

Using her heritage background, Geri was able to put together a grant application to Historic England and secure £14,750 to get the project up and running.

The project also involved collaboration with Historic England, the National Trust at Buckland Abbey (a former home of Drake), Plymouth City Council and its new museum and heritage centre The Box, Anti-Slavery International, plus the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery and the Rotarian Action Group for Peace.

The schools' programme is being developed by a team of Rotarian teachers and historians working with One Bristol Curriculum, dedicated to incorporating a wider understanding of black history into the school curriculum.

This will also incorporate a separate educational pack on peacebuilding which is being created by Cardiff-based Alison Sutherland, District Governor for Southern Wales, and who is chair of the Rotarian Action Group for Peace.

The plan is to trial the schools' programme at Tavistock College and Mount Kelly during October, which is Black History Month, and which ties in with Anti-Slavery Day on October 18th.

Plympton Rotary is planning to offer the same education programme to the Plymouth schools. Once launched, it will then be made available free of charge for other Rotary clubs to distribute to their own local schools.

Working with Rotary International, the team will also reach out to schools in other countries who have been affected by the historical slave trade to create an ongoing dialogue between pupils.

And working with Rotary and groups involved in the prevention of modern slavery and peacebuilding, the project will also create a wider awareness of these issues.

"We have one section of Tavistock Rotary involved in the schools' project and another section developing an awareness programme around modern slavery, working with Mark Little from Norwich St. Edmund Rotary, and also with Inspector Earl Napier for the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit, which is based in Devon."

The second part of the project is the creation of an interpretation panel for the



The schools' programme is being developed by a team of Rotarian teachers and historians

Tavistock statue. This presented Rotary, the Heritage Trust and Tavistock Town Council with a rather different challenge.

The story of Drake's life needed to be presented in historical context, acknowledging the part he played in the slave trade and his role as a privateer, together with his undoubted maritime achievements.

"Tavistock is not a very ethnically diverse town, but there were still very strong emotions circulating around what the statue of Drake represented," added Geri.

"In the same way the statue was originally commissioned by the people of Tavistock, we felt it was right to reach out to the people once again to gauge their thoughts."

The Town Council organised a questionnaire so the community could present their views. Geri and council representatives met with members of the local Black Lives Matter movement.

As for Sir Francis Drake, the plan is to create an interpretation panel near the Tavistock statue, developed in collaboration with the local community which will present a fuller picture of the Devonian's life, including his links to the slave trade.

It will tell the story behind the erection of the statue by the people of Tavistock in the late 19th century, how the statue is viewed today by the community, and the interpretation panel will include interactive elements linking to further learning about

the history and legacy of slavery.

Alongside the schools' programme, the information will also be disseminated to the public at the Tavistock Guildhall Heritage Centre with displays, lectures and adult learning courses delivered both online and face-to-face.

Plymouth City Council is taking a slightly different approach to its statue. It will be expanding some of the information on the existing information pillars around the city and include a more extensive story of the life of Drake to be told in its newly opened heritage centre, The Box.

Said Geri: "This whole project is a collaboration between a variety of organisations from the cultural, public, private, civic, voluntary and heritage sectors, as well as two of the most active Rotary Action Groups.

"It demonstrates how unique quality heritage, via the story of Sir Francis Drake, can provide for public engagement initiatives.

"These initiatives address concerns raised in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement about the celebratory nature of statues and the inherent conflict which arises in our historical landscape as a result of an historical figure's involvement in the slave trade.

"It can also inspire international collaborations using heritage as the link via the network of Rotary International." ●

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How can we stand for peace and not stand against racism?

WHEN I look back to February this year, I'm still surprised how much has happened even though it felt like the world was stood still.

I wasn't expecting to live in St Lucia for five months because of COVID-19 border closures.

I wasn't expecting to see the Black Lives Matter movement have such a world-wide re-ignition; nor was I expecting to start a global community, all committed to educating themselves and others about racism and anti-racism, and to stand against racism in their daily lives.

When I saw the events surrounding the murder of George Floyd unfolding, I knew I had to do something.

On May 30th, I set up 'Rotarians against Racism', a discussion group on the 'My Rotary' website. That was quickly followed by a Facebook group which has grown to 1,250 members who are having challenging, honest and open discussions about racism, anti-racism, white privilege, and what the Black Lives Matter movement means to them.

One thing that we are all clear about, is that all of us - Rotary, Rotarians, and others - need to change and be the change to end racism.

Rotarians around the world are already showing their commitment and taking action. They have set up diversity committees, are engaging with their communities, and being very clear about their stand against racism.

Rotary International has held discussions on equality and inclusion and is now in the process of setting up a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.

This is a positive start, but there is much work to do; and the first step must be to look at our internal processes, systems, and policies.

We cannot say that we stand for peace and yet not stand against racism.

We should not ignore what is behind



movements such as Black Lives Matter and say that this is a political issue so we should not speak about it, nor should we take action.

Our work as Rotarians is about our commitment to fight inequity, inequality, and injustice in all forms.

Recent events should not dissuade or alter our course of action, they should only serve to strengthen our resolve and make us more firm in our cause. This is not a political issue, this is a human issue.

Black Lives Matter is about even more than black men and women being killed by police in America; it is about even more than inequalities in healthcare and health outcomes that have been highlighted throughout COVID-19.

Black Lives Matter is about humanity. It is about peace-building and con-

flict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water sanitation and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

It is about accepting that it is not the truth to say that 'All Lives Matter' until we can say it is the truth that Black Lives Matter.

Just imagine what could happen if we took our stand against racism with the same vigour, commitment, fight, and unwavering determination that we took when we decided we would end polio.

In its simplest form, this is my hope.

So my question to all of us, to Rotary and the members of our Rotary family, is what are you doing to open opportunities that show we are people of action, standing firmly against racism? ●



i Nadine Pemberton is a coach, anti-racism and diversity educator, and lawyer, who lives in Sheffield. Nadine has been a Rotarian for eight years and is currently an Assistant Governor in District 1220 (East Midlands & South Yorkshire) and Vice President of Sheffield Rotary.

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OWN A SHARE IN A RACEHORSE



11-times champion Paul Nicholls has kept Bob Pebble and Darling Maltaix in full training throughout lockdown. Both ran into places on their first runs of the season and we will look to build on that great start as the season progresses.



Darling Maltaix

Syndicate term ends:
30th June 2021
Total number of shares:
1500

Darling Maltaix is a 7-year-old novice chaser who convincingly won a handicap hurdle at Ascot and made an impressive seasonal debut on July 7th coming 3rd in a handicap chase at Newton Abbot.

Speaking about Darling, Paul Nicholls said: "He wants good ground and we'll try and win some novice and handicap chases throughout the summer, into autumn and see where we end up. There's no particular target - simply to win races with him. He's a good fun horse and we'll win plenty of races with him at the right level."



Bob Pebble

Syndicate term ends:
30th April 2021
Total number of shares:
1750

Bob Pebble is a 5-year-old beginner who made nearly all the running to come a creditable third on his UK and seasonal debut; a National Hunt flat race at Newton Abbot in early July.

Since moving to Paul Nicholls' yard, he has come on leaps and bounds whilst also showing a natural and impressive jumping ability. The plan now for Bob is to run and develop him into a lovely novice hurdler targeting hurdle races from the beginning of August onwards.

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DAVE KING

Diversity is part of Rotary's core values

“Of course, we do not know what the new decade will bring, but whatever it is, we must always be aware of our special responsibility. Because in Rotary, we stand for values of equality, tolerance and peace. Tolerance is a relevant concern in so many parts of the world right now. Rotary is not political and it must stay that way. But when things obviously go wrong, we cannot look away. Rotarians must not be speechless. We stand by our values and our four-way test. We are measured not only by our results, but also by our attitude.”

Holger Knaack, January 24th, 2020

WHEN incoming Rotary President, Holger Knaack, addressed the International Assembly in San Diego, California, earlier this year, few could have realised how prophetic those words would become three months later.

On May 25th, 46-year-old black American, George Floyd, was killed 1,500 miles away in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during a police arrest for allegedly using a counterfeit note.

It was a death which would ignite the world; a moment when nations began to examine their consciences.

Earlier in his San Diego speech Holger, the first German to be elected to Rotary's highest post, turned back the clock to a century ago, with a nod to the adversity which would eventually befall his own country with the rise of national

socialism and its chilling consequences.

“We have learnt a great deal about other cultures at this assembly and placed a special focus on the need of tolerance,” he told a global audience of Rotarians.

“We have passed the threshold of a new decade. One hundred years ago it was called ‘The Roaring Twenties’.

“Our memories of that time have been blurred by the pictures and the movies. In reality, that decade was one where society drifted further and further apart, and disaster followed.”

Fast forward to August. Reflecting just days after the shootings in Wisconsin of Black Lives Matter protestors, Holger admitted he was alarmed by what he was now seeing and reading.

“Of course, we are asking how can this happen? Injustice and racism are simply not acceptable, equally those who protest with counter violence, that too is

unacceptable.

“I am shocked with what happened in the United States.”

But as the world engaged in a moment of global navel gazing, Holger was insistent that what was happening with Black Lives Matter in America was uniquely different to what was occurring elsewhere in the world.

“You can find racism probably not everywhere, but you can definitely find discrimination everywhere. So, we have to go into our history to find the origins to fight that,” he said, pointing out how discrimination is shaped very differently within other countries and cultures.

“Whether that is India or Japan, the United Kingdom or Germany or elsewhere, it is different,” he added. “Discrimination depends on history and where it began.

“You have to dive into your own



history, country by country, because discrimination looks totally different.”

Holger was born in 1952 as Germany emerged from the horrors of the Second World War. Under pressure from the Nazis, Rotary clubs in Germany disbanded in October 1937, reluctantly returning their charters to Rotary International.

Some clubs continued to meet privately during the war, but it wasn't until 1948 when the political administration allowed Rotary in the new West Germany to return.

Reflecting on issues of racism and discrimination, Holger admitted: “There are many terrible examples in my country. “Every country has to solve its own problems where these problems have raised themselves in the past.

“In Germany, the darkest decade began in the mid-30s before the war, when all these things developed and most Rotary clubs were part of the system. There is no doubt about that.

“A group of historians wrote a book recently describing what happened, and how Rotary clubs discriminated against their Jewish members. It is not something to be proud of.

“I do not believe in deleting history, but instead learning from it. I believe in

that totally. Everything has to be put on the table so we can learn for our future.”

In the wake of the death of George Floyd, Rotary International published its own diversity, equality and inclusion statement which was first hatched two years ago.

Then, in discussions this summer, the Rotary International Board decided it needed to do more by taking action.

An equality and diversity task force has been formed bringing together experts from across the world to find an international approach.

With the aim of providing meaningful action which creates measurable, lasting change throughout Rotary, the task force will look for ways “to address prejudices and injustices worldwide for our clubs, districts, committees, programmes and within our corporate offices”, according to a Rotary International document seeking panel members.

It adds: “The task force will be a resource for our clubs to recognise those who have not felt welcomed or valued at Rotary clubs, or by staff, or in programmes.”

The Rotary International President explained: “This is not an American problem, this is not just Black Lives

Matter, this is a different approach to diversity, equality and inclusion.

“We are looking for advice here to definitely do the right thing. It is not too late.

“I would really love to show Rotary clubs a way they can put this into action, which fits into their country and culture.”

It is hoped a report will be completed by next July at the end of Holger's term of office. In particular, the task force will be asking how inclusive Rotary clubs can be, and what are they doing to make this a reality.

“For me, diversity is not a wish list for a Rotary club, this is part of our core values,” added Holger.

Holger is aware how some in Rotary might find the discussion uncomfortable, citing the issue as political. “Whenever we don't want to put things on the table, we say it is political,” he countered.

“The best example is Rotary's new seventh area of focus, the environment.

“There are many people saying we shouldn't talk about climate change because that is political.

“In my view, it is definitely not political. It is a fact, which is why it is important. If things are obviously wrong, then we have to say so.” ●

THE ROTARY SOCIAL

Check out some of the best content you might have missed from the certification of the WHO's Africa region as wild polio-free! Find even more content by searching #EndPolio.



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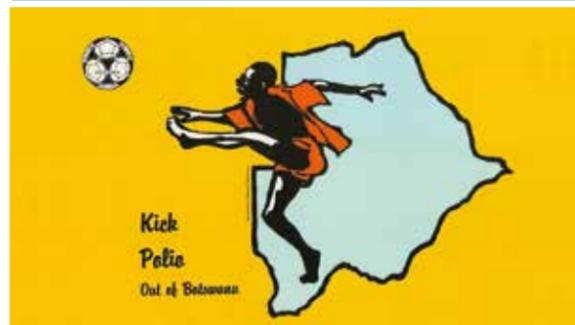


AFRICA KICKS OUT WILD POLIOVIRUS

25th August was a momentous day in the decades-long efforts to rid the world of polio, as Africa was officially certified free of wild poliovirus. Visit the [World Health Organization Africa Region's YouTube Channel](#) to watch an amazing video, hearing from health workers and polio survivors on what this historic achievement means for the continent of Africa.



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MOBILISING A CONTINENT

In a time before technology was common place around the world, polio awareness was raised by classic poster campaigns. Visit [Rotary International's Facebook page](#) for a delve into their archives at some of the early social mobilisation posters to reach communities across Africa.



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FROM FEAR TO FREEDOM

In the 1900s poliovirus prompted fear and confusion. Summer lockdowns were common, with public places like beaches closed. The [@WHO Twitter page](#) features a video, watched over 1.2 million times, looking back at the history of polio, from the early 20th Century, Cold War, new millennium and present day.



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HOW ROTARY GOT THE BALL ROLLING

"It was Rotary... that kicked off the polio endgame in 1988" writes Jeffrey Kluger in TIME. You can find this terrific article looking at not only the route to Africa's certification, but also the path to global eradication via the [@EndPolioNow Twitter page](#).



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POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

As one of six organisations in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary works alongside other organisations in ending polio. [@unicefchief](#) on [Twitter](#), Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, shared her thoughts on this "wonderful milestone".



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MY POLIO STORY

Although polio has not been seen in the UK for many years, the effects of the disease still linger. Head to the [Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland YouTube Channel](#) to learn how polio has impacted the lives of four of our Rotary Polio Ambassadors.

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LAURA WILLCOX

A milestone for Africa

AFTER decades of work across 47 countries on the continent, the World Health Organization (WHO) certified the Africa region polio-free on August 25th. This was a significant milestone in the battle to eradicate the disease worldwide.

Certification comes four years after Nigeria, the last polio-endemic country in Africa, recorded its final case of wild polio.

It is an incredible public health achievement for Rotarians, the African region, and Rotary's partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

Rotary International President, Holger Knaack, was among world leaders celebrating this historic landmark.

He said: "In the face of a pandemic, the world has had very little good news to celebrate in global health this year, and the challenges ahead are formidable.

"That is why we must recognise this great achievement and commend all of the people who played important roles in eradicating wild polio in the African region.

"It took tremendous effort and partnership over many years. I'm particularly grateful for the Rotary members throughout Africa and around the world who have dedicated themselves to making polio a disease of the past."

Africa becoming wild poliovirus-free is the result of a decades-long effort across the 47 countries which make up the WHO's African region. It now means that five of the six WHO regions, which represent 90% of the world's population, are free of polio.

Efforts to reach to this momentous stage in Africa have involved millions of health workers traveling by foot, boat, bike and bus to reach children, innovative strategies to vaccinate those living among conflict and insecurity, and a huge disease surveillance network to test cases of paralysis and check sewage for the virus.

Rotary has contributed more than \$2.1 billion to fight polio,

and countless volunteer hours since launching its polio eradication programme, PolioPlus, in 1985.

In 1988, Rotary formed the GPEI with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance joined later.

When the initiative launched, there were 350,000 cases of polio every year. Today the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99.9%.

In 1996, Rotary and its partners joined with South African President Nelson Mandela to jumpstart Africa's commitment to polio eradication.

Since then, nine billion doses of oral polio vaccine have been provided, averting an estimated 1.8 million cases of wild poliovirus on the continent.

Rotary has played an invaluable role in the effort to rid the African region of wild polio.

By raising funds for polio eradication, advocating with world governments and national and local leaders, and raising awareness, Rotarians have contributed nearly \$890 million to conquer polio in the region.

Despite this incredible public health milestone, the job to fully rid the world of polio goes on, as the virus continues to circulate in parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Vaccination programmes must continue to reach every last child and strengthen routine immunisation to keep immunity levels high, so the virus does not return to Africa.

Rotarians across Great Britain and Ireland remain committed to making the final, challenging steps towards a polio-free world a reality.

Events will be taking place across the world on October 24th to mark World Polio Day. ●

5 reasons why you should own Bitcoin and add Cryptocurrency to your portfolio...

1 Diversify your portfolio with an alternative investment

Areas of investment have traditionally covered stocks, government bonds, precious metals and real estate. Now cryptocurrency has been added to that list by many savvy investors, including famous investor Paul Tudor Jones. With Bitcoin gaining trust and often being referred to as "digital gold," many investors are now beginning to rebalance their portfolios to include Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

2 Greater demand in contactless and digital payments

The virus pandemic is enabling a further surge in digital payment as the primary or even the *preferred* consumer payment method. Supported by Amazon having recorded a \$5bn profit in the last three months, this could be a future trend. The World Health Organisation is urging people to use contactless payments to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and with physical cash out of circulation and quarantined in some nations, more people are seeing the need to adopt digital payments and internet technology.

3 Exponential User Growth

The number of internet users increase by just under 1 million each day. Why is this important? Blockchain uses the internet and digital data transfer to accredit blockchain networks and the exchange of cryptocurrencies. With this growth and with more use cases, the cryptocurrency ecosystem holds the potential to make payment processing available to a considerable market of awaiting users.

4 Take control of your funds

Investing in cryptocurrency gives total control over funds. Confidence in the private bank sector is diminishing while outlets for personal freedoms are increasing. On top of this, with many coming to the consensus that a gig economy will soon dominate the world's employment ecosystem in the future, the shift toward individual ownership of funds is the main motivator for many cryptocurrency investors.

5 Earn interest with "DeFi"

Decentralised Finance, or "DeFi," as it is more commonly know is a great way to earn on your investments. DeFi refers to the ecosystem comprised of financial applications that are being developed on top of blockchain systems. With interest rates as high as 15% on some tokens this is a new way to earn yield on funds outside of the traditional finance sector.

If you have any questions about investing in Cryptocurrency please feel free to contact us. Our expert customer service team are always happy to help.

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DAVE KING

Polio: the life sentence which never goes away

October 24th marks World Polio Day. However, while the focus will be promoting child vaccinations to wipe out polio, what about those who are left behind as polio survivors?

SINCE infancy, Anne Wafula Strike and Colin Powell have lived with the life sentence that is polio. From waking up in the morning, until last thing at night, Post-Polio Syndrome is a condition which affects polio survivors years after their initial infection. Take the most basic functions of daily life such as bathing, dressing, even making a cup of tea; each of these can become a gruelling routine.

Polio never goes away.

Anne and Colin have watched on as the world has been swamped by a tsunami of polio vaccine to eliminate this deadly virus from the face of the earth.

Over the last 30 years, Rotary has donated \$2 billion to the eradication effort, protecting more than 2.5 billion children from the disease.

And while both are End Polio Now / Purple4Polio Ambassadors, supporting Rotary's efforts, they collectively ask one important question: have we forgotten the polio survivors?

"The impact of having polio for a lifetime is phenomenal," explained Colin, 71, who fell ill aged just six months old after an innocent swimming trip with his father.

He joined Radlett Rotary in Hertfordshire in 2009.

"Hospitalisation took away my childhood. I didn't start my education until I was 11. The reconstruction surgery involved removing half of my left rib cage,



Anne Wafula Strike

and putting that into my spine to act as an internal support.

"I now have a high degree of paralysis in both of my legs, and respiratory problems which have increased over the years. I now spend one third of my life, eight hours a day, on a respirator in order that I have enough oxygen to face the next day."

Anne's story began more than 6,000



Colin Powell

miles away in Kenya where polio struck when she was two-years-old. She and her family faced enormous prejudice from villagers who believed she was cursed.

She moved to England in 2000, and four years later became the first Kenyan wheelchair athlete to represent her country when competing at the Athens Paralympics.

Two years later Anne, who now lives in Essex, became a British citizen.

And her story is movingly told in the book 'In My Dreams I Dance'.

"I would commend Rotarians for the amazing work they are doing to get rid of polio. We all agree that our goal should be zero. Anything less is unacceptable," she explained.

"But I wonder whether we are able to take into consideration the polio survivors, because these are people who experience the effects of polio in later life."

Anne recalled a trip to Nigeria in 2014 when she was invited by Sir Emeka Offor to support a polio vaccination programme in the country which has just been given a

Faltmata Mustapha a polio survivor from Nigeria, had accessibility challenges before receiving a tricycle, donated by Rotary.



“But I wonder whether we are able to take into consideration the polio survivors, because these are people who experience the effects of polio in later life.**”**

clean bill of health and prescribed as polio-free by the World Health Organization.

But the work in West Africa also supported polio survivors. "We gave out about 400 tricycles, and many were polio survivors who came crawling on their hands and knees for the tricycles," she said.

"Is this not something we should be considering with supporting polio survivors?"

"What broke my heart was seeing the calluses on their hands and knees from crawling across the ground. It meant they

had spent their life in that position.

"It is good to get rid of polio, but what are we going to do with all the survivors?"

"How are we going to encourage other nations and countries to put structures in place to support the survivors?"

Anne reflected that although the world remains in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic, we should not lose sight of the devastating impact of polio.

Even though there hasn't been a case of polio caught in the UK since the 1980s, there are around 120,000 polio survivors, according to The British Polio Fellowship.

Colin Powell is also on the same page when it comes to re-directing some of the polio focus towards the survivors. Funding more wheelchairs would be a start, he said.

"There are a lot of survivors who we should not be ignoring while we are eradicating polio," he suggested. "We, as Rotarians, must have some conscience and heart to look after their needs."

"Think of it this way. If you go into a village today with a vaccination team to ▶



Polio survivor and TV presenter Ade Adepitan

inoculate children, what about the child who contracted polio in the same village the previous day?

“Do we not have a conscience to look after their needs for their life? Can we, as humans, just walk away and say we have done the job by giving the vaccine?”

“The survivors have a lifetime ahead of them with challenges that surely, within Rotary, we could find a little corner of funding to look after them.”

Colin Powell looks forward to the day when the world becomes polio-free and he remains firmly behind the pressing need to raise more funds to reach the end game.

But drawing a level parallel with the Paul Harris Fellowship he received from Rotary for his work as an advocate for polio, Colin added: “I got a badge last year with PHF on it. I don’t know if you know what it means? For me it means Polio Handicapped Forever.”

“The point is, once someone gets polio it is a life sentence.”

Professor David Salisbury, who is chairman of the Global Certification Commission, believes that when the world first talked about polio legacy, while eradication and remaining vigilant against new cases stood at the forefront, the issue of polio survivors was left behind.

He explained: “I believe I said at the time about discussions around legacy that one of the things which was forgotten were people who had previously had polio and they needed attention, recognition and

awareness of Post-Polio Syndrome.

“The paralysis of polio is not static. As people with polio get older, so the symptoms and signs get worse. Therefore, I believe that this part of the legacy of polio eradication should have been included.

“Maybe it is not too late to be included, giving support to those people for whom vaccines were not available and who were, indeed, paralysed.”

Michel Zaffran, who leads the World Health Organization’s polio eradication programme agreed. He pointed out that his own Rotary club in France was raising resources for polio survivors.

“We have been focusing for many years on the visibility of the programme, which is on getting rid of the virus so that less people are affected.

“The resources of the initiative have not been directed towards the survivors,” he said.

“Last year on World Polio Day, there was the launch of a non-profit organisation to raise resources for polio survivors. But I would say it is not at the level which it should be.

“It needs more and more attention, it needs more and more resources.

“My Rotary club is increasingly raising resources for polio survivors because it is also a way of advocating that the job is not finished when we get rid of the virus.

“We need to take care of the people who have survived polio and who have been affected by this terrible disease.” ●

FACT FILE

POST-POLIO SYNDROME?

- Post-Polio Syndrome is a condition which affects polio survivors years after recovery from an initial acute attack of the poliomyelitis virus.
- Most often, polio survivors start to experience gradual new weakening in muscles that were previously affected by the polio infection.
- The most common symptoms include slowly progressive muscle weakness, fatigue, and a gradual decrease in the size of muscles (muscle atrophy).
- Pain from joint degeneration and increasing skeletal deformities such as scoliosis (curvature of the spine) is common and may precede the weakness and muscle atrophy. Some individuals experience only minor symptoms while others develop visible muscle weakness and atrophy.
- Post-Polio Syndrome is rarely life-threatening, but the symptoms can significantly interfere with an individual’s ability to function independently.
- Respiratory muscle weakness, for instance, can result in trouble with proper breathing, affecting daytime functions and sleep.
- Weakness in swallowing muscles can result in aspiration of food and liquids into the lungs and lead to pneumonia.

Source: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

i Colin is currently presenting Zoom talks to individual Rotary clubs entitled ‘Polio is more than a word’. He can be contacted by emailing talkpolio@powellnet.co.uk

Anne is also giving virtual talks on the effects of polio to raise £10,000 to buy 110 wheelchairs for Kenya. She can be contacted by emailing: olympiastrike@hotmail.com



Rotary GB&I President Tom Griffin

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep.*

AN EXTRACT from Robert Frost’s poem “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”
We have promises to keep. Thirty or more years ago, Rotary made a promise to the children of the world that we would rid the world of the scourge of polio.

We in Western Europe have been free of polio for so long that it is only the more mature among us who recall the anxiety the disease engendered in parents; who recall schoolmates in calipers; who recall the pictures of people trapped in iron lungs.

But 30 years ago, polio remained endemic in much of the world, with around 350,000 new cases every year. It was Rotary’s leadership and persistence which persuaded the World Health Assembly to adopt the goal of eradicating polio.

Since then, many billions of dollars have been spent by Rotary, by national governments and by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation so that today polio remains endemic in only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Rotarians have taken the fight to the endemic countries in National Immunisation Days by personally administering the vaccine to millions of children. India has been polio-free since 2011; in August the World Health Organization’s Africa Region was declared polio-free.

But so much more has been achieved.

Public health infrastructure has been strengthened in many developing countries; disease surveillance systems have been established which have proved invaluable in the face of outbreaks such as Ebola and COVID-19.

Solutions have been found to the practical and logistical difficulties in reaching remote communities.

The fight must go on; if we do not finish the job, polio will come back. We must not forget our promise to the children of the world.

Because of COVID-19, vaccination programmes were paused, but they are now restarting. Moreover, if we have learned anything from COVID-19, it is that the world is smaller than ever before; polio in Asia is our problem, too.

The work of surveillance and of reaching remote communities goes on and needs to be funded.

So I encourage all Rotarians, and those reading this article who are not (yet) Rotarians, to remember the children of the world and give to polio eradication.

Even in these socially-distanced days we can raise funds. For example, take the ‘1240 Challenge’ – the Pakistan/Afghanistan border is 1240 miles. Get sponsorship to do 1240 things or reach 1240 in some scored venture.

We have promises to keep, and miles to go before we sleep. ●

MICHEL ZAFFRAN

DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE

Michel Zaffran has been Director of the World Health Organization's Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 2015. Due to retire later this year, Michel spoke with Rotary Editor, Dave King

What has been the impact of COVID-19 on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)?

The impact of COVID-19 on the world has, of course, been significant, and so it also has been on the global polio eradication effort. Given that, operationally, polio vaccination campaigns are close-contact activities, they were deemed incompatible with the current physical distancing recommendations associated with the COVID-19 response efforts. As such, in March we had to take the very difficult decision to temporarily delay immunisation campaigns. The overriding priority was to ensure the health and safety of health workers, as well as communities.

Polio campaigns could have increased the risk of further spread of COVID-19, and thereby put at risk the children being vaccinated, those vaccinating and indeed those populations beyond. From a public health point of view, it was the only recommendation to make under this new reality.

Campaigns are resuming, with increased security measures for health workers and communities, which is good news, but unfortunately more children are left vulnerable to diseases such as polio. We are anticipating an increase in polio cases.

How has the infrastructure of the GPEI been able to help with the fight against COVID-19?

In many countries, polio assets (personnel, logistics, operations) are uniquely positioned to assist national health systems to respond to the pandemic and ensure the crisis is dealt with as rapidly and effectively as possible. In many countries this is already the case and our infrastructure is already heavily and actively involved in the response.

This has always been the 'Plus' in 'PolioPlus', in other words the infrastructure built up to eradicate polio regularly helps respond to other disease outbreaks or humanitarian disasters.

It is therefore doubly important to continue to invest in PolioPlus: not just to help eradicate polio, but indeed to ensure that this infrastructure can continue to support other health emergencies, such as it is currently doing with COVID-19, for example by supporting contact tracing, educating communities on hygiene measures and physical distancing measures, and using the polio laboratory infrastructure for specimen analysis.



Michel Zaffran (front row centre) Director of the World Health Organization's Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 2015

With the threat from polio greater in the autumn and winter months, what plans will be put in place to face this fresh challenge?

Polio is indeed a seasonal disease, and we know that the second half of the year marks the 'high season' for poliovirus transmission (usually associated with an increase in rains in tropical climate settings). This means that children are more exposed to poliovirus than during the 'low season' for polio, in the first half of the year.

Given the impact of COVID-19 and a decline in immunity rates, we unfortunately anticipate an increase in cases, and possibly also international spread of the disease.

So the overriding urgent task we face is now that polio campaigns are resuming after their temporary pause, to rapidly rebuild immunity for children and communities at highest risk.

That is our overriding priority over the coming months, and this process has already started with emergency vaccination campaigns resuming in known infected and high-risk areas.

What is the current state of play in Pakistan and Afghanistan? How big a set-back was COVID-19 to the polio eradication programme?

Polio eradication at its core is relatively straight-forward, in the sense that if you vaccinate enough children in a given area, poliovirus has nowhere to hide and dies out. Where it becomes complicated is when children are missed, and this then allows

the virus to continue to circulate. Efforts conducted thus far have allowed a country like Pakistan to reduce the annual burden of cases from 30,000 twenty years ago, to less than 150 last year, a tremendous achievement by any other measure of progress. But not if you are trying to eradicate a disease.

If you are trying to eradicate a disease, there is virtually no room for error. The reasons why some pockets of children remain under- or unvaccinated in parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan vary from area to area, and include such factors as large-scale population movements, inadequate infrastructure, poor oversight and lack of management, insecurity, community resistance, lack of trust triggered by misinformation or other factors.

What both countries are now doing is analysing area by area what the real reason is for missing children, and then putting in place area-specific operational plans to overcome those reasons.

It is the same approach which was implemented in both India and Nigeria, when they launched their "final assault" that led to success, and we have extremely high engagement of both governments and virtually all sectors of civil society.

Our biggest challenge now, however, is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary forced pause in activities it had forced on the programme.

But in the interim, we had been putting everything in place so that – once the campaigns resumed – we would be able to move more rapidly and efficiently, even in the context of Covid, and that is now beginning to happen which is encouraging.

Nigeria and the African continent were declared polio-free in August by the World Health Organization. How significant a step is this?

Africa has achieved an historic public health success: the certification of the eradication of wild polioviruses (WPV), by the African Regional Certification Commission (ARCC). This independent ‘stamp of approval’ verifies that WPV is gone from Africa, which was celebrated on August 25th.

This success stands in stark contrast to 1996, a year when WPV paralysed more than 75,000 of our children across every country on the continent. It was also the year when Nelson Mandela, together with Rotary International, issued a stark call to action, to everyone. His challenge rang out loud and strong: Kick Polio Out of Africa! This success is a clear example of what can be achieved, when all these levels unite towards a common goal, and indeed, already the polio effort on the continent is helping to address other urgent public health challenges.

But this success would be only half the story. In fact, polio eradication in Africa can today best be described as ‘an unfinished success story’. To finish it, the increasing threat of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) outbreaks on the continent must also be addressed. For even though they are not WPV and are such rare strains which can emerge in areas of low population immunity, they can also paralyse children. New approaches, including a new vaccine which can battle such strains more effectively, are available, and it is critical that these new strategies and tools are fully utilised to ensure children are fully protected against all strains of poliovirus.

While the focus of the polio eradication programme has been on Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria, what is happening in the rest of the world? What incidents are you receiving reports of?

In 1985, when Rotary International launched its PolioPlus programme, wild poliovirus paralysed every single year, more than 350,000 children, in more than 125 endemic countries.

Today, the wild poliovirus remains endemic in only two countries to: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Africa has not detected any wild poliovirus since September 2016, and was certified as free of such strains on August 25th. The disease has been reduced by 99%, more than 18 million people are today walking who would otherwise have been paralysed, and more than 1.5 million lives have been saved. All of this is thanks to the tireless efforts of Rotary and Rotarians worldwide, to mobilise funds, to engage communities, to advocate with donor governments, to ensure parents are convinced of the need for vaccination.

But 99% is not good enough in an eradication effort. Eradicating a disease is extremely difficult, which is why it has only been achieved once so far (with the eradication of smallpox in 1980). Unless we eradicate it completely in these remaining

areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan, we run the risk that the disease will make a global resurgence. That is the nature of an eradication effort: one either eradicates, or one does not. There is no in between. Just in August, we have received news of outbreaks in both Yemen and Sudan. Such outbreaks will continue to occur unless we achieve eradication.

But the good news is: we have all the tools and tactics available to us to succeed even by 2023, in these last two countries.

The extraordinary accomplishments of polio eradication in India (last case in 2011) and in Africa are proof that it can and will be done. Success however will depend on ensuring the tools and tactics are fully financed and fully implemented. If that happens, success will follow.

The GPEI End Game Strategy sets out clear aims by 2023. Bearing in mind the impact of COVID-19, do you think this is still achievable?

Yes, absolutely, but success will depend on fully implementing the tools and tactics to achieve success. The polio programme has a long history of adapting to new challenges, be it operating in insecure environments, overcoming access issues, reaching children amidst large-scale population movements, etc. COVID-19 is yet another challenge, but operationally we are already addressing this, adapting our approaches to this new reality. The key is fully

operationalising what we know works and also keeping a flexible approach.

What is happening behind the scenes at the World Health Organization which might help accelerate the End Game Strategy (e.g. vaccines)?

The polio programme is constantly adapting its approaches, and tools and tactics, given the realities on the ground: operational, political, societal, epidemiological and virological. Our aim is to ensure that we have the most relevant, tailored tools and tactics to achieve the biggest impact. As part of this, we are in the process of developing a next-generation oral polio vaccine, novel OPV type 2, as an additional vaccine tool in our global arsenal against this disease. We hope to be able to deploy it on a large scale later this year. It means that countries at their disposal have a variety of different polio vaccines and formulations, to be used based on a prevailing epidemiology in their area. This allows countries to apply the most relevant vaccine or vaccines, to ensure children are protected in the most effective and rapid manner possible.

Do you still believe that polio will be fully eradicated in your lifetime - and why?

Not only in my lifetime, but actually over the next several years. Perhaps COVID-19 gave us the final impetus to achieve success, because it has taught us a number of crucial lessons. For one: it

reminded us how much we know about polio. The world today is trying to analyse how COVID-19 transmits, how widely it is spread, how best to combat it, which measures are effective and necessary, which are counterproductive. There are many medical questions left. For polio: we have all these answers.

We know how and where it spreads, and we know exactly what we need to do to stop it. We have all the technical tools and the knowledge. It is a question of implementing now what we know. And I believe countries have realised how dangerous infectious diseases are. How easily they spread across the world.

And that when we do have effective measures, as we do against polio, we must fully implement them. It is literally a global public good. But the reality is also that we will not succeed without Rotary and Rotarians. Rotarians are the moral authority in this fight, leading with their personal engagement and resources. Rotarians must now redouble their efforts, to use that moral authority to hold governments accountable to finishing the job of polio eradication. Together, I am absolutely convinced that we will achieve a lasting success.

You are planning to retire from the World Health Organization this autumn. How will you reflect on your time in the fight against polio?

I have spent my entire career working in immunisation. Immunisations are one of the most effective public health and development interventions, any way one looks at it. Having been involved in the effort to eradicate polio has been an honour and privilege. When Rotary launched its PolioPlus effort in 1985, the concept was very simple: every child has a right to be vaccinated and protected from polio, no matter where they live, whether it be in Switzerland or the UK or Ireland, or in Somalia or the Democratic Republic of Congo. And that is what this programme has strived to do. To reach and vaccinate every single child.

It is literally the definition of equity. And this is probably the single most inspiring aspect about this programme and it has been simply inspirational to have been allowed to be a part of it. I will be retiring indeed from WHO at the end of the year, I will however remain a Rotarian and I will continue to advocate for PolioPlus. ●



Michel Zaffran at the Karachi Clinic in Pakistan

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Talk from the top...

HOLGER KNAACK

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DURING a recent Zoom meeting with Rotarians and Rotaractors, I looked at the smiling faces on my screen and realised how much our organisation has changed in a short period.

It is clear that there is no going back to the 'old normal' in Rotary — and I see that as an exciting opportunity!

Innovation and change are happening at so many levels as we rethink and remake Rotary. Rotary's new flexibility is blending with digital culture to drive change in ways that many of us have never seen before.

We can learn a lot from Rotarians like Rebecca Fry — who, at age 31, already has 15 years of Rotary experience:

I see Rotary as a phenomenal platform to change the world. I believe I can have the greatest influence by empowering others to create the change they wish to see in the world.

I've gained leadership insights through my experiences in RYLA and Rotaract, and now, as charter president of the Rotary Social Impact Network, a new e-club.

Engaging Rotary programme alumni is key in forming new clubs. Our club is proof that Rotaractors and other alumni want to join Rotary — but sometimes they can't find the Rotary club that's right for them.

Our club has 31 members, all between the ages of 23 and 41, and almost all of them are alumni of Rotary programmes.

We need to be able to integrate and align Rotary with the other personal and professional goals we're pursuing. In chartering this club, we set out to design a personalised model of Rotary that is focused on added value for our members.

We have also sought to leverage connections — through Rotary Fellowships, Rotary Action Groups, and other international partnerships — in order to elevate our members' experiences beyond the club.

Our club meets and manages most of its projects online, using Microsoft Teams to engage 24/7 in topics that interest our members.

This also means our club is not geographically bound to any one location: although many of us are in Australia, we also have members in Germany, Italy, Mexico, Tanzania, and the United States.

“Our club meets and manages most of its projects online, using Microsoft Teams to engage 24/7 in topics that interest our members.”

Also key for our club is measuring the impact of our projects. For Plastic Free July this year, we created an awareness campaign promoting ways that individuals could reduce their use of plastics, and we reached more than 6,000 people.

It's a project with a tangible impact that anyone can take part in wherever they are. I'm proud that, through our club, we are bringing people together for a new type of Rotary experience. I am excited for our future.

All Rotary clubs have the opportunity to be innovative clubs, just like Bec's club. Let's trust those clubs, learn from them, and lend them our support.

Change in Rotary happens at the grassroots level, as clubs lead the charge, defining what this new Rotary can be.

Change is constant, and we have more work to do in many areas. It is important that we celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds and promote people from underrepresented groups so that they have greater opportunities to participate as members and leaders in Rotary.

The tools to make Rotary more inclusive, more relevant, and more fun for everyone are at our fingertips. Let's use them now, and we will see how Rotary Opens Opportunities for ourselves and for those yet to discover us. ●

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Talk from the top...



K.R. Ravindran
Trustee Chair 2020/21

IN the early 1990s, polio was still a concern in my country. As the Sri Lanka PolioPlus Committee chair, I was part of a task force of Rotarians, government officials, and UNICEF representatives that drove all polio eradication efforts, including National Immunisation Days (NIDs).

But those were difficult days; civil war was raging in Sri Lanka. The government said NIDs could happen only outside conflict zones. This meant one-third of the country's children would not be vaccinated — an unacceptable proposition.

Rotary stepped in with UNICEF to engineer a cease-fire. Establishing contact with one of the world's most feared and elusive rebel leaders was not easy, and we were careful to maintain Rotary's good name during negotiations.

A few weeks later, my secretary delivered a letter to my office, her hands shaking. Signed by the rebel leader himself, it read: "Dear Mr. Ravindran: If you can persuade your government to stop the war for two days, then we are willing to lay down our guns for two days too, for our war is not with children."

Soon the NID was on, and vehicles bearing the Rotary emblem traveled to the vaccination booths in the areas occupied by insurgents, receiving the same respect and courtesy as the Red Cross.

Obstacles can seem insurmountable until we overcome them.

In March 2020, the polio programme made the tough decision to temporarily suspend polio immunisations while the polio infrastructure that Rotary members had helped build was used for COVID-19 response.

But with the wild poliovirus now banished from the African region and circulating in just two remaining countries, we continue to move forward. Our history shows that we can overcome even the most difficult situations. But we can't do it without your help.

World Polio Day is on October 24th, and it's the greatest opportunity we have to raise funds and awareness for Rotary's polio eradication efforts. Visit www.endpolio.org/worldpolioday to get tools for planning virtual events and fundraisers, and to register your club's event.

Please consider making a donation to End Polio Now, to be matched two-to-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In the face of a pandemic, there is a serious risk of further spread of polio.

Your support is more important than ever, and it will ensure that together we can tackle the remaining obstacles and achieve a polio-free world. ●



Tony Black
RI Director 2019/21

IS this our moment, our time?

We bring people together. We solve problems, maybe not to everyone's satisfaction, and while we must be ready to listen and adapt, we need to live by our core values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership.

In all aspects of our lives, we must be prepared to lead. Some of our members are saying how much they enjoy the on-line meetings.

How can we build on this momentum and seize the opportunity to embrace change so that Rotary keeps thriving?

Tell your communities about your club, and the world about Rotary, and create the club you wish existed. Maybe bring people together for a cause.

In my garden, at the moment, I am in the throes of harvesting the crops I planted in the spring. We in Rotary usually take longer to see the results of our efforts.

Take the End Polio Now campaign, that started 34 years ago. In August this year, after decades of effort across 47 African countries, we have had the success of African countries, Rotary members, and our partners in eliminating the wild poliovirus throughout the region, proving that polio eradication is possible.

But COVID-19 has shown us that a virus is really only a plane ride away, and as long as polio exists somewhere, it remains a threat everywhere.

With continued support from Rotary, donors, governments, and our world partners, I am confident we can beat polio for good. Rotary's leadership in this long campaign is so worthwhile.

So, if you read an interesting or inspiring article/information about Rotary on social media, please share it with all your friends and contacts.

Let the world know about the good news.

I cannot tell you what to do. All I ask is that you all do something – maybe the something is staying safe and isolated, others out working in the community, or raising money for the End Polio Now campaign. In whatever you are doing, please stay safe and well. ●

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Purple gin is just the tonic

Rotarians have devised creative ways to raise money for End Polio Now, but Passionately Purple Gin and a new honey creation are proving a big hit.

IT'S less than two years since the launch of Passionately Purple Gin, yet already this popular tippie has raised approaching £10,000 towards End Polio Now.

Triple that sum, thanks to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and that's sufficient funds to vaccinate 184,000 children against this life-changing and often deadly disease.

The road to Passionately Purple Gin probably began around 1055 when Benedictine monks in Italy infused tonic wine with juniper berries — the core ingredient of gin.

Since then, it has taken an interesting route via Holland, where it was called genever, to London, where the industry standard gin was released to the world in 1700.

During this time, gin has had a chequered history, including becoming known as “mother’s ruin” for more reasons than one!

More recently its fortunes have changed as its status has risen to become one of the world’s favourite spirits, bringing about a plethora of micro distilleries, all keen to produce the most magical of gins.

It was thanks to a chance meeting

between the owner of one such distillery and Rotarian Herbert Chatters that a truly magical gin was born.

Former science teacher Sara Dewhurst had always dreamt of starting her own distillery and worked on producing a variety of beverages in her own garage. Soon Sandgown Spirits was born and launched into the world with her own Lytham Gin.

A graduate in Applied Science from Salford University, Sara was quick to respond when Herbert suggested a gin to raise money for a cause about which he had been passionate since its launch in 1985 - End Polio Now.

The gin had to be purple to fit End Polio Now’s purple theme – it is the coloured marker dabbed onto a child’s finger once they have had the polio immunisation - and Sara’s wizardry eventually created what was to be named Passionately Purple.

Magically, with a little help from butterfly pea flowers, it turns into a very pretty mauve gin when swirled with tonic water. The idea was not only to use the gin to raise funds, but also greater awareness of the need to end polio, by the addition of a special neck tag which tells the story of Rotary’s campaign to beat the disease.

For its launch two years ago, Passionately Purple Gin was enthusiastically welcomed by Past President Denis Spiller and comedian Bobby Ball, one half of the popular Cannon and Ball duo, who launched the gin in front of Lytham’s iconic windmill.

By January this year, over 1,000 bottles had been sold and more than £8,000 donated to End Polio Now by Rotary Lytham.

Rotarians from Cornwall to the Highlands have supported the cause and also raised funds for their own clubs by raffling and auctioning bottles.

But nothing stands still and a change of Rotary scenery by Rotarians Herbert and Joy Chatters has brought about an opportunity to double the efforts of gin sales with the launch of ‘A Taste of Honey - Simply the Bees Knees’, a slightly sweeter twist on the already firm favourite Passionately Purple gin.

This is an Old Tom gin made with Worsley (Salford) honey, and its name pays homage to one of Salford’s best known playwrights Shelagh Delaney.

The move to Salford reunited Herbert



The new Gin Team of (from left) Herbert and Joy Chatters and David Ellis with Gin Lady Sara Dewhurst at Sara’s new distillery

“By January this year, over 1,000 bottles had been sold and more than £8,000 donated to End Polio Now by Rotary Lytham.”

with David Ellis, who will be Chair of Rotary Great Britain and Ireland next July. Both have worked together with Rotary public image for the past eight years.

The new team is constantly on the look-out for more gin-related projects and its members give up much of their leisure time tasting a variety of new ideas.

The new world of Zoom has proved a boon for the Gin Team, with Herbert having already zoomed a dozen club meetings including the newly-formed Rotary Fellowship of Gin, chaired by Kilsyth Rotarian, David Breton.

The team is happy to visit conferences, once they are back on the calendar - sadly three scheduled events fell victim to COVID-19. ●

FACT FILE

PURPLE GIN

- Bottles of Passionately Purple Gin (70cl) sell at £35 each (plus p&p) and Taste of Honey (50cl) at £30 each (plus p&p).
- Donations of £6.20 and £5 respectively go to End Polio Now.
- For more information about the gins visit www.rotarysalford.uk
- The gins join a line of imaginative End Polio Now fund-raising ideas, including, teddy bears, purple jam, silk scarves (watch out for a new colour available soon) and purple ice cream.
- Artist Rhona Morrison from Kilsyth Rotary has produced ‘Message of Hope’ cards featuring purple crocus. The idea is to send the cards to cheer those who have been in lockdown or affected in any way by COVID-19, but with blank pages they are suitable for any message. More information on her club’s Facebook page.
- Contact Herbert Chatters at: ossington@europe.com for talks about the gin project.

A passport to Rotary



Passport clubs are a new mobile way of doing Rotary. Steve Martin has formed the Rotary North Wales & North-West England Passport Club, and he explains what it is all about.

ONCE I had been appointed as a Rotary Co-ordinator by Rotary International, I took a long hard look at our membership and spent time researching where the gaps were.

Whilst doing this research I came across 'passport clubs'. I was really taken by the idea and wanted to know more.

After chatting to a few people in Canada and Australia who had already started this type of club, I was intrigued as to how it would work here. I started to champion the idea around my own district but being District Governor at the time I found I couldn't give the project the time that I wanted and placed it on the shelf.

Our incoming District Governor, David Hartley, recognised, like many of us, that there is a huge divide between Rotaract and Rotary in terms of age, and the 30 to 50-year-old age group is hugely underrepresented in our organisation.

David set up a small group called 'Rotary Refresh', a group of Rotarians and Rotaractors to see what we could do about the problem. This was the ideal opportunity to put forward the idea of a passport club.

A long discussion took place and, to cut a long story short, within two weeks we held an online meeting with people we thought would be interested from within and outside of Rotary.

By the end of that meeting, we had nine people who said that they would like to become members of the new club!

So what is a passport club? Like other clubs it will need 20 to charter as a full



Steve Martin (second left) and his wife Maria, pictured with Barry Rassin, Rotary International President (2018-19), and his wife Esther, prior to becoming District Governor

club. It can also be started as a satellite with a sponsor club whilst it gathers its members up to the 20 required for charter.

The club is non-geographical. Although it is within a district, its members can come from anywhere within its borders. The passport club is a group with full Rotary recognition and adheres to the same ethics and constitution as every other club.

My vision for the club in our district is for those who want to serve their communities, both at home and abroad, but cannot commit to the weekly meeting or who do not want to have a meal every week.

The club will meet online every two

weeks and then meet up for a social every month, or to carry out a project or an event.

There are no meal costs attached and membership of the passport club is £10 per month. This covers all Rotary International and Rotary Great Britain & Ireland subscriptions.

The passport name comes from the freedom to roam to other clubs should you wish, to help them with their projects or fund-raising. A healthy passport club can also be a great resource for other clubs to use if they need an extra pair of hands for an event they are running.

Since the formation of the club it has developed 'hubs'. This happened naturally

where groups of passport members were situated. They carry out projects in their own area and collaborate with other hubs and local Rotary clubs

One thing a passport club is not for is to 'poach' members from other clubs.

Naturally, it will appeal to people from other clubs who are struggling with the weekly commitment, but it is intended to be an attractive club for those who have work and family commitments.

I feel that its members will gain a great insight into what Rotary does on a larger scale. There will be no option for members to operate within the four walls of their club and the pure nature of the passport club will expose them to the whole district and other clubs.

I understand that this might not be everyone's cup of tea, however I would say that we need to provide a Rotary platform for everyone and this will lead the way.

We all know that post COVID-19, we expect to lose members from our organisation and there are always people that come the end of the Rotary year they decide that Rotary is not for them for whatever reason.

Now, in District 1180 covering North Wales and North-West England, we have an alternative for them, less time consuming less expensive but with an opportunity to serve within their capabilities.

The passport club in 1180 is now gathering pace with 20 members and

we chartered in September at a meeting attended by Rotary International President, Holger Knaack.

There are exciting projects being discussed already, the enthusiasm is fantastic!

My final thought is this: what if EVERY district in Great Britain & Ireland had a passport club which could offer Rotarians that flexibility in their desire to serve their communities?

I believe we would see more Rotarians staying in Rotary with this new model, available to them.

The passport club is to enable Rotary to fit into your life, NOT for a person to have to fit into the Rotary structure. ●



"The passport name comes from the freedom to roam to other clubs should you wish, to help them with their projects or fund-raising. A healthy passport club can also be a great resource for other clubs to use if they need an extra pair of hands for an event they are running."



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Better PR needed

I AM a member at Howe of Fife Rotary, a club serving a fairly rural area. Like many we have lost quite a few members in the last few years.

One of the things I would hope that Rotary will do in this period of lockdown and different ways of operating is to reflect on why our wider public profile is so low in terms of wider awareness of what Rotary in U.K. is, does and achieves. Why is this?

One of the major factors is that we do not have a professional PR resource capability.

You hardly ever hear Rotary mentioned on broadcast media. Bill Gates' name is a frequent mention but never the long-standing links with Rotary. Why? Because the necessary link between our PR capability and key contacts in broadcasting and the media is simply not there.

Result: low to nil public awareness except at fairly localised levels.

Documentaries on the important work here and across the world never get made and broadcast.

As we are reallocating our resources during this challenging time, surely now is the time to agree on the need to acquire and retain professional PR agency assistance. If we are to maintain and grow membership the need is urgent and now.

John Bonington
Howe of Fife Club

Editor's note: Your criticisms are harsh. Better to reflect on the huge amount of credit which Rotary received in the media, both in the British Isles and globally following the August announcement that Africa had been declared polio-free.

Is Rotary about to miss the Zoom boat?

WHILST, for the most part, Rotary leadership should, and must be applauded in trying to address the continual decline in membership with various initiatives and programmes, and useful membership and 'PR' toolkits readily available to every



On-line Zoom meetings are replacing the usual face-to-face meetings

member via 'My Rotary', solidly supported by Rotary International co-ordinators, Rotary Great Britain & Ireland and district team leads, how effective are we in recruiting new members?

We must maximise every opportunity. And if there is a silver lining to the current Covid pandemic restrictions, surely for every club in Rotary GB&I it has to be the use of on-line Zoom meetings in replacing the usual face-to-face meetings.

However, are we in danger of missing the 'virtual meeting' boat?

My club, immediately assessed an opportunity to attract members who are very much accustomed to on-line working. So what better way than to go virtual?

In organising a Zoom open meeting, we have spent time trying to ensure that such a meeting sets the right tone, as one would expect from a well-respected professional organisation as ours.

I have researched 'My Rotary', made contact with Rotary International co-ordinators and district membership team leads, seeking to find something, if not ready made, which we can adapt for our own purpose.

No template appears to exist for any on-line open meetings convened to entice invited guests to join Rotary.

The need for a short, sharp, and dare I say, punchy video entitled 'What is Rotary?' in UK English does not exist.

I appreciate there is much American

English content, but that does not sell Rotary to those who live within Rotary GB&I, and therefore renders such videos unusable for the UK & Ireland.

Steve Cartwright
Lichfield St. Chad Rotary

Editor's note: Even prior to COVID-19, Rotary e-clubs were meeting online, demonstrating how to conduct effective meetings. Many clubs have come up with imaginative ways to make their online meetings fun, and Zoom provide a gallery of easy to understand videos which do not need translating from American-ese!

It's time to re-invent and re-launch

JUST reading *Rotary* magazine (August, 2020), a lot of ideas were inward-looking, about meetings and things, which are relevant of course, but which miss the bigger picture.

In District 1190 (Cumbria and Lancashire), issues of club future well-being and sustainability are focusing minds in the District Executive.

I believe there's a major risk of clubs losing momentum and losing the plot during 2020, emerging, if they survive, as weaker, less fun and less relevant in 2021.

My club, Bassenthwaite, had already

decided it was time to reinvent itself, to be more accessible and inclusive, for example, before the pandemic struck.

Like many others we are now ticking along gently with Zoom. The need for reinvention and re-launch hasn't gone away, it has increased.

I'm hoping that in my District we can provide our clubs with advice and inspiration about how they can, in effect, relaunch themselves in 2021, or at whichever date it proves possible to turn up the wick.

I also hope that Rotary GB&I and, indeed Rotary International, can also provide some strategic leadership in this vein.

There must be a UK-wide and international risk that Rotary will emerge weaker. On the other hand, we can regard this situation as an opportunity for modernisation and renewal.

Phil Davies
Bassenthwaite Rotary

Print remains popular

MANY members are meeting on Zoom in their clubs and some are meeting, now again, face-to-face.

However, some members and clubs are not currently taking part in much at all and cannot, or are not willing, to fully use technology.

It is many of these members who appreciate communications from their club and also very much appreciate the bi-monthly Rotary magazine through their letterbox.

These members note the high quality and content, the £1 per copy is much lower than other similar publications available for other interests which can be £4+ per copy at the newsagents or shops.

It is also very useful to have a copy to show or give friends and use to promote Rotary. I hope the paper version continues.

David Clayfield
Arbury Rotary

Nothing wrong with traditional clubs

I MIGHT be well in to my 70's - I might well be a member of an ancient near 100-year-old traditional club, but I am not past it, and neither are most of our members. Some are getting on a bit, and frankly, perhaps they are past it.

However, they will have given great service over the years and have made many friends and enjoy their company - we owe them a debt of gratitude and should never forget that.

We're not against change either, albeit perhaps not everyone's cup of tea. However, I am totally against change for change sake and take exception to a constant stream of words to the effect that old traditional clubs are not welcome any more, being different, is not a crime, not even in Rotary, albeit one might just wonder at times.

For the record, I am not against satellite clubs or any other form of Rotary club, including mine! I totally accept and understand that should a club begin to wither through failing membership then there needs to be a succession plan in place.

I don't see much effort to actually manage the problem we have with membership. Much easier to blame someone else - and for the last few years it has been the traditional club that has taken the stick. Where's the evidence?

Are the newer, younger clubs really leading the way?

Are they thriving and increasing membership or just making more noise and alienating the traditional club?

Has anyone, anywhere in Rotary Great Britain & Ireland actually done anything to measure the health of the clubs?

I do not mean conduct an internal health check which, whilst it might have some merit it does not address the wider problems we have. It might be interesting to learn just how productive some of the older clubs actually are.

Just for the record, I run our weekly meetings on Zoom and most of the participants are far younger than I am!

Peter Leyland
Dundee Rotary

Mind your language

I READ with interest your article on the new Rotary President Tom Griffin (*Rotary* magazine, August 2020).

Tom describes how appalling it is that only 17% of Rotary membership in Great Britain & Ireland is female. However, the article then refers to the 'Chairman' of the Association.

I know that many will argue that the use of the word 'chair' to denote the person who holds that office is political correctness gone wrong, but that fails to take account of the message the use of chairman sends.

Human beings tend to think in words, and if the word for someone at the top of an organisation includes a term denoting a man, then a not so subtle message is given out that the post is more properly held by a man.

For many women and men, to read the word 'chairman' conveys an idea of Rotary that it is old-fashioned, at best, and with an ingrained sexism, at worst.

Many now work in environments where the word chairman is never used, and would be put off spending their leisure time in one where it was commonplace.

To use a word for the person in charge which implied that they were of a white ethnicity would, rightly, not be tolerated, and there should be a similar standard for sexist language.

Cleaning up the language we use is a very small step we could take to increase diversity.

Jackie Gladden
Doncaster Rotary

Don't hide our work under the table!

ONE of Rotary's earlier faults was being invisible, except to those in the know. So much of our work and efforts were perhaps under the table. At least until our involvement with the Global Polio Eradication Project.

Our immediate past president, David Silverston, was a master technician and ▶ tactician who attracted well over 14,000

responses to Twitter entries during his year. And yet, despite all that hard and targeted work, we managed to attract only one new member. We certainly did try hard!

To do so much good, we need to put our own house in order first.

Such a targeted project needs co-ordination, individual dedication and all round co-operation, from the front, perhaps something Rotary GB&I can create right now.

No answer this, but perhaps a pointer to an achievable target which in turn may create many fine objectives we can usefully tackle.

Michael Hammond
Watford Rotary

Three lessons from the pandemic

THE pandemic has affected every individual and every organisation in the world, and in the context of Rotary every club, district, region and every Rotarian.

From my study in a small village in Hertfordshire I have experienced Rotary in a new way – online meetings, connecting the world, sharing stories and being reconnected to community.

The lessons have been revealed and if taken to heart can help Rotary grow.

Lesson 1: if Rotary is not embedded in the local community it has no future. The needs of the local community and the volunteers that are in the local community are the basis for service that builds a more resilient community and affects positively the lives of all.

And Rotary joins in that community conversation through the Rotarians who are embedded in that community.

Lesson 2: Rotarians in the local community must be able to stand up as a Rotary member and share the opportunities that Rotary offers that can enhance the lives of both the community and individuals.

Lesson 3: Rotary clubs must think outside the box and be able to act and respond positively and swiftly to opportunities that present themselves.

Opportunities are springing up because everyone is doing things differently – so

Rotary has to be doing things differently.

It is no longer acceptable to take two weeks to make a decision – and with technology we can make those decisions in a few days – if not a few hours! Being adaptable and making technology work for us will define us as innovators.

Rotarians being embedded in the community, standing up for what Rotary is, does and can do, are responding positively to provide innovative ways to make lasting change in the world, in the local community and in individuals' lives.

These lessons were learnt in the setting up of a Rotary Community Corps to serve the needs in the village to support the isolated and vulnerable in the community.

Debbie Hodge
Past President Rotary
in Great Britain and Ireland
Ware Rotary

Are human rights political?

THE global reverberations following the unlawful killing of George Floyd in the USA, poses a predicament for Rotarians.

If public servants violate basic human rights, would we be contravening Rotary's policy of political neutrality if we speak out against practices? Some Rotarians would say 'yes' maintaining that human rights issues are political or cultural matters and should not be part of a Rotarian's agenda.

Are they correct?

Former Rotary International President, Robert A Manchester, would say 'no'. In 1976 he stated: "Whether or not the ethical climate in business is higher or lower today, each of us has an opportunity to speak up for higher standards."

In 2011, President-Elect Kalyan Banerjee posed this question "Why are we in Rotary? He answered his own question: "I believe we are here because we care, and because we see both what's wrong in the world and what is right."

He stressed that we should take a hard look at what needs to be changed and then do our best to change it.

In my view, if we believe in certain values, such as the equality of all human

beings, fairness in their treatment, etc., we should not be afraid to proclaim our beliefs from the roof tops and stand up for them.

If we don't or won't speak up for higher standards, or condemn practices which are clearly wrong, how can we say we are true Rotarians?

The problem is that whilst we have clear guidance from Rotary International on our ethical responsibilities (Four Way Test, Part 2 of the Object of Rotary), our human rights obligations are not so clear cut as they are absent from current Rotary documentation.

Consequently, the Rotary Club of Norwich St. Edmund has submitted a legal document called a 'petition' which asks the Rotary International Board to reinstate some or all of the human rights responsibilities previously included in Rotary International's Manual of Procedure and its Code of Policies. The Petition can be viewed here: bit.ly/3gSyWPO

Mark Little
Norwich St. Edmund Rotary

Blow the trumpet louder

MY club is a bit elderly and set in our ways. We are coming up to our centenary in the year after next, and many are looking forward to doing much of the same, and just blowing our trumpet louder.

I asked for fortnightly Zoom meetings interspersed with lunchtime meetings. Our current weekly meetings have been 30% better attended, for one thing.

I really appreciate the weekly togetherTalks meetings, and like the relaxed way that Dave King and Nicki Scott lead them. I have watched all of them, as has my wife, who is a Soroptimist.

Many of the speakers have been very memorable, and I have recommended watching to all my club.

David Lyth
Dunfermline Rotary

Rotary bubbles required

ROTARY should start to target a completely new kind of membership.

Firstly, the age profile in Europe makes clubs untenable through social distancing. This is not going away across Europe within the next 12 to 18 months.

Secondly, there is an overwhelming need to attract a new cohort of members, who are under 50, who have worked through the COVID-19 pandemic and who want to contribute to society again. As more women take important roles in business so Rotary must alter the gender balance.

The initial year should be spent talking to all clubs about what they need to rebuild as quickly as possible.

Fancy posters are not the answer.

Social distancing makes indoor Rotary meals and meetings impossible.

The only sensible way forward is for each club to form bubbles of a maximum of six people who can start to organise events and fund-raising.

Even then they would have to have younger members or volunteers to carry out public-facing activities. Hence the need for a different organisational structure to allow Rotary to be a force for good, rather than an old man's dining club.

It is very clear that whatever happens with the pandemic, social distancing will be in place across Europe until a vaccine is freely available.

In the short-term, clubs must alter who they interact with in terms of local voluntary organisations and with whom they can build partnerships, especially with those that have a younger age profile.

At the moment, UK Rotary is just not looking at fundamental restructuring

or a new approach to current problems. I want to recommit to Rotary, but not as a historical dinosaur. We all must embrace real change and build a new future.

A final point concerns Zoom type meetings. It is fine for semi-formal speaker presentations, but is very poor for any discussions as the ones who shout the loudest dominate the proceedings.

Even with a good moderator it cannot be a long term solution.

Frank D Riley
Ruthin Rotary

New Rotary and I'm loving it!

I WOULD like to congratulate you on what is one of the most informative issues for me (Rotary, August 2020).

I joined Rotary in 1979 and am a past president of two clubs, and have held most jobs including secretary.

I am 84-years-old and am not IT literate, so social media is an unknown quantity to me. I have recently been shown how to use Zoom for meetings.

COVID-19 brought my life to a standstill, as it did for most, and gave me time to think what I should do about Rotary.

I live ten miles from my last club and decided to resign from Rotary and sent my resignation in. However, after some thought, I felt I wanted to remain a Rotarian and sought to transfer to my

nearest club which I have done.

My new club is ten-years-old, my wife and I attended its inaugural dinner and it is a 21st century club. I have attended its Zoom meetings mostly watching, listening and saying nought, but I have been made very welcome.

What has struck me most is how much baggage long-established clubs have, most of which is unnecessary in today's world but also, how difficult it is to jettison!

Tony Randall
Medway Sunlight Rotary

Rotary Foundation is making an impact

THE article in Rotary Magazine (August 2020) on COVID-19 highlighting the generosity and commitment of volunteers makes amazing reading.

The article however does not include Rotary's own charity, The Rotary Foundation, and Rotarians' specific generosity and commitments for projects in Great Britain and Ireland as well as across the world.

Our own charity's COVID-19 specific grant statistics, published by Rotary International Regional Support Teams in early August, are truly mind-blowing:

- 234 Global Grants totalling \$18,281,182
- 52 repurposed Global Grants totalling \$605,190
- 310 Disaster Response Grants totalling \$7,659, 873

All Rotarians should be justifiably proud of being part of such a charity, The Rotary Foundation.

Michael J Parry
Director & Trustee of The Rotary
Foundation in the United Kingdom
(RFUK)



Blow the trumpet louder

We welcome your letters on any subject to do with Rotary. Submissions should not be more than 250 words long. Please include your name and address. Email: editor@rotarygb.org or post to: Rotary magazine, Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland, Kinwarton Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6PB. The comments made on this page do not necessarily represent the views of Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland and Rotarians.

LAURA WILLCOX

Giving hope with the Global Mercy



A record-breaking \$1.125 million Rotary Foundation Global Grant will fund medical equipment on the world's largest purpose-built charitable hospital ship.

WHEN launched next year, the *Global Mercy* will become the world's largest purpose-built civilian hospital ship – and Rotary can be proud to play its part in the latest addition to the Mercy Ships' fleet.

Earlier this summer, Rotary Great Britain and Ireland announced that the largest Rotary Foundation Global Grant of \$1.125 million has been approved after little more than a year's fund-raising.

This grant will enable Rotary and the charity Mercy Ships to fund a brand new, state of the art CT scanner, along with other vital equipment on board the impressive new vessel.

The *Global Mercy* will double the

impact of Mercy Ships towards health care systems throughout West Africa.

The money will provide a range of sophisticated medical equipment across the ship's hospital decks, with six operating theatres, three infection isolation rooms, 147 ward beds, six post-operative recovery beds and four intensive care beds.

It will also provide training and education for local health care workers.

Mercy Ships UK's Acting Executive Director, Joanne Balaam, said, "Mercy Ships is delighted to continue our long-standing partnership with Rotary.

"The Global Grant of \$1.125 million will fund equipment on board our new teaching hospital, the *Global Mercy*, as we increase our capacity and realise a shared

vision; to build self-sustaining healthcare systems, to change and save significantly more lives than ever before, and to leave a lasting legacy across the countries of Africa.

"To everyone who donated to this incredible campaign from all around the world, your gift truly makes a difference, thank you!"

Globally, two out of three people cannot access surgery when they need it.

This is because they cannot afford it, they cannot access it, or the service is simply not available in their country.

Every year, more than 18 million people die unnecessarily from conditions that could have been treated by surgery.

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to respond to this global surgery crisis by reducing the surgical backlog in developing countries. The charity also provides training and mentoring of healthcare staff to increase local medical skills, while renovating local facilities in each of the countries which the hospital ships visit.

It is through this pioneering approach that Mercy Ships has been able to change and save lives for over 40 years.

One such life was Adama, a young mother from Guinea.

Adama developed cataracts while she was pregnant with twins. By the time Adama gave birth she was completely blind.

Mercy Ships performed a life-changing operation on this young girl called Tene, who suffered from a condition called amniotic band, which affected her left foot

Unable to access the simple surgery that would restore her sight, Adama would never see her new family.

It was not until Adama received a free, 20-minute procedure from Mercy Ships that she was able to see her children's faces for the first time.

Over the *Global Mercy's* expected lifespan of 50 years, it is estimated that more than 150,000 lives will be transformed through free surgery.

The new ship will enable Mercy Ships to reach more people in desperate need, train more local healthcare professionals and serve two nations at once.

The Rotary Global Grant was led by District 1260 (Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire) and involved over 300 clubs from the UK and Ireland, Liberia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, Australia, and 13 states in the USA.

Paul Denton, Chair of District 1260 Global Grants Committee, said: "The grant galvanised the generosity of Rotary, truly capturing imaginations and hearts: 31 Rotary Districts, 341 clubs across the UK and the world from Oklahoma to Seoul all found a common cause to support Mercy Ships and shows that Rotary Opens Opportunities."

Debbie Hodge, Rotary GB&I launched the Rotary Global Grant campaign at the Nottingham Showcase in May 2019 when she was Rotary GB&I President.

She said: "Little acts of kindness and generosity make a huge difference in an individual's life, but join up all that kindness and generosity and you can change the lives of whole communities, whole nations and even a whole continent. This Global Grant of \$1.125 million will do that!"

Henry Clarke, Mercy Ships' UK Chairman, praised the partnership with Rotary International.

He added: "The equipment that we are now able to procure and install on board our new teaching hospital ship, the *Global Mercy*, with the monies raised by hundreds of Rotary clubs in the UK and overseas, will help to transform the lives of literally thousands of the world's most poor and needy, people who would otherwise be without hope.

"Mercy Ships UK is privileged to be partnering once again with Rotary International. Ever since the first partnership with Rotary back in 2006, I have been truly amazed at the unwavering commitment and depth of interest of so many Rotarians in the life-changing

surgical work of Mercy Ships.

"Thank you in advance on behalf of all those who you will have helped."

The *Global Mercy* is currently undergoing the final stages of construction, with the aim of sailing into active service by the end of 2021. ●



The Global Mercy



Tene today, walking better thanks to Mercy Ships

The gift that keeps on giving

THE Rotary Foundation is Rotary's own charity. It funds projects in the seven areas of focus locally, nationally and internationally, which really make a difference to people's lives.

Its funds come from donations given by individual Rotarians and non-Rotarians, as well as from clubs and organisations outside of Rotary who see the value of the work which the Foundation does.

Rotarians Michael Hodge from Barnet Rotary in North London, and Ian Priestley from Buxton Rotary in Derbyshire have been appointed as Endowment and Major Gift advisors for the Rotary regions which encompass Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland.

They have a specific remit to assist people who may be interested in either giving money during their lifetime or leaving a legacy to The Rotary Foundation.

Annual gifts to The Rotary Foundation help people around the globe live better lives today. Planned gifts to Rotary's endowment support the same life-changing programmes forever.

Rather than discuss the mechanics of how this is done, we asked some people who are making financial contributions to The Rotary Foundation to explain why they give their support.

**Tom Hunt
Bretby Rotary (Staffordshire):**

"I joined Rotary 18 years ago, but for the first five years I didn't get involved in anything outside of my club.

"I then became an Assistant Governor and, as I needed to promote many projects which included 'End Polio Now and Foundation Grants I quickly learned about The Rotary Foundation.

"Once I began to realise all the

fantastic work that was carried out with the funds distributed by our Foundation I was simply blown away and had to get more involved.

"Not only did I join the district committee, I also started giving personal donations, firstly as a sustaining member (\$100 a year) then as a Paul Harris Society member (\$1000 a year) and I also became a Bequest Society member by leaving a legacy in my will.

"Over time my contributions increased and, earlier this year, I became a Major Donor.

"On reaching this milestone I thought when you look into where the money goes, whether this builds a well, provides urgently needed equipment for a school or hospital, helps restore a person's sight, provide maternal health advice to save babies from dying, provide funds to buy food - the list goes on and on - you cannot help but be impressed.

"I would urge any Rotarian not to wait like I did to get involved with our ONLY charity - The Rotary Foundation."

**Maggie Brown,
Rotary Foundation Scholar:**

"I had the great good fortune to become a Rotary Foundation Scholar in 1990 and it literally changed my life.

"That is why I decided to leave 15% of my legacy to the Foundation so hopefully someone else can benefit from a similar opportunity.

"In 1988, I was a social worker in Manchester when I gave a talk to a Rotary club about my work.

"At the end of the evening, my host told me about The Rotary Foundation scholarships and invited me to apply.

"Fast forward 18 months and I was taking a Masters in International Development in Adelaide, Australia, plus

meeting many fascinating people through giving talks to local Rotary clubs.

"That excellent course served as the foundation for my career spanning over 25 years working in humanitarian response and development all over the world.

"As I reached retirement, I wanted to give something back and contacted The Rotary Foundation.

"I drafted my will to provide funding for another Rotary Foundation student.

"It is just a small way in which I can say a huge thank you for the massive difference The Rotary Foundation made in my life."

**Dr Frank Hardiman
Purley Rotary (Surrey):**

"As a Rotarian I am committed to the service of others and am proud to be part of a Rotary family whose members embody 'service above self'.

"It became self-evident to me that I could continue that 'value ideal' by making a financial gift in my will to The Rotary Foundation.

"Through our legacy gift to The Rotary Foundation, we acknowledge the life we have been given and can continue to do good in the world.

"Rotary is making a difference the world over and it can only continue to do so through the funds made available to support present and future Rotarians.

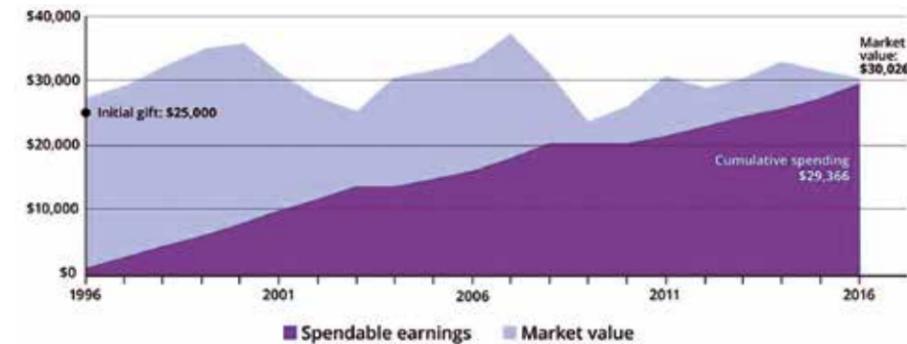
"No gift is too small when we come together. When we hear of a want, we supply it. When we see a defect, we correct it. When we hear a call for help, we answer it." "Never doubt the difference you have made and what you can continue to make. "Make a future gift in your will today." ●



Debora Lucca holds her daughter following an infant hearing test in San Miguel, Argentina. The hearing test equipment was paid for by a Rotary grant

How your gift can grow and give

A named endowed fund of \$25,000, established in 1995, has provided spendable earnings since then of more than \$38,000. In addition, the fair market value of the fund has grown to almost \$37,000. See how an endowment contribution grows over time and continues to give.



To discuss confidentially giving to The Rotary Foundation, please contact:

Mike Hodge: michael.hodge@ntlworld.com **Ian Priestley:** pdgianpriestley@gmail.com
 Districts: 1060, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1145, 1150, 1175, 1200, 1240 & 1260. Districts: 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1070, 1160, 1180, 1190, 1210, 1220, 1230 & 1285.



Book a **free talk** for your club

Book your free Mercy Ships Zoom talk today to find out how the *Global Mercy* will double our surgical and training capacity in West Africa.



The \$1.125 million Global Grant from Rotary to Mercy Ships will supply vital equipment onboard the brand new hospital ship, the *Global Mercy*, changing and saving thousands of lives for people living without access to adequate healthcare.

Lives like Giselle's. After a prolonged labour, Giselle was left devastated. Not only was she grieving for the loss of her baby who did not survive the three-day labour, but she was left with a childbirth injury called an Obstetric Fistula. This left her incontinent, and when it became apparent she would not recover without surgery her husband left her and her community shunned her.

For 20 years, Giselle lived in isolation and shame, but when Mercy Ships arrived in her country she was finally able to have the surgery she desperately needed to restore her dignity.

The Mercy Ships Speaker Network is a group of volunteers, many of whom have served onboard, who offer free talks about the work of Mercy Ships. To book a free online talk for your group please contact christine.brown@mercyships.org.uk

www.mercyships.org.uk/rotary



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LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

HARNESSING THE POWER OF CROWD-FUNDING



WHEN the UK Government declared lockdown last March, Brentwood Rotary knew they needed to consider new ways of working in order to remain active and relevant in their community.

The Essex-based club agreed a crowd-funding campaign could be really beneficial to raise much-needed funds to support their chosen charity, St Francis Hospice, writes Laura Willcox.

Rose Bolton, from Brentwood Rotary, said: "We heard St Francis Hospice was struggling during the pandemic and knew we should be able to do something to help them."

Crowd-funding is a method of fund-raising which harnesses the power of people's contacts. By simply reaching

out to people you know, can make a big difference to the success of the fund-raising campaign.

Rotary and GlobalGiving are working together to engage Rotary clubs in crowd-funding for community projects in the UK and abroad through their Accelerator Programme.

GlobalGiving is the largest global crowd-funding community connecting non-profits, donors, and companies in nearly every country.

Brentwood Rotary put in an application to be part of the Accelerator Programme and used the tools they learnt in the GlobalGiving training sessions to create a plan of action for their campaign.

So how much more successful was Brentwood Rotary's fund-raising campaign after the support from GlobalGiving?

Initially Brentwood Rotary were aiming to raise £4,100 with roughly 40 people donating to the cause.

However, the power of crowd-funding impacted their campaign more than they could ever have imagined.

The club raised in excess of £8,000 plus gift aid and additional contributions from GlobalGiving, and had 190 people donate to their cause within three weeks.

Throughout the campaign, the club members all worked hard, reaching out to people they knew. They built up their social media presence asking for help from two professionals within the social media industry to ensure it looked professional.

Club members actively went out into the community to speak to people and actively promote the campaign.

Rose added: "GlobalGiving were brilliant. They were so supportive all the way through the campaign. We would never have raised £8,000 without them."

"We are now GlobalGiving partners and they continue to give us so much support and encouragement."

If you are interested in seeing how GlobalGiving can support you or your club to help maximise your fund-raising efforts, visit www.globalgiving.org/rotary where you can see more information about current projects. ●

i For more information, or a club or District presentation, please contact:

**Public Image Co-ordinator
Garth Arnold:
gartharnold@btinternet.com**

**Steve Gale:
steve@thorpebayrotaryclub.org.uk**

**Danny Lovey:
dannylovey@aol.com**
from District 1240 who have first-hand experience of projects on the GlobalGiving crowd-funding platform.



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ROTARIANS DON'T VEGETATE!

UTTOXETER Rotary has continued in its efforts to support the local community in these difficult times by raising funds with a vegetable relay marathon.

The club has supported the Donna Louise and St Giles Hospices, local food banks, the Air Ambulance, the Gateway Club and Thomas Alleyne's High School for their project making face shields for the NHS.

As with Rotary clubs across the country, Uttoxeter Rotary has faced a fresh challenge with fund-raising with all public activities cancelled.

However, the Rotarians have taken part in a relay marathon using vegetables, collecting sponsors for their daily walks.

Vice President, Roy Smith, who has led the project, said: "We have been using vegetables as our relay batons which have created interest and good humour!"

"We have all completed our miles separately with social distancing observed and have managed to raise over £1,100 to help replenish our charity funds." ●



STARS OF THE FUTURE



ROTARIANS on the Isle of Man have recognised those schoolchildren who have made a special contribution to their school and community.

Rushen & Western Mann Rotary has awarded pupils at Scoill Phurt le Moirrey in Port St Mary with Rotary Star certificates, badges and book tokens.

The award goes to pupils who, in the view of their teachers, have been exceptionally good citizens by putting others before themselves, caring for others, working hard and being courteous.

The Rotary Stars Award offers an opportunity to recognise those who make a valuable positive contribution to their classmates and family. ●

HISTORIC FAMILY FIRST

FOR Sinead McAuliffe and mum Eimear, Rotary definitely runs in the family.

They created an Irish historic first by becoming the first mother and daughter to be Rotary presidents in the same year.

DUBLINER Sinead took over the helm of Carlow Rotary, while Eimear is President of Dun Laoghaire Rotary.

In an interview with the Carlow Nationalist, Sinead, who works as a Montessori teacher, described it as a huge honour to take over as President of the club in south-east Ireland.

Sinead told the newspaper: "Over my term as president, I am looking forward to working on many long-standing Rotary projects, such as our Christmas remembrance tree on Barrack Street.

"I am also excited to be bringing in some new projects, such as a Bikes to Africa scheme, in collaboration with Carlow County Council, whereby old bikes can be brought to a designated drop-off point and they will be restored and sent out to most deserving children in Africa."

Sinead has been a Rotarian for five years since moving to Carlow. She said she was aware of the ethos and good work of Rotary.

She added: "I have grown up with Rotary and I have seen all the good work it does in the community.

"As club president, I will be giving it my all and, working with our club members, we will continue to help our local community while developing life-long friendships." ●

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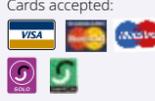
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A TERN FOR THE BETTER!



SUTHERLAND in the Highlands of Scotland is one of the most picturesque parts of the British Isles, and a rich nesting ground for birds.

For the past three years, East Sutherland Rotary has been working with other groups to encourage terns to return to their traditional nesting sites along

Kintradwell Bay on the east coast.

The Rotary club has been working in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, as well with Brora Primary School and its RotaKids, Golspie High School's Interact Club and Brora Golf Club.

They are hoping that the impact of the coronavirus, which has halted tourism in

its tracks, may have helped the breeding season.

They have received some financial backing from the East Sutherland Bird Group and Brora Community Council.

Initially, they raised over £2,000, and lent equipment and labour, to create a small experimental ground by the golf course covered with sand and shells, and surrounded by a mixture of wooden and wire fencing to encourage the birds.

The RSPB went into the schools to educate children about migrating birds, particularly about Arctic terns. The Brora children made many decoy terns and designed posters.

Volunteers have been replacing and extending the fencing, as well as increasing the range of warning signs.

Rotarian Alistair Risk said: "There is every chance that this year's terns will enjoy a quiet and less disturbed eight to ten weeks on a lovely beach in the far north of Scotland."

"And the hope is that we will see over 200 young terns fledge and fly south in late August, returning to help re-establish what was Scotland's largest mainland nesting site 50 years ago." ●

BIKING FOR KINDNESS

ROTAKDORSET-based Rotarian, Nahla Summers, has set out on her biggest physical challenge to date - cycling in excess of 5,000 miles on an ElliptiGO bike, passing through every city in the UK and Ireland.

Nahla, from Sturminster Newton, is a member of the south coast based Rotary Club of Social Innovation. But she will not be asking for any money.

Points of Light award winner Nahla is the founder of the kindness movement Sunshine People. She is unusual in the fact she asks people to show support by doing an act of kindness and sharing it on the website rather than raise money for a charity.

It's like JustGiving, but with kindness as the currency.

Nahla started out on her epic journey from Truro in Cornwall in August, and she is due to arrive back in London around the end of November/early December. She will be cycling on average, 60 miles per

day for four months.

"Nahla is also going to be spelling the word KINDNESS out in her route across England through the month of November, linking nicely to World Kindness Day on the November 17th.

Nahla also writes about kindness and her latest book 'A Culture of Kindness' is published this Autumn. ●

i For more details visit:
www.nahlasummers.co.uk or
www.sunshinepeople.org.uk



Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) was founded during the final days of World War II with a vision to use planes to spread peace rather than conflict. Today, MAF is the world's largest humanitarian airline, and has been transforming lives for 75 years.

Flying into 1,400 remote destinations, MAF transports emergency relief and long-term development to thousands of people for whom flying is a lifeline, not a luxury. In 1986, the Swedish Rotary clubs raised money to buy a Cessna 206 aircraft for MAF, which is still flying today. Operating in the remote villages of Tanzania, this life-saving aircraft enables essential medical services to reach isolated communities. **MAF is flying for life.**



To find out more about MAF's history and how we are celebrating, visit

www.maf-uk.org/75th

CLUBS UNITE TO HELP HOSPITAL



ROTARY clubs in South Wales have banded together for two key district projects during COVID-19.

Working with Dr Ashley Roberts, a consultant radiologist at Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, the Rotary clubs have funded new style intubation boxes which allow staff to continue routine operations which had to be stopped during the pandemic.

Southern Wales Rotary Past District Governor, Peter Hamilton, said: "At a cost of just £60 per box, a single unit has been used successfully on more than 40 procedures representing amazing value for money and attracting growing national interest.

"I am proud that Rotarians in Southern Wales have been leading the way and addressing a critical need in these exceptional times and that every club that donated £100 has therefore funded at least one box.

A joint effort between Rotarians and Inner Wheel in Southern Wales has produced 100 sets of scrubs for frontline workers. This is in addition to funding given by individual clubs in their own communities." ●

SCRUB HUB MAKING AN IMPACT



IT has been all hands to the decks for Rotarians in Lancashire who have been supporting a COVID-19 project to provide scrubs for health workers.

The focal point has been the Ribble Valley Scrub Hub, which was the idea of Fiona Belcham, the wife of Clitheroe Rotarian, Andy.

Fiona runs the dressmaking shop 'Patches and Buttons' in Clitheroe, which has been closed during the lockdown.

When she saw the problems nationwide around supplies of personal protective equipment, Fiona decided to do something about it - and the Ribble Valley Scrub Hub was set up.

Clitheroe Rotary have got involved with Rotarian Philip Naylor and wife Chrissy, along with Clitheroe President, Jenni Schumann, supporting a sewing team of 62, including many Rotarians and their partners.

A slick operation of production and

distribution has been established. A series of 'how to' videos have also been put together to help volunteers with sewing machines, who were eager to fill their lockdown days with something positive to do.

A 'GoFundMe' has also been set up to receive donations for the purchase of materials - which has so far amassed £7,545. Any funds left over once the Scrub Hub closes will be donated to NHS charities.

As a result, 4,072 masks, 465 headbands, 290 sets of scrubs and 316 wash bags have been provided free of charge to health centres, care homes, care charities, and nursing staff.

A limited edition Rotary mask has also been produced using specially printed fabric.

This has been achieved with 1,684 metres of fabric being sewn together with 2,416 metres of elastic being used. ●

PPE SUPPORT TO HOSPITALS

DUNGANNON Rotary in County Tyrone has also been working with NHS establishments. The Northern Ireland club has been supplying PPE equipment, masks and hand sanitisers to Roxborough House in Moy and The Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

They also provided fast food for NHS staff to save them time as food packs

were compiled. A lot of households are struggling financially and Rotarians have been able to network with others to make a difference.

Dungannon Window Company, Ltd, McCloskey International Ltd and Armagh Industrial Bearing Supplies Ltd, all provided funding for supplies and helped with the distribution. ●



Hunger Could
DOUBLE
in 2020

as a result of the COVID-19 crisis

According to the United Nations, the number of people facing hunger could **DOUBLE** in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. At Rise Against Hunger, we still need to reach 1.7 million people we serve around the world with nutritious meals, grants and sustainable agriculture — that's why we need your help now more than ever! In times of uncertainty, it's even more important to come together to provide critical support for those who need it the most.

Donate or learn more about our COVID-19 Relief & Resilience Plan:
riseagainsthunger.org/covidrelief



and finally...

with Managing Editor Dave King editor@rotarygbi.org

Uncomfortable history needs telling - not demolishing

THAT well-known Rotarian (not!) Vladimir Ilyich Lenin once suggested: "There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen."

Never has that quote chimed more readily than this summer with the unprecedented Black Lives Matter protests. A people's tidal wave against racial oppression which has dramatically changed both the political and social landscape.

Or has it? My first newspaper editor once warned me: he who shouts loudest does not necessarily represent the majority.

What is certain is that a groundswell of opinion is casting a beady eye over traditional historical narratives. Now the likes of Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Francis Drake, Christopher Columbus and George Washington have been drawn into the cross-hairs of protestors who are seemingly intent on defacing and erasing history.

Statues, of course, are icons of one era built to endure for future generations.

Though comedian Trevor Noah pointed out how the bubonic plague was a major event in history, yet we didn't then go around putting up statues of rats!

But should we be re-writing history?

As literature frequently highlights, historical heroes are rarely beyond reproach, but hindsight should always be balanced against the context and culture of the time.

Surely, by firmly pressing the delete button on their historical footprints or by demolishing a public monument, that is simply starving future generations of the chance to learn about history?

It is not exactly democratic. What about freedom of speech or expression, whether the facts are unpalatable or not?

Sir Winston Churchill was unflinching when addressing the Palestine Royal Commission in 1937.

He said: "I do not admit, for instance, that a great wrong has been done to the Red Indians of America or the black people of Australia. I do not admit that a wrong has been done to these people by the fact that a stronger race, a higher-grade race, a more worldly-wise race to put it that way, has come in and taken their place."

Britain's greatest hero, or a racist?

During the summer protests in Parliament Square, British comedian, Danny Wallace, tweeted about the irony of a man who had stopped the world from having to salute like a Nazi, who was now being celebrated by men doing Nazi salutes.

Interestingly in Devon, the citizens of Tavistock have been split in their opinions over an historic bronze statue of Sir Francis Drake, decried for his involvement during the Elizabethan slave trade.

As a compromise, and with the involvement of Rotary, an interpretation board will be sited by the statue explaining

the explorer's links to the slave trade.

This collaborative piece of work, which is being extended to local schools, should be commended. This is a great example of Rotary being relevant in its community.

Similarly, the damaged and damp statue of Edward Colston has been retrieved from Bristol Dock to be put on display in a museum where the story will be told – complete with rope marks and daubed paint. Isn't this a sensible way forward?

Rather than disdainfully discarding uncomfortable history into the rubbish bin, another layer of context is importantly being added to educate future generations.

Louise Richardson, the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and a former Rotary scholar, once suggested how hiding our history was not the route to enlightenment.

Reflecting on the controversial statue in Oxford commemorating the Victorian imperialist, businessman and funder of scholarships, Cecil Rhodes, she explained: "We need to understand this history, and understand the context in which it was made, and why it was that people believed then as they did."

Some may think this is all political hogwash and that it is not Rotary's place to be involved.

I say open your eyes and let's get real here. It is Rotary's place. This is not political, this is humanitarian. ●

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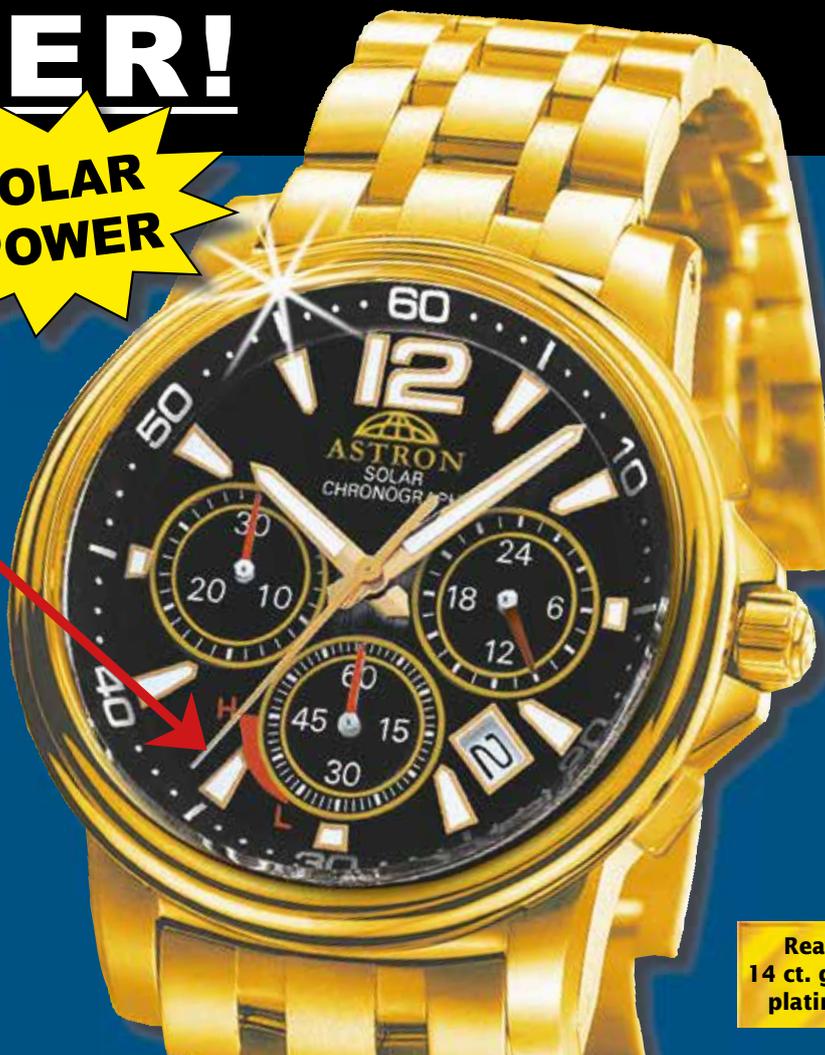
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