



20-28 February 2010 – Thanks for Life / End Polio Now Week, with Rotary Day on 23 February

This was always going to be a busy week – please humour me and let me 'briefly' take you through it from a DG's perspective so that you can get a feel for the work that Rotary in District 1020 is doing, not just for polio eradication but over a wide range of service and fellowship activities.

-
- Sat 20 Feb Attended the Sportsman's Dinner at the Rotary Club of Duns in aid of Mary's Meals. 140 people and the aim of raising £7,000 to fund a complete kitchen for Mary's Meals. Aim brilliantly achieved through auction, raffle and ticket sales.
- Sun 21 Feb Part of the team at the District 1020 Young Chef final at the Edinburgh School of Food and Wine. 5 Zone winners competing for a week's tuition at the ESWF and two places at the regional Young Chef Final (Districts 1010, 1020, 1230 and 1030). A marvellous afternoon showcasing the talents of youngsters from throughout the District. I hope to be able to collate the recipes along with some pictures of the event and distribute these to clubs to allow you to share the experience and perhaps encourage more clubs to take part next year.
- Mon 22 Feb Represented Rotary in Scotland at the Scottish Film Premiere of the Homeless World Cup documentary 'Kicking It' at the Glasgow Film Theatre. And an excellent film it is too. Homelessness, hopelessness, anger, pain, dramatic tension, buckets of humour and even love as the film follows 6 players to, through and beyond the Homeless World Cup in South Africa.

"500 homeless players from 48 nations - coming from such disparate parts of the world as war torn Afghanistan, the slums of Kenya, the drug rehab clinics of Dublin, Ireland, and the streets of Charlotte, North Carolina. Win or lose, it would be the journey of a lifetime."

I am looking at the possibility of playing the film at venues around the District as an awareness-raiser and fund-raiser for the Homeless World Cup. If you might be interested in hosting a screening in your area please get in touch.



I can also recommend Hely Hair Studio on Sauchiehall Street if you ever want your hair bleached and then dyed purple.

Why purple? I'm sure you know already – but, when children in India receive a polio immunisation they have their little fingers dyed purple to show they have had the drops. Hence all the Purple Pinkie events this week, and my own opportunity to raise an extra bit of awareness.

Then to Cumbernauld to drop off End Polio Now posters, leaflets and comics ready for the club's Tesco collections with the Kilsyth club at the weekend.

Tue 23 Feb

Rotary Day!

Into Kirkpatrick Fleming Primary School, where Kirsteen teaches, to be part of their Purple Pinkie Day and part of the Rotary Club of Lockerbie and District's End Polio Now input into 8 of their local schools. Purple painted fingers, purple face paints, fingerprinted maps of the world, End Polio Now DVDs and PowerPoint presentations, posters, leaflets, Purple Pinkie PE lessons and art work. Wow!



Then to the Buccleuch Centre for the Rotary Club of Langholm's End Polio Now fund-raiser – a steak pie dinner, raffle and film show, including the RIBI End Polio Now Konnie Huq DVD. Rotarians from Scottish and English clubs, plus members of the public. A great evening.

Wed 24 Feb Work! Yes, it does happen. But with purple hair it is also very easy to take the opportunity to explain the End Polio Now campaign to delegates on training courses through the day, along with Social Services and Personnel Officers from Carlisle City Council.

Thu 25 Feb Work again! And more chances to tell people about Rotary, Purple Pinkie and End Polio Now. Lots of leaflets distributed.

Then to Langholm for my own club's meeting and to hear the outline of next week's Scatter Week, get an update on the big Umbrella Walk on 20 March and to take part in a heated discussion on the club's future plans.

Fri 26 Feb Rotary Club of Newton Stewart President's Night. An evening for me to let my hair down with Kirsteen on the dance floor and enjoy the excellent company!

Sat 27 Feb Visits to Tesco stores in Castle Douglas (Rotary Clubs of Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie and Kirkcudbright), Dumfries and Lockerbie to see the End Polio Now collections, bag-packing and information stands.

Then with Kirsteen to the Rotary Club of Galashiels and District President's Night which was fund-raising for Mary's Meals. A neat circle, starting and ending the week being reminded that it takes just over £6 to feed a child in Malawi for an entire year. Another really enjoyable night in the company of good friends.

Sun 28 Feb I know I should have been out and about supporting the Rotary clubs in the District who were running Tesco collections today or who were manning shops, distributing Rotary information and attracting new members, but I slept in. And I had a newsletter to write. And the dog ate my homework.

And I received an email

In the week when we were all doing our best for the Thanks for Life Day, it is fantastic news that in India, there were NO NEW POLIO cases reported in this week.

One swallow does not make a summer, but it is another encouraging sign that we will win this fight but not a sign that we can relax our efforts. Mike Yates, RIBI Indian National Immunisation Day Coordinator

Find out what all the clubs in District 1020 have been doing during Thanks for Life week by visiting the District's blog at <http://rotary1020fl.wordpress.com> . More information and pictures will be posted there as they come in. My thanks to everyone for the fantastic effort which has been put in to make it such a stunning success. Summed up by President Jim Rae at Linlithgow Grange in an email as "*Well - what a week!!*"

An excellent suggestion from Kenn Wilson at the Rotary Club of North Berwick – why not put a small Rotary message below the signature on your emails? "End Polio Now", or "Join Rotary – make a world of difference" are just two I can think of.

Peter Marsden, District Friendship Exchange Officer mentioned to me at the Newton Stewart President's night that there is still space for two or three more couples on the Rotary Friendship Exchange return visit to Canada (District 5550) from 29 July to 13 or 14 August 2010. Please contact Peter at peter@petermarsden.plus.com for more information.

And just in case you think it always goes smoothly for a District Governor I had a 'wonderful' day on 9 February dealing with major issues at RIBI, District and Club level while running two training courses, and got home to find that Easyjet had just cancelled our summer holiday flight.

Mind, I'll balance that with 19 February when I sent out 7 new member letters.

However, I have now completely given up on our slightly confused nanny state, having discovered this label on a bottle of champagne we received for Christmas.



Finally, on a serious note, and with news of the earthquake in Chile this weekend devastating yet more lives, I am exceptionally proud that by the middle of February the clubs in District 1020 had raised over £70,000 towards the aid and relief efforts in Haiti. You may well have read the email sent by DG Errol Alberga who is the District Governor for the area which covers Haiti, but I will repeat it here :

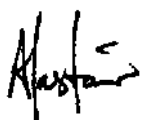
Hi DG Alastair,

On behalf of all District 7020 Rotarians and Citizens of Haiti, I thank you for all that you are doing for Haiti. Your best wishes are comforting to know that Rotarians in Scotland are with us in this difficult time.

One Love

Errol

"One Love" – isn't that what Rotary is all about?



Alastair Davies, District Governor 2009-10