





Faringdon Rotarian

Activities of Faringdon & District Rotary Club



www.faringdonrotaryclub.org



@RotaryFaringdon



faringdon.rotary

'The Rotary Club of Faringdon & District Trust Fund' registered charity No: 1023771

Producer & Editor: Michael Bell



The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of The worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Christmas Lights-On



On Saturday 1st December it was a joy to see our historic town centre come alive with children and happy families, looking forward to Christmas and enjoying street entertainers, fairground

rides, Punch & Judy, craft stalls, music from Wantage Silver Band and joining in with Christmas carols from Stagecoach Performing Arts children's choir.



Santa arrived on Thomas at 2.30pm and, except for a brief interlude when he emerged for lights switch-on at 5.30pm,

was meeting, greeting and delighting young visitors all afternoon.



By lights switch-on time the market place cked. Rotarians were evident throughout

was packed. Rotarians were evident throughout supervising traffic diversion, fairground rides, ensuring a consistent snowfall, looking out for the children who delighted in climbing aboard Thomas the Tank Engine, acting as Santa's helpers and performing general stewarding duties. Meanwhile, Barry and Margaret were performing sterling service representing Rotary at the Corn





FATHER CHRISTMAS & THOMAS

Thank you, Faringdon Rotary Club, for bringing Father Christmas and Thomas the Tank Engine down our street last night. It was truly magical and the kids were delighted! Please pass on our thanks to all involved. It is massively appreciated! *Ellie, Watchfield*



Thank you, you guys made my boy so happy, went to sleep with a smile.

Amazing effort all round. Hope you raise lots of money xx.



Hello, we have just moved to Shrivenham and my son is Thomas the Tank Engine mad! I've been told you are coming to Shrivenham and

just wondered the best place to wait to see Santa: thank you. *Claire* (and later) 4 happy children! Thank you very much, they loved it.



Thank you so much for this evening!! We even shipped family in from Wantage because we love how magical you guys make the build-up to Christmas. The kids didn't stop talking about you all evening!! Thanks again x



One of the best parts of December - thank you!! - Kate

How heart-warming it was to spend yesterday evening with Santa and Faringdon's Rotary Club visiting young and old and those in between...! *Catherine*

Thank you very much for visiting Southmoor, our little people are super excited x

Thank you so much for once again doing Santa rounds in Faringdon. Neighbours will once again be getting together for mulled wine and mince pies to mark the occasion.





Another year with Santa on Thomas: the children, faces of excitement was pure magical. Thanks again for the effort you all go to by making the children's Christmas truly magical. My daughter was so happy to see you. Merry Christmas.

Thank you, Faringdon Rotary Club, for visiting my grandchildren in Watchfield tonight - it was an absolutely magical occasion for them! Only six sleeps to go.....! 🌲 🕆 💞









An amazing evening: Father Christmas was fantastic as were his elves. Made the kids even more excited about Christmas and my daughter very happy she got to give her letter directly to Father Christmas.

Well done for again, making many children (& adults) smile 😊 🛊 🥌



and a special visit with presents for FAAAZE









CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



Since the inception of our Christmas tree recycling it has been a joy to witness the generosity of so many with their trees large, small, green and brown. We have seen them arrive accompanied by the entire family, on wheelbarrows, towed behind pedal tractors, in car boots, dragged behind a wheelchair and standing proudly upright in the passenger seat of

an open top sports car.

We are grateful once again to those who brought their Christmas trees to us at Clanfield, Faringdon and Shrivenham and whose donations raised £1,142 for Helen & Douglas House Hospice in Oxford. Once again, our grateful thanks go to Ross Muir for his continued support and invaluable assistance.



"Great to do something for such a great cause and my boys (in one of the photos) had a great

time helping!" Jane

"It's as much a part of our Xmas tradition as putting

the darn thing up!" 😉 😉 😈 Kevin

"Fabulous result for an excellent cause." Julia















Senior Citizens' Tea Party



Arguably one of the highlights of our Rotary Calendar, this event brings so much pleasure to so many people and this year was no exception. The sun shone, the day was warm and there was no shortage of freshly made sandwiches and delicious cakes. Tea and coffee flowed freely and there was exceptional team work amongst Rotarians and friends both inside the kitchen and out.

Our guests were chauffeured door to door and were thoroughly entertained by Peter and Fiona, Juke Box Legends who once again roused our audience and stirred one or two into dancing the afternoon away. For me, this was the magic moment as aching



limbs and creaking joints were forgotten while shaking some moves on the dance floor!

Mike Barrett expertly MC'd and most guests went home with a raffle prize, surplus

sandwiches or the flowers from the tables.

Thank you to the Community Committee for planning and putting the event together and to everyone who acted as chauffeur, made cakes, sandwiches, laid tables, washed up, dried up and cleared up. Together we have put smiles on faces and provided happy memories. Rotary making a difference within our own community.





ROTARY SCHOLAR UPDATE





Mark during his 2016 club visit

On Wednesday May 23rd the Club was visited by a former 'alumnus', RI Scholar Mark Brown, the Faringdon Club being his UK Host Club over the academic year 2015-16. Mark had been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Calgary-Olympic and spent his year in Oxford honing his business skills at the Said Business School.

Mark is now back in his home country, but at work in Toronto rather than Calgary. Having left UK in about August 2016, it was a surprise and delight to hear from him towards the end of January 2018, saying that he expected to be over in UK towards the end of May, and would the Club like him to come along and update us on where his studies have taken him.

Introduced by his Faringdon link-man, Douglas, Mark was saluted as someone actually volunteering to come back to the Club and give a presentation.

With a guick resume of his career path before coming to Oxford and immediately after, he concentrated on the work he now does for the Government of Toronto. In brief this is connected with Social Enterprise and Social Finance, his current major focus being on Social Impact Bonds, raising money from investors to enable government to advance social programmes that could not otherwise be afforded. If a particular scheme turns out successfully, the investor receives a return on the investment. 'Successfully' means saving government money that it would otherwise have to spend – on the homeless, for instance. 'Very successfully' could have the government adopt the scheme as its own for continuation or future rounds, knowing that it works, and saves public money, thanks to the initial experiment enabled by the investor.

Mark's presentation was followed by a good number of questions, evidence of the interest he had sparked, and the session concluded with a vote of thanks by the experienced Tim Cowling, who had discovered during the meal before the talk that he and Mark had a number of things in common, the immediately relevant one being time spent in Zambia on projects of benefit to disadvantaged locals. He commended Mark on being prepared to put aside time from his brief visit to the UK to visit his former Rotary Club, Mark having earlier expressed his gratitude to Rotary International and his sponsor Club for his scholarship. He had added that he is now in touch with one of the Clubs in Toronto and has offered to be a volunteer assistant to the Rotary International Conference being held in Toronto later this year. attending from the Faringdon Club should let him know.

FAAAZE & RotaKids go to the Wildlife Park



It has become an annual event for Rotary; having the enjoyment and privilege of taking a group of youngsters from the FAAAZE group to The Cotswold Wildlife Park. This year's visit was on a warm and sunny Saturday 9th June when we were delighted to also have RotaKids with us. A delightful, rewarding day for all.



















THE BUSCOT RUNS



No, no, this is not a gastronomic, let alone medical, commentary on a recent experience in the new Buscot curry house. Rather is it a few disjointed – probably - observations arising from an annual event in the local calendar that is becoming increasingly well-known outside the area. Introducing more folk to the delights of Buscot Park and the existence of Rotary – which

delights are all the more obvious

when it is dry underfoot and their vehicles won't become stuck in the mud (nor any of the runners for that matter) and when the sun is shining, the sky is blue, Roddy and team are



in well-honed action, all is well with the world.



This simple car park attendant turned up at 8.10am, as he thought very promptly, to discover said team already at it, gazebos on the way up for registration of runners; seats for the Hon. Treasurer and registrars; numbers for the runners; water bottles being distributed to wet stations around the course – some runners don't drink it

but pour it all over themselves and anyone else in range; medical saviours on station; necessary boundary fences being erected.



Even in this age of fantastic technology (uh?), such events don't come about by robotic magic, but through much hard work by Rotary volunteers, plus Satellite dittos, and kind friends willing to have arms twisted in the cause.

Being a car parking attendant is to be but a humble cog in such a machine, but even humble cogs have an essential role to play in any machine. I found myself stationed between Paul on the gate, (so

not a lowly CPA) telling drivers what to do after turning right in to the meadow and Ray the highly experienced vehicle positioning officer. There might have been three of us but Bjorn reckoned three would be a crowd and anyhow he was running in the 5 kms at 9.30 am, before which he would need to prepare and after which he would need to recover.



So, we were two in the meadow, Ray some of the registration time down near department, then increasingly distant up the slope as the line of wagons lengthened.

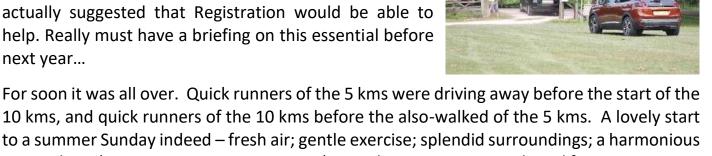
So, what does the mid-pointer actually do? Wave the on-coming vehicle to a stop, skipping nimbly – well sort of nimbly - to one side when the driver seems to be failing to spot one despite the tabard. Bid those inside a cheery

good morning – some are looking nervous at the prospect of what lies ahead of them. So, this first question: Have you run here at Buscot before? I did instead of 'run' use 'performed' on one or two occasions, but this produced strange looks, so I decided to stick to 'run'.

Answer 'no' was surprisingly and encouragingly frequent. Ah, well, you will need to register, and that takes place over there. But you will need to park first and for that you need to head 'there', pointing towards Ray, tabard twinkling in the sunlight, way off in the distance and up the pronounced slope. Detecting a sagging jaw, I tried to sweeten the pill: well, the jog back down the hill to registration will warm you up nicely before the event. This was usually received in cheerful manner, though I'm not so sure about the bloke who replied: 'I look forward to seeing you with me at the starting blocks, mate.'

'Isn't it lovely here', observed another newcomer. Yes, indeed madam, it would be a great pity to go around the course too fast and so miss some of the views, the trees and bushes. Answer 'yes'. Ah, well, you will remember all about registration, but you'll need to park first anyhow, and so Ray-pointing as above. Answer – with satisfied smirk – 'I'm not running, it's my son / my partner/ granny, who is doing the running'. Ah, well, you'll still need to park (Ray point) even more if you're just going to sit in it.

I was only asked once about the location of loos, to which I did not know the answer other than wave a vague arm around the many acres (or were they hectares), but actually suggested that Registration would be able to help. Really must have a briefing on this essential before next year...



10 kms, and quick runners of the 10 kms before the also-walked of the 5 kms. A lovely start to a summer Sunday indeed – fresh air; gentle exercise; splendid surroundings; a harmonious atmosphere (no Trump, no Putin, no Brexit). Much appreciation was heard from participants towards Roddy and team for all the real work that made the occasion possible, so enjoyable, so pleasant.

Only 364 days, give or take, ... with the hopefully not delusional thought that they also serve who only stand, and chat, and point at Ray.



Interact Handover



Faringdon Community College's Rotary Interact Club President 2018-2019, sixth former Jade Riley was inducted into her new role by Interact Past President Tom Strongman.

The event, held on July 3rd, was the traditional end-of-term party and was attended by Interactor members who will be part of President Jade's team.

Also attending were newly inducted Rotary Club President David Langford accompanied by several Rotarians who give much support to Interactors.

Principal guests were Mr. Colin Profit, Head of FCC and Mrs Butten, Head of Sixth Form.

Past President Tom summarized a successful Interact year that he had headed and wished Jade well in her new role. Jade responded by outlining her principal objectives for the coming year which included assisting the running of RotaKids, supporting the junior Interact Club, Trail Blazers Interact and working with the White Horse Group (a satellite of the Rotary Club). It is intended that Jade will manage with a light touch and ensure the Interactors have fun providing support to the community.

President David invited Mr Colin Profit to attend a Rotary meeting and to tell the Club of the future prospects for FCC.

The author of this report adds the committed support of the Rotary Club's Youth Services Team.

After a creamy cake tea, chat and discussion turned to how the Rotary Family is providing support to the wider community for those of all ages.

Paul Rogers

RotaKids

Sunday 3rd June at The World Pooh Sticks Championships selling popcorn and candy-floss.

Raising money for ROSY







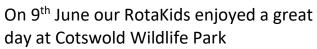
Friday 22 June at Faringdon Fire station learning about the great work Firefighters do. Great fun















TRUCK

The dynamic force that is Rodney Benson once again organised our presence at TRUCK. Not only that, he was there from Thursday evening to close of play Sunday. His car was his bedroom!

This year club received great assistance from family and friends of Rotary who contributed in no small part to making it all possible.



Purple 4 Polio



Good to see this year's results of our crocus planting in Faringdon, Clanfield, Shrivenham and Uffington.

Purple4Polio is an initiative launched by Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland to raise funds and awareness of our efforts to eradicate polio worldwide. The purple crocus is a symbol of Rotary's campaign, its colour representing the purple dye used to mark the finger of a child who has been

immunised.

Rotary's pledge for a polio free world was made in 1985 when there were 125 polio endemic countries and hundreds of new cases every single day. In 2017 there were only 22 cases in the entire world but as long as there is one single case anywhere children everywhere are at risk.



Thanks to Rotary, and the support of our partners WHO, UNICEF, CDC and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, there are now just three countries still classed as endemic: Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan.

To finish the job over 2 billion doses of oral polio vaccine have to be administered each and every year in over 60 countries until the world is finally certified polio free.









Root & Branch Shrivenham Project

The Community team felt that the club needed to share our community resources out into the "& District" of the Rotary Club of Faringdon & District, so we looked at where we could provide assistance.



We were aware that the club, several years ago, had done practical work for the Root and Branch of Shrivenham, a charity providing rehabilitation for people with mental health issues, one of eight recovery groups in Oxfordshire, which operate under the umbrella organisation Restore. We made contact and we were immediately welcomed with



open arms. An on-site meeting with Rebecca Brain and Ian Matherson, both trustees of the Charity, enabled us to familiarise ourselves with the site, two rows of converted stables, which have listed status. These buildings house an office, a craft room, a kitchen, a woodwork shop, a metalwork shop including a blacksmiths furnace. Our tour enabled us to understand what work the Charity needed to be done on the premises and what the





We identified that all the joinery of the premises, 10 windows in all, needed a restoration process that included applying a preservative, 2 coats of undercoat and a coat of Gloss. The seven doors were given multiple coats of a coloured wood preservative. The pergola, which supported a very healthy grape vine was also given a couple of coats of coloured wood preservative (the charity had received a quote of £2800 for this work alone). We were also asked to insulate the office floor which was bare concrete, this involved, forming a concrete a step at the entrance, screwing down battens to the concrete floor, infilling with 25mm solid insulation,

covering with OSB board and a new carpet, the windows were also fitted with double glazed panels we finished by putting a couple of coats of emulsion on the office walls.

Clive Clark used his influence with Dulux and purchased all the paint and decorating sundries at a very reasonable price, Travis Perkins supplied all the wood and insulation at a very reasonable cost and Carpet Options of Witney provided us with office carpet at no cost.

So, we were all set, a tick list was circulated in the club and several members signed up, the only issue we could see was what weather we would experience in an autumnal October. We were lucky, it was damp on the first day of work, however it improved over the two weeks, with some days where we were bathed in glorious sunshine from dawn to dusk.

We worked 8 days over two weeks, in which, Rotarians put in excess of 150 hours and we spent nearly £700 on supplies.

Thanks, must go to Rotarians Ray Avenell, Clive Clark, Bjorn Watson, Mike Bell, Alan Hall, Stuart Spencer, Gordon Hughes, Jody & Dean Whittaker, Tim Gerry and Tim Cowling. I'm sure they all enjoyed every minute, even if they complained about the foreman.

The winner is Root & Branch who can now spend the monies we have saved them on their core activities.









Thomas Gets a Facelift



During Thomas's Summer inspection and maintenance, his expression expressed the desire for a facelift.

Local artist Peter Wheeler was approached and, although this was a change of genre from his passion for landscapes

and architecture, Peter relished the challenge. "I'm always up for a challenge"

said Peter "the Rotarians devote so much time to raising money for charity and I am more than happy to add my contribution. We all look forward to Santa's visits on his float and this year everything will be shining and smiling a little brighter".











Thomas was thrilled with the result and also delighted that Ray, Roger and Colin had attended to his electrics and paintwork. What's more, he got a new bell! He also wanted to thank Robert and Janice for keeping him dry, sheltered and safe during the off season.

For those readers who are unaware: Thomas the Tank Engine carried Father Christmas to Faringdon Lights-On for the very first time on 1st December 1994 during Stuart Spencer's presidential year. At that time, Round Table membership was dwindling and they were unable to maintain the number of collection nights and so fundraising around Faringdon and surrounding villages was a Rotary joint project with Round Table and raised £800.

Round Table closed down in 1998. The 41 Club took over from Table and shared the 1999 and 2000 collections 50/50. Rotary took sole responsibility from Christmas 2001 when 41 Club entrusted Thomas to our care on a permanent basis and concentrated on maintaining Faringdon's annual fireworks display. That's another story.









Collecting for Children in Need





Another impressive turnout by Faringdon Rotary on Friday 16th November when twelve members were at Heathrow Terminal 5 collecting for Children in Need.



Remembrance Sunday

President David and Amy with our RotaKids on parade in Faringdon Market Place on Sunday 11^{th} November to remember the fallen.



Gulshan Evening In aid of The Wye Valley Zambia Project



On March 4th, we held our annual curry evening at The Gulshan restaurant in Shrivenham. This year the evening was in aid of The Wye Valley Zambia Project that Linda and I have become closely involved with

Specifically, the evening was to help raise the money to replace the windows at Kabwata Primary School in Lusaka, the poorest of the schools that the project supports and the school that Linda and I, together with

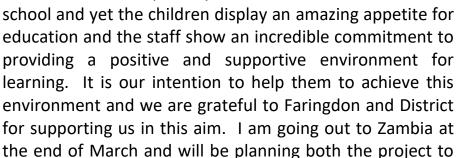
Faringdon and District Rotary Club, have "adopted."

The evening was attended by just over 80 people. Together with the proceeds of the raffle and donations from Rotarians and others unable to attend, a total of £1310 was raised. This will enable the replacement of the windows at Kabwata to be completed and the project will now move on to the next stage, the purchase of new desks and chairs for the classrooms.

Kabwata has very few of the resources or facilities that we



would consider absolutely essential in a primary



raise the money to purchase the desks as well as defining what other assistance we can give them.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Gulshan evening, or has supported us through a donation. I would also like to thank Colin Holman and Bjorn Watson for their organisation of the evening and of course the staff and management of the Gulshan for enabling the evening to happen.

Tim Cowling



over the last 2 years.

A Rotary Partnership for Education (RP4E) – Nepal Pilot Project Home for the Rescue of the Afflicted Children (HORAC)



Faringdon & District Rotary has launched a new international project focusing on education in low income countries. The project is a student sponsorship and mentorship scheme entitled: **The Rotary Partnership for Education (RP4E)**. Initially, we will support a pilot phase assisting eight students from the Home for Rescue of the Afflicted Children (HORAC) in Nepal. Many of the HORAC children from the more deprived areas in Western Nepal lost family members in the 10-year civil war and will qualify for further education and benefit from our RP4E international project.

DUCK RACE



Our weekends at Waitrose, Lockinge and Millets encouraged lots of duck sponsors ready for the Race in support of our charities, Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Be Free Young Carers.







Race day, Sunday 28th April and the sun came out encouraging a good crowd to watch the race. Excited children, mums and dads trying to spot their numbers on the ducks.















DRAGONS' DEN



Together with our satellite White Horse Rotary Group, we were delighted to have once again this year been able to support local groups who make a difference to people in our community in awarding over £8,000 to applicants who presented at The Pump House Project on Thursday 23 May.

As always, criteria for judging applications included: local need and support for the activity or facility, its long-term sustainable benefit, the benefit to local people and how many will benefit, helping socially excluded people to take part in community activities and value for money.

Successful applicants this year were: FAAAZE, Shrivenham Heritage Society, YoCO, The Place, Faringdon Cycle Group, The Crafty Crew, Longworth Pre School, Faringdon Infants School, Faringdon Junior School and Buscot Park Cricket Club. The generosity of those who support our various fund-raising activities throughout the year make this possible.

Mike Bell

Plant Staging for Root & Branch

The Rotary club of Faringdon & District volunteered to help when Root & Branch said they needed to replace their existing plant staging. It was to be eight meters long, one metre high and 800mm wide and was to be constructed in treated fencing timber.

In total we input just over 40 hours of work and spent nearly £400 on timber. Labour contributed by Clive Clark, Roddy Benson, Ray Avenell, Mike Bell, Bjorn Watson, Gordon Hughes, Roger Watts and myself.

Although we completed the task in under two days, when the gardener returned, they realised the bench was too high, so we returned and trimmed 200mm off each leg. Everyone involved found it very satisfying to be able contribute some manual labour.





















This was not my first RYLA. In fact, I first heard of RYLA back in 2005 when I was a member of the Rotaract club of Wallingford. It had two sponsoring Rotary clubs and they offered me a place on RYLA. I, like most candidates, had no idea what I was letting myself in for when a Rotarian from my sponsoring club dropped me off at the pear tree interchange. I climbed on a coach surrounded by people I didn't know and wondered why I had ever said yes. By the



end of the week I was so thankful to not only have been given the opportunity but also that I said yes. I learnt a lot about myself during that week and am still in touch with several people in my team. It's such a great experience that I've been a supporter of RYLA ever since. So, to have the chance to go back to RYLA as a Rotarian was wonderful and I was excited to see how much it had changed. I also wanted to see if the experience still had an impact for today's candidates in the way it had for me.

The basic format is still the same, many of the activities are the same but with some new activities added. There are challenges which award team points depending on their success. In case you haven't been to RYLA the outline of the week is classroom activities on the first two mornings with team challenges to break up the sessions.

The first two afternoons are dedicated to outdoor team challenges, which are similar to the ones I faced but much

more difficult to score points now. The teams are split for the next two days only coming together in the evening for de-brief and small team challenges.



On Thursday the teams start a 30-hour challenge and don't return to the centre during this entire time. This is much more involved than when I completed RYLA.



I was teamed up with group Sheep who were an amazing group of young people. All said that they had benefitted from the RYLA week; not just in terms of their leadership skills but in other aspects that they hadn't expected. It was great to watch this group of strangers work together as a team and see the friendships build over the week. The group were supportive of each other and pointed out the contributions of each other particularly when a person was unsure of the value they brought to the team.

I too benefitted from the week with another dose of insight gained from self-reflection during the week. I am now a more avid supporter of this scheme and certain it continues to make

a difference to people's lives. We should be proud of our support.



Glyn's abseil





The Winning Team



Thank you for helping us in our fund-raising

Here is just some of the support it has enabled us to provide

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Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Outward Bound Course

Faringdon FAAAZE including annual trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park

Ferendune Court

Senior Citizens' Annual Party

Youth Speaks Competitions

The Pump House Project

Vale Tridents, Faringdon

The Place, Family & Childrens
Project, Faringdon

Bromsgrove Day Centre

Festive Faringdon & Christmas Lights-On

Oxfordshire Motor Neuron Disease Association

Kabwata Primary School, Zambia

Nepal - Earthquake Appeal and HORAC Home for Child Rescue

First Responders

Faringdon, Clanfield, Southmoor & Longworth Pre-Schools

Longworth Primary School

Kingsmoor Community Club, Hinton Waldrist

Town Defibrillator

Life Education Bus for Schools

Faringdon Scouts

Interact (Rotary Youth)

Faringdon Netball Club

Helen & Douglas House

Late Spring for the bereaved

Thames Valley Air Ambulance

Riding for the Disabled, Southmoor

Shelter Box & Water Aid

Polio Eradication Programme

Sierra Leone Ebola Orphans