

Purple 4 Polio

Although Polio has not been seen in Great Britain and Ireland for many years, it is vital that we continue our efforts to eliminate the disease worldwide in order that it can never return. Rotary Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland have so far donated over £20 million (€24 million) to the **End Polio Now** campaign.



Our efforts to eradicate Polio have been described as one of the finest humanitarian projects the world has ever known and Rotary has even been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. The eradication of Polio, when completed, will be one of the most significant achievements in public health since the eradication of smallpox.

India has been clear for almost 5 years, **Nigeria** was thought to be clear until a recent small outbreak; the remaining epidemics are in **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan** where immunisation efforts are hampered by the factions fighting in that region of the world and suspicion of Western society's motives. So, the vaccination campaign must continue, here and there in the world.

Here in Britain, Rotary Clubs are renewing their fund-raising efforts through the **Purple 4 Polio** campaign, purple being the colour of the dye that is used to mark a finger of each child as they are vaccinated.

This campaign also coincides with the centenary of the **Rotary International Foundation** to which all Clubs contribute and from which the funds are found for Rotary's international campaigns

Among the schemes in action, British Rotary Clubs are organising **Purple Crocus** planting to enliven our local environments in conjunction with the **Royal Horticultural Society**, and also running publicity events supported by **END POLIO NOW Teddy Bears**.

We are not giving up on the elimination of Polio, we're "this . . .close"!

