

Rotary



Club of  
Billericay  
Newsletter

Best Club Newsletter  
Four Years in a Row



Rotary District 1340  
2015-16, 2016-17,  
2017-18 & 2018-19

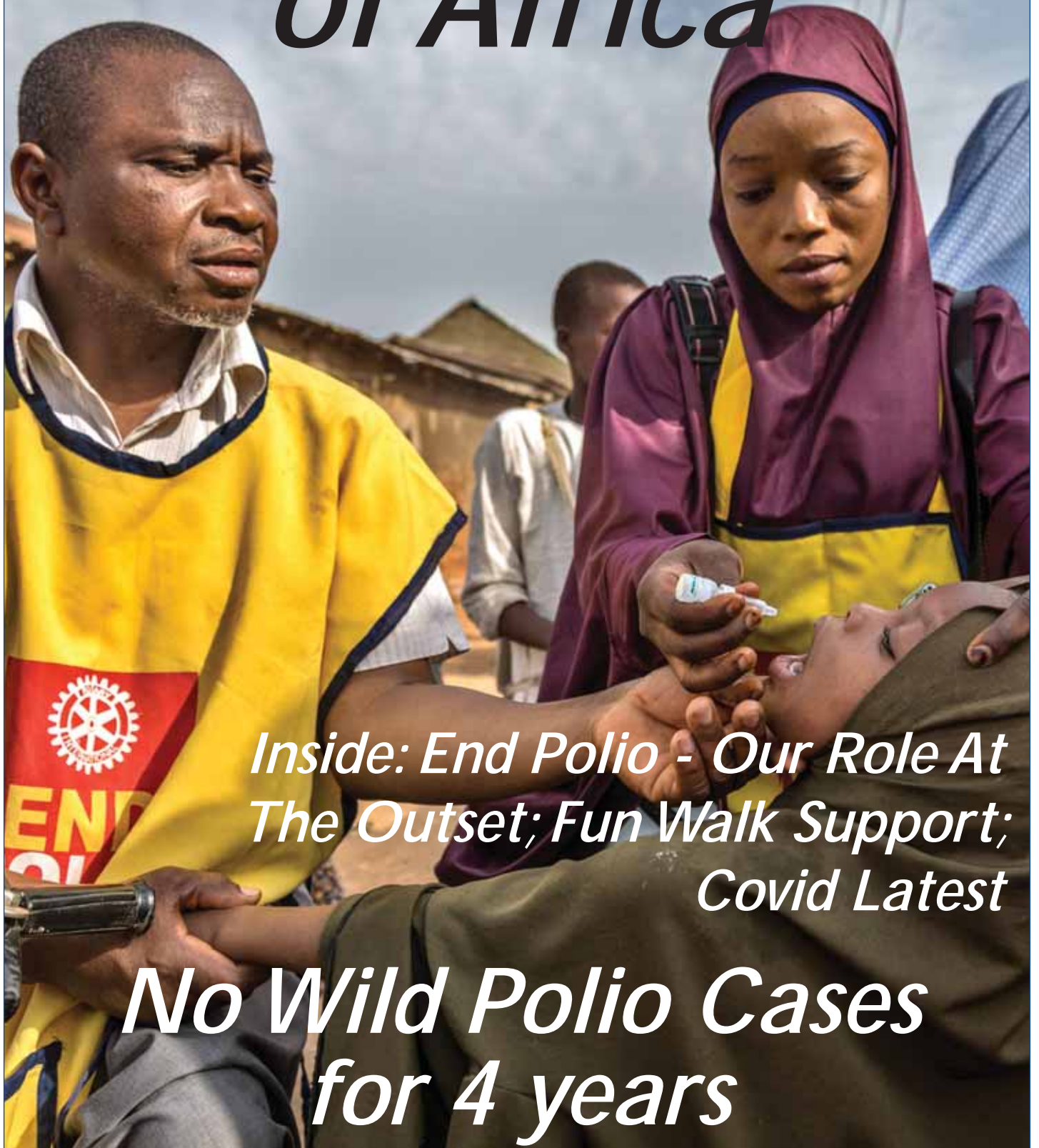


Rotary GB&I  
Best Club  
Bulletin 2017  
& 2018

Best Club Bulletin  
in District 1340  
2014-15 & 2019-20

September 2020

# *Polio Kicked Out of Africa*



*Inside: End Polio - Our Role At  
The Outset; Fun Walk Support;  
Covid Latest*

*No Wild Polio Cases  
for 4 years*

# President's Message

## *We'll Meet Again Some Sunny Day ...*

**W**e started this month so optimistically, with plans for holding our Charter Lunch and perhaps face-to-face meetings once again. And then, the world changed again!

No meetings of 30 outdoors. No two households in proximity. No multiple tables of two households in the same restaurant. Just the "Rule of Six" – not more than 6 people could meet anywhere in England, indoors or outside, it doesn't matter - just keep to six or less.

### ***Keep Smiling Through***

But we have to remain optimistic. Dame Vera Lynn, who died just a few months ago, summed it up in her song :

*We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when*

*But I know we'll meet again some sunny day*

*Keep smiling through, just like you always do*

*Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away...*

At least our Zoom meetings keep us all in touch, and, although it limits our ability to "gossip" it has enabled us to keep meeting, albeit virtually. Attendance at our Service Meetings, Club Councils, and Business Meeting has never been higher.

But all is not lost, thanks to the suggestion of our Treasurer Michael Ginn, that members could meet socially face-to-face in groups of 6 or less, some of us have managed to enjoy a welcome break in the monotony of on-line meetings.

We all hope that this new restriction on our movements



will "do the job" and no further restrictions will be necessary.

### ***World Polio Day***

World Polio Day is coming up fast, due on October 24, and we have all seen the good news this month that the "Kick Polio out of Africa" campaign has been successful and after four years without any cases of wild polio, the World Health Organisation has declared Africa "Free of Wild Polio". We should be proud of Rotary's contribution to this achievement, leaving only Afghanistan and Pakistan with endemic wild Polio. We report on this achievement, and Chandra reports on his part in the Club's early work in the fight against Polio, giving us a personal view on what has been achieved.

We usually organise an al fresco meal and meeting for Club Members, with the cost of entry funding a donation to End Polio Now, and, we also do a collection at our Charter Lunch on the weekend after World Polio Day. Sadly, the restrictions on meeting up mean neither event will be possible, but we continue to search for alternative ways to raise money to support this

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charity. Our thoughts for a series of lunches of six or less did not attract sufficient support, but we will persevere.

Our Task Forces continue to be active and progress is reported later in this newsletter

### ***Borewell Project Success***

Last but NOT LEAST, very good news on our Borehole well project in Kenya.

Following an initiative by our International Chairman Malcolm in contacting our "twinned" Rotary clubs in Europe, we have received \$2000 from the Rotary Club of Beausoleil in France, and a similar donation for \$1500 from the Rotary Club of Alba in Italy. We heard yesterday that the Rotary Club of Ovada del Centenario will also be donating \$1500!

Finally, our application for a District Grant has also been made and we await news on whether we have been successful.

Let me leave you on this positive note - best wishes, stay safe, stay well and "Keep Smiling Through".



# End Polio Now

*WHO has declared Africa a wild polio-free region after four years without a case. Just two countries are left - Afghanistan and Pakistan.*

*Chandra Gupta recalls how, as the prime mover, the Rotary Club of Billerica began its part in the long haul to end polio and reach this dramatic moment.*



## *A Challenge I Could Not Refuse*

**P**olio is a paralysing and deadly infectious disease that most commonly affects children. The virus typically spreads from person to person from contaminated water. It can then affect the nervous system.

In 1979 RI President L. Bomar Jr. put the first polio vaccine drops in a child's mouth launching the Philippine Polio Immunisation effort, Rotary's first Health, Hunger and Humanity Project.

The project's success led Rotary to launch Polio-Plus in 1985, the first and largest coordinated private sector public health initiative with an initial fund-raising target of US\$ 120 million.

It spearheaded the launch of Global Polio Eradication initiative in 1988 with WHO, UNICEF and others with the goal of eradicating polio by the year 2000. It was called Polio-Plus to express Rotary's conviction that a focussed attack on polio would also spur a dramatic increase in the immunisation against other preventable diseases.

These were five other childhood vaccine targeted by WHO, - measles, diphtheria, tuberculosis, whooping cough and tetanus, by providing the effort and financial support needed to improve the cold chain and transportation.

### **Best Person To Lead**

There were an estimated 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries. The average cost to fully protect a child was \$3.00.

I seem to recall that Polio-Plus and its high fund-raising target was discussed in a lunch time meeting for a long time. The initial response was not that warm. Later I think it was Ben



Clarke and Harry Boughen who suggested that, as a doctor, I would be the best person to lead this project. Although I was a busy self-employed 24/7 GP with full list of patients, I agreed and accepted it as a challenge. A small committee was formed. Harry Boughen was appointed a district representative for Polio-Plus.

I had no experience of fund-raising on this scale, but I had Maya for help and full support. She arranged several Indian dinner evenings, helped in arranging various quiz evenings, organising interesting four-course lunches where members moved around various homes having a different course in each.

**Hundred Club Support**  
A Hundred Club was organised to give long term support.

*(continued on Page 4)*



# End Polio Now (continued)



(continued from page 3)

A weekly raffle was assigned to this project. Sale of Christmas cards, Brian Hughes taking part in the London Marathon, sponsored bike ride by one of my friends, all helped the project.

I displayed a Polio-Plus poster in my consulting room. Anyone who showed interest was re-

quested for donation. Pharmaceutical representatives were requested for donations instead of any offers for gifts or lunches.

Efforts were successful and fund raisings always surpassed the target sums the years it was run. I am very grateful for the support from all our Rotarians.

## Kick Polio Out of Africa

**I**t is now 35 years since Polio-Plus was started, a programme which subsequently morphed into End Polio Now. On August 25, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that its Africa region was wild polio free. As a small club in Rotary's drive to end the disease we took up the challenge of Polio-Plus and displayed an immediate awareness by appointing Dr Chandra Gupta, our medical member to take on that challenge. His report of that momentous event appears in these pages above. We thank Chandra for his early work and his brilliant article. How it all began is summarised below by the official report of the WHO, and from Rotary International.

### *Rotary's Role In Ending The Polio Pandemic*

In 1996, Rotary and our partners joined with Nelson Mandela to jump-start Africa's commitment to polio eradication. Since then, nine billion doses of oral vaccine have been provided, averting an estimated 1.8 million cases of polio on that continent.

After four years without a case, wild polio-virus has officially

been "Kicked Out of Africa" with no cases since August 2016! It has been stopped in all 47 countries of WHO's African



region, a historic and vital step toward global eradication of polio, which is Rotary's top priority. This is four years after Nigeria, the last polio-endemic country in Africa, recorded its final case of wild polio.

### *Just Two Countries Now*

This makes five out of six regions of the world, representing 90% of world population, now free of the Wild Polio Virus. Only two countries worldwide continue to see wild Polio transmission

- Pakistan and Afghanistan.

After decades of hard won gains in the region, Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) — WHO, U.S. Centre for Disease Control and

Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the vaccine alliance — are proclaiming the milestone an achievement in public health, and proof that strong commitment, coordination, and perseverance can rid the world of polio.

Efforts to get to this momentous stage have involved millions of health workers traveling by foot, boat, bike and bus to reach children, innovative strategies to vaccinate those living among conflict and insecurity, and a huge disease surveillance network to test cases of paralysis and check sewage for the virus.

### *Invaluable Efforts*

Rotary members played an invaluable role in the effort to rid the African region of wild polio. Over the last two decades, countless Rotary Members in countries across the African region and around the

(continued on Page 5)





# Kick Polio Out of Africa



## The Work Goes on

By raising funds for polio eradication, advocating to world governments, to national and local leaders, and raising awareness, Rotarians have contributed nearly \$890 million to conquer polio in the region.

An incredible public health milestone, but the job to fully rid the world of polio goes on, as the virus continues to circulate in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Vaccination programmes must reach every last child. We must strengthen routine immunisation to keep immunity high, so the virus does not return.

Rotary Members across Great Britain and Ireland remain committed to

making the final, challenging steps towards a polio free world.

Events will be taking place across the world on October 24, to mark annual World Polio Day.

The African region's wild polio-free certification was celebrated during a livestream event. Speakers included Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, Bill Gates, RI President Holger Knaack, Nigeria PolioPlus chair Dr. Tunji Funsho, and representatives of other GPEI partners. For a video of the speeches by Holger Knaack and Dr. Tunji Funsho: <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryEssex/videos/315587666534910>

(continued from Page 4) world have worked together to raise funds, immunize children, advocate with local and national leaders, and raise awareness about the importance of vaccination, enabling the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) to effectively respond to and stop polio out-breaks.

Rotary is proud of all the hard work that we've done to eliminate the wild poliovirus throughout Africa and in nearly every country in the world.



# Full Benefits For Z-Members

At the third meeting of the Membership Task Force (Sept. 2) the following points were discussed and subsequently agreed by the Club.

- Although Zoom-joining members (Z-Members) will make only one attendance each month they should be given full benefits of membership and not considered lesser members in any way. Encouragement to be given to attend other important meetings/fundraisers/Rotary whenever possible.
- To benefit all, the monthly Zoom evening meetings should preferably be Joint Services Meetings combined with the Business Meeting/ Club Council. Our Club Secretary to investigate if this action



## By Peter Strong

contravenes Rotary Rules or the Club Constitution, the latter requiring amendment.

- Invited Speakers - Three Monday lunch meetings: At least two will have invited speakers and the third could be a member. Members to be encouraged to

share their "life experiences" and careers. All diverse and of great interest to us all.

- Costing: For Z-Members £15.00 a month, £45 a quarter, etc. This sum to be periodically reviewed by Treasurer Mike.
- To become Sustaining Members an additional voluntary contribution of £6 a month would be required. An additional sub might be need for the Newsletter if printed again.
- Reducing lunchtime meetings to three a month will save an annual £156 for existing members on meal prices as last charged at Reids.

## Tea Or Coffee?

A possible new member?

(continued on Page 8)



# Fun In The Sun - Beating Coronavirus



*Ready for the "off" - Peter Malcolm Patrick Brian and Roger*



Roger Brian Peter Malcolm



Malcolm and Roger in Frith Wood



"We came from there" - said Malcolm



Not Really in "The Middle Of Nowhere"



# Fun In The Sun - Beating Coronavirus

## Striding Out For Charity - A September Saunter

It's September. Must be time for the John Baron Billericay Fun Walk and the crowds of walkers all giving up their time to raise money for their favourite charities. **But, Not This Year!** Covid-19 has seen to that!

### Never Give Up!

First of all - Complete Lockdown. But this was followed by groups limited to single households only.

Then this was extended to Support Bubbles only, and then outdoors' groups of 30 people.

The organisers of the Fun Walk didn't give up. If there couldn't be a real Fun Walk - why not do a "Virtual Fun Walk"?

Rotary Club of Billericay has taken part in the event for many years, providing walkers and marshals to help all those taking part to keep to the route.

A "Virtual Event" - no problem. Even the marshal could take part.

Who would be the principal walker? None other than Roger Kettle yet again, accompanied by many club members.

When? September 22.



Where? A 7 km. walk round Little Burstead.

### The Best Laid Plans ...

But then what happened? A resurgence of the disease and new restrictions imposed from September 14. No groups of more than Six.

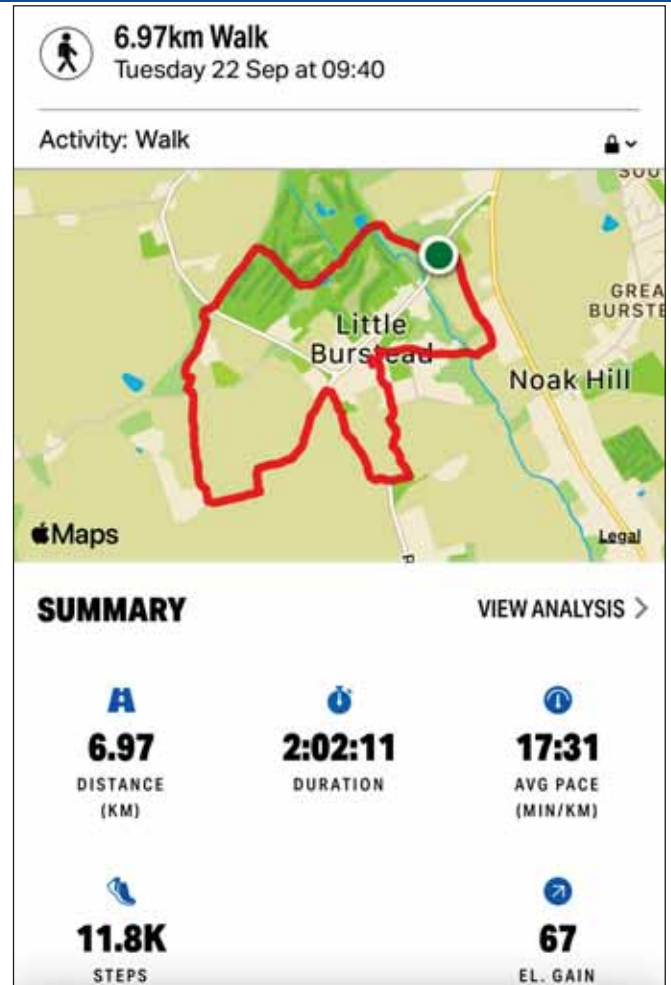
All our members who wanted to take part had to be disappointed and a core group of 5, all well-sponsored, did the walk.

So come September 22, and a glorious sunny day, the intrepid walkers assembled outside the Dukes Head Pub in Little Burstead.

With walking maestro Roger in the lead, we set off into Laindon Common, through the woods and around Burstead Golf course and Frith Wood, across Tye Common Road and down Hatches Farm Lane to Botney Hill. Then across the fields towards Lower Dunton Road, before turning uphill towards Little Burstead Church. Finally across Rectory Road and east towards Noak Hill Road before finally turning north back to the Dukes Head and the end of our route.

How far? a few steps under seven kms.! Well done to all.

Two hours in the hot



sun! Must be time for some refreshments - so round to Roger's house for lashings of beer and some delicious rolls (thank you Sarah!).



What have we raised? Well, all the sponsorship is not yet in but we are already at over £1000.

# Purple Was The Colour

## Tea, Cakes And Risqué Poetry - Shades Of Success To Aid End Polio Now

**P**resident Peter reports on a Billericay Mayflower Rotary Club initiative.

Quite what the colour purple and Fifty Shades of Grey (Pam Ayres' risqué poem) had in common I am not quite sure, but it all added to the fun of the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower's purple-themed tea party in aid of End Polio Now.

I went along (virtually and virtuously) to represent our club (all club members had been invited to join in). Our daughter club asked everyone joining in to come in purple or, at least some item of purple clothing.

I wore a purple shirt .....  
Fitting (at least I hoped it did!)

It was an afternoon of performances, entertainment including poetry, music, dance, and storytelling, followed by an on-line auction and a cake sale. Successful result – **nearly £600 was raised for End Polio Now.**

### **What a show**

There were about 21 participating groups, some singles and some pairs, including DG Keith



Brownlie and myself. The event was MC'd by Andy Hunter.

Various members of Mayflower Club, and their families, did short pieces ranging from Ifor's reminiscences about a primary school friend who had survived Polio in the 50s to Peter Owen reciting Fifty Shades of Grey.



Ifor's wife Jill gave a flute recital, there were dance interludes by children of some club members, a slideshow about street lighting and the history of Saffron, Finally, the story of how commercial purple aka "mauve" was discovered by William Perkins – why did he call it mauve and not Perkins Purple??).

### **That's not all folks!**

There was more. Mayflower IPP Yvonne Kyndt gave a rendition of

that well-known poem:

"When I grow old, I shall wear purple. With a red hat which doesn't go...." and there



followed a brief auction of "purple-themed" items. These included four bone china hand-painted crocus mugs, a purple teapot and cosy, a handcrafted purple quilted cushion cover, and a bottle of pink champagne. DG Keith even auctioned off a "Nessie" to help the fundraising,

The day ended with a sale of four cakes by Jill and Pam.

This Purple Tea Party, in aid of End Polio Now, raised the fantastic sum of nearly £600. Entertainment was provided by members, partners and children.

Mayflower are to be congratulated for their initiative, enthusiasm, and the amount raised.

## Full Benefits For Z-Members (continued)

(continued from page 5)

Peter adds: "I have reported an approach by Marion Munro who was interested in giving more to the community by joining Rotary.

To replace the traditional formal information meeting, we agreed that we would invite her informally to a member's home for a coffee/tea session to

exchange information.

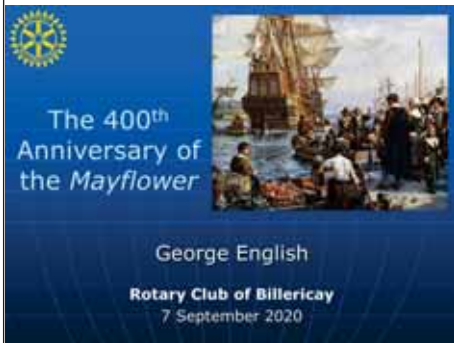
"I am happy to arrange this subject to any prevailing Covid-19 restrictions,"



# Speakers' Corner

## Persecution, Persuasion And Prejudice

### 400 Years On – How The Voyage Of The Mayflower Forged A New World Religion



Every picture tells a story... of persecution, of hope, of tragedy, of triumph, above all of adversity and survival.

Such were the revelations by George English, Director, Research Through People, on the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower, in a Zoom talk to us on September 7. What we saw was less talk, more a seat in the cinema as slide after slide enlightened us about that desperate voyage to a new life in a New World.

We had heard the history of the event before lockdown and of the subsequent trials and tribulations which afflicted those who sailed in the Mayflower. What was different this time?

#### **Brave Men And Women**

Key word is Research. From the first slide, George set out the



background that drove brave men and women in religion-torn England and Holland to join together in escaping persecution and execution. Henry VIII split from Rome and created the first Strangers church by letting Dutch refugees come to England (Not a lot changes, just the nationalities!!!)

Protestantism spread under the boy King Edward until "Bloody" Mary was crowned Queen and England reverted back to Catholicism. Elizabeth 1 restored a "middle-way" Protestantism, then James 1 of England and V1 of Scotland banned religious meetings.

The die was cast for the persecuted, no option but to flee. Not without danger. Puritans wanting to leave the Church of England met at Scrooby near Gainsborough. Then fled to Boston (Lincs) bound for



Holland. Betrayed and captured but, in 1608, some survived and fled to Amsterdam.

#### **Repair And Despair**

They, English and Dutch "Separatists", finally set sail from Leiden in the Speedwell. The history of that short aborted voyage is well-recorded. As, of course, is that finally of the Mayflower, after fits and starts, repair and despair.



Their fate in the New World is also well-recorded – too extensive to repeat in detail here. As are all the names of the brave souls who survived (few) or died (many) as they battled against childbirth, disease, hostile natives, fatigue and famine. Brave New World indeed.

It would take another full page to describe all the Mayflower leaders, not least Christopher Martin from Great Burstead, who was not actually the major player we would like to believe,

(continued on page 10)

# Speakers' Corner

## Persecution And Prejudice (continued)

(continued from page 9)  
but important enough to be listed in the panel below.

And, as George explained, the Mayflower voyage was not a one-off event. It's ramifications for religion and the war against persecution had begun in Europe and Scotland with Martin Luther, Calvin and John Knox.



The Pilgrim Fathers and the Mayflower just brought it closer to home.  
*George delighted us all by*

*appearing in an early photograph as a Pilgrim Father in full 1560's costume. He admitted. "I had to borrow the hat from my wife!!"*

## The Mayflower Story – Trials and Tribulations

**H**ow do you include all the facts that George related to us? While trying to condense it in the main material above, as brilliantly told by George, it left far too many gaps to take on board.

The success and failure, and eventual triumph of the Mayflower have been repeated many times and George described them again in detail.

This was the first successful settlement in America by any nation, following failed settlements in Roanoke and Jamestown (20% survived!).



As is the knowledge we have learned about Christopher Martin, born in Great Burstead but, in some ways, a minor player in the venture. I have tried to highlight just a few.

The mariners and their history:

- Arrival eventually in Plymouth (Plimoth), New England, ca. 1620
- John Carver elected first Governor, but died in 1621
- Succeeded by William Bradford until 1657
- First arrivals attacked by natives with arrows
- Christmas still held among survivors. Natives joined them
- 1620 Plymouth colony founded and treaty signed with Wampanoag tribe
- Our Speaker is descended from Richard Warren (1580-1628), who became prime mover in establishing the settlement. It became a permanent place for the pilgrims and their families to settle, produce families and

find their new lives. Not without illness, disease, failed childbirth, plague and hostiles but survival for the fittest.

- Warren had five daughters before sailing on the Mayflower and bore two sons in Plymouth.
- His descendants include Henry Longfellow, Franklyn Roosevelt, Ulysess Grant while in more modern times – Richard



Gere and singer Taylor Swift.

These settlers also founded democracy and religious freedom in America. All 41 of the original settlers who survived, signed the "Mayflower Compact" (see below). (continued on Page 11)



# Speaker's Corner

## God Works In Mysterious Ways - Part 1

**A**t our Zoom meeting on September 28, we had a remarkable and fascinating talk by Revd Canon Hugh Dibbens about the Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust in Tollesbury. This report is a brief resume of what the Trust is about. As often with our special speakers, space does not allow the Newsletter to report the talk in full. This month's summary will be followed by a fuller report next month. Bear with us and watch this space.

As an introduction, Hugh showed two short films, separated by a slide-show of 36 slides, giving a view of what the activities at the Outdoor Centre at Tollesbury were like.

He shared some of the remarkable story of how the Fellowship had been rescued from extinction on two major occasions in 1980 and 1989. It was originally based on a Thames Barge,



but this had been lost to fire in 1989. A lightship came on the market, and the Trust was miraculously able to acquire it for only £22,000.

He told us: "At heart, Fellowship Afloat is a Community whose mission is to welcome guests and serve them. It has a staff of 21 and costs about £400,000 pa to run. Each year about 2,000

young people come to the stay on the Light Vessel for a weekend or a week, and each year we have major staff changes as those who have completed their contract of one or two years are sent out into the world again. The experience changes them and usually makes them much stronger and deeper Christians.

### £1.6m Project

In 2015 the Trust took the decision to refurbish the ship and create more cabins and meeting rooms. Hugh said: "This project is nearly complete. It cost £1.6 million and through numerous

people's goodwill we are now only £67,000 short of the total.

"The ship can now accommodate 3,000 young people in a year. Four new staff are arriving in October and we have great hope for the future of this work."

See more at [www.fact.org.uk](http://www.fact.org.uk)



## The Mayflower Story (continued)

### Mayflower Compact

Blueprint of how they would live their lives. All 41 men signed (Birth of democracy & religious freedom in America).



*Remember that the nature of justice and just administration is to be equal. And because we have sworn to uphold the laws of God and man, we shall be bound to observe the same. And we shall be bound to observe the same.*

do ... Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a **Civil Body Politic**, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal **Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices** from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony ...

(continued from page 10)

### Names All Listed

George told us: "There are 50 million descendants of the Mayflower living today in the

USA and 35m in the world. All the names on the Mayflower's historic voyage are known."

Final fact: President Abraham Lincoln declared that the date of their arrival in Plymouth Sound, November 4, 1620 be known as The Day of Thanksgiving. Americans still celebrate it with the traditional

turkey meal.

By The Editor Trevor Bond

### Want to learn more ?

George has a brilliant website detailing all the Mayflower story and it is also on YouTube - three hours of informative listening. Beats East Enders! See his website and you can listen to it all on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqGfHZArWQqn7dQfP5M-tCA/playlists>

See also a 50 minute (5 x 10) view of his talk.

# The Past Is Another Country!

## President Peter explains why Face-to-Face Rotary meetings are not permitted until further notice



**H**ow the world changes – and so quickly. On August 28, with many clubs looking to return to Face-to-Face meetings or a combination of Zoom and Face-to-Face, District Governor Keith and Alan Clark, Past District Governor, our District's Covid

expert, held a Zoom workshop. Its purpose: to help clubs plan how they could respond to Covid-19 restrictions and under what circumstances it was possible to meet legally.

Alan explained what was allowed, and what was not, with different rules applicable to meeting indoors or outdoors. He advised we read the guidelines and FAQs on [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus).

### ***Our Needs***

We wanted to hold indoor Club meetings of 20-22 face-to face, and our Charter Lunch for up to 60 members, partners and guests.

It seemed possible, but this all went “out the window” with revised Government regulations effective Monday September 14,



### ***The Rule of Six***

The announcement made by the Prime Minister, and now contained in the official Government Rules, is that, effective from Monday, September 14, 2020, The “Rule of Six” is now law and not guidance. This allows meetings

*(continued on next page)*



### **New Legislation**

The UK Government directive, in FAQ 2.10 on the Government's Website (Sept. 14 2020)

#### ***“When can I gather in groups of more than 6?”***

If your household is more than 6 people, you can continue to gather in and attend all settings together. This also applies for your support bubbles. All venues should continue to accommodate groups larger than six who live together or are in the same support bubble.

There are exceptions where groups can be larger than six people, including:

- for work, or the provision of voluntary or charitable services
- registered childcare, education or training

### **Latest Changes**

The Prime Minister made a further announcement a week later on September 22, that the UK's Covid alert level was being raised from 3 to 4, the second most serious stage.

Further actions are needed to suppress the disease:

- Office workers who can work from home should do so.
- All pubs, bars and restaurants must operate table-service only, except for takeaways, and together with all hospitality venues, they must close at 10pm
- Face Masks now mandatory for all staff in retail, all users of taxis and private hire vehicles, all staff and customers in indoor hospitality, except when seated at a table to eat or drink.

### **Rotary GB & I's Position**

Rotary Club Meetings are NOT “voluntary or charitable services” but are more usually planning or social meetings which can be under-taken using electronic means.

Where a Rotary service activity is being carried out, the appropriate risk assessment and project plans are required, and must include specific consideration to risk management for COVID-19.

The Governing Council's embargo on face-to-face meetings will continue until the social interactions' restrictions are lifted and Rotary feel comfortable that all our members can return to face-to-face meetings safely.



# The Past Is Another Country (continued)

(continued from Page 11)

of only six individuals including children; it is the law, not just guidance. Rotary Clubs meeting face-to-face and Charter Lunches of up to 60 seem a definite NO!

The Governing Council of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland states that **Face-to-Face Rotary Club and District meetings are not permitted until further notice.**

It is all very depressing. Just when we thought we could work within the rules, we find we can't

## Create, Create, Create!

District Governor Keith immediately issued a message of encouragement stressing that our health and safety is paramount but it must not dampen our enthusiasm for our very special organisation. Not least, we must never



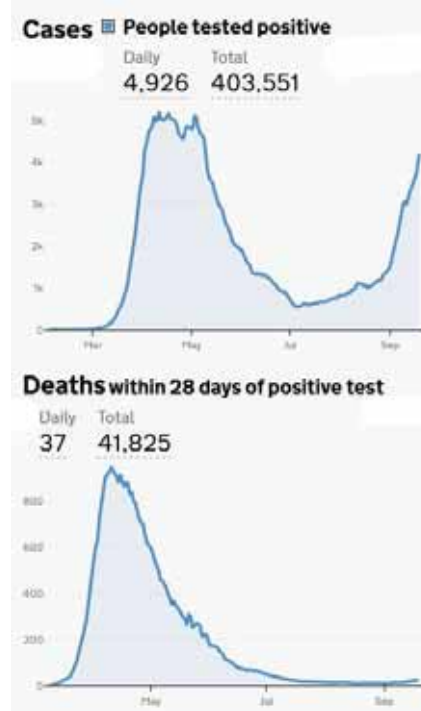
## Rotary GB & I's Logic

To meet lawfully in a Covid-19 Secure Premises, a club would need to ensure that members:

1. Keep in separate pre-defined groups of six people. We are 21 - i.e. four groups of six or less people, but interaction with other tables is Not Allowed. There would inevitably be interaction between the tables.
2. Avoid interaction and keep 6 feet away from anyone outside their group, even on the way in, out or during the meeting. It would be almost impossible to prevent people socially interacting (e.g. in the car park, at the bar or even inside the venue). Interactive

allow doom and gloom to prevail.

He urged us not to let this Government decision hinder our Rotary agenda, and stressed we should rise to the Rotary challenge and be People of Action.



## Moving the Wrong Way

Hardly had the "ink dried" on this note when two further events heralded further tightening of the rules.

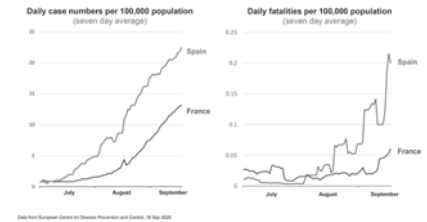
Sir Patrick Vallance, Chief activities e.g. raffles, would be impossible and any activities which led to raised voices might be impossible. Any breach of the social interaction guidance could be unlawful.

3. Health and safety is paramount. Many members are over 70, should minimise contacts and mainly stay at home. Others may not want to meet face-to-face for personal reasons. We shouldn't discriminate against these members.

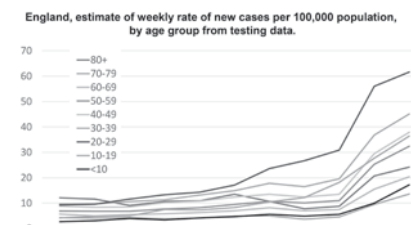
## Adverse Publicity?

4. The reputation of Rotary and the club is at stake. Even if a meeting was lawful it would probably be seen as not

Scientific Advisor, and Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer, gave a press conference on September 21 due to the rises in Covid-19 UK cases.



Why? Because the increase in cases in younger people across Europe, e.g. Spain and France, is similar to the UK.



In those countries, this increase spread to older ages, and then led to increased hospitalisations, and then deaths in older age groups there. So the simple message is that as the disease spreads across age groups, we expect to see increases

(continued on Page 14)

following the spirit of the law. Imagine the adverse publicity arising if members of the public believe a club is not following the rules. Or worse still, if there was a spike in COVID-19 cases associated with the venue, or in the club/district, then the decision to have held the meeting would bring Rotary into disrepute.

**Fundamentally, whilst a club can be mindful to ensure that the Risk Assessment might include all the necessary COVID-19 mitigation controls, it cannot guarantee that members will adhere to the control measures at all times.**

# A Meeting of Two Minds And Onwards

## DLSR – In Four Words, Peter Strong and Ben Clarke Pay Tribute To A Rotary Man Of Measure

**P**eter Strong and Grahame Rudkins shared a memorable year in 1992-93. Peter was the Club President for the second time and Grahame was District Governor.

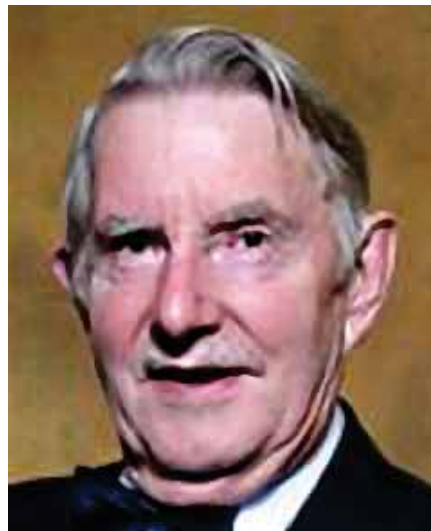
Peter recalls: "That year we had a very special rapport and worked together. He became a very good friend, not just of mine but of our club. Prior to the lockdown period he was welcomed as a visitor on several occasions at our meetings at Reids.

"Those members who were fortunate to sit at the same table will have appreciated the Measure of the Man.

"If you asked to sum up the best four words to describe PDG Grahame, it has to be: Dedication, Loyalty, Sincerity and Reliability.

### ***Making A Difference***

"He was foremost a loyal and loving husband and father. His



family meant everything to him.

He was a churchman, a steadfast friend with whom we shared many happy times. Professionally, as well as a respected civil and structural engineer, he contributed structural consultancy to many of my office's major building projects. His attention to detail was superb."

Members, said Peter, will recall Grahame's great enthusiasm for the model railway he built in his

garden. "A small thing," says Peter, "but often the smallest things can make a difference.

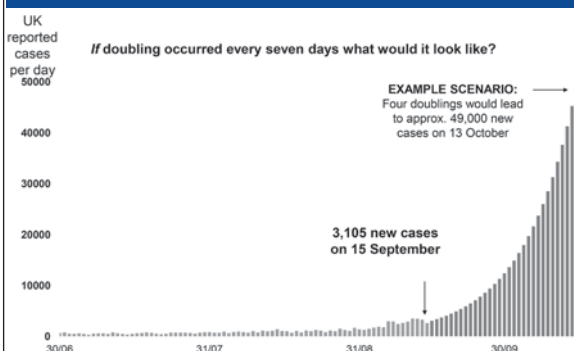
"Grahame made a BIG difference. A high-ranking Freemason for over fifty years, in the craft he followed in his father's footsteps and never balked at responsibility."

**Rotary:** "As a club," says Peter, "we knew he was an enthusiastic and resilient DG, supported at every stage of his long Rotary career in the Brentwood Club by his wife Anne."

### ***Mugged Down Under***

IPP Ben adds that his association with Graham and Anne goes back a long way. Ben and Angela's children were in the same class as theirs at school. He was clearly in serious trouble with his health for some time, they always hoped for a miracle. He was a very dedicated Rotarian with the highest of standards, making several overseas visits to international conferences. Ben recites an incident when Grahame and Anne were visiting Sydney. "They were violently mugged and suffered injuries and more. It was a devastating affair but later the Australians offered them another holiday as compensation."

## The Past Is Another Country (continued)



(continued from Page 13)  
es in hospitalisations in the UK,

and unfortunately those increases will lead to an increase in deaths.

At the moment, the cases appear to be doubling roughly every seven days. If we do nothing this would result in 50,000 cases per day by mid-October which would

mean 200 plus deaths a day by mid-November.

This is the reason why action now is mandatory, and why despite the inconveniences and disruption to our lives, further restrictions have had to be introduced.

And more restrictions may prove necessary.



# Rotary Around The World

## **Mercy Ships Receive Record Grant**

We have kept members informed of any Mercy Ships updates; a project close to Rotary hearts. The Club has now been informed that their Global Grant has been approved, the biggest ever granted at \$1.125 million.



Paul Denton, their Primary Contact member says: "We are now in the process of sorting out details of the equipment list and the flow of funding. With Covid-19 there are some challenges, but we will keep all clubs in touch."

Past President Debbie Hodge adds: "The Global Grant of \$1.125 million will change lives for whole communities, nations and even a whole continent. It will change the health outcomes in every country the Global Mercy visits and the legacy will be seen by generations to come. Thank you, all the Rotary grants teams – our partners in making a difference."

## **ShelterBox Still Needs Support**

While admitting that lockdown restrictions are easing ShelterBox stresses that coronavirus is spreading in some vulnerable countries.

A spokesman says: "Right now one in every 97 people worldwide has been forced from their home by conflict or disaster. For them the pandemic is another deadly threat. But,



thanks to Rotary and others, our life-saving aid is helping people to stay healthy and helping to limit the virus spread. Thanks to your support we have helped nearly 50,000 people in six different countries since March."

"Please try through your Rotary Club a virtual collection through JustGiving."

"Items supplied but still needed:

- Tarpaulins, tools and rope to create extra space
- Tents for families to be together
- Cooking sets to reduce sharing."

More details on website: [RotaryRequest@shelterbox.org](mailto:RotaryRequest@shelterbox.org)

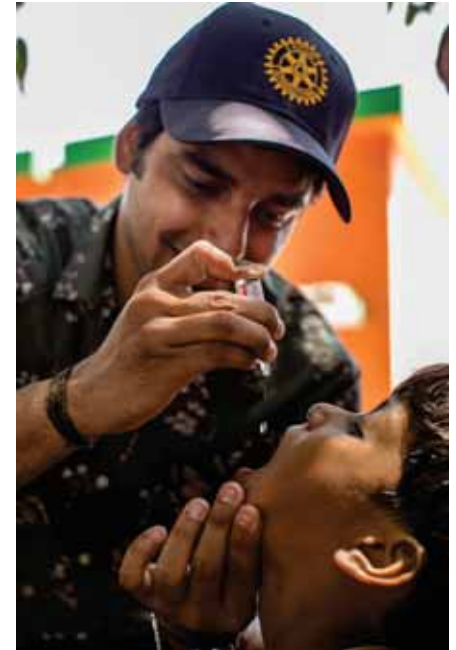
PS: ShelterBox has closed its Truro visitor centre due to coronavirus and the financial impact of the pandemic. Since opening three years ago the charity has welcomed over 20,000 visitors including many Rotary Clubs. The charity centre will remain in Truro.

## **Polio Urges Resumption Of Vaccine Campaign**

After initiating a pause on polio campaigns globally, the Polio Oversight Board has now

recommended the earliest possible resumption of safe delivery of vaccination campaigns.

It insists that such campaigns make extensive use of PPE and Infection Protection and Control measures to protect front-line workers and communities.



It urges all concerned to adopt a coordinated approach with Emergency Operation Centres and appropriate national Covid committees and/or task forces. Check progress on keeping people safe against COVID-19 on Polio Immunisation Progress Report.

See our report on pages 3-5 for "Polio Kicked Out Of Africa"

## **We Rally To Poppy Pin Cause**

Secretary Les Sheppard tells the Newsletter that the Club has responded well to the Rotary Club of Chelmer Bridge's Poppy Pin Appeal which has raised over £50,000 in its four years of running.

At the closing date for ordering, Friday, September 11, he announced: "The majority of our

*(continued on next page)*

## Public Image & Membership

The District Public Image & Membership Meeting was on Aug 24 after the DG's Assistant Governors Meeting.

All members of the District Public Image/Membership Team were invited. Present were all AGs, DG Keith, PI/Membership Chair Jed Brooks, myself.

District Governor's Keith highlighted his "Nessie" initiative and how he sees this as a way of involving Kids in Rotary projects, and in doing so, exposing Rotary to their parents and potentially interesting them in joining Rotary.

Membership – there was quite a lot of good news:

- Members in District 1240 now stand at 1575!
- Basildon Club has two new

members,

- Stort Valley has a potential 10 new members,
  - Clacton on Sea has 7 new members, joining at the end of the last Rotary Year.
- Youth – three items of interest:
- Thorpe Bay's nominee for Rotary Young Artist of the Year has won the National title in the Intermediate Class
  - There is concern that we are missing opportunities when RotaKids leave primary School and are lost to Rotary. District is looking at the options of starting Interact clubs for them to join enabling them to stay in the Rotary family.
  - Peter Dowse has five District Youth Pull-Up banners available for loan if wanted.

*By Peter Greene*

## Rotary Around The World (continued)

*(continued from Page 15)*

21 club members have applied and we have ordered a total of 29 Poppy Pins. I am grateful for their support."

The money goes to the Royal British Legion and Poppyscotland.

### **World War II Sacrifice**

The Chelmer Bridge Rotary Club planned this year to raise funds again from the sale of a new lapel pin showing the inscription "Rotary Remembers"



to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day, and to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in two World Wars.

He added: "Pins were priced at £3 with all profits (approx £2 a pin) being donated to the two charities. Our 29 pins have arrived and will generate a donation of nearly £60."

## Worth a Giggle?

- A group of chess enthusiasts were kicked out of a hotel reception for discussing their winning games. The manager cannot stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer.
- Penguin walks into a shop and asks: "Do you have any grapes?". "No," replies the assistant Same thing next day, and a third day. Assistant: "no and if you come in again asking for grapes we'll nail your flippers to the floor." Next day, penguin walks in> "Got any nails?". Assistant says: "No". Penguin: "Got any grapes."

- I just deleted all the German names off my phone. It's Hans free now
- Surely every car is a people carrier
- What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? One is really heavy, the other is a little lighter
- Jesus fed 5000 people with two fishes and a loaf of bread. That's not a miracle . That's tapas!
- Patient: Doctor, doctor, I've come out in spots like cherries on a cake. Doctor:: Ah, you must have analogy

***A Bumper Month - Birthday Congratulations to Ed Harrison (October 14), Ken Smith (October 20), Malcolm Acors (October 28) and Roger Kettle (October 31)***

## Future Meetings and Events

**All meetings to be conducted by Zoom Video-conferencing,** to be reviewed at end October 2020 and a further announcement made on our website.

**Our Video meetings are on Mondays at 14.00.**