The Official Magazine of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Disabled access app 12

Scot as next RI President 20 Foundation legacy giving 30

Rotary's oldest project 42

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COMMENT

CLOSING IN ON POLIO

Mike McGovern, chair of Rotary's PolioPlus committee, offers an upbeat view post-Covid.

TALK FROM THE TOP: SHEKHAR MEHTA

The Rotary International President writes about his 'each one, bring one' initiative.

TALK FROM THE TOP: NICKI SCOTT & DAVID ELLIS

Afghan refugees and making Rotary more mobile are issues which come under the microscope.

TALK FROM THE TOP:

JOHN GERM & AMANDA WATKIN Views on creating a polio-free world,

and the Rotary Global Hub.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another bumper electronic mail bag from Rotarians, covering a galaxy of issues.

AND FINALLY

Editor Dave King reflects on a weekend spent with Rotarians in south Wales.

FEATURES

WINNING THE WAR AGAINST POLIO

With the Taliban in power in Afghanistan, what impact will this have on polio vaccinations?

GIVING HOPE TO HUMANITY

Rotarian Manoj Joshi reflects on his life in Rotary since fleeing Uganda 50 years ago.

LIFE AS ROTARY PRESIDENT

24

26

36

58

Scot Gordon McInally describes his plans when he heads up Rotary International in 2023.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MALAWI

The Bwengu project is making a huge difference to children's lives in Malawi.

WHY LEGACY-GIVING MATTERS

Examining the work of The Rotary Foundation and how funding helps reach its goals.

ROTARY'S LONGEST-RUNNING PROJECT

The Rotary Centre in Derbyshire's Peak District has been supporting children for a century.

FIGHTING CANCER WITH ADVENTURE

The Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust has been working with Rotary this summer.

NEWS

16

20

28

30

46

REACHING FOR THE CLOUDS

Polio survivor, Mark Esho, has launched an app to help disabled access.

IT PAYS TO GET CORPORATE

Colin Winstone explains how Rotary clubs can build on corporate membership.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Examining the work of a task force aimed at making Rotary more inclusive.

PEOPLE OF ACTION

Five pages of news of what Rotarians have been doing across Great Britain & Ireland.

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12

18

32

49

The war against polio in a country of chaos

Following the Taliban's sudden takeover of Afghanistan, what hope is there of wiping out polio in one of its last strongholds?

DAVE KING

ERE can be fewer, harrowing images, than the sight of tearful Afghan mothers handing over their babies to troops at Kabul Airport with shouts of "save my baby", as they begged British soldiers to save their children from the Taliban.

"The mothers were desperate, they were getting beaten by the Taliban. They shouted, 'Save my baby!' and threw the babies at us. Some of the babies fell on the barbed wire," a Parachute Regiment officer told *The Independent*.

"It was awful what happened. By the end of the night, there wasn't one man among us who was not crying," he added quietly. These were among the last of the mercy flights ferrying Afghan citizens eligible for resettlement, just days after the Taliban swept to power following 20 years of war.

What remains uncertain is what Afghanistan will be like under Taliban rule, particularly for women, human rights and political freedoms.

From a health perspective, with World Polio Day being marked on October 24th, what impact will this dramatic regime change have on the campaign in Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan, the final two outposts for the wild poliovirus in the world?

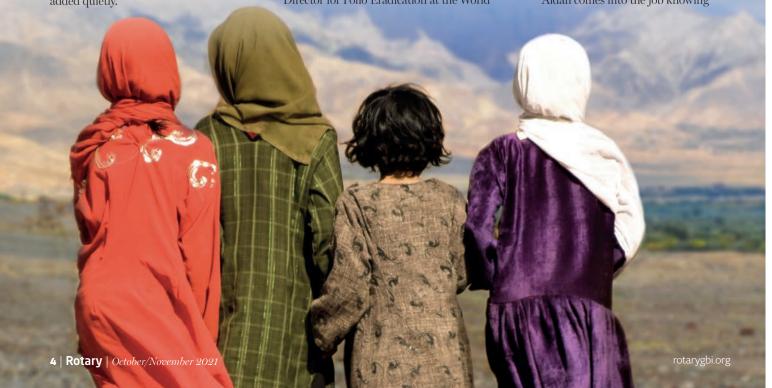
Irishman Aidan O'Leary is the new Director for Polio Eradication at the World Health Organization (WHO).

Earlier this year, the 56-year-old took over from Frenchman Michel Zaffran, accepting the chalice at the height of the Covid pandemic, which temporarily stalled WHO's efforts to eradicate wild poliovirus.

Yet, remarkably, the numbers of wild polio cases have dropped dramatically from 140 in 2020, to just two cases this year – one each in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Afghanistan sits on a political knifeedge. Even before re-balancing of the political order in Kabul, the WHO has struck an agreement with the Taliban to conduct mask-to-mask polio campaigns in previously inaccessible regions where there has been no contact for almost two years.

Aidan comes into the job knowing



the terrain well. He was Chief of Polio Eradication in Pakistan for UNICEF, and Head of Office in Afghanistan for the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

And he remains resolute that there is a job to be finished in Afghanistan.

"Poliovirus circulation does not stop during conflicts, it does not stop during emergencies, it does not stop even if a country is descending into chaos.

"If anything, it makes children and families even more vulnerable to an added layer for risk," he pointed out.

"Despite risks and challenges due to the recent insecurity, the polio programme is staying and delivering for the children of Afghanistan."

He said that the WHO's 315 staff and more than 70,000 polio health workers across Afghanistan remained firm in their resolve to eradicate polio.

"Their work continues to ensure critical polio activities remain functional, while adapting to the rapidly changing situation which carried on even when hostilities were at their

worst in the country."

shared by John Germ, Chair of The Rotary Foundation, who, in highlighting how contacts with the Taliban have been shared for some time, pointed out: "The Taliban have children too – and we want them protected against polio.

"We acknowledge the tragedy of the situation in Afghanistan, but there have always been obstacles in the way that have been overcome."

Rotary International PolioPlus Chairman, Mike McGovern, stated that Rotary's team is working closely with the Chairman of the Afghanistan National PolioPlus Committee, Mohammad, Ishaq Niazmand.

He said: "We need to work with all elements of leadership in that country and the anti-Government element has indicated a willingness to work with us.

"Historically, the Taliban have never been against polio vaccination. They are wary of people involved in delivering the vaccines but they want to target the end of polio and are very well organised.

> "As conflict in Afghanistan quickly evolves, we must advocate for the children of Afghanistan.

must work and communicate with all stakeholders involved to ensure that polio immunisation remains a priority to ensure the gains we have made against polio do not diminish.

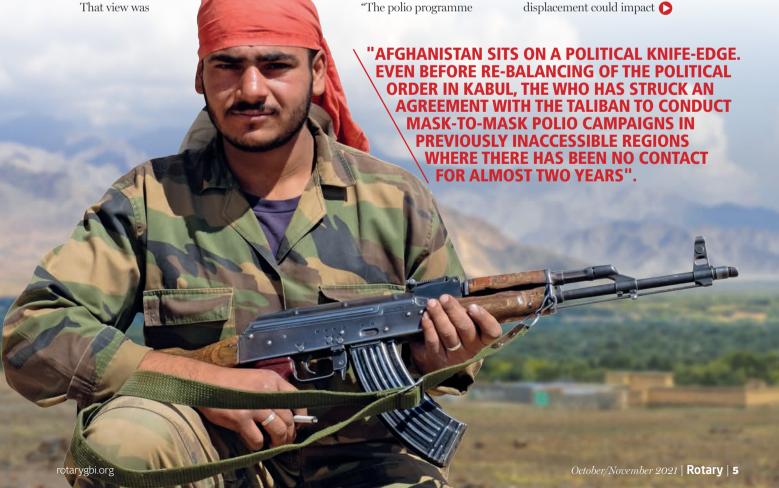
"We look forward to working with our polio eradication partners and the Afghani people to completely eradicate polio."

In 2021, only one wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) and 43 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases have been confirmed in Afghanistan, which is a remarkable figure.

All of these cases have been reported in areas of the country which have been inaccessible to door-to-door vaccination campaigns. That has left at least three million children repeatedly deprived of polio vaccination.

WHO has been in Afghanistan for seven decades. It has underlined its commitment to stay in the country to build on progress over the past 20 years, including in reducing maternal mortality and child mortality.

However, Dr Luo Dapeng, WHO's representative in Afghanistan, warned that with the current crisis, the population displacement could impact





A child receiving the polio vaccine

the programme's access to children and increase immunity gaps against polio, triggering a rise in transmission.

"It is feared that the mixing and movement of unvaccinated populations due to the upheaval faced by thousands of Afghans may also cause cVDPV2 outbreaks," he said.

"We are working with all actors, to ensure there are no delays or disruptions to polio and other routine immunisation campaigns. Gains of the past 20 years cannot be lost.

"Children need immunisation now, they must not bear the brunt of conflict and instability. We are calling for unimpeded access to all children."

While the current situation is a challenge, it is by no means the first which the polio programme has faced.

With security quickly deteriorating in August, the polio programme moved swiftly to ensure safety and security of its staff.

About 255 polio staff remain at their field locations, remotely supported by colleagues who had to relocate, and they continue to maintain essential polio services.

Thanks to their efforts, Acute Flaccid Paralysis and environmental surveillance never stopped.

Except for a few locations which experienced temporary disruptions to surveillance activities, stool sample collection, visits to active health facilities, case investigation, the shipment of stool samples to Pakistan for laboratory testing, and the collection of sewage samples for polio environmental surveillance remain unaffected.

COVID-19 surveillance, which the polio programme has been supporting since last year, has also continued despite the political disruption in Afghanistan.

Aidan O'Leary added: "Overcoming the daily challenges posed by the current situation, polio vaccinations are continuing to be administered to children through permanent transit teams in most regions and at cross border sites, including Friendship Gate between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"Discussions are ongoing with local authorities to safeguard the resumption of critical polio supplementary immunisation activities across the country.

"WHO remains optimistic that the polio vaccination campaigns planned for later this year can go ahead. We're maintaining flexibility and adapting our plans to the evolving context.

"The safety and security of staff and polio health workers is our top priority.

"Their commitment to ending polio is nothing short of inspirational.

"We stand ready to support their critical work in any way we can."

Looking further afield, and outside of Afghanistan, with the introduction of new tools and innovations such as novel oral polio vaccine type 2, backed by the freshly-launched polio eradication strategy: Delivering on a Promise 2022-2026, there is a fresh sense of optimism.

Aidan knows full well the huge investment which Rotary International has made as part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

"COVID-19 led to a tough year for polio eradication in 2020," he explained.

"But we have adapted our strategies and I believe this programme has a real opportunity to re-boost our efforts in 2021.

"I have been so impressed by how this programme has taken on challenges and continues to innovate, and all of it rooted in its strong partnership.

"I look forward to working with all partners, including my old organisation UNICEF, and of course Rotarians from around the world."

Ireland is a country which shares a passion for horses and horse racing – and where the Irish are known for enjoying a flutter or two.

Asked what odds he would place on the world becoming wild poliovirus-free by 2026, O'Leary admits he is 'pretty confident'.

"We will achieve a polio-free world," he added. \bullet

| Information |

Read a full interview with Aidan O'Leary rotarygbi.org/news

6 | Rotary | October/November 2021 rotarygbi.org



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We have never been closer to eradicating polio

MIKE MCGOVERN, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL POLIO PLUS COMMITTEE CHAIR

S the sun rose on January 1st, 2021, we all worried about what this new year would bring. For those of us who closely follow polio eradication progress, it was an especially worrisome time. Both 2019 and 2020 had seen an uptick in wild poliovirus cases and in circulating vaccine-derived cases.

Polio vaccinations had had to be suspended for a while in 2020 due to the coronavirus and vaccines for COVID-19 just starting to receive early use approvals.

The polio news was especially bad in Afghanistan.

On the very first day of 2021, a wild poliovirus case was reported. In the next week, the national health minister was fired due to hints of corruption on non-polio matters.

Before month's end, the Afghanistan Government ordered the UNICEF polio lead to leave the country relating to a verbal spat that had occurred in the President's office.

Then in March and June, there were co-ordinated attacks on polio workers and their security teams leaving eight families having lost loved ones.

The Taliban denied responsibility for the attacks, and it appeared the attacks were tied to elements who supported ISIS or ISIL as they are also known. We also noted that some areas of the country had been subject to over 30 months of a ban on house-to-house polio vaccinations.

While all this was going on other activities were occurring which have been mostly unreported.

On January 17th, the Regional Directors of WHO and UNICEF met at the Taliban office in Doha, Qatar, to discuss polio vaccinations and Covid response in the areas controlled by the Taliban. While house-to-house polio vaccinations were not agreed to, the seven senior members of Taliban leadership indicated support for other measures to provide vaccination activities.

In all areas of the country, health screenings continued unabated which showed no new wild polio cases and no positive identification of polio viruses in the environment.

In a Zoom call of polio partnership leaders the week of August 17th, Aidan O'Leary, the global WHO Polio Eradication Director, noted that Afghanistan has one of the best programmes for polio surveillance in the world and it was not finding polio anywhere.

After the fall of the Afghanistan government in mid-August, the new leadership has agreed to keep on the acting health minister who has been effective in righting the programme since February.

Taliban leaders have visited the national and regional polio offices and pledged their support for the polio eradication programme.

On August 23rd, a Rotary-sponsored roadside vaccination hut provided

vaccinations to children under-five with local Taliban providing the needed security.

For security reasons, I will not share the photos I received but it was good to see the Rotary logo doing good in the world.

Rotary has just 35 members in Afghanistan. They inspire me daily with their courage and perseverance.

The polio programme has always been politically neutral in every country. Rotary and our partners work with the leaders who are in charge. We now work with new leaders in Afghanistan.

Rotary funds WHO and UNICEF. We do not send any funds to the governments nor to groups other than WHO and UNICEF.

We monitor the spending they do on our behalf very closely. We have never been closer to eradicating polio in Afghanistan.

We will continue to work with the Afghani people and our partners to finish what we began over 35 years ago. •

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A child having their finger marked purple to show they have been vaccinated against polio



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WPV vs cVDPV what's the difference?

ILD poliovirus (WPV) is the most commonly known form of the poliovirus. However, there is another form of polio that can spread within communities: circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus, or cVDPV.

While cVDPVs are rare, they have been increasing in recent years due to low immunisation rates within communities. cVDPV type 2 (cVDPV2) are the most prevalent, with 959 cases occurring globally in 2020.

Notably, since the African Region was declared to have interrupted transmission of the wild poliovirus in August 2020, cVDPV are now the only form of the poliovirus that affects the African Region.

How do cVDPVs occur?

The oral polio vaccine (OPV) that has brought the wild poliovirus to the brink of eradication has many benefits: the live attenuated (weakened) vaccine virus provides better immunity in the gut, which is where polio replicates.

The vaccine virus is also excreted in the stool, and in communities with low-quality sanitation, this means that it can be spread from person to person and actually help protect the community.

However, in communities with low immunisation rates, as the virus is spread from one unvaccinated child to another over a long period of time (often over the course of about 12-18 months), it can mutate and take on a form that can cause paralysis just like the wild poliovirus.

This mutated poliovirus can then spread in communities, leading to cVDPVs.

How is the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) working to stop cVDPVs?

The cause of cVDPV is low immunisation rates. So, the best way to prevent them and stop them when there is an outbreak is to vaccinate children.

The polio vaccine protects children whether the kind of polio is wild poliovirus

or vaccine-derived poliovirus. Outbreaks, whether WPV or cVDPV, are usually rapidly stopped with two to three rounds of high-quality immunisation campaigns.

In addition to high-quality immunisation campaigns, the GPEI is working to deploy an improved outbreak response tool: the novel oral polio vaccine type 2, or nOPV2.

This vaccine is similar to mOPV2 (the monovalent oral polio vaccine type 2), the current outbreak response vaccine that is used when cVDPV type 2 outbreaks occur.

However, it contains improvements that help make the vaccine virus less likely to mutate and cause disease in communities with low immunisation rates – meaning that it can help reduce the risk of cVDPV2 outbreaks.

What are the other vaccine-derived polio viruses?

While cVDPVs affect communities and warrant public health action given the public health threat that they pose, there are other kinds of vaccinederived polioviruses (VDPV) that are found in individuals and the environment.

Tell me about immunodeficiency-related vaccine-derived poliovirus (iVDPV)

Prolonged replication of VDPVs has been observed in a small number of people with rare immune deficiency disorders. Because they are not able to mount an immune response, these people are not able to clear the intestinal vaccine virus infection, which is usually cleared within six to eight weeks.

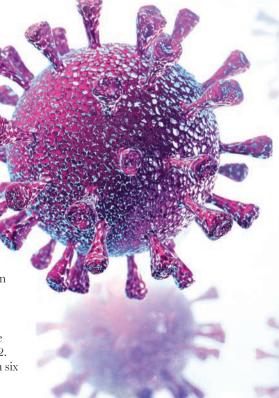
They therefore excrete iVDPVs for prolonged periods. The occurrence of iVDPVs is very rare. Only 111 cases have been documented worldwide since 1962. Of these, most stopped excretion within six months, or died.

What about ambiguous vaccine-derived polio viruses (aVDPV)?

When a vaccine-derived poliovirus is found in an individual that is not immunocompromised (i.e., it is not an iVDPV) and it is confirmed that this VDPV is not circulating within a community (i.e., it is not a cVDPV), then this case is referred to as an aVDPV.

Information | ----

Source:Global Polio Eradication Initiative **polioeradication.org**



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Reach for the clouds!

Mark Esho, who has polio and is a member of Leicester Novus Rotary, describes an initiative which, he hopes, will give greater access to those with a disability.



E are three disabled people reaching for the stars but might touch the clouds! Rich Copson, Jig Vaidya and I created our social enterprise, Access Rating www.AccessRating.com because we are passionate about assisting disabled people in having a voice and in improving access to employment and within society itself.

According to the Papworth Trust, disabled young people aged 16-18 are at least twice as likely as their non-disabled peers to not be in education, employment or training. And 75% of disabled people and their families have walked away from a UK business because of poor accessibility or customer service.

We have personal experience of this and know the hospitality sector is losing out on well over £160 million per month from not putting access as a priority for their customers.

There was a gap in the market for services that made businesses more disability aware, and also provided people, who have access needs, an easy way to have their say.

In February 2020, we launched Access Rating and now have approximately 500 users, over 2,000 venue ratings and, pre COVID-19, were completing market research on the access of over 400 venues per week!

The charity Scope described our free app as "groundbreaking".

The app is now on its fourth version. We have expanded the types of venues available to review a year ahead of schedule.

Originally, the app focused on the hospitality sector, but now covers all public venues in the UK. Users can review music and sports venues as well as airports and shops.

Finding somewhere suitable to eat, drink, shop and entertain yourself without worrying about access is why this app, the first of its kind, is becoming so popular.

Our users review venues as they visit them, and the rating will help and inform others. Hopefully, eliminating any access anxiety for future visitors.

Also, our new search filters offer the ability to view results based on venues accessible for manual wheelchairs, power/ electric chairs, mobility scooters, customers



Mark Esho centre with Rich Copson and Jig Vaidya

who use a walking aid, etc.

Users can view where you are on a clear, concise map and see all nearby venues (if geolocation is enabled), find one vou are interested in and use the search bar in the app to see any reviews left for that venue.

As well as the app, we carry out access audits to assist businesses. Before

75% OF DISABLED PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES **HAVE WALKED AWAY FROM A UK BUSINESS BECAUSE OF POOR ACCESSIBILITY OR CUSTOMER SERVICE.**

lockdown, we had five orders in the bag.

This is one of the main ways we fund ourselves. We don't want to provide businesses with a problem we want to offer a solution as well.

We have partnered with AccessAble and Purple UK. And on February 25th next year, we are planning a Leicestershire Access Day.

The idea is to create awareness of the services available to disabled people in terms of education, jobs and sport.

We will be inviting businesses wishing to offer goods, services and jobs to disabled people. Basically, businesses wishing to tap into the purple pound which is worth £249 billion each year.

So why a social enterprise? My fellow co-founder, Rich Copson, and I have close connections with Ash Field Academy in Leicester, having both been students there.

Ash Field is a SEND school, specialising in educating and supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities.

> We used our savings to help launch our company, I cannot be prouder of what my friends and I have achieved.

> > We plan to expand the range of disabilities in our app and have started work on version 5!

Access Rating may have put a big dent in our savings, but we would not have it any other

way. We have a chance to make a positive impact on how disabled people live their lives.

How can you help? You do not have to be disabled to use the app.

Download the app onto your Apple or Android phone (search for Access Rating) and start rating places you have visited in the past and your local venues.

Helps us change disabled access one review at a time.



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Together, Rotary steps up to the world's biggest challenges and after three decades, we are on the brink of ending polio

now and forever.

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No living in a box with polio

John Elford Box from Rotherham Rotary in South Yorkshire is a polio ambassador. To mark World Polio Day on October 24th, this is his story of how he refused to allow the condition to limit his ambition.

WAS born on February 5th, 1946, living in Maltby, a mining community six miles from Rotherham in South Yorkshire.

My mother was Irish and my father English. In August 1948, on a family holiday on the east coast of Yorkshire, I contracted polio. This was just six weeks after the NHS was created on the July 5th.

For the best part of the next five years, I spent time at a hospital in Sheffield where visiting was just once a fortnight.

There were occasional visits home. I was positioned on a plaster cast for 18 months, which ran down my back and along my legs. Medical expertise 70 years ago, in dealing with polio and its consequences, was antiquated.

Throughout my life, mostly in my younger days, I endured a variety of medical procedures which would now be seen as ineffective, and mostly to no avail.

However, aged 54, I had my right rotor cuff repaired. It was a tremendous success.

The effects of contracting polio made a big impact on my life to the extent that my memory of life begins at 11-years-old.

Moving through my teens, I always desired, that my situation would improve. But it was a dream.

In my post teen years, I often thought, as all young men do, about the opposite sex, and what sort of life I would have. Those thoughts were inevitably always negative. However, on April 26th, 1969, I married Gloria, my wife now of 52 years.

I was born into a family of bricklayers. Given what that disease did to me, there was no possibility of becoming a bricklayer.

What life did afford me was an active brain which I used to graduate with a



degree in construction and design, and later, aged 54, with a degree in law.

I still work today as an architectural and planning consultant, with my business partner of 21 years, in an architectural practice I started 47 years ago. And I see no reason why this can't continue.

What that disease did to me will never, ever, dampen my intention to live life to the full, or reduce my involvement in Rotary. I give talks on my life living with polio to Rotary clubs all over the world.

I have never allowed what this disease inflicted on me to prevent me from succeeding in life. In the limited years I have left, that will never alter.

My mobility slowly decreases, but my enthusiasm to move on never wains.

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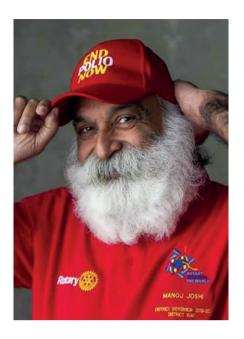
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Giving hope to humanity

Just before lockdown, in January 2020, Manoj Joshi led a group of Rotarians to Amritsar in Northern India to assist medical teams during polio immunisations. The retired pharmacist from Bradford reflects on why polio must remain a key goal for all Rotarians.

ND Polio Now is a cause I have supported throughout my life, firstly as an Interact member in Uganda, and then as a Rotarian for almost 40 years in Yorkshire.

I even remember having the polio vaccination on a sugar cube as a child in Jinja. To rid the world of a life-threatening and crippling disease within our lifetime is a monumental accomplishment for humanity.

This is the whole point of Rotary, and I take personal pride in the accomplishments of our organisation as whole.

It was a huge honour to serve as District Governor of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire for Rotary International 2019-2020. I was resolute about raising the status and profile of the amazing work of Rotarians in the community at large, and made a point of saying 'yes' to every invitation and opportunity to participate in anything Rotary related with my family.

I kicked off the year by unveiling my Mercedes branded with Rotary and #EndPolioNow signage at the handover dinner which was attended by 350 guests.

I also commissioned 300 blue custom shawls with the theme of the year 'Rotary Connects the World' to honour all of the clubs' presidents in the district, as well as other long serving and visiting Rotarians in a meaningful way.

To commemorate World Polio Day on October 24th, 2017, I organised for the city centre of Bradford to be draped in purple lights and it since has become an annual activity.

In 2020, landmarks all over the district; in Bradford, Halifax, Knaresborough, Wetherby, Louth and Brigg were lit up purple, as well as other parts of the UK and even Table Mountain in South Africa. My wish is for purple lights to adorn monuments all over the world as beacons of hope for humanity.

In order to engage the South Asian community in the campaign, I approached my good friend, Younis Choudhry, the founder of Regal Foods PLC, one of the



"IN 1972, MY FAMILY AND MANY OTHERS HAD TO FLEE UGANDA AS A RESULT OF THE DICTATOR IDI AMIN'S **EXPULSION OF THE ASIAN MINORITIES. THAT'S HOW WE** ARRIVED IN ENGLAND, AS REFUGEES."

UK's top-10, food and confectionery bakery businesses, based in Bradford.

My vision was to create a uniquely branded #Purple4Polio Madeira cake which was sold in shops nationwide for the month of October.

In January 2020, just before the global lockdown to curb the Covid-19 pandemic, I had the honour of leading a delegation of British Rotarians to India, along with my wife Bhavna and daughter Megha, to assist immunisation teams and Rotarians for the National Immunisation Day in Amritsar.

Amritsar lies close to Pakistan where the virus still remains - even though India has been polio-free since 2014.

Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Amritsar oversaw our activities and proudly showed us all of their brilliant initiatives to alleviate poverty. We will never forget their friendship. All it takes is one determined individual to create a huge impact.

Rotarians in the UK raise vast sums of money in the fight to eradicate polio, and we were able to see for ourselves how that hard-earned money was being used.

In fact, when I joined the Rotary Club of Bradford in 1983, our club raised the most funds in the district.

I felt blessed to have the opportunity to immunise children protecting them for life, and personally administered the vaccine to around 80 children.

To commemorate World Polio Day last year, and raise maximum awareness and funds for the cause, whilst having fun, my daughter Megha suggested dying my giant overgrown lockdown beard and trademark moustache of 52 years bright purple, and then shaving everything off - including my ponytail.

We did the shedding in the open air, in front of City Hall, in Bradford. It was even streamed Live on Facebook. To my delight, over £21,000 was raised!

For the first time ever, my wife and children, and everyone saw me without my trademark 'tash!

I felt so exposed, even on Zoom! However, it felt amazing to do something so personal for the benefit of others and now over 105,000 children will be immunised from this crippling disease for life.

In 1972, my family and many others had to flee Uganda as a result of the dictator Idi Amin's expulsion of the Asian minorities. That's how we arrived in England, as refugees.

Seeing the current humanitarian crisis of the Afghani people trying to escape Taliban rule, brings back those memories of despair and desperation.

As a refugee, I know what it is like not to have, but the act of service and giving has enriched me with abundance in so many ways.

Therefore, it is imperative that, as Rotarians, we do not forget our supreme principle of 'Service Above Self' which has been universally accepted for 116 years.

No other organisation in the history of humanity has given aid regardless of politics, ethnicity or religion.

We must not leave anyone behind, especially minorities, women and children.

As we approach World Polio Day on October 24th, I urge non-Rotarians to engage with us, so we can continue to alleviate suffering in critical areas and eradicate polio, all while imparting hope for humanity.





It pays to get corporate

COLIN WINSTONE

HE focus on growing membership is constantly being highlighted.
Let's not forget why Rotary was formed by Paul Harris in 1905 with business leaders wishing to maximise business opportunities while actively contributing to the well-being of their community.

Today we seem to shy away from talking business. Corporate membership has been available for many years, yet clubs seem reluctant to consider it as part of their membership drive.

I regularly hear members saying: "We are no longer in business, we don't know the terminology or understand current business requirements."

Clubs do not feel confident talking to business leaders about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) or maximising their networking opportunities. So how can we address this?

Recently I met with a club interested in acquiring new members but unable to engage with the business sector.

The first question I asked was: "Who has children employed locally?" Immediately, the proud members started discussing their family experiences.

We compiled a list of companies where they could ask their children to find if a CSR plan exists, who is responsible, how charities are chosen and what budgets are allocated.

The list was distilled to eight target companies and within two weeks they had two new corporate members from an hotel and printers.

So why would companies want to join Rotary? We have concentrated on the CSR angle for some time now and, with the difficulties during Covid, many companies are rebuilding their businesses with new staff and fresh ways of working.

So what has Rotary got to offer corporate members? We should think of it as business membership, the potential to increase company performance by networking locally and globally.

Previously, many Rotarians had



their membership fees paid by their firms. Companies knew their staff were being recognised in their community as trustworthy, organised, proactive, having a social conscience and, most of all, available for new business conversations.

When companies consider their employees' personal development plans, the focus is what can the staff member offer in the local community?

How can they get their hands dirty with a local project which raises the business profile and builds teamwork?

Many firms would prefer this approach under the guidance of Rotary, as opposed to simply fund-raising, although the two often go together.

So who should we target as a corporate member? All businesses are trying to increase their interaction with potential customers. In the West Midlands, we have a range of companies as corporate members; care homes, hotels, football clubs, solicitors, restaurants, academies and even a racecourse

What they have in common is that all are in competition in some way or another. The need for differentiation from their competitors results in a more professional profile with increased business conversations.

For Rotary, corporate members bring new life to our clubs. They will probably be younger, more willing to get engaged, whose businesses will have budgets for CSR and personal development.

This fresh blood can introduce new and topical project ideas, add diversity and inject renewed enthusiasm.

Rotary is a membership organisation. New members increase income and expand opportunities to make a difference for citizens locally and throughout the world.

So next time you meet at a golf day, business expo, school careers event, networking club, or accept a hospitality invite, consider how Rotary could help others to increase their business performance.

• Colin Winstone is the Immediate Past Chair of Public Image for District 1060 (Heart of England), and President of Rotary in Knowle ♂ Dorridge in Warwickshire

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Volunteer Expo Live is all about connecting communities, and bringing together a cross section of society all under one roof. Find volunteering opportunities to suit you, celebrate what unites us and help us rebuild together.



Rotary Great Britain & Ireland



Gordon McInally has been chosen as Rotary International President-Elect from July 2023, and the Scot believes the time is ripe to move Rotary forward post-pandemic.

DAVE KING

OTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT FROM JULY 2023

ORDON McInally had just clambered out of the garden pond, clearing out duck weed, when the call came. Still wearing his waders, and stood in the back garden of his Scottish Borders home, Gordon was told he'd just landed the biggest Rotary job of all.

It's not every day you get invited to become President of the world's largest humanitarian organisation. The leader and inspiration to 1.2 million Rotarians across the globe. "It is one of those Road to Damascus moments," recalled Gordon. "Maybe it's my nature, but I didn't want to be so presumptuous as to think I might have been successful.

"But, then again, I would have been disappointed had I been unsuccessful. As I took the call and then spent time back on Zoom with the committee later, there was a sinking in process for a short while - as the impact of what was happening hit home.

"I didn't go into the process blindly. I knew the commitment and it is one of those things that you would not enter into without being prepared to make the commitment."

At the time of the August call Gordon, a 37-year Rotarian with the South Queensferry club, north-west of Edinburgh by the Forth Bridge, was the committee's nomination. He was formally adopted as President-Elect in October, and will succeed Canadian Jennifer Jones in July 2023.

Gordon will be the sixth Rotarian from Great Britain & Ireland to serve as President of Rotary International.

Sydney W. Pascall from the London Rotary Club was the first in 1931 – and the first Rotary President from outside of North America.

Thomas Warren from Wolverhampton Rotary Club served as Rotary International President from 1945-46, followed by William C. Carter from Battersea Rotary Club in 1973-74.

Bill Huntly from the Alford & Mablethorpe Rotary Club in Lincolnshire, took office from 1994-95, and John Kenny from Grangemouth Rotary Club became the first Scot to hold the title from 2009-10.

For Gordon, the whole selection process was conducted with a 17-strong panel via Zoom over a number of days. It was a gruelling task.

"It's a tough experience, especially for someone like myself who, prior to two years ago, had not been in front of an interview panel other than for a Saturday job in Safeways in Edinburgh when I was about 16!" reflected Gordon.

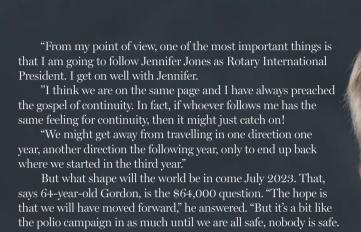
A graduate of dental surgery at the University of Dundee, Gordon has owned and operated his own dental practice in the Scottish capital.

And a Rotary member since 1984, Gordon has been both President and Vice President of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland.

Asked why he is doing it, Gordon believed that now was the perfect time, post-pandemic, to move Rotary forward. He reckons that Covid may have been the trigger to move Rotary forward five or 10 years in the way the organisation is doing things.

Now is the time to capture that moment. Gordon explained: "There is no doubt that we are at a pivotal point for the organisation.

THE PANDEMIC HAS FOCUSED OUR ATTENTION AND MADE US REALISE THAT THESE TECHNOLOGIES ARE OUT THERE AND WE SHOULD MAKE BEST USE OF THEM.



The pandemic is still some way from being over. "I have heard some people say: 'I just want to get back to normal and back to the way we used to do it.' We can't afford to go back to doing things the way we used to do them.

"We really have to learn from what has happened this last little while and make the best of both worlds.

"The pandemic has focused our attention and made us realise that these technologies are out there and we should make best use of them."

Over the next 20 months, Gordon will be reflecting on some of the issues which will be a focus during his term of office.

Clearly, because of his medical background, health will be at the forefront of those considerations. Children and mental health too.

Asked, how he might describe himself, Gordon laughed. "I would like to think I am out-going. I can relate well to people right across the spectrum, which probably comes from my professional background.

"It doesn't matter if you're a peer of the realm or somebody off the street, everybody is worthy of their place.

"I would hope people consider me to be reliable, dependable, and someone who delivers. I like a laugh as well. After all, you have to like a laugh when you support Hibernian Football Club and the Scottish rugby team!"

Information

Read the full interview online: rotarygbi.org/news





ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

SHEKHAR MEHTA

"THE NEAREST HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OFTEN WAS MILES AWAY – AND THE SERVICES WERE INADEQUATE. BUT AFTER ROTARY CLUBS CARRIED OUT SOME SERVICE PROJECTS, THE VILLAGES HAD TOILETS, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, A CLASSROOM FOR EARLY LEARNING, AND A NEARBY **HEALTH CARE CENTRE."**



reetings, my dear changemakers,

A quarter of the Rotary year is now behind us. I am sure you are helping Rotary to grow more and do more. And I hope you have already done your part for the Each One, Bring One initiative by introducing one person to Rotary.

Do you ever think about your earliest days as a Rotarian? I often do — because those first moments of discovering the power of service shaped who I am today.

When I joined my Rotary club, our efforts focused on India's rural communities, where people were living without toilets, getting their drinking water from the same pond they bathed in, and sending their children to outdoor classrooms set up under a tree.

The nearest health care provider often was miles away and the services were inadequate. But after Rotary clubs carried out some service projects, the villages had toilets, clean drinking water, a classroom for early learning, and a nearby health

The spark that Rotary kindled within me forced me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity.

It made service a way of life and led me to a guiding principle I still stand by: Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on Earth.

If you feel the need to reignite the spark of service in yourself or your club, October — Community Economic Development Month — is a great time to do so.

When we work to improve the lives of people in underserved communities - through, for example, projects that provide

vocational training and access to financial resources we help build and sustain local economic growth.

The need is great. According to the United Nations, 9% of the world's population — that's 700 million people, a majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa — live on less than \$1.90 a day. By supporting strong community development as well as entrepreneurs, we can help improve conditions for people in that region and others.

Your club can also promote economic development in your own community by expanding vocational training opportunities through local schools and community colleges, partnering with lenders to improve access to financial services, or working with a nonprofit that provides resources to entrepreneurs and connects them with the business community.

Of course, developing strong communities is impossible without strong public health.

On October 24th, World Polio Day, we'll celebrate our tremendous progress in the effort to eradicate polio. But we also know the fight is not over. We still need your help raising funds and awareness to ensure that all children are immunised against polio. Please don't forget to activate your clubs on that important day and encourage them to donate here: endpolio.org/world-

Service has been rewarding for me throughout my life. I know the same is true for many of you. Join me this month in becoming a good tenant of our planet by helping others to better themselves and their communities.

Together, we can Serve to Change Lives.



infocus is a yearlong, online learning series. We will be joined by high quality speakers, and opening the floor to questions, to give insight into how Rotary's Areas of Focus can be brought to life in your community.

TIME:17:00

DATE: 14TH OCTOBER 2021

IN FOCUS THIS MONTH

EDUCATION AND LITERACY

WITH GUEST SPEAKER CAROLYN JOHNSON LITERACY CHANGES LIVES -HOW ROTARIANS MAKE IT HAPPEN





TIME:17:00

DATE: 11TH NOVEMBER 2021

IN FOCUS THIS MONTH

ROTARY FOUNDATION

WITH GUEST SPEAKER SARAH CRAWFORD
THE ROTARY FOUNDATION'S GRANTS
FOR PROGRAMMES OF SCALE









Nicki Scott

RI Director & Leader of the

Association for Rotary GB&I

The real value of Rotary

OTARIANS are known the world over for humanitarian service and the good we do in the world to 'Serve to Change Lives'. But rarely do we talk about the value of the Rotary network, which spans over 200 counties and territories worldwide, itself.

That network of over 1.4 million Rotarians and our younger Rotaractors all join together to exchange ideas and take action. The recent events in Afghanistan have evidenced that.

We have three Rotary clubs in Afghanistan and are in regular contact with them to ask for the best ways we can help. The connections that drive and strengthen Rotary are already at work as members network with each other, and our partners, to provide aid to refugees who have fled the country and are resettling elsewhere.

For those interested to know more try our Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement and Migration - www.ragforrefugees.org

We also expect to see many new project proposals for more sustainable long term humanitarian aid.

Thankfully the current situation in Afghanistan has not halted our progress in our efforts to eradicate polio. Just one case of wild polio has been reported this year.

As conflict in Afghanistan quickly evolves, we must advocate for the children of Afghanistan and ensure that polio immunisation remains a high priority so that the gains we have made against polio do not diminish.

We look forward to working with our polio eradication partners and the Afghan people to completely eradicate polio.

In summary, we work with leaders on the ground at the point of need and mobilise a global network to help solve those problems addressing both immediate and longer term needs. As members of this global network we also benefit from lifelong global friendships ourselves too.

"Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change, across the globe, inner communities and in ourselves."

The real value of Rotary is priceless!



David Ellis
Chairman of the Executive

Making Rotary mobile

IME certainly flies, by the time you read this magazine we will be into the second quarter of the Rotary year.

It's great to see clubs resuming their meetings and there are many examples of clubs embracing hybrid versions to bring in those who feel unable to meet face-toface, this demonstrates our ability to adapt.

In the last magazine, I promised that we would be working towards giving the clubs a much better service.

I am pleased to announce that a major investment has been agreed to build a completely new Data Management System.

The system, called Rotary View, is in the development stage and will be introduced during 2022 and completed within the next 18 months.

This may sound a long way off but the task is a huge one and warrants the serious investment the Governing Council has sanctioned.

In essence we will have a portal for all members with a single sign-in giving access to club, district, Rotary GB&I and Rotary International.

The system will offer mobile access for those Rotarians on the move. It will also encompass a messaging and notification ability without the need to leave the portal to send or read emails.

Our thanks must go to General Secretary, Amanda Watkin, and her IT Team for all the background work already undertaken, all this whilst the template web site was being upgraded.

We now have a number of districts collaborating on many fronts. This could lead to multi district events such as President-Elect training and conferences, a real sign that we are changing.

Change is not easy but it is vital if we want our great organisation to make a difference in the world.

Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta has asked us to "each one bring one". I would go further and say "each club grow a new one". New-style clubs which are cause or project-based, with less emphasis on meals and meetings. A new way of doing Rotary service. •



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| John Germ **Foundation Trustee Chair**

A new tool for polio

HEN Rotary courageously stepped up to pursue the dream of a polio-free world, we knew realising our dream wouldn't be easy. But since 1988, working with our partners, we've brought worldwide case counts down by 99.9%.

However, it's not over 'til it's over. It will take courage. We're going to keep up the funding and keep on the pressure until this fight is finished, and no child ever again has to experience the devastating effects of polio.

As we mark World Polio Day on October 24th, we can take heart; we continue to make progress, and with the current low transmission rates of wild poliovirus in Afghanistan and Pakistan, we have a unique opportunity to interrupt transmission. We also have a new strategy and vaccine that will bolster our eradication efforts.

To eradicate wild poliovirus and stop outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV), the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's new strategy centres around several key areas: political advocacy to create greater urgency and accountability in the endemic and outbreak countries, improved engagement with high-risk communities, improved operations and polio surveillance, and the inclusion of polio immunisation in broader health programmes.

Along with our new strategy, Rotary and its partners are using a new tool, novel oral polio vaccine (nOPV2), to help address outbreaks of type 2 cVDPV.

This new vaccine has been deployed in a growing list of countries and is a promising development in our quest to end polio once and for all.

But there is still much work to be done. In particular, we need to remain strongly committed to our goals in the face of recent events in Afghanistan. As a non-political organisation, Rotary will continue to do the work that is necessary to protect the health of children everywhere.

Let's raise awareness of Rotary's role in polio eradication. And let's double down on our commitment and keep raising \$50 million each year for polio.

We have always risen to challenges — and now it is more important than ever for us to rise again, with courage, to defeat polio. •



Amanda Watkin

General Secretary

Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland

Make the most of the hub

HEN you really enjoy something and believe it is good for you, you'll also think it could be good for others – but do you tell your friends or keep that special something to yourself?

Sometimes Rotary is that 'special something' that we forget to share. Not because we're selfish or forgetful but because we don't always know how to describe the feeling and benefit from being a member of this amazing global network of humanitarians!

But the truth is that we need to share our joy, not least because more hands make light work but because our values of diversity, integrity, service, leadership and fellowship almost compel us to!

There are many ways to be part of Rotary and the 'Rotary club' has been the bedrock of our network.

Today, we can meet in more relaxed ways, that are designed to fit around the ever-increasing demands of work and family. But most recently Rotary Great Britain and Ireland, has developed a new and exciting direct membership model through the Rotary Global Hub.

Direct membership brings you into our global network with online 24/7 access to people, ideas and opportunities.

The opportunity to 'meet' weekly is provided (day/time varies) but is not mandatory as your Rotary contact is continuous through our Microsoft Teams site.

Your Rotary experience begins the moment you are connected to one of the hub team members who will learn what you are passionate about, connect you with other likeminded members and support you all the way.

Rotary service remains an integral part of the direct membership experience, connecting with clubs at the local level who are doing extraordinary things, to take action and strengthen communities.

You'll build friendships through 'doing' and those friendships can lead you into local club membership, giving increased leadership potential but importantly you can still be connected (24/7) to friends in the Rotary Global Hub.

If you would like to know more or know someone who would like to join Rotary, then get in touch through **membership@rotarygbi.org** •





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Making a difference in Malawi

ETIRED couple, Sue and Tony Melia from Rugby, visited Malawi in 2005 on a volunteering trip to teach in a school. This followed a chance conversation between their daughter and a work colleague from the Bwengu area of Northern Malawi.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. One in ten adults live with HIV/AIDS and one million children, from a population of 19 million, have been orphaned by the disease.

With 53% of the population of Malawi below the age of 18 years, the couple set off for Africa with high hopes 16 years ago little realising how the next few weeks would change theirs and their family's lives forever.

They were shocked by the poor classroom facilities with just one book to teach from, so returned home to fund-raise and address some of the problems.

For the next 13 years Sue and Tony returned to Malawi regularly. The schools, which were in very poor state started to be renovated. The couple bought building materials and supplies as the local community provided a work force.

Over the years, thanks to the couple's efforts, more than 26 schools were renovated, decorated, supplied with furniture and provided with text books.

The link between a lack of toilet facilities at schools and poor attendance – particularly senior girls – was recognised, so the projects expanded to include the building of toilets.

They also started a feeding programme for the many orphans and disadvantaged children, buying maize locally to help their economy. From the beginning, a number of Rotary clubs were supportive, among them Coventry Rotary.

But the overwhelming problem remained - how do you teach so many children who are so eager to learn, with little or no resources?

Through Sue and Tony's daughter Samantha, and her husband Rob, they developed an idea to use modern technology in the classrooms.

Previously, a typical lesson in a Malawi classroom consisted of a teacher writing

the lesson onto a poorly maintained blackboard with a class size of up to 150 children and perhaps one or two textbooks available for the whole class.

Rob developed a prototype kit consisting of an LED projector and android tablet, with speakers, powered by a car battery and charged with a solar panel. The Whole Class Teaching Kit was born.

These kits have been used in nine villages, teaching more than 1,000 adults.

They have also reached 19 schools with more than 15,000 children benefiting. Rotary clubs have funded a number of these kits.

The introduction of the Whole Class Teaching Kits has gone hand-inhand with the continued programme of school renovations. In fact, since 2005, 288 projects have been completed, 98 sponsored by 19 Rotary clubs

The Whole Class Teaching Kit is a simple idea that can transform all manner of learning in any under resourced country or environment.

| Information |

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Foundation giving what's in it for me?

The Rotary Foundation is Rotary's charity whose money transforms lives with service projects which eradicate polio, promote peace and improve developing communities. One key area of funding is legacy giving.



IAN PRIESTLEY AND MIKE HODGE

CURIOUS headline for the article, so let's put it another way: if I give money to The Rotary Foundation (TRF), what will it be used for, and how will I and others benefit from it?

First of all, let's explode a myth about giving. A few months ago, a district leader told me that individuals were not allowed to make financial contributions to the Foundation. They were adamant that donations could only be given by clubs.

Worryingly, this is not the first time I have heard this view expressed.

Whilst many Rotarians do contribute via their clubs, it is certainly not the case that individuals cannot contribute directly. In fact, the contrary is true.

Individuals are encouraged to make financial contributions directly to TRF - ideally via The Rotary Foundation UK to get gift aid, where applicable, with credit given to the member's club as well.

However, currently less than 15% of Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland donate money directly to TRF which can be identified as a personal contribution.

So why do people give money to TRF? Over the past couple of years, as Endowment Major Gift Advisors covering Great Britain and Ireland we have had confidential discussions with many Rotarians, and some non-Rotarians, about what motivates giving to TRF.

Although the awarding of a pin, plus a mention at a district or national event is, for some, a nice way of being recognised, because it also gives them an opportunity to encourage others to give, this is not for everyone.

The overwhelming response is that it's not for the recognition, but to give others who are less fortunate an opportunity which can be leveraged by the support of our own charity.

What other charity gives you the opportunity to state what the money will be spent on? With the seven areas of focus, it is highly unlikely you couldn't find a cause which you aren't passionate about.

Over the past four years, TRF has given in excess of 500 grants with contributions from the World Fund of around \$10 million.

Even when the world was so severely restricted by the impact of COVID-19, these grants continued, in addition to delivering around \$870,000 in district grants.

Put another way, more than \$10 million worth of projects have benefitted

from a financial contribution from the Foundation.

In Great Britain and Ireland, the total amount donated to the annual fund in the last Rotary year was \$2.38 million. That means in three years' time that this money will come back as District Designated Funds – or Rotary funds managed by the district – worth around \$1.2 million.

It is clear that if donations amount to less than the outgoings, then the funding model is unsustainable which won't be able to financially support projects in the way which we have traditionally been used to.

Last October, *Rotary* magazine published an article when a number of current donors told us why they gave financial support to The Rotary Foundation. This obviously struck a chord with readers since this resulted in donations or pledges to TRF in excess of \$5 million.

District Governor Nick Gidney and his wife Sue from District 1180, which covers North and Mid-Wales, Merseyside, The Wirral and parts of Cheshire, Shropshire and Lancashire, saw the article. The feature prompted them to do something positive for TRF, but why did they do it?

Nick explained: "As Rotarians we have a moral duty to lead by example and use



what we have built up in our estates to be of help to others. That sentiment is deep rooted in our Rotary values and service above self-principles.

"Our legacy to the Foundation will provide a lasting income stream to support the immeasurably valuable work of future generations of Rotarians.

"The knowledge that we're helping others is both empowering and fulfilling."

Nick and Sue were given the opportunity to direct their legacy to one of Rotary's seven areas of focus. However, their response was: "When the legacy is realised we don't know where the greatest need will be, so we would like the trustees of TRF to decide where the money can be best used."

So reverting back to the original question 'What's in it for me?' - everyone's reasons for giving are motivated by different things. But, by giving to TRF, you know that your donations and legacies are being used to continue the work which you, as a Rotarian, so clearly value.

If you want to know more about how you can make a personal donation or leave a legacy to The Rotary Foundation, speak in confidence to the Endowment and Major Gifts Advisors: Mike Hodge at: michael. hodge@ntlworld.com or Ian Priestley at: pdgianpriestley@gmail.com •

-giftaid it

Make use of Gift Aid

GIFT AID – a way to make your personal donation stretch that little bit further - at no extra cost.

How? The answer to that lies in the unique tax incentive offered by the UK Government called "Gift Aid "which can add 25p for every £1 donation.

As a UK tax-payer, all you need to do is complete a declaration in support of the charity and the charity will do the rest.

Rotary Foundation of the United Kingdom (RFUK)'s Gift Aid Declaration form is available online at:

rotarygbi.org/gift-aid-form

Over the last three financial years a total of £307,020 gift aid has been received from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, however if all the individual contributions qualified for gift aid the amount receivable from HMRC would have been £400,122 – that is an extra £92,102.

If you are wondering why RFUK is not receiving that extra refunding, there are a number of reasons:

- Some individuals are unable to participate in the scheme (i.e. non-UK tax payers, those paying insufficient tax, etc.)
- Clubs ask their members to support their own charitable trust and claim gift aid directly. In these cases, the trusts should ensure they remit the donation and relevant gift aid amount to RFUK
- Some individuals have never heard of the scheme and thus not completed a declaration

We recommend you take a look at your personal giving record through My Rotary.

If you know you are donating but can't see those donations, then it is likely that you have asked RFUK to credit your club with your contributions. This can easily be changed by contacting:

rfuk@rotarygbi.org

Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.





At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change.

We value diversity and celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds, across age, ethnicity, race, color, disability, learning style, religion, faith, socioeconomic status, culture, marital status, languages spoken, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as well as differences in ideas, thoughts, values, and beliefs.

Recognizing that individuals from certain groups have historically experienced barriers to membership, participation, and leadership, we commit to advancing equity in all aspects of Rotary, including in our community partnerships, so that each person has the necessary access to resources, opportunities, networks, and support to thrive.

We believe that all people hold visible and invisible qualities that inherently make them unique, and we strive to create an inclusive culture where each person knows they are valued and belong.

In line with our value of integrity, we are committed to being honest and transparent about where we are in our DEI journey as an organization, and to continuing to learn and do better.



Download a copy of Rotary's commitment to DEI at rotary.org/dei.



Dear Rotary members,

In Rotary, we celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion. It doesn't matter who you are, who you love, how you worship, whether you have a disability, or what culture or country you (or your family) are from. All that matters is that you want to take action to create lasting change.

Rotary is working to ensure that everyone sees us as a just and welcoming organization. Diversity has long been one of our core values, and we're proud of the organization we've built. But there's more we can do to exemplify diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); to expand our ability to reflect the communities we serve; and to respond to our communities' needs.

Based on input from our DEI Task Force, Rotary International's Board of Directors strengthened the DEI statement we adopted in 2019. The result is a heightened commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion focused on celebrating everyone's contributions, advancing equity, and creating an inclusive culture where each person knows they are valued.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are not political issues. Each of us has the right to be treated with dignity and respect, to have our voices be heard, and to access the same opportunities to succeed and lead at Rotary. Our members consistently tell us that being a welcoming organization is vital to our future and that by being diverse and inclusive is how we'll remain the preeminent place for people of action to connect with one another and make a difference.

We look forward to your continued support as we make Rotary more diverse, equitable, and inclusive, ensuring that everyone who engages with Rotary knows they are valued and belong.

Shekhar Mehta Jennifer Jones
RI President, 2021/22 RI President, 2022/23

5 ways your club can support diversity, equity, and inclusion:

- Share our updated statement about Rotary's commitment to DEI with your members via email or at a club meeting.
- Post the updated statement to your club website and social media accounts, and link to it in your club's email signatures.
- Use the statement to discuss how your club can be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive for current and future members.
- Encourage your fellow members to be respectful of one another and speak up when a person's actions don't reflect our ideals and values.
- Expand your knowledge by taking a DEI course in the Learning Center.

Find more resources at rotary.org/dei.



START YOUR

ROTARY JOURNEY

If you're interested in joining Rotary there are a number of options available. Rotary is flexible, ranging from full membership to project volunteering.

Join an existing club in your area

There are around 1,700 Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland. Often having multiple clubs in one area, giving you more flexibility to find one that suits you.

Form your own Rotary club

Rotary builds from the ground up. So if you've got family, friends, colleagues or acquaintances to join you, why not start your own Rotary Club? You can lead the way by facilitating new and vibrant volunteering opportunities in your area. Rotary has a dedicated team of volunteers to help you every step of the way.

Join the Rotary Global Hub

Access all the benefits of a club experience by becoming a member of our direct, online community the Rotary Global Hub. This model of Rotary allows you to connect digitally with like-minded people in location or cause-based hubs where you can join leaders, exchange ideas and take action.

Consider Corporate Membership

Perfect for business! If you and your colleagues want to work closely with your local Rotary club to get involved in the community, you can. Rotary is a great way to put your organisation's Corporate Social Responsibility ideas into action.

Get in touch and make a difference

We want to make sure your Rotary experience is the best it can be and fits around your lifestyle. We'll ask you a few questions to understand what you're looking for, before connecting you with members in your area, where you'll have chance to try a few clubs to find your best fit.

- (Call us: Speak to a member of the team about joining Rotary 01789 765411
- Visit us: rotarygbi.org/join, fill out the online form and we'll be in touch
- Tweet us: Find us on Twitter, @RotaryGBI Or Facebook Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland
- Find us: Contact your local Rotary club. Just type your postcode into rotarygbi.org/club-finder



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Letters to the editor

Every issue, we invite Rotarians to discuss topics featured in the magazine, or wider Rotary concerns.



Mowing the lawn in November!

WHO is this Anthony Watts cited by Gordon Daly (*Rotary*, August)? He claims to have been a television weather presenter (which station/channel?), but I'm sceptical. I wonder who funds his blog?

Citing scientific papers is one way of proving/disproving climate change; but what about people's lived experience?

Lucy Carr of ShelterBox tells a different story in the August edition, where the impact of climate change is clearly felt most severely by the poor and the inarticulate.

I even notice it in a more trivial fashion on this windswept plateau overlooking Leicester.

When I moved here 20 years ago, I never had to mow the lawn either in February or November, as well as the months in between. I do now.

Where does the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change express doubt regarding possible anthropogenic causes for changes in the climate?

Nobody is going to be swayed by Gordon Daly's dogmatic assertions, only by the evidence. My experience has been that if you turn your back on reality, it will bite you or otherwise clobber you.

John Young

Coventry Jubilee Rotary, Warwickshire



Plastic-free woodlands

ROTARIAN John Dawson highlighted an important issue (*Rotary*, June) about the proliferation of plastic tree guards in the environment.

But we can pass on good news – especially to those like John who love the Yorkshire Dales.

He referred to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) which has planted 1.5 million native trees since the Millennium, always on other people's land.

If external grants are obtained, there is a requirement to protect trees until they are established. In rural areas the alternative to tree guards is expensive; deer fencing or standing duty with a shotgun 24/7 – it has been done!

The available non-plastic tree guards gave little protection and recycling facilities were limited.

Frustrated at this situation, YDMT held a conference for the UK forestry sector in 2019. YDMT also won £25,000

from the European Outdoor Conservation Association for a project to achieve plasticfree woodlands.

New prototypes from various manufacturers are being trialled now – look out for them in YDMT's new woodlands.

One manufacturer of tree tubes has now established its own recycling plant – so Rotarians may like to volunteer with YDMT or Friends of the Dales and help to collect plastic from established woodlands.

In 2020 YDMT initiated the establishment of a new national organisation, the Forestry Plastic Group, which is actively working to remove plastic from the environment.

So a message to Rotarians in all regions: please spread the news, something can and is being done!

| Karen Cowley, Chair YDMT | Richard Cowley, Ramsbottom Rotary, | Greater Manchester

Readers' letters | contact us

Every issue, Rotary magazine publishes a series of letters from Rotarians featuring a number of topical issues We welcome your letters on any subject to do with Rotary. Submissions should be no more than 250 words long. If you would like to contribute please write including your name and address and then emailing: editor@rotarygbi.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 and Ireland, and Rotarians.



Speak up for our planet

IN the summer of 2020, conversations around our dinner table became more focused on climate change and the environment, so I decided that I must do more than recycle plastic bags.

At around the same time, I became aware of both Rotary's new area of focus on the environment and the high-level alliance with Toastmasters. These three ideas landed as a ready-made call to action for me because I have been a member of my local Toastmasters club for over ten years.

Toastmasters, Rotary and the environment added up in my head to an obvious project – organise a series of free online talks about aspects of the environment that will educate people and inspire them to take action.

So, with two members of Chiltern Speakers, my local Toastmasters club, we set about arranging our first talks. We created a website where all information about past and future talks would be stored and where people could register their interest.

In September 2020 we started 'Speak up for our Planet' with a launch webinar of four excellent speakers: two from Toastmasters, a biochemist and a policy maker.

It was attended by over 40 people so we had made a good start. Between

then and June 2021, we have held a total of 14 webinars on subjects ranging from penguins and bees to energy efficient building techniques.

All our speakers are experts on their topics. Every talk includes information about what you can do to make a difference.

For example, the speaker on "The truth behind fast fashion" Rotarian Daphne Biliouri-Grant, suggested an array of websites where we can buy our clothes 'pre-loved' - second-hand to use a more mundane expression.

All talks are recorded and the YouTube link is published on the events page of the website. We are taking a break over the summer, to revamp the website and think about strategy for the 2021-22 season.

Talks planned for the autumn will be published in August.

We are interested to hear from anyone who has suggestions for topics or speakers, and please tell your club members to visit the website and register to hear about new events at: https://speakupforourplanet. com/contact-form/

Jane Penson

Gerrards Cross & Chalfont St. Peter Rotary, Buckinghamshire



Incentivise plastic recycling

CORRESPONDENTS are rightly concerned about plastic waste.

Increasingly, I believe that a significant container and even wrapping deposit scheme should be applied at the point of purchase. That would incentivise consumers to return these items for appropriate disposal and reward and encourage litter picking.

An inspirational new British development on Tyneside is due to come on stream in 2023, which will reprocess mixed plastic waste into high grade fuel and virgin plastic feedstock.

The principal obstructions are the multinational waste handling companies and the lack of political support.

Jeremy Chamberlayne

Newent & District Rotary, Gloucestershire

Plastic recycling

AFTER reading the letter from Terry Andrew about plastic (Rotary, June), I would like to offer an answer.

I recycle plastic. I clean it, granulate it, clean it again, dry it and then actually use it!

I have a small not-for-profit operation which ensures all of the polymers I receive are 100% recycled. These are made into plastic wire used with 3D printers.

Any Rotarian is welcome to visit to see where the plastic is genuinely 100% recycled.

Kevin Hannon

Derby Rotary, Derbyshire



A Japanese national treasure

I WAS fascinated to learn from Basil Lewis's letter (*Rotary*, August) that the composer Franz Lehár was a Rotarian.

Another famous musical Rotarian was Shinichi Suzuki, who invented and developed the Suzuki violin method. Suzuki, who died in 1998 at the age of 99 years, was proclaimed a Living National Treasure of Japan and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

He was, according to those who knew him, a particularly dedicated Rotarian.

Frank Bannister

Dublin Rotary

Captain Mainwaring was snubbed

I DON'T think Captain Mainwaring was made a Rotarian in Dad's Army.

I remember Sergeant Wilson telling the captain that he was joining the local Rotary club - when Captain Mainwaring exploded because he had been trying to join for years. Sergeant Wilson also joined the golf club - and again, his boss had been trying to become a member for years!

Mike Kearley

Christchurch Rotary, Dorset

Pinochet is no celebrity

I ENJOYED reading the April edition of the *Rotary* magazine. It was particularly interesting to hear about the late Duke of Edinburgh's involvement with Rotary and to read the list of celebrity Rotarians.

However, I was somewhat dismayed to see that the name of General Augusto Pinochet (Rotary Club of Santiago) had been included in the list.

Was this man somebody who embodied Rotary values and one whose actions should be remembered with affection or pride by Rotary?

I am sure you will (or at least you should) get a deluge of emails questioning the appropriateness of Pinochet's inclusion as a celebrity Rotarian.

I am also mindful of the fact that members of the general public often read the Rotary magazine. What would they think?

Tony Sarafian

Chipping Sodbury Rotary, Gloucestershire.

Hollow remarks about equality

I SHOWED Stanley Chappell's letter about Rotary and equality to my children and grandchildren (*Rotary*, June).

All were appalled by the content and questioned why any young person would wish to be part of an organisation in which members harboured such views.

Suffice to say, had your ancestors been slaves, your father in chains, whipped for the most minor slight as perceived by the overseer, forced to cut sugar cane or pick cotton in the searing heat, whose wife and daughters were used as a sexual plaything by the slave owner, then your glib and unpleasant quip about "the chip on the shoulder is harder to get rid of than chains that bond" would ring hollow.

Alan Black

Dudley Rotary, West Midlands



A Rotarian detective?

FOLLOWING on from the letter 'Don't panic Captain Mainwaring' in the August/September issue regarding fictional Rotarians I would suggest the following:

DCI Tom Barnaby (Midsomer Murders) as he refers to the local Rotary club quite a lot. I am not certain about this, but I think I have seen him wearing the Rotary lapel badge on occasions.

Barbara Sinclair

Birkenhead Rotary, Wirral



What could an irresistible Rotary club look like?

IT was so refreshing to read in the Rotary GB&I membership newsletter recently that a recent series of presentations considered what an irresistible club could look like.

Potential members today mostly want to give back to the community and not have a traditional meeting. They want to do things in their community, meeting only to organise their next project. They welcome no bling, no grace, no loyal toast, little formality and openness to families.

Ever since former Rotary GB&I President, Denis Spiller, said the same thing in his inaugural Presidential video a few years ago, I have been joining in the mantra. Younger people want to 'do stuff' and to 'give back'.

One potential member who attended one of our traditional meetings said: "It's just not for me. I don't have time to listen to a speaker. If I want to learn something, I'll check my phone."

He became a founder member of our successful new satellite club and in 2018-19 we had the opportunity of merging with the old club before it closed and brought the satellite club down with it.

With enough support in the new club, we continued running with Denis's Rotary 2 theme and, in our first year, achieved a Presidential Citation.

Two years on, we continue going from strength to strength. We have raised our membership by a third and have a wide diversity in age from 37 to 100-years-old, 50% male-female and one third of our membership is Black Asian Minority Ethnic without the need for a targeted approach.

Ours is a project-led club. Individual

members lead a project with other members taking on what they can realistically manage. Almost half of the membership work full-time with a family at home, so their time is precious.

We meet to organise our next project and do work online through email, Zoom and a WhatsApp group.

Bells and bling, formal meals and speakers are all a thing of the past. In its place, Rotary MK offers a complete diversity of meeting opportunities.

Weekly, lunchtime drop-ins in the hotel's lounge benefits both our older members and the younger, working Rotarians who can drop in for a lunch hour snack and quick catch-up.

Once a month, in the evening, a more business-like meeting takes place, planning the next project and catching up on present ones.

Flexible attendance requirements, with the evening meeting being screened on recorded Zoom, gives diverse opportunities and irons out the peaks and troughs of the working community's time commitments.

Having a drop-in arrangement for lunch means that members can stay for as long or short a time as they wish, with no need for last minute apologies or prepayment for set meals.

For us, this arrangement allows us to easily follow our motto of 'Service Above Self', which is less easy to see under the cover of traditional meetings with speakers, bling and bells.

Jill Moss

Milton Keynes. Buckinghamshire

Each one bring one

NINE years ago a friend of mine who had led a really active and community life, retired. I live on the Isle of Wight and he is in Maidstone.

I contacted Maidstone Riverside Rotary and asked if someone at club would sponsor him if I invited him.

They did and he was inducted. Since then he has worked tirelessly on various projects, but his main interest has been youth project.

He was recently appointed as an Assistant Governor for his district and, earlier this year, I am proud to say he became the President of this busy and active club.

The moral to this story is when you introduce a personal friend who I have known for 59 years from school, amazing things can happen.

This is a lesson in personal introduction rather than adverts on buses. People you know will stay.

He is Steven Hanks, and this was one of the best things I have done for a long time.

Adrian Brewer

Isle of Wight Rotary

Online reading is such a task

I HAVE just read the latest issue of Rotary. Brilliant.

Firstly, please DO NOT stop printing our magazine. An online copy is not the same. The paper copy can be read and put down, and read again as time permits. Online is more of 'a task' rather than a pleasure.

Secondly, I really enjoyed the literacy feature (*Rotary*, June 2021). I am going to suggest this to my club for the new Rotary year. Thanks for all you do.

Jo Mediratta

Northwick Park Rotary, Middlesex



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.

Thanks to Rotarian's Global Grant pledges, the Global Mercy will be joining our fleet this year and we would love to update your club with our plans for the largest purpose-built hospital ship in the world that you made possible.

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Why not join them?

And a special note to those with existing policies - in 95% of cases we'll be able to introduce you to policies that give the same or better benefits for considerably less money, no matter who your policy is with. As we've said above, Don't Wait!



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44 This is great and has improved the circulation in my legs. If you're a diabetic these almost should be on prescription **

Brian and Sheila, Worcestershire

66 Couldn't believe bow inexpensive this machine was compared to others I have seen on the market for £200+. Excellent machine lightweight, easy to use and very effective. Very happy ... **



Paul, Manchester



Sue. East Anglia

Outstanding!! I developed pitted Edema due to extremely poor mobility and I was suffering from soreness and redness on the lower legs. I bought this machine and use it 3 times a day. 6 Linda, Devon weeks later, all the swelling has completely gone. I still have a bit of redness but no more pain. I shall continue to use this every day and cannot recommend it highly enough!! **

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The longest running Rotary project in the world

High up in the beautiful Peak District is the Rotary Centre which has been providing holidays for youngsters for over 100 years.

DAVE KING

IGHT in the heart of the Peak District in Derbyshire, you will find what is believed to be the longest-running Rotary project in the world.

In 1920, members of the newly-formed Rotary Club of Sheffield decided to take a group of boys, whose fathers had been killed during the First World War, away for a week-long holiday to the seaside at Bridlington.

The following year, a camp was held at Derwent, and the Rotary club then set up base at Shatton in Derbyshire, which was opened in 1923, and served as a venue for the next 13 years.

It was at Shatton that Sister Edith, the warden of Croft House in Sheffield, brought her under-privileged women and children from Garden Street and the Crofts area of the city, then a desperately poor district.

At Shatton, a hut provided by the club to Sheffield's only Victoria Cross holder, Sergeant Arnold Loosemore, which had been used by his family after the Great War, was handed back to the Rotary club following his death to be used as a camp office and kitchen. Today, the Rotary Centre is based at Castleton a village situated 18 miles from Sheffield and 25 miles from Manchester, a quiet, rural setting right on the doorstep of rolling hills, dramatic rock edges beside wild moorlands.

In 1935, the land was purchased in Castleton to provide a permanent base for these holidays which have continued right up until today. This building which was once a home for war hero Sgt Loosemore, was moved to Castleton and is still being used today.

Sheffield Rotary now runs three





separate weeks featuring up to 30 children each week, aged between eight and 12-years-old who have been recommended as deserving a residential activity holiday because of their home circumstances.

Rotarian Jeremy Holmes, a Past President of Sheffield Rotary, serves as the volunteer centre manager, with wife Melany as chair of the children's camp committee, which runs the actual camps.

"Not many Rotarians know that the Rotary Centre Castleton exists," he said.

"I think we are quite unique in owning a place like this and also for running the disadvantaged children's holidays and camps for nearly 100 years."

One of the earliest pioneers was Bob Stokes who, in between the war years and on his own initiative, found employment for more than 1,500 boys who had passed through the camp and reached the school leaving age of 14.

During the Second World War, camps were not run by the Rotary club because of a shortage of help, but Castleton was used to house homeless families, who were supported by the Rotarians.

In 1945, the Castleton camp was opened, with Rotarians Leonard Horner, Keith Patterson and Harry Mottershaw organising rations, permits and food coupons to get the camp back in business.

Internationally, a lot of work was done to foster better relations in Europe after the war, with Harold Mather organising the annual Castleton International Camp, which ran from 1951 to 2001.

Today, the Rotary Centre is hired out all the year round to groups such as the Scouts, Girl Guides, schools, church youth groups, walking groups and families.

The income generated pays for the running costs as well as the disadvantaged children's holidays which Sheffield Rotary hosts each year.

Covid put paid to the Rotary Centre's centenary celebrations when they had to close in March 2020. Fortunately, they had sufficient reserves to stay afloat, along with a couple of Government grants.

Jeremy added: "2020 would have been 100 years of the centre and the children's camps, and we had planned a celebration for this. We have decided not to run the camps this year so we are moving the 100th celebration to the summer of 2022.

"In the meantime, we are looking at

having an extension to one of the buildings to upgrade the showers and toilets."

The Rotary Centre has been able to host other groups this summer, with bookings flooding in thick and fast right up until the end of December, next year and even 2023.

Information

rotarycentrecastleton.co.uk bookings@rotarycentrecastleton.co.uk



rotarygbi.org October/November 2021 | Rotary | 43

Rotary Marketplace

Welcome to the all new Rotary Marketplace, which offers the opportunity to sell to over 40,000 members and purchase from fellow Rotarians within this community.





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Rotary gets on board

Over the past year, Rotary Heart of England (District 1060) has supported the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust. In July, young people treated at hospitals across the district enjoyed the benefit of that Rotary support, as the Trust welcomed them for sailing and outdoor adventure days.

KARENZA MORTON

TS good to know there are other people that had the same as me, and I'm not the only one." 'Not the only one.' Four words the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust hears so often.

Lilly is only nine. But she has lived with the effects of childhood cancer since being diagnosed with Bilateral Retinoblastoma – tumours in both eyes - at 17 months.

Lilly is blind in her right eye, and as she has gotten older, has become more aware of what she has lived through. It has caused her anxiety. She didn't know anyone else like her.

Until the day she spent with the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust - sailing, canoeing, and taking on the high ropes - at Whitemoor Lakes Activity Centre, in Lichfield, Staffordshire. It lifted her.

"At bedtime I would feel upset I hadn't ever met anybody that had the same as me before. And now I feel really good.

"I don't know why, that just helps me. It made me feel not lonely. Like I've got some people behind my back. It makes you feel you're not the only one."

Those four words again.

When a young person gets the 'allclear' from cancer it's an ecstatic time for families.

But for so many young people, picking up from where they left off before their diagnosis isn't possible. Cancer in young people can lead to poor mental health and emotional well-being, lower educational achievement, barriers to getting a job, body image issues, relationship difficulties and



ongoing late effects.

This all comes at a time of rapid physical, emotional and social development.

The 'normal' they once knew no longer exists. The pandemic has amplified the loneliness, isolation, and anxiety they and their families experience to unimaginable levels.

This is where the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust comes in, inspiring young people aged 8-24 to believe in a brighter future living through and beyond cancer.

Through sailing and outdoor adventure, young people meet others who have had similar experiences often for the first time, rediscover independence, feel an increased sense of purpose and self-worth, and realise what they are capable of again, physically, mentally, and socially.

Most importantly, they stop feeling like the 'only one'. They feel accepted, optimistic and independent, and can start to reestablish their place in the world.

Rotary Heart of England Past District Governor, Tim Bushell, was inspired to nominate the Trust as his Charity of the Year after meeting Dr Dave Hobin, a Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at Birmingham's Children's Hospital and the Trust's Medical Advisor, and hearing about the impact the Trust has on so many young people from across his district.

Against the backdrop of COVID, the district raised almost £7,500 to help give Lilly and many others like her the chance to believe in a brighter future.

In total, 15 young people from across the district enjoyed one of four days with the Trust at Whitemoor Lakes.

They were amongst 340 young people the Trust has welcomed on trips throughout the UK in 2021.

Julie Gonzalez is a Teenage Cancer Trust Youth Support Coordinator at Birmingham Children's Hospital and a Trust volunteer.

She said: "Going through cancer treatment over the past 18 months has been so isolating, even more so than usual.

"Young people absolutely needed this to come out of isolation. Anxiety levels in young people are absolutely huge at the moment too.

"We saw quite a demand for the trips, not just from the parents, but from young people wanting to do it too.

"It's some sort of sense of normality for



them, being able to push themselves a little bit and to get back out there.

"It's the small steps and I'm so glad the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust is doing it."

Many young people need continued support over time.

Having enjoyed a 'Taste of the Trust' on their doorsteps this summer, all the young people will be invited on a four-day yacht sailing adventure next year and can then stay involved year-on-year for as long as they need.

In the future, some will also be invited to become volunteers, to support other young people like them.

Meeting adults who have had cancer themselves is very powerful and aspirational for someone more recently off treatment.

Dame Ellen concludes: "We find a huge transformation in many young people the first time they are supported by the Trust. There's an amazing atmosphere on the trips.

"At the start, it's often the first time a young person has been away from their parents since treatment. It's a big step for them and their parents. They are often quiet and not sure what to expect.

"At the end of the trip you wouldn't recognise them. We get parents say to us 'Thank you for giving us our son or daughter back', because it has a profound effect.

"Thank you, Rotary; we really appreciate your time and support for these young people." •



TOGETHER, WE VOLUNTEER Join today: rotarygbi.org/join

| Fact file

ELLEN MACARTHUR CANCER TRUST

- Dame Ellen MacArthur founded the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust in 2003 after sailing with A Chacun Son Cap, a French charity for children with cancer and leukaemia, in 2000 and being inspired by the incredible impact sailing had on them.
- Since 2003, the Trust has supported almost 2,700 young people living through and beyond cancer.
- The Trust was launched in Cowes, Isle of Wight, and in 2013 opened a second base in Largs on Scotland's West Coast, to support more young people across Scotland, the north of England and Northern Ireland.
- The Trust also runs canal trips for young people who are wheelchair users, need more 1-2-1 support, or are anxious about their mobility.
- The Trust supports brothers and sisters too, as they can be significantly impacted by the long-term illness of a sibling.
- To find out more or to discuss making the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust your Charity of the Year visit ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org or email fundraising@emcancertrust.org



Leprosy: a devastating disease of today

ANY people believe that leprosy is just a disease of ancient times which was occasionally mentioned in the Bible. But the reality, for many millions, is that it is still a devasting disease of today.

St Francis Leprosy Guild is passionate about finally ending leprosy throughout the world, and is offering insightful Zoom talks to Rotary groups about their experiences of working with leprosy-affected people.

Over 200,000 people are newly detected with leprosy every year, but this number only includes those who are found and diagnosed.

Millions more go undiagnosed, spreading infection within their communities or living with the devasting effects of the disease and consequences.

Leprosy is a disease of the nerves which causes a lack of sensation in peripheral parts of the body such as the hands and feet. This lack of sensation easily leads to unintentional injury, chronic ulcers and, if left untreated, clawing of hands and feet, amputation, and blindness.

Leprosy causes more disability than any other infectious disease. It is also one of the most stigmatised diseases on earth.

How often have you heard the word leper used in a derogatory fashion?

A leprosy diagnosis is a life sentence for some, often considered a curse from God and the result of sin. Many people with leprosy are thrown out of their homes, communities, or forced to leave their employment leading to a life of begging.

Hundreds of leprosy communities, formally known as colonies, still exist in remote locations throughout the world where people, ostracised by leprosy, live out the rest of the lives.

However, all is not lost. Leprosy is caused by a bacterium, mycobacterium leprae and it can be completely cured by a combination of antibiotics, called multidrug therapy (MDT). MDT is readily available throughout the world where the disease is endemic to treat people with leprosy if they

can be found and diagnosed.

St Francis Leprosy Guild has cared for people with leprosy for over 125 years and its current operating strategy emphasises active case-finding and early detection followed by treatment with MDT.

In this way, a lifetime of disability and stigma can be avoided.

The charity believes that training, research, active case-finding, healthcare, and emergency relief will put an end to leprosy. So, for the first time in centuries, an end to leprosy is within sight. St Francis Leprosy Guild is determined to play its part and with Rotary's help, we can do it.

St Francis Leprosy Guild would welcome the chance to tell Rotarians more about leprosy and how we are working to put a stop to it. •

Contact

administrator@stfrancisleprosy.org or visit: stfrancisleprosy.org



LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

ROTARY LEADS THE WAY WITH RADIOTHERAPY UNIT

OTARY clubs across Swindon have joined forces in supporting a fundraising campaign to establish a radiotherapy unit in the Wiltshire town.

Rotary's second major donation, of £208,000, was handed over when local Rotarians visited the Great Western Hospital to view the build progress of the nearly completed radiotherapy unit.

Rotary clubs in and around Swindon have now donated a total of one third of a million pounds towards the new LINAC machine soon to be installed in the radiotherapy unit.

Once operational thousands of patients will benefit from vital cancer treatment that currently is only on offer in Oxford hospitals.

This amazing amount, the largest single donation to the Brighter Futures effort to cover the £2.9 million pound cost of the machine, was begun in 2015.

Twelve local Rotary clubs led by Howard Small, agreed to begin their fundraising and made a start-up donation of £120,000.

When in 2017 the Brighter Futures team asked could Rotary do more, the clubs, led by the Rotary Club of Swindon, the oldest club in the town, responded by committing to making a further significant donation.

Rotary Swindon agreed to use all its funds raised at the Annual Charity Ball to match all the efforts of the other local Rotary clubs and together they raised £83,000.

Three Rotarians, Peter Hayman, David



Pratt, and Peter Wells formed the team that were determined to then bring Rotary International, headquartered in the USA, into the fund-raising campaign.

The result today is the largest ever Global Grant made by Rotary International to a project in the UK, boosting the figure to £208,000.

Peter Wells who negotiated the Grant from Rotary in the United States said: "This is a local effort by local Rotarians from Swindon, Royal Wootton Bassett and Marlborough, backed by Rotary International.

"This is what Rotary is all about: delivering practical projects that provide potentially life-changing solutions to local problems.

"We are pleased today as Rotarians

to be serving by our actions the people of

Swindon and beyond."

Kevin McNamara, Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executive, added: "We are eternally grateful for the support of the Rotary clubs - quite simply, without their extremely generous donations this major project would not be taking place.

"Work on the centre has really taken off over the past few months and I was pleased the Rotarians were today able to see first-hand how their contribution is helping to bring radiotherapy treatment to Swindon."

rotarygbi.org



A GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING PARTNERSHIP



INCHESTER Rotary has been working with Tools for Self Reliance (TFSR) for 30 years, which is now expanding to embrace additional activities.

TFSR is based in Southampton, with a mission to reduce poverty in Africa by helping people build sustainable livelihoods through the provision of tools and training.

They work in Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zambia to deliver vocational training, life skills, and practical equipment programmes to create effective and sustainable change to trades people and their communities.

Initially, Winchester Rotary acted as a collecting point for used tools and sewing machines which were delivered to workshops in Netley Marsh, as well as providing financial support to those workshops and overseas programmes.

Recently their work with TFSR has diversified as the charity has supported them packaging a large number recycled prosthetic limbs for despatch to a Rotary project in St Lucia.

Also, TFSR provided the Hampshire club with tools for an environmental project with Friends of St Giles Hill Graveyard clearing undergrowth and planting saplings.

In turn, the Rotarians are supporting TFSR to raise funds to bring 20-year-old Thomas, a volunteer with the Great Lakes Peace Center in Uganda to the UK for a placement with TFSR at their Southampton workshops.



ALMOUTH and Redruth Rotary Clubs are playing a leading role in distributing and publicising a booklet to schools in Cornwall, warning of the dangers to children.

The initiative is being led by Janet and John Pearce, with Key Stage 2 primary school pupils being presented with the book titled: 'Watch Out - a child's guide to everyday dangers'.

It deals imaginatively with water safety, internet stalking, abuse, drugs, gangs, bullying and other dangers facing children growing up in today's world.

Its theme is based on prevention being better than a cure.

The booklet has been written by experts and illustrated by school children, encouraging families to discuss these issues.

Nicky Sutton, from St Francis Primary School in Falmouth said: "I use this book in the classroom with the children during lessons, but also think that all children, along with their parents, would benefit from one to read and to reference at home."

The project was started by Rotarians in the Thames Valley. Some 9,000 booklets have been given to 100 primary schools in Falmouth, Redruth, Liskeard, Looe, and St Columb Minor.

They cost £1 each and an associated 'Mistakes and Ladders' game costs £10.

Local councils and charities have provided much of the funding. 'Watch Out'

is published by the Community Interest Company, OK Our Kids, spearheaded by Tony and Lynn Churchill.

Meanwhile in Berkshire, Windsor St George Rotary is promoting an offshoot of the book from OK Our Kids. The board game 'Mistakes and Ladders' helps children to identify and discuss together the dangers they face every day.

The club received a grant from the Louis Baylis Trust to distribute the games to Windsor's First Schools. •



Schoolchildren have received the 'Watch Out' books

For more details visit: okourkidswatchout.co.uk

MAF is the world's largest humanitarian airline, bringing Christian help, hope and healing to those in need.







No time to waste

This year has been one to remember. We've been told to isolate and avoid contact with others - an alien concept in the UK. Yet for those living in places like Liberia, Mozambique and Timor-Leste, being so far from roads, education and healthcare is a daily reality.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), which brings help, hope and healing to 27 developing nations, flies light aircraft across hostile landscapes to eliminate precious hours, even days, from travel times. Saving time often saves lives.

Liberia

A request for an urgent medevac came in — a five-month-old baby needed treatment for a parasitic flesh-eating condition. Given that she lives in a remote Liberian village, it was feared she wouldn't survive the ten-hour motorbike journey to ELWA Hospital in the capital Monrovia. Thanks to MAF, mother and baby were flown straight to the hospital in just one hour by MAF pilots Roy Rissanen and Steven Biggs. After two operations, the little girl is responding well.

Mozambique

Over 70,000 people fled Palma on the northeast coast of Mozambique following terror attacks on earlier this year. MAF affiliate Ambassador Aviation has rescued more than 1.000 refugees on 150 flights in an emergency evacuation effort. On the first two 60-minute round-trips from Palma to the region's capital Pemba, Ambassador Aviation evacuated 13 adults, 12 children and six babies.

Timor-Leste

MAF Timor-Leste received a call to medevac a woman with a complicated pregnancy. She had been in labour for over 24 hours and wasn't progressing fast enough. The woman was safely flown from her island to the hospital on the mainland in just 13 minutes, saving her hours of uncomfortable travel over

For over 75 years, MAF has been flying over jungles, mountains, rivers and deserts to help isolated people in hard-to-reach places. Every six minutes, an MAF plane is taking off or landing somewhere in the world, bringing hope to thousands of people.

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ROUND BRITAIN LOCKDOWN DOG WALK



LOCKDOWN dog walk by a Darlington Rotarian turned into a charity trek covering more than 1.400 miles.

Richard Western from Hurworth started a 4.2 mile circular walk at the start of lockdown in March 2020 with eight-year-old Cocker Spaniel, Hattie.

He finished in July, 16 months later, having covered 1,445 miles - the equivalent of walking round Britain - and completing 340 walks.

Richard said: 1 started walking Hattie from my house last March, by the Tees at Rockliffe and back home.

'Out of interest, I decided to mark the distance on a map of Britain, then suddenly realised I'd done the equivalent of walking as far as Edinburgh.

'So I decided to carry on, and at the same time raise some money for charity, and finally in the first week of July, I completed the equivalent of a walk round Britain.'

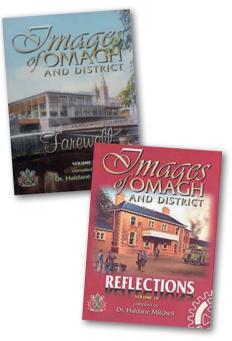
Richard, who is a member of Darlington Rotary, is raising money for the Cinnamon Trust, a national charity for the elderly, the terminally ill and their pets.

Richard said: "My wife, Sylvia, suggested it as a very appropriate and worthwhile cause, given how much pleasure Hattie gives us."

ROTARIAN'S LEGACY LIVES ON

MAGH historian, author and retired GP, Dr Haldane Mitchell, died in 2016. But the former Rotarian left a legacy which lives on.

Back in 1990, Dr Mitchell compiled his first edition of 'Images of Omagh and District' with the support of Omagh Rotary, of which he was a dedicated member and past president.



The books traced the history of the Northern Ireland town, including one volume in 2003 which chronicled the troubles in Omagh, with the experiences of those who witnessed the 1998 bombing. Other issues looked at the hospital and other aspects of Omagh.

No-one then would have imagined that Dr Mitchell would go on to produce 22 editions - on an annual basis - before sadly passing away.

But Dr Mitchell left a legacy with so much of the history of Omagh and District captured in the pages of those popular books - many of which made their way across the world to sons and daughters of the area who had moved abroad.

Over the years, more than £50,000 has been raised through book sales which has been distributed by the Rotary club to various local charities.

In the last year alone, the final dispersal of around £20,000 has gone to various worthy causes, including food banks, Care for Cancer, NSPCC, St Vincent de Paul and Camphill Community at Clanabogan, as charities struggled to raise money during the COVID-19 pandemic.

LICHFIELD ST. CHAD RAISES THE FLAG

ICHFIELD St. Chad Rotary looks after the well-being of Rotary Ridge at the National Memorial Arboretum on behalf of Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland.

Along the Ridge is a row of cypress trees, together with the Rotary flag which had, until recently, seen better days, becoming faded and tatty!

So, Rotarian Keith Eagland, accompanied by Club President Richard Holland, his ten-year-old son Tristan and a party of Rotarians paid a visit to the arboretum to put things right with a new flag, provided by Rotary GB&I.



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Mr. Eames

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Mark via Trustpilot



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Mrs Goddard via Trustpilot - Jan 2021

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CLEAN AND GREEN



OVER Rotarians adopted and planted a flower bed at Granville Gardens on the sea front.

They responded to a request to tidy up an overgrown and litter-strewn town centre footpath linking a residential street with a main route into the Kent town.

One resident claimed that complaints had been made over six years to the local authority without response. However, within days of being asked if Rotary could do something, a small group of volunteers transformed the experience of members of the public using the route to the main shopping street.

During the process of clearing two bags of litter, items included a vehicle wheel and, disturbingly, four used syringes. The waste was collected by the local authority.

The exercise was greeted with positive responses posted on social media. •

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



"THIS TALK WAS A STIMULATING AND ENLIGHTENING PRESENTATION BY A RENOWNED OCEAN ADVENTURER, SCUBA DIVER, FILM MAKER, SCIENTIST AND EDUCATOR."

AHENY Rotary in the northern suburbs of Dublin has come up with an innovative way to fundraise by organising a sponsored webinar, reflecting Rotary's commitment to the environment.

They invited Rotarian Gloria Barnett, to speak on "The Importance of the Oceans". This talk was a stimulating and enlightening presentation by a renowned ocean adventurer, scuba diver, film maker, scientist and educator.

The Irish club, which is situated close to the seaside, has raised the environment as a key initiative this year, in line with Rotary's seventh area of focus.

The club has been involved in tree

planting with schools and raising awareness of the environment.

Gloria has produced a number of educational resources regarding ocean conservation, including a number of books, and a resource pack with a series of classroom learning activities.

Raheny Rotary has purchased and distributed three teacher resource packs to schools in the area, which have been well received. •

Books and resources: barnettauthor.co.uk

 $\label{thm:continuous} \begin{tabular}{ll} Footprint to the Future': \\ \textbf{footprinttothe future.co.uk} \end{tabular}$

Video footage:

barnettauthor.co.uk/videos

IT'S FINE ON THE TYNE

EXHAM Rotary helped the
Tyne Rivers Trust tackle the
Himalayan Balsam problem near
Watersmeet at Warden.

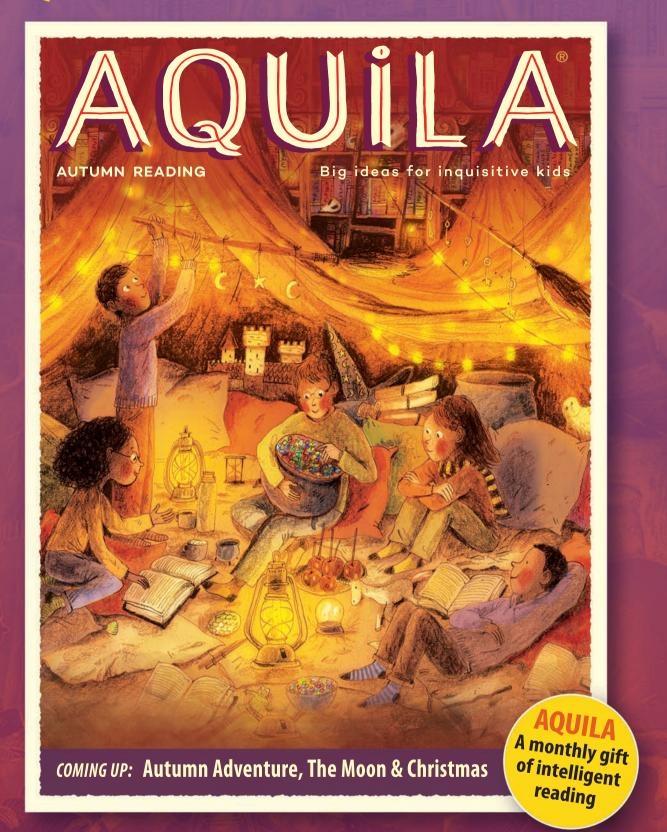
Himalayan Balsam is an imported weed that has colonised much of the riverbank in this site of special scientific interest. If left unchecked, it will stifle the natural vegetation.

Hexham Rotary was first involved last year when two teams cleared a large area.

Joining with other volunteers from the Tyne Rivers Trust, they cleared many more square metres of the plant making several areas of the banks of the North and South Tynes free of the invader.

In some places the balsam was hard to reach as it was growing through a dense layer of undergrowth with the plants taller than the clearers.





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TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK





INCE January, Rotarians from across Great Britain and Ireland have been volunteering at Covid vaccination sites. It has been one of the biggest volunteer challenges ever faced by the organisation.

At the time of writing, 85 million doses of the Covid vaccine have been given in the United Kingdom since January, with 58.1% of the population fully vaccinated.

Volunteers and staff at a Covid vaccination centre will be able to continue to enjoy a reviving cuppa, thanks to Darlington Rotary in County Durham.

When Rotary found out that the Darlington Arena vaccination centre had run out of funds to provide tea, coffee and biscuits they came to the rescue.

Several members of Darlington Rotary volunteer at the centre and a chance conversation with NHS Matron Deborah Harris, who runs the operation, lead to a call out to President, Peter Phillips, who approved an emergency donation of £100 to replenish the refreshments.

Late last year, Knutsford Rotary in Cheshire offered to assist the Knutsford Medical Partnership with their vaccine rollout at the Knutsford Community Hospital having realised that the location and layout of the hospital was a recipe for gridlock and frustration.

Several members are trained in traffic management, a fund-raising service they usually sell to local event organisers, so the Knutsford Rotarians used this experience to steward people turning up for their vaccination.

It turned out to be the largest community service project in the club's 82-year history.

Organisers Alan Ingram and Tony Booth calculated that since January and up to the end of May, Rotarians had volunteered 1,200 hours supporting 25,000 vaccinations over 45 days for seven hours a day.

That number has clearly increased over the past two months.

Six Rotary clubs in North Hampshire joined forces to help with the vaccination of patients in the NHS North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group which stretches from Hartley Wintney to Overton and from Alton to Tadley.

A mass vaccination centre was rapidly set up by the NHS team at the Hampshire Court Hotel in Chineham near Basingstoke.

When the call came for help, Rotary quickly organised the six clubs in the North Hampshire area; Alton, Basingstoke, Basingstoke Deane, Basingstoke Loddon, Odiham & Hook from District 1110 and Hart Rotary from District 1145.

They swiftly agreed to supply and manage marshals to organise the car parking and the patients in the outside waiting area before entering the centre where the clinical staff took over.

The six clubs continued their support

ROTARIANS HAD
VOLUNTEERED 1,200
HOURS SUPPORTING 25,000
VACCINATIONS OVER 45 DAYS
FOR SEVEN HOURS A DAY.

for six months finishing on July 1st.

During this time, 81 Rotarians and 38 family and friends contributed 6,000 hours, 10 hours a day for seven days a week to help vaccinate 160,000 patients.

The vaccination centre's performance was one of the top five in the country and they were thanked by the Minister of Health for their achievement.

The vaccination centre was not the only commitment for Basingstoke Deane Rotary during the dark days of the pandemic.

They have been supplying Spotlight, a local children's charity, with drivers to deliver food parcels to the needy.

They have done this for 25 weeks, volunteering for 400 hours and delivering around 2,000 food parcels.

The Hampshire club has helped two charities buy replacement commercial vehicles with help of District Grants and raised £30,000 as its half share of the cost of a cardiac ablation machine for its local NHS hospital.

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and finally...

From Managing Editor Dave King editor@rotarygbi.org

Brynmawr Rotary - high ideals and values

N Welsh, Brynmawr means 'big hill'.

This market town at the head of the South Wales Valleys lies 1,345 feet above sea level. Brynmawr Rotary reckons theirs is the highest Rotary club in the UK!

It is a club with high ideals and values, whose level of community work is truly astonishing.

I spent the weekend in Brynmawr recently, accompanying two Rotary scholars; Bandana Adhikary from Nepal and Faith Ndunge from Kenya, who are studying at Brunel and Reading universities, and hosted by Elthorne-Hillingdon and Reading Matins Rotary Clubs in Middlesex and Berkshire.

Rotary in the Thames Valley (District 1090) has been supporting Rotary scholars since 1949 to its five universities, including Oxford University, funded through The Rotary Foundation.

District Governor, Karen Eveleigh, joined the scholars on the South Wales trip.

Roughly \$7.5 million is distributed in Rotary scholarships each year with clubs applying to The Rotary Foundation for district and global grants to support scholarships. These global grants are for graduate students studying abroad in one of Rotary's seven causes.

Bandana, for example, is completing her Masters in the Anthropology of Childhood Youth and Education. She wants to train teachers in Nepal and, one day, set up her own school.

The reason for the Welsh connection is that Brynmawr Rotary is the international sponsor for Bandana's Rotary scholarship.

So it was important for Bandana and Faith to witness the true impact of Rotary

in the valleys. There, you will discover rock solid, community Rotary, with no room for vanity, egos or unnecessary gloss.

Brynmawr Rotary, led by 30-yearold Eirian Teague in her second year as President, punches well above its weight.

Rotary-branded roundabout planters welcome you as you enter the town.

During Covid, the club created a supplementary food bank, 'Together We Are Stronger', delivering food parcels and medication to the vulnerable and isolated.

It also works closely with schools, providing dictionaries, while also providing groups in the area with small grants.

We visited Nantyglo Football Club, where the Rotary club not only sponsors shirts, but has been working with younger football players, as well as its Interact club and RotaKids, to design a mural which will be sited at the club.

Working with local artist Shanti Ray,

also of Nepalese descent, the school holiday project captures the images and memories of Covid for the community's youngsters.

Throw in Brynmawr's LifeStraws initiative which makes contaminated water safe to drink, plus the club's support of many international projects, such as Jaipur Limb, and it shows how a little goes a long way.

Brynmawr Rotary is a 'super' club. It is how Rotary should be, and if you're looking for a marker for your own club, then look no further than South Wales.

They are innovative, dynamic, selfless in their drive to improve their community and, quite simply, brilliant Rotarians.

Recently on another club visit, I was taken to task by someone who said we sometimes fail to show the fun of Rotary.

Rest assured, Brynmawr Rotary has fun in spades with their awe-inspiring work and a ready smile on their faces. •



Rotary magazine | CONTACT US

Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland Kinwarton Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6PB 01789 765 411 rotarygbi.org | Editor: Dave King editor@rotarygbi.org

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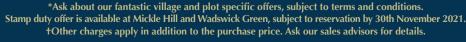
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