

By George

newsletter

January 2008

Dilemma for Polio Eradication

New Scientist reported last October that countries on the verge of eradicating polio face a hard decision.

The problem arises because many developing countries use a cheap vaccine made with live virus. As long as they keep vaccinating, the live virus cannot spread, because most children are immune. But when vaccination stops, some people continue to harbour the virus. It can turn virulent and spread to unvaccinated children.

This has happened in Nigeria, where in the past two years 92 children have been paralysed by type 2 polio. This strain had stopped circulating in the wild in 1999 but is used in some live vaccines. Gene analysis shows that the live virus has gone wild on seven separate occasions.

To meet the challenge, Indonesia and Mexico are switching to a more expensive killed vaccine. They will keep vaccinating until the live oral polio virus disappears from circulation. But this strategy may be

too expensive for many developing countries. At present, killed vaccine costs ten times as much as live oral vaccine.

Scientists met in Bethesda, Maryland last year to discuss new, cheaper ways of making killed vaccine, and drugs that can clear the virus from chronic carriers. Several candidates are already being tested.

Overall, the news is good. Vaccination in Nigeria has finally recovered from the setback in 2003 when religious leaders denounced the programme. Last year there were just 198 cases of polio, compared with 888 by the same time the year before. Worldwide, there were 572 cases, compared with 1403 the previous year.

For the latest reports on Polio Eradication, visit <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

For Your Diary

Catrina Cochrane-Mills	30 Jan	bottle	Paul Kyle	30 Jan	door
Alison Crook	6 Feb	bottle	Bert Macdonald	6 Feb	door
David Cuthbert	13 Feb	bottle	John MacIntyre	13 Feb	door
Albert Donaldson	20 Feb	bottle	Ian Marr	20 Feb	door
Graham Fleming	27 Feb	bottle	Jim Moyes	27 Feb	door
Enrico Frattaroli	30 Jan	speaker	Euna Scott	30 Jan	door
John Fyfe	6 Feb	speaker	Susan Scott	6 Feb	door
John Galbraith	20 Feb	speaker	Bill Smith	13 Feb	door
Graham Harding	27 Feb	speaker	Alexander Stewart	20 Feb	door
Tom Howie	16 Jan	door	Heather Stewart	27 Feb	door
Brian Kitching	23 Jan	door			

January's Council Meeting

The position of 'By George' editor remains unfilled. President Rob will produce a simple newsletter beginning this month. (And here it is - Ed.)

SVP Neil is to co-ordinate the Club's representation at the District Roadshow to be held in McDairmid Park on 3 March.

Council approved two leaves of absence applications; Enrico Frattaroli from 16 January to 12 March, and Sally McCartney from 1 February for 6 months.

The appeal for volunteer directors or admin assistants for the Cherrybank based charity 'Trellis' will be considered by Ian Marr and his committee.

Balances in the Club's accounts are: £4,209 (club), £6,964 (charity) and £1,640 (hospitality).

No charity payments were made. We continue to receive monthly cheques from GWL; £56 in the last four months.

A massive vote of thanks to all those involved with the PKAVS Christmas parcel delivery. Some 300 parcels were delivered, with more than half of the club helping.

Planning for RYLA is ongoing.

No responses as yet from the approach to schools and PKC Education Dept. in the search for a replacement event for the George Mortimer trophy. This will now be followed up.

The Quiz Night fundraiser will take place on 11 February.

The International Evening will be held on 19 or 26 March. (Now proposed for 12 March - Ed.)

22 March is Water Aid day. Jim Moyes has sent for a fundraising pack, and will look at a possible project involving PKC Leisure pool facilities and staff.

Members are reminded of the Book Aid collection for 16 March.

The Ceilidh was an enjoyable evening, but attendance slipped to 80 following 22 late cancellations, and consequently a loss of £157 was incurred. This loss is offset by the surplus made on the barbeque.

Work on the hosting evenings will begin this month.

Arrangement for the Sportsman's Dinner are on course. Ticket sales look promising. (It is sold out now - Ed).

The Full Length and Fabulous Ball will take place at Murrayshall on 20 June for 150 people. 10 places have been earmarked for Rotarians. Support from the business community has been excellent, both for interest in ticket sales and cash sponsorship.

After Alex McLaren's induction, we have 45 members.

Directory

See printed edition.

Events

4 Feb 19:30	Council meeting
11 Feb	Quiz Night
29 Feb	Sportsman's Dinner
3 Mar 18:15	District Roadshow, MacDiarmid Pk
3 Mar 19:30	Council meeting
11 Mar	Senior Citizens Ceilidh
12 Mar	International Evening
17 Mar 19:00	Primary Schools Quiz, Salutation
25 - 27 Apr	Aschaffenburg visit

The Editor

Please send news items and contributions to ByGeorge@perthsjrotary.org.uk by 13 Feb.