

Kirkby-in-Ashfield Rotary Club

E-Bulletin: Polio Special

The support for Kirkby 'End Polio' week, 19th to 26th October 2014, has been phenomenal. We have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm shown by everyone involved. This special E-Bulletin tries to convey that spirit. I hope you enjoy it. We don't know the final result in terms of money raised but we will let you know formally as soon as possible. Meanwhile, thank you. *Ron Walker*



Day 1 Twelve and 850

That's the number of organisations taking part in the week. and the number of crocus badges we ordered. Ashwood, Forest Hill Methodist, St John's, St Wilfrid's and All Saints Annesley Churches all the sold badges, as did Acacia Community Centre. Greenwood, Kingsway and Orchard Primary Schools were strongly involved, as you will see later in this bulletin. The ADC offices at Urban Road and Northern Depot sold badges to the public and staff. That was just the start.

Day 2 First Crocus Planting

Eight pupils from Years 4 and 5 of Annesley Primary & Nursery School planted around 500 crocus bulbs in Kingsway Park at the start of Kirkby End Polio Week. The week was a co-operation between Ashfield District Council and Kirkby Rotary Club., for which Mark Rickers, ADC Lead Environment Officer, provided a total of 4000 crocus bulbs.

The children were brought to the site by the school's Head Teacher, Paul Nolan, and Deputy Head, Dawn Roberts. Six Rotarians attended and the planting was supervised by Kingsway's Park Keeper and deputy.

President Roger Pursey explained briefly that the planting, in the shape of the Rotary wheel

symbol, was to raise awareness of the



international effort being made to eradicate polio finally from the world. The other half of the bed was planted later. A suitable plaque will be placed on site when the crocuses flower.

Day 3 Second Crocus Planting

In a Force Something gale and driving rain, the remnants of Hurricane Gonzola, 25 pupils from Kingsway School's Year Six trekked to the top of Shoulder-of-Mutton Hill, accompanied by Deputy Head Teacher Paul Ford and two other members of staff. We were honoured with the presence of ADC Chairman Liz Mays, her husband Stephen, and Council Leader Cllr Chris Baron, as well as four Rotarians and two park keepers with several hundred crocus bulbs.

The mission, as before, was to plant the bulbs in the Rotary-wheel-shaped beds that the experts had cut earlier. President Roger and Cllr Baron briefly explained to the children what it was all about. Then in spite of the rotten weather conditions, they and quite a few adults set to with great enthusiasm, and in hardly any



time at all the job was done.

Kingsway School are to be congratulated on turning out, and they, like most of us, no doubt felt pleased with themselves for showing our British grit.

As Paul Ford said later, having to cope with the weather made it a special occasion.



Meanwhile ...

Rotarian Neil Lancashire, our tame professional photographer, had completed the club notice boards located between the Nag's Head and the public loos. For one week only, the display publicised Kirkby End Polio Week, as well as the more permanent club details.

Jo Wakefield, one of ADC's PR officers, was posting daily photos and news on their Facebook.

And Rotn Melissa Blythe arranged for President Roger to be interviewed on Mansfield Radio.



Day 4 - KPS in Technicolor

For Kingsway Primary School it was the last day before the half term holiday. It was also No-Uniform-Come-In-Bright-Colours Day, all part of the End Polio Week. After the previous day's bulb planting by Year 6, all the pupils were encouraged to wear something not just purple (the End Polio colour), but



other bright colours too. The result at the morning assembly was amazing. For this privilege they and their families were invited to give 50p to the polio project.

Meanwhile the crocus badges had been on sale in the school reception area, boosting the amount that was raised in just three days. Another feather in KPS's cap.

Day 6 - International Polio Day- Part 1: Job Done at Kingsway Park .



Forty-two children from Orchard Primary School's Year Five paraded to Kingsway Park to plant the crocus bulbs needed to complete the Rotary-wheel-shaped beds.



The occasion was graced by ADC Chairman Cllr Liz Mays and her husband Stephen, Council Leader Cllr Chris Baron, Cllr Cheryl Butler (Teaching Assistant at Orchard), John Tattersfield (ADC Kirkby Community Action Officer), Mark Rickers, (ADC Lead Environment Officer), Sue Russell and Stuart Jackson (Orchard Year 5 teachers), President Roger Pursey with assorted Rotarians, two park staff, several parents and a Chad photographer.

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(Day 6 continued)

The Chairman explained the significance of the colour purple - dye is put on a finger of each child immunised - and ended by saying that the bulbs would "grow into a beautiful reminder of what we are trying to achieve".

President Roger thanked everyone present for their enthusiastic support. The children queued for

their bulbs, the planting began and was soon completed with great efficiency.

Everyone responded to the essential photo-call and several group photographs were duly taken. Finally, as a reward, the children were let loose on the park playground rides, eventually returning to the school to pose cheerfully for another group photograph, with Roger Pursey, Sue Russell and Stuart Jackson.



Though only Year Five were in the photo - after all, they had been planting - the entire Orchard school joined in the Wear Purple Day and bought crocus badges.

The day was by no means over, but continued in the same vein. Read on!

Day 6 - Part 2: Cakes Galore

Meanwhile at Green Primary School it was Cake Day. Parents contributed hundreds of cakes which all the pupils, some 500 of them, could buy at 30 p a time. They also gave 50p each buy a crocus badge and for the chance to wear purple instead of school uniform. (Just a few from one class are in the photograph. Good to see President Roger and Rotarian Mike Lee wearing purple too.)



Because of an error by the suppliers, some of the cards attached to the badges were in a foreign language: Rotary hadn't been able to intercept and detach all the wrong ones before sending them out. Not deterred, Orchard left the cards on and used them for language instruction!

Day 6 - Part 3: A Purple Shower Cap?

Staff at the ADC offices both in Urban Road (pictured) and the Northern Depot entered wonderfully into the spirit of the week by selling and buying badges and, on this International Polio Day, wearing purple.

CEO Philip Marshall (far right) rallied a large contingent of his troops for the photo. As well as the elegant ladies, a couple of the gents were very creative, turning out in a purple sparking ruff and a shower cap! Wonderful!



From President Roger Pursey:

It is great to be a Rotarian and I am extremely proud of the Rotary Club of Kirkby in Ashfield. I have been in Rotary 28 years and this week rates as one of the best. The idea for this whole event from our Projects Committee has grown beyond our wildest expectations.

A big thank you to the schools' pupils and staff, to the churches; also to Ashfield District Council for their co-operation, contribution and encouragement; and to Morrisons for their facility. I will mention no personal names as an omission often offends.

Due to the generosity of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, every £1 raised this week will be matched 2 for 1 and so become £3.

Many, many thanks.

Roger

Day 6 - Part 4: Public Response

Morrisons supermarket allowed us in, not just to the foyer but to the store itself. And the response of the shoppers was so good we had to rush out and scoop up left-over badges from other sites.

