

# World Roundup

*Rotary news in brief from around the globe*

## 1 ] UNITED KINGDOM

After noticing a display of 5-foot-tall cardboard giraffes in a Scottish shop, John Le Rossignol of the Rotary Club of Horsham, England, learned that the creatures could be purchased for about \$150 each. Inspired by concrete and resin menageries in larger British cities that cost far more, Le Rossignol and his club launched a two-week event using the giraffes in 2013. Sponsors purchased 51 animals and enlisted schoolchildren and other volunteers to embellish them, which raised more than \$30,000 for about 40 local charities.

Leaders of the town of 50,000 urged the Horsham club to reprise the effort. The herd this time: 187 papier-mâché elephants, most just under 2 feet tall, on an “Elephantastic Trail.” Celebrities, such as wildlife artist Pollyanna Pickering and comedian Vic Reeves, decorated elephants to assist locally based wildlife charity Born Free Foundation (Elephantastic’s primary beneficiary), while athletes and actors, including Julie Walters of the “Harry

Potter” film franchise, signed others. For five weeks in late July and August, the “ellies” were divided along three “safari trails” within businesses in and around Horsham. Sales of the unadorned elephants and merchandise, including stuffed animals and trail maps, netted more than \$30,000. Le Rossignol expects the tally to grow through auction proceeds later in the year, helping 65 charities and involving a total of 135 organizations. Born Free’s portion will help fund the construction of an elephant sanctuary in Tuscany, Italy.

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**With 100,000 muscles, an elephant’s trunk can lift up to 770 pounds.**

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by BRAD WEBBER

## 2 ] HONDURAS



With doors and window frames riddled with woodworm and a porous roof, the Escuela Rural Mixta Ramón Rosa, a three-classroom school in Coa Abajo, frequently sent its 32 pupils and eight preschoolers to neighboring structures during heavy rains. With \$1,000 of its own funds and a \$5,000 grant from District 4250 (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras), the Rotary Club of Villa Real de Tegucigalpa oversaw the refurbishment of the school and the replacement of 40 desks in 2014. About half of the members of the club, then numbering 17, visited the worksite regularly, engaging many of the area's 70 households to assist in the construction. The club, which has continued its support of the school, followed up by inviting the school's director/teacher to a two-day seminar on innovative teaching techniques and by donating classroom supplies.

## 3 ] PAKISTAN



Rotarians in Pakistan put a little muscle into polio eradication efforts by recruiting 20 bodybuilders for a friendly competition. The free event in June in Rahim Yar Khan attracted an audience of more than 200, who learned about Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio and received shirts, caps, and other materials. The contest was held in collaboration with the District Bar Association Rahim Yar Khan and Ironman Gym-2. The Rotary Club of Rahim Yar Khan Rohi frequently undertakes sports-related initiatives to promote vigilance against polio, notes club member Muhammad Mumtaz Baig, a member of the Pakistan National PolioPlus Committee and an organizer of the bodybuilding contest.

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**Pakistan ranked ninth in obesity out of 188 countries in 2014.**

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## 4 ] UGANDA



Uganda and California Rotarians, helmed by the Rotary Clubs of Kampala-North and Torrey Pines (La Jolla), adopted the community of Nkondo through a \$114,500 global grant encompassing four of Rotary's five areas of focus. Vocational training teams focused on microcredit and farming as Rotarians set up and stocked a library and computer room at a rural school and reopened a long-shuttered health clinic, among the array of projects within the comprehensive project, says Francis Tusubira of the Rotary Club of Kampala-North. "It's clear that when you talk about poverty there has to be a total package," Tusubira says. "Start doing simple things, and as they realize their ability to meet challenges, they start becoming more ambitious about meeting their own needs."