

Tour De Clacks 2020

In October, members of St James the Great, Dollar, took part in the Rotary campaign End Polio Now to raise money to end polio in the world and also to raise funds for St James's. In 1985 there were 1,000 cases of polio a day in 125 countries, paralysing and even killing children. Rotary spearheaded a campaign with the aim to rid the world of polio and over the past 35 years, Rotary members, working with communities around the world, have contributed more than US\$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to the fight to end polio. The result has been a reduction in the number of cases by 99.9%. In August 2020, Rotary and the world celebrated a significant milestone, as the World Health Organization certified the Africa region free from wild polio. This leaves just Pakistan and Afghanistan as the two remaining polio endemic countries in the world.

Total eradication of the disease remains Rotary's key humanitarian priority and whilst fundraising during a global pandemic is massively challenging Rotary, like other fundraising organisations, simply had to find a way to keep their work afloat while not being able to meet people face to face.

Aloa Rotary Club conceived the idea of the "Tour de Clacks", being our affectionate name for the wonderful cycle and walking paths that can be found around the wee county of Clackmannanshire. The challenge was for fundraisers to complete a 20km "Tour de Clacks" by cycling, walking, running, jogging, using a wheelchair, pushing a pram or any other mode of transport at their own pace and choosing their own route to coincide with World Polio Day.

Registration for the event required a £6 donation to End Polio Now, which thanks to Rotary partners the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was matched 2-to-1 so was worth £18. The event additionally encouraged fundraising through sponsorship for other causes. Laurene and I chose to raise funds for St James the Great in addition to End Polio Now. Participants flew an "End Polio Now" pennant to help raise awareness.

We were both fortunate with the weather on the days we cycled round our lovely county at the height of its autumn colours. The event proved successful, and fun, with money still being donated to both causes.

Alun Morgan

