



Now more than ever, we must stop polio forever



We are at a particularly crucial juncture in our polio eradication efforts. After nearly two decades thanks to the amazing generosity and fantastic dedication of Rotarians around the world, **we have reduced polio infections by more than 99 percent** and brought down the number of polio-endemic countries to only 4!



We have reduced annual cases of paralysis from over 350,000 to about 1,000. We have come so incredibly far, much too far to fail now.

At this moment, we face what may be our greatest challenge; to motivate Rotarians and others, some of whom feel the war against polio has already gone on too long, to again step forward and be part of the effort. The work that remains is clearly defined, but at this most vital moment, the resources to complete it are not sufficient.

We have come to a point where we are able to focus our efforts on the last, and most difficult, pockets of resistance – Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. These four remaining polio-endemic countries are, for many reasons, the most challenging. High birth rates, variable sanitation conditions, and other factors have so far prevented full immunization amongst their children.

Rotary's global partners are working to eliminate endemic polio in these regions and vigilantly monitoring areas of re-established transmission for any new cases of infection. Today, we have vaccines that are twice as effective and diagnostic tools that detect and track polio twice as fast. Surveillance and outbreak responses are at an impressive and extremely effective level, and global health organizations are working together with intensity and dedication.

It is our responsibility to live up to our promise to support these efforts and the children they are saving, by helping to ensure that the resources they will need to complete their task are available today, and throughout this last phase of our eradication campaign.



As a district, the DG has expressed his gratitude to the 25 clubs who have contributed a total of £3,743 towards the District target of £6,000 to help to fund the National Immunisation Day that RIBI is planning in India in April.

The original 'deadline' for contributions was January 20th but it is not too late for those clubs who have not yet supported this excellent initiative to get involved. As a district we are looking for an average of £3 per Rotarian from each club, although some have already been much more generous than this.

Indications are that the exchange rate of the £ to the \$ has peaked and will continue to drop, so we are being urged to make sure that our Foundation contributions have the maximum impact by encouraging sending whatever funds we are holding in our club account to The Rotary Foundation as soon as possible.

Part of the idea is that some of our people should go out and take part in the National Immunisation Day - David Shaw and David Osmond from the Windsor & Eton Club did this last November. So if you want to know more ask them or Mike Holness (Maidenhead) who took part a few years ago. It is an experience that you will not regret.

The National Immunisation Day has been set as 20th April 2008. If anyone would like to go and better still be prepared to organise for a group to go please let Bruce Gow know.

A Pilgrimage to Twickenham



With encouragement from the President and the good offices of Owen Kyffin, the Sports & Entertainment committee organised a trip to the home of English Rugby, and on a rather dull Thursday 6th December, the coach picked up the first of a party of 25 Rotarians and friends (yes, we do have some) at the crack of 11.30 a.m. – or was it 11.20 a.m.?

I'm sure Rotary International would have been proud of the high fashion displayed by the Banbury contingency in their range of waterproofs, chunky sweaters and an amazing selection of head gear.

Twickenham was hosting the Varsity Match and a straw pole established that the balance of support was weighted towards Oxford, although Rupert Kipping

and Ian Calderbank were leaning quite heavily towards the light blues.

On arriving at the coach park, we assembled our tables, then set out and devoured a multi course banquet washed down by a fine selection of wines and ale in the age old tradition. Feeling in need of exercise, the intrepid band jogged their way to the ground and took up their places in the south stand – or was it north?

One of our guests was seen to bring a tray of ale to the stand and offered a glass to our President, who of course politely declined – but within a short time changed his mind in case, as he pointed out, his refusal should cause offence.

The match got underway at the appointed time, Oxford playing from left to right – or was it right to left? It was a free flowing game, although at times there seemed to be more kicking than in an FA cup final and in sporting fashion, usually straight to the opposition. However, by half time, Oxford were in a healthy lead. The President reluctantly accepted another drink by way of celebration – still not wishing to offend. Rupert and Ian, not quite so relaxed, were seen with heads together planning strategy for the second half.

With Oxford now playing from right to left – or was it left to right? – the second half got under way and fortunes started to flow the other way. (I said Oxford shouldn't have changed ends!) The revised strategy of Rupert and Ian was paying dividends and with 10 minutes to go, Cambridge had taken the lead. Oxford now threw all their weight and one or two other things at the opposition and desperately tried to maul their way over the line right in front of us. Most of us were trying to help by leaning to the left (Oxford *were* playing right to left!), but to no avail and at the final whistle, Oxford came in a very close second. Rupert and Ian had to be held down, but soon regained their composure.

Most of the party got back to the coach in good time and our driver had skillfully maneuvered the vehicle to ensure we had a quick get away. We then enjoyed a very pleasant 15 minutes while we waited for the President to arrive. He said he'd turned left at the gate – or was it right?

Arriving at the M25 we ran into a major hold up and Brian Croft skillfully persuaded a reluctant coach driver to change his route onto the M4. A masterstroke. After 3 miles we drove into an M4 hold up, Brian was seen to move to the back of the coach and the driver was heard to say ***** However, it was

a better class of hold up and after 10 minutes the road cleared and we had an enjoyable trip back to Banbury entertained by the President. Hasn't he got a lovely voice?

As we disembarked in Banbury, the general opinion seemed to be that it had been a good day. And as I counted the 25 people off the bus Or - should it have been 26?????

Rtn. John Bennett

(Editors note on a related personal matter, could I thank President Martin for his excellent directions with regard to parking at Twickenham. This greatly enhanced my enjoyment of my trip there last Saturday and allowed me to fully enjoy Wales' victory over England – many thanks Pres!)

OLDE TYME MUSIC HALL



After a break in Banbury of approximately 10 years we are pleased to announce that a Traditional Olde Tyme Music Hall is to be staged in May at Bloxham School.

Many of you will remember the original evenings at the College and possibly the last two at Bloxham School organised by The Banbury Lions and with their blessing Banbury Rotary Club is organising a similar style event this year.

There will be 2 performances on Friday & Saturday 30th & 31st May by kind permission of Bloxham School who have agreed to sponsor the event venue for us.

Rotarians Bennett & Wolstencroft are currently working on the format, the cast line up and the orchestra and have already had a great deal of positive feedback from societies/organisations that we have initially approached.

What is the commitment to Rotarians? We will need approximately 15 Rotarians per evening for stewarding, front of house, backstage etc and on the rehearsal evenings a smaller number will be required.

We are hoping that Rotarians will purchase tickets and come along and enjoy the show which will be compared by Rotarian Bennett. Both evenings will be seated in traditional theatre style, capacity 250, (there will not be a meal on the last night) and we are confident that both nights will be sold out – book early to avoid disappointment – you have been warned!!

For further information please contact either Rotarian Bennett or Wolstencroft.

Community and Vocational Services Committee Update

There are a number of forthcoming events in 2008, as detailed below:

Dragon Boats on Sunday 20th April at Broughton Castle

We have a full entry of 21 teams and various attractions/entertainments have already been confirmed. These are a liquid refreshment tent, food (burgers, roast pork, doughnuts, coffee), a fire engine on display, ice cream, tombola, stalls for Banbury Operatics and Katherine House hospice, a chocolate fountain stall, a fair ride and a penalty shoot out competition.

Other ideas being followed up include a jousting rail, a children's assault course, a band demonstration, a bouncy castle, a Rotary tent (District Shelterbox), a tug of war event and an Aunt Sally.

Stroke Awareness Day is being planned for 26th April.

Kids Out 2008 (11th June 2008). We have approached two organisations to date and are hoping to arrange for a group of deserving children to have a fun and thoroughly deserved day out.

The Blind Club Party (date to be confirmed).

Bloxham Steam Fair. We are proposing to be involved in this event (further details to follow).

In all, the next few months should be fairly busy, hopefully successful and very enjoyable.

Andrew Fairbairn

ROTARY MISSION CHALLENGE “making a real difference in Sierra Leone”



February 2008 Update

CHRISTIAN HOPE SCHOOL, KISSY

You may know that in January 2007 I undertook to fund the building of a 6 classroom extension at the school and I am pleased to report that progress is good and things are really starting to take shape. In the past year I have sent/taken £9,500 to the school and currently have another £2,000 banked/pledged.

Pastor Joseph (headteacher) at the site in January 2007



Pastor Joseph at the site in January 2008 – this gives an impression of how the work is progressing – this shows 3 of the classrooms, but plenty more progress is happening on the rest of the development and I am hoping to get more detailed photos in the next few weeks.



BISHOP CARPENTER SCHOOL – another £95 was raised just before Christmas – thanks to all the pupils, parents & staff for their continued support.

BANBURY INNER WHEEL

Inner Wheel Day was on the 10th January and the Banbury Club organized a Cheese & Wine evening at the Jubilee Hall in Bloxham with all the proceeds going to African Fistula hospitals. They decided that there would be a 50/50 split between the charity **Ethiopiaid**, which runs the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the Aberdeen West Africa Fistula Centre in Freetown, Sierra Leone, run by **Mercy Ships**, where I have spent time as a volunteer.

The event was attended by 100 Inner Wheel members, Rotarians & friends and raised £700.

I would like to thank all the members of Inner Wheel who made the evening such a resounding success.

BANBURY CHERWELL ROTARY CLUB AQUAROLL CHILDREN'S SWIMATHON

In November 2007 the children of Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club members undertook a “Swimathon” at Bloxham School to raise funds to purchase Aquarolls for Sierra Leone. Each of the 14 children, age range 5 to 16, swam either widths or lengths for 30 minutes and obtained sponsorship and raised a total of **£1,000**. Aquarolls currently cost £35 and it costs £15 to ship each one which means 20 Aquarolls can be purchased. I am currently investigating sponsorship for the shipping costs and if this can be secured more Aquarolls can be sent out to Sierra Leone.

I am in discussions with Hope & Homes for Children who run a project in Kissy, Freetown called Help A Needy Child International (HANCI) as I am hoping to place Aquarolls into their community so that they can monitor the use & give me feedback on their use.

7th BANBURY CUBS – thanks for your support

After talking to the Cub group in November they decided to collect items of stationery, toys and toiletries these will be sent/taken out to either Susu shanty, Christian Hope or the Aberdeen community.

Thank you to the following for their recent donations:

Chacombe WI
John & Shirley Bennett
Bloxham WI Brackley
Rotary Club
Peter Weston & Roger Worrall
Fairbairn Wild, Chartered Surveyors, Banbury

Noah - a parable for our time



In the year 2008 the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in England and said, 'Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated in mid England and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans'

He gave Noah the CAD drawings, saying, 'You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights.'

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark. 'Noah!' He roared, 'I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?'

'Forgive me, Lord,' begged Noah, 'but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval and I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site, even though in my view it is a temporary structure. We had to then go to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision.

Then the Department of Transport demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!

When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood.

I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many disabled carpenters I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only accredited workers with Ark-building experience.

To make matters worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species. So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark.'

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky.

Noah looked up in wonder and asked, 'You mean you're not going to destroy the world?'

'No,' said the Lord. 'The Government beat me to it.'

Barrel Organ Collection

Subject to verification at the bank, the figures for the collection are as follows:

Friday 14 th December	Castle Quay	£1,610.00
Saturday 22 nd December	Tesco	£1,623.50
Sunday 23 rd December	Tesco	<u>£1,260.15</u>
Total		£4,493.65

And on a similar note.....

Lottery Draw - total profit so far this Presidential year £509.50

Thank you to all those who have supported this fundraiser this year.

Christmas Festival of Music - The Banbury Symphony Orchestra put on an excellent show last month and a significant sum of money was raised.

Although the project is masterminded by the Foundation committee the funds go towards any of the charities nominated by Council, the Committees or by individual members, so in effect it is a true Club event and the support of members is much appreciated.

Plans are already afoot for this year, so please put in your diary Saturday the 13th December. On this occasion the Banbury Symphony Orchestra will be joined by the Banbury Choral Society so with luck all records for audience attendance figures will be broken.

50ps for Foundation - Don't forget to fill up the used film tubes with your surplus cash as the cash raised along with gift aid all helps towards our club contributions to our own Rotary charity 'Foundation'.

Group Study Exchange - As reported at the Friday meeting on 25th January we have agreed, along with the Cherwell club, to host the incoming GSE team in April. We will need to bring the five visitors from the District Conference they will then stay with us from Monday 7th to Friday 11th April. They will be putting on a presentation at our lunchtime meeting and they will be doing same on the Tuesday evening at Banbury Cherwell's meeting. Once we have more information, about their interests and jobs, approaches will be made for members' assistance.

If you ever thought you have had an embarrassing night out see below which was on the BBC website in late December.....

A drunken Grim Reaper found himself under arrest after a drunken night on the town spiralled out of control.

Christopher Kelly lost his friends and most of his clothes after a boozy night out and ended up wandering the streets dressed as the Grim Reaper until he was arrested.

The 31-year-old from Nelson, Lancashire had travelled to Morecambe for a friend's birthday party, where he drank a lot and lost the rest of the group.

The hapless reveller took a walk along the beach, but got stuck in boggy sand and lost his shoes, trousers and jacket.

Cold and wet, he staggered off the beach and across to Morecambe Town Hall, where he spied an open window. He climbed inside and found a mobile phone, which he took to try and phone his friends with. He then had an accident, soiling his underwear, which he popped into a council bin bag and left in the town hall.

Now missing most of his clothing, he searched for something to wear and found the Grim Reaper outfit, which he put on to keep warm. Kelly left the town hall

and resumed his search for his friends, dressed in the black robes of the Grim Reaper, until he gave up and went to the local police station.

It was closed, so he waited outside for three hours until surprised officers arrived and arrested him.

At Lancashire Magistrates' Court Kelly received a six month conditional discharge and was ordered to pay costs after admitting burglary and trespass.

As prosecutor Peter Bardsley outlined the case, one probation officer had to leave the courtroom because she was laughing so much. Defending, John Lee said: "This has all been the cause of great embarrassment for him. He is remorseful, ashamed and has moderated his drinking. "He does not want to end up as the Grim Reaper again."

The Rotary Club of Leamington Spa Regency

8th August 2007 - Roy Watkins & Sarah Evans - Leonard Cheshire Respite Homes

Roy is a member of the Banbury Rotary Club, but came to visit us in his role as the regional Volunteer Coordinator for Leonard Cheshire. Roy had specifically come to talk to us about the local Leonard



Cheshire Respite Home and had brought Sarah Evans, the manager of the property in Lillington, along to help.

Sarah and Roy outlined the type of help that the Home provides for its current list of 19 Service Users, giving examples of the sort of activities that their "Enabling Volunteers" can get involved with. The original enquiry from Roy did mention some decorating work that was needed for the Lillington property, but it seemed that Sarah and her colleagues had already tackled this in their "spare" time!

President Martin is keen for us to get out and about during the scatter week which is planned – below is a list of local clubs – please indicate your preferences to President Martin, or Rtns. Wolstencroft or Watts who are trying to organise shared travel arrangements.

1 [The Rotary Club of Warwick - District 1060](#)

Meet on Wednesdays at 1245 for 1300 5th 1900 1930 contact sec The Thai Elephant (formerly The Globe Hotel), 10 Theatre Street, Warwick. CV34 4DP Venue Tel: 01926 492044

2 [The Rotary Club of Warwick Avon - District 1060](#)

Meet on Tuesdays at 1915 for 1930 The Quality Hotel Warwick, Chesford Bridge, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LN Venue Tel: 01926 858331

3 [The Rotary Club of Coventry Phoenix - District 1060](#)

Meet on Wednesdays at 1930 The Club is seeking a new venue because of flooding. The Woodhouse Hotel, Leamington Road, Princethorpe, Warwickshire CV23 9PZ Venue Tel: 01926 632131

4 [The Rotary Club of Leamington Spa Regency - District 1060](#)

Meet on Wednesdays at 07:00 for 7:15 Additional Saturday Breakfast meetings on 1st December 2007 and 23rd February 2008. TJ's Bar & Bistro, 45-47 Bath Street, Leamington Spa CV31 3AG Venue Tel: 01926 312568

5 [The Rotary Club of Royal Leamington Spa - District 1060](#)

Meet on Tuesdays at 1245 for 1300 (2nd & 4th), 1915 for 1930 (5th) No meeting 1st and 3rd Eaton Court Hotel, 1 & 3 St Marks Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 6DL Venue Tel: 01926 885848

6 [The Rotary Club of Southam - District 1060](#)

Meet on Tuesdays at 1245 5th 1900 The Fox & Hen, Bascote Heath, Southam, Warks CV47 2DN Venue Tel: 01926 812498

7 [The Rotary Club of Southam 2000 - District 1060](#)

Meet on Thursdays at 1930 for 2000 The Fox & Hen, Bascote Heath, Southam, Warks, CV47 2DN Venue Tel: 01926 812498

8 [The Rotary Club of Oxford - District 1090](#)

Meet on Mondays at 1230 Randolph Hotel, Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2LN Venue Tel: 0870 400 8200

9 [The Rotary Club of Oxford Isis - District 1090](#)

Meet on Thursdays at 1900 for 1930 Hawkwell House Hotel, Church Way, Iffley Village, Oxford OX4 4DZ Venue Tel: 01865 749988

10 [The Rotary Club of Oxford North - District 1090](#)

Meet on Wednesdays at 1300 The Oxford Center, 333 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7PL Venue Tel: 01865 554719

11 [The Rotary Club of Oxford Spires - District 1090](#)

Meet on Tuesdays at 2000 (f) (2nd & 4th) The Red Lion, The Old Barns, High St, Islip OX5 2RX Venue Tel: 01865 375367

12 [The Rotary Club of Bicester - District 1090](#)

Meet on Tuesdays at 1230 (5th 1915) Littlebury Hotel, Kings End, Bicester, OX26 6DR Venue Tel: 01869 252595

13 [The Rotary Club of Brackley - District 1070](#)

Meet on Thursdays at 1930 The Crown Hotel, 20 Market Place, Brackley, NN13 7DP Venue Tel: 01280 702210

14 [The Rotary Club of Chipping Norton District 1090](#)

Meet on Monday at 1930 at the Bowls Club, Burford Road, Chipping Norton

15 [The Rotary Club of Witney District 1090](#)

Meet on Monday at 1240 at the Marlborough Hotel, Witney

16 [The Rotary Club of Windrush Valley District 1090](#)

Meet on Monday at 1915 at the Bird in Hand, between Hailey and Finstock

Children Singing for Children Concerts - 6th, 7th & 8th Nov. 2007, St Mary's Church, Banbury

Over 450 children from 22 local primary schools, supported by musicians from Bloxham School, took part in this year's hugely popular Children Singing for Children concerts held at St. Mary's Church in Banbury and organised by the Rotary Club of Banbury. There was also a guest appearance from Umiko Choji, the winner of Banbury's 2007 Young Musician of the Year competition.



The highlight of each evening's concert was the massed choir finale, where up to 160 children were on stage to sing in unison, leading to calls of 'Encore!' from the large & enthusiastic audiences.

£3,800 was raised for children's charities by the pupils from the participating schools, which were: Frank Wise, Bishop Loveday, Deddington, Great Rollright, The Grange, Cropredy, Shennington, St. Mary's, St. Leonard's, Sibford Gower, Harriers, Hornton, Wroxton, Christopher Rawlins, Chacombe, Orchard Fields, Kings Sutton, St. John's, St Josephs, Queensway, Hillview and Middleton Cheney.

Following the success of the event, the Youth Opportunities Committee hosted representatives of the three nominated charities to receive donations from the Children Singing for Children Concerts on Friday 18th January, 2008. They were Ruth Harrison, Helen House Hospice, Veronica Jones Banbury Young Carers and Rick Foulsham, Hope & Homes for Children.



Rick the Chief Executive of Hope & Homes for Children gave an excellent talk on his organisation. It was founded by Major Gordon McNally whilst serving with the British Army in Bosnia. On patrol he witnessed the Serbian Army destroy a Children's Orphanage and made a promise to the children and Carers that one day he would return with enough funding to rebuild the orphanage, which he did. Thirteen years later Hope & Homes for Children has helped to secure the lives and future livelihoods of thousands of orphaned and vulnerable children in 12 countries – Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Eritrea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan & Ukraine.

Hope & Homes for Children has developed from building orphanages to closing them – moving children to caring families achieves much better results than placing them in institutions. Their vision is that “Every child is loved” and their care scheme now covers five key areas, providing a secure home, suitable nutrition, medical care, counseling and education and vocational training.

Hope & Homes for Children estimate that there are 1.25 million children in institutions in Eastern Europe and 20 million have been orphaned through aids in Africa. Their ambitious programmes to close down a further 23 orphanages in the current year, place the children with families and provide a complete support package mean Hope & Homes need to raise £5.6 million to fund their planned programmes, in three years time £8 million will be needed.

This is an enormous task and Rick expressed his thanks to our club for the donation of £1,900. His aim is to raise the profile of their charity through Rotary in Britain and Ireland. Phil Cavill gave the vote of thanks and expressed our clubs admiration for the work they do.

Loose ends.....

The final outcome of the donations in lieu of Christmas cards was receipts of approximately £800, which will gross up after Gift Aid to approximately £1,025. The Rugby World-Cup sweep-stake raised approximately £55 for Foundation, with the only downside being that it also lined Rtn. Wiltshire's pockets (sorry Tony only joking!)

Talking of Rtn. Wiltshire, if you haven't already, please sponsor as many of our chubby club members on their sponsored slim this year – can someone have a quite word with the Pres. and remind him the aim is to **lose** weight – you do not get a pound cash for every pound weight put on!

SHELTERBOX NEWS



In December 2007 The Club donated £980 to Shelterbox after an appeal from District. The donation purchased 2 Shelterboxes both of which were sent to Dhaka, Bangladesh to help deliver aid after the cyclone.

1,024 Shelterboxes were sent to Bangladesh (around a third of these were directly sponsored by Rotary Clubs) and they provided relief for 10,000 people.

During 2007 a total of 6,105 boxes of aid have been sent to 16 countries.