

END POLIO NOW CAMPAIGN

NEWSLETTER No.31



MAY 2023

Dear Foundation / Polio Lead

Welcome to the first edition of the Spring, and hoping this newsletter finds you and your fellow club members well and that you are enjoying your May Day holiday. Tonight is my club's charter dinner which I am organising so I am definitely not taking it easy today!

1. Latest Statistics

| Country or territory | Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| | Full year total | | | | | | 01 Jan-18 Apr ¹ | | Date of most recent case |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2022 | 2023 | |
| Afghanistan | 14 | 21 | 29 | 56 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 29-Aug-22 |
| Pakistan | 8 | 12 | 147 | 84 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 20-Feb-23 |
| Mozambique | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 10-Aug-22 |
| Malawi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19-Nov-21 |
| Iran | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| Total (Type 1) | 22 | 33 | 176 | 140 | 6 | 30 | 1 | 1 | |
| Tot. in endemic countries | 22 | 33 | 176 | 140 | 5 | 22 | 1 | 1 | |
| Tot. in non-end countries | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | |
| No. of countries (infected) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | |
| No. of countries (endemic) | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| Total Female | 7 | 18 | 72 | 59 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 0 | |
| Total Male | 15 | 15 | 104 | 81 | 4 | 20 | 0 | 1 | |

I have just received these statistics but note that they are nearly 2 weeks old. Fortunately the situation seems stable and no new wild virus cases have been identified. A few cases of the circulating vaccine-derived strain have been identified in DR Congo and Madagascar.

In Afghanistan positive environmental samples have been reported but no personal WPV1 cases. The importance of this item is that positive environmental samples can spring up anywhere (as we learnt last year when cases were identified in London).

At the same time statistics show that take-up of vaccinations is decreasing in western countries. But all the messages are this is too complacent an attitude and we must do everything we can to ensure our infants and youngsters are vaccinated.

Headline news is that whilst Covid-19 is still preoccupying the deliberations of the WHO World Health Assembly, the global effort to eradicate polio will not be forgotten by Member States and the Secretariat has prepared two major reports which will inform those discussions.

The WHO is formally thanking the UK Government for its latest contribution of £15m which is part of the UK's multi-year commitment to the global polio eradication effort.

2. Immunisation Programme in India

I wrote last month that latest news suggested this was unlikely to go ahead this year. I have heard nothing more to update you.

3. Crocus Corms

The big news this month is that the process for ordering crocus corms is set to change.

In previous years, well established practice has emerged of all order forms and payment being handled at national level at Alcester, and distribution of corms at district level.

From this summer, that changes to ordering, payment and distribution all being handled at district level.

The suggestion is that order forms are processed by District Treasurers but this seems rather onerous on DTs and we are looking at a way in D1040 to share the load.

Cost – 4000 corms @ £175. The variety is Ruby Giant which is deep purple in colour. Please note that ordering must be completed by **18th August 2023** (which is two weeks earlier than previously, but I will be sending out plenty of reminders). An order form has been designed at national level but we need to customise it to include my contact details and the appropriate District Account.

Ordering & Payment - It will be proposed at the District Meeting in York in a couple of weeks' time, that I coordinate ordering, and that David Robinson receives payment. He and I will then work together to reconcile, and when the corms are ordered for the district, David will be able to send off one consolidated payment.

Distribution - Along with Phil Poole, I will then coordinate distribution which will be at the autumn district meeting, or at the District Conference in Scarborough in October, or by personal delivery.

This new plan will be agreed at the District meeting and I will advise you of the outcome.

I have offered to do this on a one-off basis this year, because – as you'll see when you read on below – I will not be continuing in the District EPN Coordinator role after the end of June, but I have offered to become the Crocus Corm Coordinator for 2023.

4. Finally, and on a personal note ...

I have mentioned above, I am standing down as Polio Coordinator for District 1040 at the end of June and I know that David Phillips, as incoming District Governor, is still seeking to replace me.

It's been hugely enjoyable and gratifying to fill the role for the last few years and particularly when it has involved me travelling to other clubs and meeting so many people who have been and remain thoroughly committed to Rotary's promise to rid the world of this horrible disease. I have enjoyed much warm hospitality and the time is neither a huge commitment nor in any way onerous.

I urge any of you who are remotely interested to speak to me, or David Phillips, or the current District Foundation Lead, Stephen Ellis.

Giving the role such a build-up, you might be wondering why I'm giving it up.

The principal reason is that I have been re-elected as a Governor of my local Hospital Trust and in September I take over as Lead Governor for my last two years of office. Over the last two years my life has been massively disrupted by a house move and major rebuild, I've struggled a little bit with all my other commitments and I'm learning my own limitations!

To try to do justice to the Polio role, I have given up being a Director of a heritage railway Plc and being the Chair of our local Dementia Action Alliance, as I was feeling that I couldn't give enough time to them and I didn't want to make the same mistake with the polio role ... it's too important. My priority, however, has to be the hospital role as that's my professional background ... but to have been the District's Polio Coordinator has been an immense pleasure and privilege. Hopefully I'll remain on the District Foundation Committee if Stephen is happy to have me, so I won't disappear altogether, and of course I will continue to be actively involved in my own club.

Please give a thought to stepping into my shoes (they're not big, I only take Size 4½), and I'm sure you could bring fresh ideas and energy to the role.

with kind regards,

janet

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