

Belper News

BELPER **Rotary club**

Across the world, October 24 was recognized as World Polio Day. Polio is a highly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under five years of age.

It spreads from person to person, attacking the nervous system and can lead to complete paralysis.

There is no cure for polio, but there is a safe and effective vaccine which to date has been given to more than 2.5 billion children across the world. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have been major contributors to the Polio eradication campaign for a number of years now and double every penny raised in this campaign by Rotary International.

Rotary International has been at the forefront of the campaign to eradicate Polio since the 1970's when it was endemic across the world paralyzing over 1,000 child victims every day. The disease is now endemic in just three countries, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria where it is contained in very small areas with just a hand-

ful of cases.

To celebrate World Polio Day and at the request of The Rotary Club of Belper and Duffield, Belper Central Methodist Chapel on Chapel Street, kindly agreed to illuminate the building in purple for the day. Purple is the official colour of the 'End Polio Now' campaign and early in the year many people may well have seen displays of purple crocuses that have been planted in the gardens of public buildings, schools etc, across many towns. Many significant public buildings across the country were similarly shrouded in purple or have the 'End Polio Now' message illuminating them during late October.