

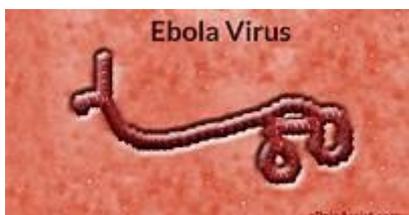


## MARCH 2018

### THE FIGHT AGAINST EBOLA GOES ON

Ebola has left the news. But the fight goes on against this dreadful disease and its after effects.

When the true scale of the devastating impact of Ebola on communities in West Africa became apparent, international Rotary stepped up. In 2014, an urgent appeal by the Rotary Club of Monrovia led to an international campaign that raised much needed funds for life giving immediate assistance to local people in Liberia and measures to limit the spread of the disease. Our Club contributed £500 to the campaign, coordinated in the UK by the Rotary Club of Marlow. Rotary Clubs up and down the country made similar donations. This money shortened the epidemic in Liberia.



In 2016/2017, our Club's International Committee, in looking at potential new projects to support, resolved to try to give further help in the fight against Ebola and its legacy of survivors in poor physical and mental health, torn apart families, broken communities and a shattered local health infrastructure. Many health workers died

tackling the disease. Vital medical training had stopped.

We found that UN and NGO reports on Ebola had confirmed that over 10,000 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone had died in the recent outbreak. More than 28,000 had been infected, with 1 in 5 children affected. 19,000 orphans had lost one or both parents. What was surprising was that while Ebola was a deadly disease, sufferers stood a chance if given basic treatment early on, to help their immune systems - re-hydration, temperature control, oxygen for respiration.

Previously, we had supported other Rotary backed projects in West Africa, for example a new solar plant for hospital isolation wards in Bo, Sierra Leone, and help for orphans (led by RC Warwick).

In 2017, our Club's International Committee agreed to donate £1,500 towards a Global Grant initiative, led by the RC Marlow, to build a hospital-based oxygen concentrator plant to produce bottled oxygen for clinics and hospital wards in Monrovia, Liberia.



During the recent Ebola outbreak, locally available medical gases were almost non-existent. Bottled oxygen readily on hand will transform medical care for local people still struggling with poor health and at risk of re-infection. Fresh outbreaks have been reported and the disease can lie dormant, with survivors falling sick again.

The Global Grant was approved in record time. The aim is for the oxygenator plant to be fully operational during 2018.

What this has shown is the power of international Rotary to make a difference. The RC Kenilworth International Committee, encouraged and prompted by the Chair, John Stanton, is regularly investigating fresh areas where our club can play its part.

*Brian Miles*

## **WATER**

*Water, water everywhere.  
But not a drop to drink.*

Water. We need it to survive. A basic human necessity. A basic human right.



Yet lots and lots of people live in arid regions where there's no rain for eleven months of the year. Imagine... heavy rain, rivers in torrent, then nothing! It dries up for another year.

Frustrating. Difficult. Very difficult. So much water in a short burst. Then none for the rest of the year.

Then along came sand dams. A simple device for storing water all year round. A simple concept: build a concrete wall across the river valley, and let nature do the rest.

David Jordan explained this in more detail when he visited the club on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

In essence, the river deposits sand behind the wall and water is retained in the sand. The clever bit is that it does not evaporate. And the water is replenished annually in the rainy season.



Sand dams are transforming the lives of the people in arid regions. They provide a continuous source of water for drinking and irrigation.

What appeals to me about sand dams is that they have a massive, sustainable impact, yet they are so simple. A wonderful combination.

Some expertise is required to design the dam wall, and funds are required to provide the materials. The local people build it.

Our club has donated funds for sand dams in the past. May that continue.

*David Johnson*

## ... AND FINALLY



Dates for your diary...

<b>Date</b>	<b>Talk/ Speaker or Event / Venue</b>	<b>Speaker's Host</b>	<b>Steward</b>	<b>Visitors' Host</b>
2 April, Monday	No Meeting Bank holiday			
9 April, Monday	Business Meeting		Graham Tall	David Johnson
16 April, Monday	No Meeting			
17 April, Tuesday	Transport for the VIP	Driver is Brian Miles		
22 April, Sunday	Tackling Hunger! : 09.30 – 18.00 at King Henry VIII School, Coventry Bringing together 400 volunteers to pack 50,000 meals for children overseas and to donate and pack UK Foodbank donations for Trussell Trust			
23 April, Monday	Impressions of India – Martyn Hall	John Stanton	Tony Thompson	
	<b>Chair: John Ruddick</b>			
30 April, Monday	Warwick in Africa - Martyn McKenzie	David Tall	Colin Wilding	Bob Kelly
	<b>Chair: John Stanton</b>			