

# Rotary Club Torrington School Awareness Campaign

Torrington Rotarians would like to thank your school for taking part in this awareness campaign, We will contact you early next term to arrange a convenient time for you, for us to come along with the items listed below and some information about the campaign and to help plant the corms if needed and we look forward to working with you



- 200 purple crocus corms

- Wooden planter

- Bag of compost

## Purple4Polio



# Rotary Club Torrington School Awareness Campaign

## The Purpose of the Campaign

The School Awareness Campaign aims to teach the children the history of this terrible life-threatening disease POLIO and how worldwide vaccination programme started by Rotary International aims to totally eliminate the Disease. We wont stop until we have totally eliminated this Disease.

## WHY THE PURPLE CROCUS

When a country holds its vaccination day after the children have been vaccinated their finger tip is coloured with a purple dye as proof of vaccination.



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## The Disease

Poliomyelitis, or polio, is a paralyzing and potentially fatal disease that still threatens children in some parts of the world. Poliovirus invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in hours. It can strike people of any age but mainly affects children under five. Polio can be prevented by vaccines, but it is not curable. Unlike most diseases, polio can be eradicated.

## Rotarians Volunteer

More than 1 million Rotary members have donated their time and money to eradicate polio, and every year, hundreds of members work with health workers to vaccinate children in countries affected by polio. Rotary members work with UNICEF and other partners to prepare and distribute informational materials for people in areas that are isolated by conflict, geography, or poverty. They also mobilize to recruit fellow volunteers, assist in transporting the vaccine, and provide other logistical support.

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## The Facts

- Polio mainly affects children under age 5.
- There is no cure, but polio is preventable with a vaccine.
- Only two countries remain endemic.
- We've reduced cases by 99.9% since 1988.
- Until we end polio forever, every child is at risk.

Since 1979 Rotary Clubs around the world have led the fight to eradicate Polio.

In 1988 we were joined by the World Health Organisation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in forming the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

We are almost there

When we started in 1979 there were 350,000 cases annually worldwide, so far in 2023 there have been just 5 cases with two countries remaining endemic - Pakistan and Afghanistan.

**Help us continue the fight with our  
SCHOOL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

# Purple4Polio



# **Rotary Club Torrington School Awareness Campaign**

## **Celebrity Support**

**Rotary has a growing list of public figures and celebrities who support our fight against polio**

including Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; actresses Kristen Bell and Archie Panjabi; actor and wrestling superstar John Cena; supermodel Isabeli Fontana; Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu; action-movie star Jackie Chan; actor Donald Sutherland; boxing great Manny Pacquiao; pop star Psy; golf legend Jack Nicklaus; conservationist Jane Goodall; premier violinist Itzhak Perlman; Grammy Award winners A.R. Rahman, Angélique Kidjo, and Ziggy Marley; and peace advocate Queen Noor of Jordan.

These ambassadors help Rotary educate the public about the disease and the fight to end polio for good.

# **Purple4Polio**



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## **A Special Thank You**

Monkleigh Primary School

High Bickington C of E Primary Academy

Dolton Church Of England Primary School

Great Torrington Bluecoat C of E Primary School

Shebbear Community Primary School

Great Torrington School

The Clinton Church of England School

Langtree Community School

The Mens Shed Torrington for making the planters

Tamar Building Supplies (Torrington Branch) for  
donating the timber for the planters.

Excel Agri at Winkleigh for donating the compost

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**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

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## Did Rotary's global End Polio Now start in Torrington

In 1984 Rotarian Jimmy Martin, a former Mayor of Torrington and a Founder Members of the Rotary Club of Torrington wanted to visit all the "Torringtons" in the world and was told that there was one in Jamaica. He didn't realise at the time that it was only a name on a farm gate! Jimmy went, visited the local Rotary Club and met Dr. Roy Francis who took Jim to the local hospital where there were children on the beds with no blankets or sheets and polio was endemic. Roy suggested to Jim that the Rotary Club of Torrington could help initially by raising the cost of immunising the children against Polio. Our two Clubs could join and we could get a matching grant from RI. Jimmy came back full of it and we set about this as a Club project knowing how many children would have to be immunised and the likely cost. Peter Turton helped in costing the project and I submitted an application to firstly RIBI and then RI on behalf of the Club.

We had to get a "Hold Harmless Agreement" signed presumably to say that if any child died as a result of the immunisation, Rotary would not be liable. I obtained such a signature from the Jamaican Embassy but it was not the top ranking official and when I submitted the application to RI it was approved in principle but it needed the top man (presumably "The Ambassador") to sign. The indication, therefore, was that our proposal was accepted but we had to comply with a technicality.

This was to be a 3H project, Health, Hunger and Humanity, but when it was resubmitted with the appropriate signature we were advised that Rotary International was now promoting a new project "The Polio Plus Campaign" and this would include the children in Jamaica so that our project was no longer necessary. Our project could have sparked something off at HQ or yet it could have been a complete co-incidence but there is no doubt that there was no such thing as "Polio Plus" when we started our project so we and millions worldwide could have much to thank Jimmy Martin and the Rotary Club of Torrington for. This is the biggest project ever undertaken by Rotary certainly on a world-wide basis and we were in at the very beginning, if not the possible instigators!!! It would be nice to know the answer but it shows the foresight and lack of fear if our Club thinks there is a need and we can do something about it.

The fact that you have been active at "the coal face" and treating the children somewhat rounds off an amazing story- we were in at the very beginning and hopefully will be there at the end if you and those you inspire continue the good work.

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