



Braunton Caen Rotary



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

POLIO UPDATE

BREAKING NEWS...

At the time of going to print, the latest polio figures are as follows:

- 53 children paralysed by polio in Afghanistan (compared to 29 during 2019).

- 80 children paralysed by polio in Pakistan (compared to 147 during 2019).

The Africa Regional Certification Commission has certified the WHO African Region as wild polio-free after four years without a case, a remarkable milestone.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary



This year's Rotary International theme for 2020-21 "Rotary Opens Opportunities" was chosen by RI President Holger Knaack. "Rotary is not just a club that you join. It is an invitation to endless opportunities. It opens opportunities to serve in a project as big and historic as End Polio Now and also in a small community project, where you just plant a tree. It opens opportunities for you to live a richer, more meaningful life, with friends around the world, based on our core values.

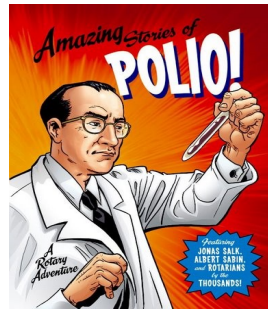
End Polio Now

What is polio? There are 3 polio viruses, types 1, 2 & 3, which get into the body through the mouth from polluted water; a few cases are through polluted utensils. It affects nerve endings which then affect the muscles, usually in the arms and legs rendering them useless. Only 1% of those affected are crippled in some way, an even smaller proportion suffer because the muscles affected are in their chest and that is usually fatal and the reason why we had iron lungs in this country back in the 1950s.

Polio isn't a huge killer like some diseases, but the economic effect of a child getting polio is very significant, and not just as a potential breadwinner, they are a burden on the family; and there are rare reports of children getting killed by their parents as they are such a strain on the family.

There is no cure; the only way it can be wiped out is through a vaccine. The first one was developed in 1935 by a research student in the US and this vaccine was tried out on 10,000 children in the US and Canada; of those 10,000, 5 died and 10 got polio; and the poor man who discovered this was fired from his job and labelled a murderer.

No-one was prepared to stick their neck out and try it again until 1955 when Jonas Salk found an injectable vaccine, followed by Albert Sabin's oral vaccine which has become the main weapon for eradicating polio in this world.



The main advantage of the oral polio is that it is cheap, at around 25p. With the mass immunisations in India, the usual target over the few days was 174 million children under 5 (it mainly affects under 5s) – 25p is a lot of money to spend in 2 days, but it has been a very successful vaccine.

Since 2007, Mike & Bernice Yates have organised 23 groups of UK Rotarians and trips of volunteers to help with these mass immunisations; always in the northern cities of India and the criteria was that they were areas with high population densities, much water pollution and near to the borders of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

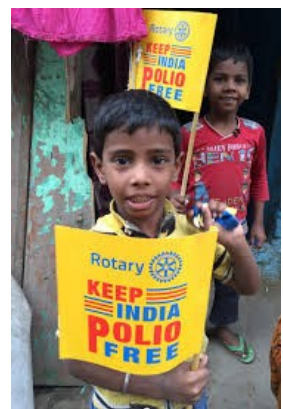
No skill whatsoever was required to administer the

drops, even if they accidentally gave 3 drops it wouldn't harm the child.



The reason Mike & Bernice got involved was that Indian Rotarians were doing it every 6 or 8 weeks in 2007 and fatigue was setting in; they appealed for international volunteers to help them out and it gave them a new interest in the activity. It also demonstrated to our partners in the WHO and UNESCO that Rotary was not just a fundraising organisation, it was the biggest service organisation in the world.

By 2014, 3 years since there had been a case of polio in India (a little girl in West Bengal), India and surrounding countries were declared polio free by the WHO and the theme then became "Keep India Polio Free".



End Polio Now (continued)

Unfortunately, it still leaves Afghanistan and Pakistan; Africa having been declared polio free in August this year. There are as you can imagine particular problems in Afghanistan and Pakistan; first of all, there was a religious objection amongst the Muslim community, there were stories that it could make Muslim boys sterile. We don't know where that story came from, but when Fergus Walsh of the BBC came with the group one year, he asked to see the storage facility for the vaccine. Inside all the boxes delivered from the factory were labelled sterile. We don't know if that was the basis for the rumour. Also the CIA didn't help in 2011 when they used a fake immunisation day to trace Osama Bin Laden, that set back the progress of the vaccination quite a bit.

Although the oral vaccine has been extremely successful; there is now a gradual switch to the injectable vaccine, but in the first year, India achieved only 35% coverage. To be adequately protected the WHO says you have to have 90% - so the oral one is to be used for some time to supplement the injections. The reason it has to be given several times is that with one dose of the vaccine, only 50% of the children are protected against the virus, after two oral doses they are 90% protected, but need 3 doses to be fully protected and only if the child doesn't get dysentery in the weeks following vaccination. So there is a problem in getting the required level, and in Pakistan and Afghanistan they have the additional problems of the unsettled nature of the Taliban and they also have a problem in finding the itinerant population; so they have very serious problems in reaching the last few.

Covid-19 has had a major effect in disrupting the vaccination rounds, they have been suspended now for nearly a year in India; in Pakistan they had a mass vaccination in September, but in India they are still having 70,000 cases per day of Covid-19, so not started the polio vaccine again. Success in achieving a polio free world is estimated to save \$40-50 billion dollars, but more importantly it means that no child will ever suffer the terrible effects of lifelong polio paralysis.

When Mike & Bernice joined a recent Zoom meeting, they said: "We feel what we have done is a great privilege, to be involved in such a project and to see the outcome. How successful it has been can only be described as a miracle in such a chaotic country. And along the way we have made lots of friends, had lots of fun and enjoyed ourselves".



The photo shows Mike Yates meeting the Princess Royal at a Rotary conference at Torquay.



Club Meetings in October

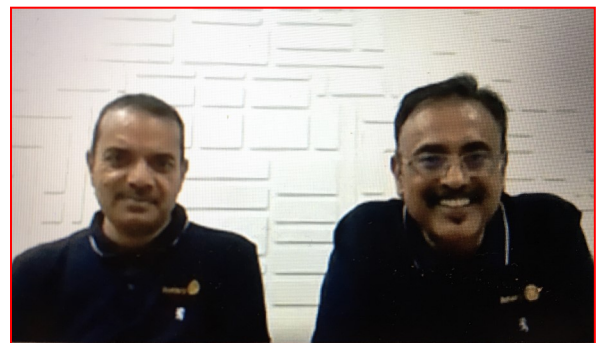
Braunton Caen Rotary has during October focussed on the theme of End Polio Now.



Firstly, Rotarian Dr Alan Cunnington gave us a fascinating talk about his trip to India, when he helped with their polio National Immunisation event to help keep India free from Polio.

We held a socially distanced Crocus planting activity on the village green, so next February you should see a wave of purple crocus flowers which have been planted over the last 5 years.

To finish the month off we had our first experience of an international zoom meeting with a guest speaker - Sanjay Khanna - from the Rotary Club of Bhiwadi, Northern India. This club first hosted a UK contingency in 2016, which included President Paula and Roger Byrom. We were delighted to welcome almost 45 people to our meeting from the UK and India.



Santa Sleigh

As Halloween passes, parents and grandparents traditionally turn their minds to Christmas. This year will for many undoubtedly be very different to previous Christmas'.



SANTA SLEIGH ANNOUNCEMENT

Braunton Caen Rotary is working hard with Santa in making plans for this year's tour of the village.

We would love to be able to knock on your door, but to keep you all safe we won't be able to do that this year.

We have therefore set up a JustGiving page where you can make a donation if you wish.

To find out our routes, please keep an eye on social media and www.brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk.



If you wish to donate, please scan and go to our JustGiving page

Braunton Caen Rotary

Braunton Caen Rotary have taken the unusual step of approaching Santa and asking for his comments. Here is his reply:

'Dear Parents and children of Braunton. Despite the current situation it is my intention to try and get round to see you all, as before, with my sleigh and elves. I'm hoping to be able to do this in the evenings on the lead up to Christmas, during the month of December. Although I can't tell you where I'll be on what days, I will make sure that Braunton Caen Rotary tells you, so you don't miss me. I will also come round on the night before Christmas- but then you won't see me. Remember you have to be good and to keep safe. Love Santa'

At this stage we are hopeful of being able to at least drive round with Santa, although we will not be stopping or encouraging children to approach the sleigh, but as with everything at the moment this may be subject to change. Our collective fingers are crossed.

Rotary Youth Competitions

At half term we launched a number of Rotary youth competitions which do not need school or teacher input or face-to-face contact with other pupils.

Keep a look out on our Rotary Club Facebook page and the Braunton Community Facebook pages for information on Young Artist, Young Writer, Young Photographer, Young Film Maker and Young Environmentalist.

There is still time to enter.

With a very strange world out there at the moment, these fun activities can help entertain the children on the weekends and allow them to develop their interests in a fun and creative way!

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST COMPETITION
YOUNG WRITER COMPETITION
YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION
YOUNG FILMMAKER COMPETITION
YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION

PARENTS! ARE YOU LOOKING TO KEEP THE KIDS BUSY?

Braunton Caen Rotary are running five youth competitions! Please visit our website or social media pages to find out more and to get an entry form!

admin@brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk
www.brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk

AGES 7- 17 YEARS OLD!

Braunton Caen Rotary

Memory Café News

Our Memory Cafe team were out and about last month delivering the latest newsletter and goody bag to members of our Memory Cafe, as a way of keeping in touch whilst not able to meet face to face. Our theme this month was Halloween, and our gifts included warming soup, Halloween biscuits and a crossword activity book. We were greeted with appreciation and happy faces!



November Diary Dates

Braunton Caen
Rotary



Wednesday 4th November	Speaker Meeting: Assistant Governor Lyn Winter on The Changing World of Volunteering
Wednesday 11th November	Friendship Meeting, 19:00 by Zoom
Tuesday 17th November	Club Council Meeting, 19:00 by Zoom
Wednesday 18th November	Speaker Meeting, Rotarian Jackie Watson, 19:00 by Zoom
Wednesday 25th November	Our Club Matters Meeting, 19:00 by Zoom

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Braunton Caen
Rotary



Although we're not able to meet face to face at the moment, we have embraced modern technology and are currently meeting weekly via Zoom on line video conferencing.

We would be delighted to welcome visitors to any of our meetings from the comfort of your homes!

If you would like to join us, please contact us at admin@brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk and we will send you a meeting link.

Club Contact Information

Website: www.brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk

Facebook: The Rotary Club of Braunton Caen

Club President: Paula Byrom 07772 770850 paulabyrom@rpbfunerals.co.uk

Club Secretary: Jan Lewis 07967 896192 j.lewis175@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor: Paula Byrom 0777 277 0850 paulabyrom@rpbfunerals.co.uk

Meeting place

The Mariner's Arms in South Street, Braunton.
Wednesday Nights at 7.00pm—8.00pm



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