

# END POLIO NOW CAMPAIGN

## NEWSLETTER No.13

JULY 2021



Dear Foundation Lead,

Welcome to the 1st edition of my monthly newsletter of the new Rotary year.

The most immediate question I have of you is, are you still the right person to be writing to and are you still your club's Foundation or Polio lead? If you are not, please might you respond to my covering email and let me know whose name I need to substitute? (And, if I only have the President's name, it will be last year's Club President, so please supply me with this year's). Many thanks.

### 1. Latest Statistics

Country or territory <sup>3</sup>	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases							
	Full year total					01 Jan-22 Jun <sup>1</sup>		Date of most recent case
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020	2021	
Pakistan	20	8	12	147	84	51	1	27-Jan-21
Afghanistan	13	14	21	29	56	16	1	01-Jan-21
Nigeria <sup>3</sup>	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21-Aug-16
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
<b>Total (Type1)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Tot. in endemic countries</b>	37	22	33	176	140	67	2	
<b>Tot. in non-end countries</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>No. of countries (infected)</b>	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	
<b>No. of countries (endemic)</b>	2 <sup>3</sup>	2 <sup>3</sup>	3	3	3	2	2	
<b>Total Female</b>	13	7	18	72	59	31		
<b>Total Male</b>	24	15	15	104	81	36	2	

I've been holding back this newsletter awaiting latest statistics from Evanston, expecting some early July figures, but these are the latest I've had so far.

Once again, I have been sent queries about the extent we can rely on zero figures since January 2021 but I can add nothing more to the assurances I've already been given and which I outlined last month.

There *are* some good things that have come out of the Covid-19 restrictions, and it would be satisfying to think that amongst them social distancing, restrictions on travel, greater awareness of the need for hygiene, face coverings and the transmission of diseases have all contributed to this significant reduction in the instances of wild virus cases.

### 2. News on Government Funding

It appears the government is holding to its plan to reduce foreign aid. You might ask how we can afford a new national yacht whilst so many desperate people in other countries rely on our assistance. This applies as much to polio control as all the other humanitarian disasters.

If you haven't done so already, keep the pressure on our government to rethink this position and contact your local MP and anyone else of influence and repeat what we put out last month which was taken from RGBI's website ....

- *The United Kingdom (UK) has been a leading stakeholder and generous investor in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a public-private partnership which has reduced the incidence of polio by more than 99% and has brought the world to the brink of being polio-free. The UK's investment in polio eradication has played a critical role in protecting vulnerable countries from polio by building strong surveillance networks and training thousands of health workers to detect and respond quickly to outbreaks.*
- *The infrastructure that the UK helped create has been critical to the detection and response to other infectious diseases including COVID-19. These existing, value-added resources serve as the backbone of global health security and support pandemic preparedness.*
- *We recognise the extraordinary financial constraints that have resulted in the UK's reduction of funding for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative this year. We look forward to the improved economic circumstances which will enable the UK's restoration of development assistance funding to the level of 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).*

- Every effort is being made to mitigate the risk that the dramatic reduction of the UK's support for the GPEI poses to the polio eradication programme so that our decades of progress and hard work towards ending polio do not erode.
- Now more than ever, ongoing support from governments and private-sector partners like Rotary is critical to sustain the gains to achieve eradication.
- It is vital that we maintain commitment to finish the job; ensure a lasting polio-free world once eradication is achieved, and continue to reap the long-term, broader benefits of the polio infrastructure to enable effective responses to other public health emergencies such as for COVID-19.

It's also worth reiterating that we are People of Action and that "the UK's investment in polio eradication has played a critical role in protecting vulnerable countries from polio by building strong surveillance networks and training thousands of health workers to detect and respond quickly to outbreaks."

And that, "Covid-19 has reminded us that disease outbreaks anywhere are a threat to everyone, everywhere. As well as helping our communities through the current pandemic, Rotary remains totally committed to ending polio now and forever."

### 3. Crocus Corms

For the benefit of those receiving this newsletter for the first time, I am repeating last months item on the crocus corms.

I'm acting as the District Crocus Corm Coordinator this year in respect of getting the data and forms out to all clubs and coordinating responses. Phil Poole will be taking delivery of them and arranging local distribution but it's important that any club or organisation ordering corms use the official order form directly to RGBI with the appropriate payment. **I am attaching the official form along with this newsletter in the covering email.**

Please note that we are restricted to 2 million crocus corms only and they will be allocated on a first-come basis. There will be a choice of two varieties – the traditional deep purple of Ruby Giant and a paler variety called Barrs Purple, and clubs are being offered a choice but only whilst stocks last. Whilst you will be offered a first and second preference, in the end it will all depend on demand and supply, so hopefully you will be happy to accept whatever can be obtained. Best get your preference logged early!



**Ruby Giant**, planted in shade and in sun respectively



**Barrs Purple**, planted in shade and sun respectively

This year there is an increase in the price – a box of **4000 corms will cost £175** this year – but we also have a new supplier and hopefully some of the quality issues you have raised will be addressed.



### 4. Crocus Lapels

The District paid out a lot of money last year for the crocus lapel brooches and we are sitting on a lot of stock. As you begin to plan to get out more and return to normal meeting venues, PLEASE will you consider ordering a box, or boxes, as they are an excellent way of raising money. The boxes will cost each club £25.00 posted or delivered to you and they are designed to be counter-top with donations made available (at say £1 per lapel, yielding a potential 100% return). You can site them at the Hotel Reception where you meet, in friendly shops and libraries and other venues where the proprietor will be prepared to accommodate and display them.

**Please discuss this with your club and let me know as a matter of priority how many of them you would like.**

## **5. Sustaining Members and Supporting Foundation**

It's a new Rotary Year and maybe you have some new members. Please tell them how to support Foundation (and polio) by becoming a Sustaining Member of Rotary by with a regular standing order. No matter how modest your regular sum of money, it all mounts up and can be a relatively painless way of contributing. And if gift aid applies, all the better.

Attached info and weblink for 'Sustaining Members' – I have been advised by Richard Henton-Jones that he has plenty of hard copies of the leaflets and the standing order form is available at the link below, which can be filled in by hand by those members who prefer not to use the internet for setting up payments (although I've done it, and it's very straightforward).

Standing order form from: <https://www.rotarygbi.org/rfuk-standing-order-form/>

Leaflets from [www.rotarygbi.org/media/2015/12/sustaining\\_members\\_v.3](http://www.rotarygbi.org/media/2015/12/sustaining_members_v.3)

Please let me know if you want some of the leaflets posting out to you and I will liaise with Richard on your behalf or you might contact him yourself at [richardhj@mac.com](mailto:richardhj@mac.com)

I'm also leaving in the item below about specifically donating to polio. Several of you have asked about making a donation to the Rotary End Polio Now campaign where every £1 donated is worth £3 as it is matched 2:1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

You can donate through your local Rotary club but please ensure it is clear that you want it to go to the Polio campaign or you can donate by following this link <https://bit.ly/donateEPN>.

## **6. Speaking to District Clubs**

Thank you to everyone who has asked me to join their clubs in talks about Polio via Zoom over the last year; I've thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many of you virtually and, whilst hopefully those Zoom invitations will still come in, soon I'll be able to meet with you in person.

If you are planning any events in the summer months, please let me know and I will come along to join you if I possibly can.

## **7. Finally ...**

It looks like we will still be getting some summer weather, and I hope you can find lots of things to do 'out there' as we sally forth to do some of the things we have been denied for the last 15 months. I've had short train journey and a visit to the theatre as well as volunteering activities that involve close encounters with members of the public (all very reassuring and safely managed). Can't wait to start going to nightclubs again (only joking)!

with kind regards,

janet

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**The Crocus Corm order form for Rotary Clubs is attached with this newsletter in the covering email. Please note there is a separate form for community groups, so if you normally work with community partners, or intend to, please get in touch with me and I'll send you the appropriate form.**