



Rotary

Newsletter November 2014

RIBI International Committee.

Introduction



'Ebola is a global crisis and requires a global response' 'this is one of those instances where relatively small amounts of investment in African health care and infrastructure could save incalculable issues further down the line' – such comments featured in the Daily Telegraph of 11th October - Details of known RIBI club projects are featured in this edition.

assist wherever they can – with the 2014/15 theme in mind – removing as much darkness with light as possible.

RIBI clubs are also asked to think ahead – to think of the longer term sustainable needs caused by the loss of medical expertise because of death and the increase in the number of orphans – sustainable projects designed around community needs assessments with local Rotary club involvement will be key.



Following a DHL presentation at a recent 'Reactive Disaster Box Charities' forum, the RIBI International Service Committee urge any Rotary club starting a project to consider the logistics of transportation at a very early stage of their planning.

I hope you find this edition both informative and interesting. Your feedback is always welcome - Mike

RIBI Donations Trust



Money is available for successfully approved sustainable projects in Pakistan and a limited amount is available for other internationally rated sustainable projects – further information is available from the Chairman of the RIBI Donation Trust Trustee, Greg Thacker via gregdthacker@aol.com or Trustee Mike Parry via mjparry111@hotmail.com

(Within the UK, money is still available from the ring-fenced UK Flood Fund)

World Child Cancer

The RIBI Executive Committee has approved the placing of the World Child Cancer Charity onto the Opportunity to Service Project Library.

Please visit www.worldchildcancer.org or contact Lydia 020 3176 7892.

Polio – NiD in February 2015

It has now been confirmed by the Government of India that a National Immunization Day (NiD) will go ahead on the 22nd of February 2015. Mike Yates is organizing various travel options, including an extension to Bhutan and may be contacted via - mike.yates@yates-international.co.uk

Ebola

 including reports from District International Service Chairs (DISCs)

The International Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors, with the support of Global OffSite Care, is pleased to offer unique support services to colleagues in affected countries.



GLOBAL OFFSITECARE, is a California NGO formed by Rotarians to promote Rotary sponsored Telemedicine projects. It is currently collaborating with the Yenagoa Federal Hospital in Nigeria – one of the Ebola affected countries - to establish a regular Telemedicine service. – more details via Dr John Philip of Mirfield Rotary Club on johnphilip@btconnect.com and on a leaflet associated with this newsletter.

Details of RI's information may be found via <http://rotaryservice.wordpress.com/2014/09/02/monrovia-club-spearheads-ebola-relief-campaigns-in-liberia/>

Mike Charters – mike@charters.eu.com writes.....An urgent plea for help from a former member had the **Guildford Rotary** clubs pulling out all the stops to send funds to Ebola-stricken areas in Liberia. In a combined effort – in which the Mayor of Guildford, David Elms joined - they held a special High Street collection that raised £678. With other funds donated by clubs and members a total of more than £2,000 has so far been sent out.



The initial request came from ex-Rotarian Hilary Byrne who is working with the steel and mining company ArcelorMittal. In addition to Hilary, Tom Grant, son of Martin Grant, from Guildford Chantry RC, has been working in the area. In her email Hilary wrote: "The Ebola epidemic has affected all of Liberia - public life has stopped, no work or school can function by Presidential decree to reduce possibilities of infection. No one can work and so families cannot get income, food prices are soaring and people fear meeting others. The most urgent practical need here is to be able to distribute water buckets with a top and tap attached to communities to assist in developing a hand-washing mentality."

The Community Liaison Team has switched from farm surveys for assessing compensation for loss of farmland to Ebola awareness in local communities. We have a Liberian public health nurse who speaks the local language, Mano, and we take her to each community in the whole of Northern Nimba in Liberia. The local communities are usually small with houses made of mud and thatched roofs. Health workers and health facilities are few and far between. The local Ministry of Health teams are overwhelmed and so need as much help as possible."



DISC 1130, Peter, writes to say.... *Our club **Edgware and Stanmore** also has a close link with the rotary club Monrovia. Our current president has lived and have a family business out there for 25 years and we have two ideas, including badges, Peter's e-mail is peterbradley@madasafish.com for more details.*

Peter has designed badges which he and the Edgware and Stanmore Rotary Club have found of great use in fund raising activities.

DISC 1010, Ewen has shared his impressive web site <http://www.rotary-ribi.org/districts/page.php?PgID=477597&DistrictNo=1010&Mp=255575>

Due to the seriousness of the outbreaks, the following October edition item is reproduced below.

An extract from the www.ribi.org home page

*'Brian Jonson, President of **Marlow Rotary Club** said: "We hope the people of Marlow will support our campaign for the club and churches in Monrovia where the Ebola crisis is causing so much concern. Ebola is destroying the already scant health care infrastructures and many hospitals in Liberia have closed down temporarily and doctors are dying. The chief administrator of the largest hospital in Monrovia has also died from the virus. They have no facilities such as masks and gloves and in some cases no fresh water."*



The Marlow Rotarians plan to work with the Monrovia club to supply items such as face masks, gloves, soap, bed sheets, mattress covers, fresh water, chemicals, protective garments and other essentials to care for the sick, handle the dead and disinfect the infected areas'

DISC Peter from D1130, provides one of the **latest updates from Rotary Club of Monrovia**Please also look at our club's website if not already done <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofmonrovia>
More recently we have given support to a joint Ministry of Health / ChildFund program, that has established an "interim care center" mainly for children whose parents are in isolation in the treatment centers. We are also supporting the nurses assigned to a local NGO (non-governmental institution) that has a total of 12 nurses working within local communities that are in need of their services particularly those requiring "home care", where people are subject to a quarantine period of 21 days after possible exposure to Ebola. Two more communities will receive buckets and containers of chlorine solution as a preventative measure.
David Frankfort - Chairperson Ebola Response Committee - Rotary Club of Monrovia

DISC 1110, John writes....CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL THREATENED BY EBOLA VIRUS

DONATIONS URGENTLY NEEDED TO FINANCE ISOLATION WARD

East Cliff Rotary Bournemouth are leading a campaign to raise funds to help a children's hospital in Sierra Leone where the Ebola virus is rapidly spreading. Bo Children's Hospital is desperately trying to provide an isolation ward to enable them to continue their work. This facility is now a matter of life and death for this impoverished and endangered community. In the nearby town of Kenema there have been almost 200 reported deaths with an additional 100 cases in isolation. Sadly, Bo has now incurred several deaths with many more forecast. Bo Children's Hospital provides a vital focus for the treatment and containment of the disease locally. East Cliff Rotary Club in Bournemouth partnered Turramurra Rotary Club in Australia to build the hospital to provide essential hygiene, basic health care and education for local mothers and young children. The hospital was opened in 2012 and now serves more than 200 patients a week. Up to mid September, the Sierra Leone Government Ministry of Health recorded more than 1300 cases with more than 500 deaths (including at least 140 health workers), and the number of suspected cases is growing daily. East Cliff Rotary Club has already raised \$5,000 towards the \$40,000 needed immediately. More is required urgently. Donations can be made online at our MyDonate page. Search for MyDonate, then look for East Cliff Rotary or go to <http://mydonate.bt.com/events/boebolacrisis/185407> Or by post to: Bo Children's Hospital Ebola Crisis, 1 Mount Pleasant, 111 Mudeford, BH23 4AE. Please make cheques payable to "Bournemouth East Cliff Rotary Club". All donations received will be directed in full to Bo Children's Hospital so that they can continue their essential work. Visit www.eastcliffrotary.org or call 01425 277406 for more information.



Members from **Farnham Weyside Rotary (District 1250)** were delighted with the response to their 'Ebola Awareness Day' on Saturday 18th. To attract the public's attention, Weyside's international chair, Paul Dawson, - pdsundew@btinternet.com - was dressed in a, now unfortunately familiar, PPE suit. It certainly did the trick as over £1400 was raised in just a few hours. Paul said, "Once again the good folk of Farnham have put their trust in Rotary and we will ensure that the money raised will quickly go to support the most appropriate organisations working in the effected countries"

DISC 1260 Robert, robertandfredaward@tiscali.co.uk, with the support of DG Jenny writes.....I am sure we are all saddened and very moved by the speed with which the Ebola outbreak is taking its toll on communities and families in West Africa: Liberia and Sierra Leone in particular. These are amongst the poorest countries in the world, recovering from brutal civil wars and with very limited health infrastructures.

The effects of Ebola are truly tragic and any help we can offer these countries to help stop the spread of this terrible disease will be greatly welcomed and start to make a difference.

In District 1260 we have been in contact with a charity called **L.A.C.E.S, (Life and Change Experienced thru Sports)**. The charity was started in the USA but in 2013 set up in the UK and is now a UK registered charity (charity number 1152458).

Set out below is a summary of some details which has been sent to District 1260 DG, Jenny Muir, by their UK director of development Andy Ransberry showing how they can utilize cash donations from us to help prevent the spread of Ebola by education and the provision of basic hygiene equipment.

It would be great if clubs could support this charity by making a donation: For example £ 100 would buy 5 buckets and the related disinfectant (Clorox), as explained in the extract below from Andy's note.

I suggest that clubs send their donations direct to L.A.C.E.S in the UK either by bank transfer or by cheque; the details are set out at the foot of this note. Please indicate in the bank transfer or cheque payment the club from which the donation is being made. "L.A.C.E.S. www.laces.org.uk was started in response to the brutal 14 year civil war in Liberia. It was the most notorious conflict for the use of child soldiers - 15,000 children some as young as 6 fought. The war ended 10 years ago and our programme helped former child soldiers, orphans and marginalised children. At the moment we are responding to the Ebola epidemic which is "peacefully" affecting the people of Liberia and the children are once again at risk.

Our ground level education is key to relieve fear and misinformation. The disease is spreading fast and without education fear spreads faster. L.A.C.E.S. 100 coaches and staff are united to help stop infections through the initiatives recommended by the World Health Organisation and we are able to do that because of the trust and respect we have in the communities we work. We are working to support the children through this very challenging time. We have distributed over 600 hand washing Buckets and Clorox to our children and their families. The key is the education that goes along with the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The spigot bucket costs £12 and the Clorox £6 - we have provided a 1 month supply of Clorox for a family of 5. We have the capacity to distribute more buckets and Clorox to the wider community - we also have the trust and acceptance of the local community to do this. Many people are fearful of outsiders and health workers but our Ebola awareness trained L.A.C.E.S. coaches live in the communities they serve so they are listened to. With funding we could do more of this essential work to enable our coaches to distribute PPE to 1000's of homes".

The RIBI International Service Committee afforded District International Service Chairs (DISCs) the opportunity to hear from the Rotary Club of Freetown in Sierra Leone and the Rotary Club of Monrovia, Liberia through Marlow Rotary – the Committee would encourage all Rotary Clubs to ensure that they are providing items that are actually needed, and not perceived to be needed, by the community and of the required standards in addition to being certain that such aid can be transported to the country and meet appropriate custom requirements. If there is doubt then specialized charities, for example Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and Save the Children, may be an alternative means of supporting this major crisis.

Long term sustainable help is going to be required in all the affected countries and now is an ideal time to start the planning process in conjunction with the many in-country contacts that exist – the Committee would be pleased to hear from RIBI Rotarians that are either nationals of the affected countries or friends so that a matrix of such information can be readily provided if requested.

Disasters

The RIBI web site is regularly updated – as Rotarians we naturally look to the long term sustainable help we can provide but naturally think of the 'NOW' – please support the Rotary sponsored 'reactive' charities in their on-going work to provide shelter and other essential survival items.

Projects can be posted on the RI's crowdsourcing tool site, 'Rotary Ideas' and questions about contributing to Ebola relief at an RI level should be sent to relief@rotary.org

Following a DHL presentation at a recent 'Reactive Disaster Box Charities' forum, the RIBI International Service Committee urge any Rotary club starting a project to consider the logistics of transportation at a very early stage of their planning.

What's in my food?

The **End Polio Now Programme** will benefit from a book which deals with a very complicated of subject 'What is in my food?' - www.whatsinmyfood.com - .

Peter Taylor of Otter Valley Rotary has tried to make it fun to read, interesting, fascinating and easy to understand with excellent illustrations.

The book can be downloaded using Amazon/Kindle. Kindle offer a free App. Once into Kindle, just tap into the search window, 'What's in my food?' and the book will appear. It retails at £6.17 – the bank details are being modified to Otter Valley Rotary Club who will then send to RF(UK) in favour of the End Polio Now Programme.

'What's in my food?' presents the relevant facts in a stylish yet wriggle free format. Based upon proven data, the book takes the reader upon a journey from energy production through the causes of energy depletion to the body's requirement for nutrients and where to find them.

The dangers of mass farming techniques and mass food production are exposed. Ten years ago the EU considered launching a colour code for food. After 6 years the lobbyists won the day and the scheme was shelved. The book provides a simple colour code for most of the foods we eat based upon one average portion rather than upon grams and micrograms per kilo and so on. So, the food has a red thumbs down, an orange thumbs horizontal and a green thumbs up to indicate its overall nutritional value.

This book offers a simple visual explanation of food values: something never previously attempted and the last chapters give colourfully illustrated healthy recipes.

School in a Bag

Former DG of D1200, Stan - westman.systems@lineone.net writes....School in a Bag is an initiative run by the Piers Simon Appeal, a UK registered charity (1109503) set up in memory of Piers who sadly lost his life in the Indian Ocean Tsunami on Boxing Day in 2004.

In 2009, following a project helping orphan children in Swaziland, the School in a Bag (SIAB) initiative was born to help address the millions of children who are deprived of an opportunity to learn. According to UNICEF figures, one fifth of the world's child population (around 75 million children) will never attend school.



School in a Bag deliver rucksacks filled with stationery, learning resources and eating utensils to poor, orphan and disaster affected children around the world. To date, the initiative has delivered almost 47,000 SchoolBags to children in 23 countries. A typical SchoolBag contains: 12 pencils, a pencil case with 10 biro's, 12 colouring pencils, a math set, a ruler, 6 exercise books (lined, squared, plain), a water bottle and a lunch box with a spoon. The contents are always brand new and to ensure equality amongst the beneficiaries, the SchoolBags are all identical.

Each SchoolBag is numbered enabling donors to track their funded SchoolBag(s) on the School in a Bag website www.schoolinabag.org and if the right images are taken by the SIAB distribution partners, donors can often see the very person/people who have received their SchoolBag(s). The cost to fund a delivered SchoolBag is £15.

The SchoolBags are delivered in a number of ways – shipping SchoolBags out from the UK, putting SchoolBags together 'In Country' using International partners, and working with disaster-relief charities to deliver SchoolBags to children in refugee camps following natural disasters.

Since July 2009, SIAB have worked with 29 Rotary Clubs in 6 Districts throughout the UK. We are hugely grateful for the continued and valuable support helping School in a Bag to expand enabling us to provide more School Bags to disadvantaged children around the world.

Next month



Please keep your International news coming in – by sharing details we help remove even more darkness from the world and help Light Up Rotary

The International Service Committee hope you found this edition both interesting and informative.

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Liaison Governor 2014 -15

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