



humanity in motion

rotary club of chislehurst / district 1120

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press release

Chislehurst Rotarians meet Bill Gates polio challenge

Chislehurst Rotary club is part of the worldwide battle to finally eradicate polio. The 35-strong club has met the challenge set by no less a person than Bill Gates of Microsoft. The billionaire-turned-philanthropist has contributed \$100 million from his foundation to fight polio, on the understanding that Rotary International will raise the funds to match his donation over the next three years.

So the worldwide Rotary organisation set individual clubs across the world a target amount to raise from each local community in order to match Bill Gates' big bucks. Every club in the world aims to raise \$3000 over three years. Chislehurst Rotarians are delighted that they have not only met, but exceeded their target of £500 for this year. They are confident that they will continue to hit their £500 target in the next two years.

A local anonymous donor gave £500 to the Club, earmarked for Polio, and Chislehurst Rotarians have also donated a further £500 to this worthwhile cause.

Polio eradication has been one of the major initiatives Rotary has supported in recent years and although under control in many parts of the world the disease is still a killer and the fight against this maiming disease goes on.

Chislehurst Rotary raises funds through local activities like the fireworks and Christmas sleigh collections. Most years the club raises about £12,000 - £15,000 for charity. The great majority of this goes to local charities but the international dimension like Polio eradication is also a priority for the club.

Information for editors:

Successful Polio eradication campaigns mean that deaths from the disease have dropped from 350,000 a year in the 1980s to about 1300 in 2007. Over the years 20 million Rotarians have contributed \$700 million and helped immunise two billion children. But the disease is carried by a virus and can easily get a foothold where immunisation levels are low and become a major threat to health. Polio is still endemic in 4 countries: India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

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Note to Editors:

Chislehurst Rotary Club started in 1967 and is part of the Rotary International organisation. Its members meet weekly at Chislehurst Golf Club. Current President is Harold South.

For more information please check out our website on www.chislehurstrotaryclub.org.uk