

Kingfisher Chronicle - 2005-2006

February 2006

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Meal Apologies

Apologies for all meetings from and including 28th Feb to Alan King on 01386 792437.

Aquabox is still Alive!!!

Just when you all thought it was safe Aquabox is here again. Some of you will recall that we agreed to purchase another 5 to keep in stock in case of emergency need or if we had an event, collection etc. With the boxes was delivered an update sheet and some of the facts make sobering reading

In the first 6 months of 2005, 13,208 Aquaboxes and 1,883 Aqua 30's were sent to mainly the tsunami area but also to Zimbabwe, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Cameroon.

Between 21st June 2005 and 30 January 2006 a further 5,447 aquaboxes and 1,177 aqua 30's have been sent out, some to the tsunami area but most to Sierra Leone, Roumania. Uganda, Angola, Niger, Eritrea, Benin, Kashmir (several lots after the earthquake), Guatemala and Liberia. I wonder - how many of us are aware of the non headline problems that are occurring in these countries and which perhaps need more support than the headline grabbing major disasters.

Since the scheme was set up by Wirksworth Rotary Club in 1992 a total of 67,703 boxes have been sent overseas providing a total of **319,629,200** (yes that is 319 million!!) litres of potential purified water to those in need.

I think most of you are aware of what an aquabox is but if any of the newer members want to know a bit more then I'll be happy to explain.

Better still come to the Bromsgrove depot on Saturday 4th March (and this applies to you other members as well!) The reason is that the National Blood Service has offered us a couple of hundred pairs of nurses trousers which Aquabox are keen to have (calm down everybody we're not talking nurses uniforms as they are all size 20 so you'll have to fantasise about Hattie Jacques being Matron instead). Problem is they all have a NBS tag sown in the seam which has to be cut out so

volunteers are required on the above date from 9am to do this. Scissors will be provided. We need to do it on this date so we can load Keiths van with the final 14 Aquaboxes and the trousers and take them to Wirksworth on the following Saturday 10th March. I am away in Lanzagrotty and won't be at the next 2 meetings so if you've got any questions about this please contact Keith Lea. The depot is at Sherwood House, Sherwood Road, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove.

This is what you joined Rotary for so come along and get your hands inside some nurses trousers!!

See you all then

David Tyrrell International Chairman

This Week in History

On the 20th February 1962 Astronaut John Glenn becomes the first American in space as he completes three orbits of the earth aboard his space capsule Friendship 7

On February 24th 1887 Paris and Brussels become the first two cities to be linked by telephone.

Club Programme 2006

Advance warning: Inner wheel are planning an Irish night on March 24th at Mapplebrough Green Village Hall. If its half as good as the last one then you need to get the date in your diary now. Why not invite a few friends to swell the numbers.

Please note some dates and names have changed since the last publication:

February 21st - J Scott to arrange

February 28th - C Smith to arrange

March 7th - D Strain to arrange

March 14th - G Till to arrange

March 21st - M Townsend to arrange

March 28th - J Wall to arrange

April 4th - AGM

April 11th - J Willis to arrange

April 18th - No Meeting – Bank Holiday

April 25th – A Corbett to arrange

May 2nd - No Meeting – Bank Holiday

May 9th - Club Assembly

May 16th - N Wycherley to arrange

May 23rd – D.Field to arrange

May 30th - No Meeting – Bank Holiday

June 6th - D. Tyrrell to arrange

June 13th – S.Bansall to arrange

June 20th – Peter Ramage

June 27th - Handover Meeting – Joint

Advanced Warning

Sainsbury Christmas collection this year will be on Sat 23rd December.

Polio Endemic Countries Hit All-Time Low of Four

The number of countries with indigenous polio has dropped to an all-time low of four, as polio eradication efforts enter a new phase involving the use of next-generation vaccines targeted at the two surviving strains of virus.

In 2006, monovalent vaccines, aimed at individual virus strains, will be the primary platform for eradication in all remaining polio-affected areas, announced the core partners in polio eradication – the World Health Organization, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF – enabling the eradication drive to hone in on poliovirus types 1 and 3.

This new phase was announced alongside the confirmation that indigenous poliovirus has not circulated in Egypt and Niger for over 12 months. This is the first time in three years that the number of polio-endemic countries has fallen, leaving Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan as the only countries that have never stopped indigenous polio transmission.

"Polio has been endemic in our country for all of recorded history," said Egyptian Minister of Health Dr. Hatem Mostafa El-Gabaly. "The best tools of our age finally defeated this enemy who has been with us from pharaonic times." Monovalent vaccine targeted at the type-1 poliovirus circulating in Egypt was used during vaccination campaigns there in May 2005.

Unlike Egypt – where the challenge to eradication was highly efficient polio transmission in crowded cities – Niger faced a sparse population, some of it nomadic, scattered over a vast country with a heavily-travelled border with Nigeria, the world's largest reservoir of poliovirus. Multiple immunization campaigns in Niger were painstakingly planned to ensure

children were being vaccinated even in the remotest and border areas. In 2005, the nine polio cases reported in Niger were all the result of importations over this border.

The success in Niger and Egypt is the result of intense efforts in 2004-05 to halt Africa's polio epidemic and fast-track the introduction of monovalent polio vaccines into selected areas. The number of cases of polio in India and Pakistan in the last quarter of 2005 also fell by more than half compared with the previous year.

To fully exploit these new tools, government commitment in Nigeria must remain high at all levels to ensure that all children are vaccinated," said Jonathan Majiyagbe of Kano, Nigeria and past President of Rotary International, which has contributed more than US\$ 600 million and countless volunteer hours to a polio-free world. Ninety per cent of polio cases in Nigeria are concentrated in just eight of the country's 37 states.

In addition to mass immunization with monovalent vaccines in the four endemic countries, large-scale campaigns with these vaccines will need to take place in 2006 in eight countries – including Somalia, Indonesia and Yemen – to stop recently imported polioviruses.

(RIBI)

Thought for Today

"It isn't pollution that's harming our environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it" (Al Gore)

Duties this Week

Meal Collection – Mike Townsend

Grace – Geoff Till

Vote of Thanks – Colin Smith

Raffle -

By some freak of nature the editor won the first prize in last weeks raffle (the good bottle of wine) and Alan Atkinson won the second prize, a bottle of white alcoholic liquid suitable for rubbing on knees. Neither were sitting close to you know who.

All contributions to this newsletter welcome by email to

J.lscott@btopenworld.com or even snailmail will do.