

END POLIO NOW CAMPAIGN

NEWSLETTER No.15

SEPTEMBER 2021



Dear Foundation Lead,

Welcome to the early autumn edition of my monthly newsletter of the new Rotary year.

I'm getting September's edition out early to remind clubs still needing to order Crocus Corms that you must get your order in by **Tuesday 31st August** and there are only about 5 dozen packs of corms left SO DON'T DELAY!

The second is to give you a recent update from the Chair of Rotary International's Polio Plus Committee.

1. Latest Statistics

Country or territory ³	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases							
	Full year total					01 Jan-17 Aug ¹		Date of most recent case
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020	2021	
Pakistan	20	8	12	147	84	63	1	27-Jan-21
Afghanistan	13	14	21	29	56	34	1	1-Jan-21
Nigeria ³	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21-Aug-16
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
Total (Type1)	37	22	33	176	140	97	2	
Tot. in endemic countries	37	22	33	176	140	97	2	
Tot. in non-end countries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of countries (infected)	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	
No. of countries (endemic)	2 ³	2 ³	3	3	3	2	2	
Total Female	13	7	18	72	59	43		
Total Male	24	15	15	104	81	54	2	

So far, so consistent, again ...

Once again, at the mid-point of August, we're presented with very encouraging data, we really just have to hope and pray its authentic.

In Afghanistan in particular, we have to be cautious about any recording now until the situation there settles down.

But we can live in hope!

2. Afghanistan Update

The following is an open letter from Michael McGovern, RI Polio Plus Committee Chair ...

"As the sun rose on 1 January 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. 2020 and 2019 had seen an uptick in wild polio virus 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 were just starting to receive early use approvals.

The polio news was especially bad in Afghanistan. On the very first day of 2021, a wild polio virus 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 government of Afghanistan 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 coordinated 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 17 August, Aidan O'Leary, the global WHO polio director, noted that Afghanistan has one of the best programs 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 program since February. Taliban leaders have visited the national and regional polio offices and pledged their support for the polio eradication program. On 23 August, 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 program 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". Michael.

3. Fundraising and Awareness-raising Ideas –

(a) RC Harrogate Brigantes

Just a reminder of the simple but brilliant RCHB idea to bestow the crocus lapel brooches on guests at formal dinners etc (see last month's newsletter for more detail, or give me a call).

(b) RC Birstall Luddites

A 'Frugal Meal & Speaker' Event is being held on Monday 4th October 2021 in Morley, Leeds, run by RC Birstall Luddites. You can find out more from Robert Jackson at newis@talktalk.net, plus I am attaching his flyer in the covering email to this newsletter.

(c) RC Stainborough

How about this for a stunning idea! RCS have produced some high-quality notelets which are available for sale to Rotarians and their friends and families.



These lovely images of two photographs and a delightful watercolour, are packaged attractively in packs of 6 (2 of each design) and are currently retailing to clubs at £3 per pack to enable them to raise £2 per pack for Polio when they sell them on at £5 per pack.

I am attaching their business case which sets it all out.

(d) RC Lindum Lincoln

As I advised in the August newsletter, RCLL produces an annual Christmas Card to raise funds for EPN and this year's offering is shown alongside. 100% of profits will be credited to the EPN account of the club purchasing the card, with a guarantee that donations will be completed by 31st January 202 at the very latest with a confirmation sent to each club. Last year RCLL raised an amazing £6,553! Each pack of 10 A6-size cards costs £4.50 with the opportunity for clubs to make a profit of £2.50 per pack (and then this, of course, is subject to the Gates Foundation multiplier). Orders must be placed by 16th October with deliveries coordinated to just one contact per club.

Further information is available in the attachment with the covering email to this newsletter, along with an order form.

4. Crocus Corms

In the October newsletter I'll circulate details of the collection/distribution arrangements for those clubs that have ordered corms. There are only a few packs left and even fewer days to get your order in. Delay leads to disappointment!!

5. Crocus Lapels

As I said last month, I'm very grateful for RC Harrogate Brigantes idea for raising some money for Foundation and Polio through the use of the lapels as a little welcome gift (plus also an opportunity to donate) for their Group dinner with the AG. See Item 2(a) above.

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. If you're having your charter, or any other function, it's quite a lovely idea to 'gift' a lapel at every table and encourage everyone to wear one, with a story of what it's all about. If you need any help with the wording for this, please let me know.

The boxes of 50 lapels 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. And, of course, they're a great 'favour' at place settings at formal dinners.

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



6. Speaking to District Clubs

So... today, on the day I'm writing and sending this out, I am giving my first presentation 'in the room' at RC Weighton Wolds, and I also paid a visit to RC Ripon to meet up with some very good friends (and also to deliver some lapel brooches) earlier in the week. It was great to renew and make new friendships. I've a few more dates in the diary and very happy to come to you anywhere in the District.

7. Finally ...

Please remember to circulate this newsletter to your club members or pass on the update on Afghanistan at the very least. Please also let me know if this newsletter needs routinely to go to someone else, or someone additional, in your club.

with kind regards,

janet

Janet Crampton, Rotary Club of Northallerton Mowbray

District 1040 End Polio Now Coordinator 2020/22

e: rotarianjanetcrampton@gmail.com

t: 01609 748321 | m: 07540 503030