

1260 District News - February 2006

OPHTHALMOSCOPE SUCCESS STORY

Read about the breakthrough invention which is here being demonstrated by the inventor, Roger Armour on Rtn. Ian Begg.



LOCAL ROTARY INITIATIVE TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS

Every so often the right ingredients for success come together. When a simple, effective invention, lively Rotarians with imagination and worldwide humanitarian need come together, something is going to happen. In fact, this has just happened in District 1260 and the effects will be felt for years to come.

- The invention is a lens-free, lightweight, robust, simple to use, low cost ophthalmoscope, called the Optyse™ (opt-eyes). The inventor, Roger Armour, is a retired surgeon from the Lister Hospital in Stevenage.
- Rotarians “on the case” were led by Ian Begg, then President of Stevenage Grange. Ian had the imagination, and the club backed him.
- The need is in the developing world; eye problems awaiting detection for signs of diseases, ranging from glaucoma and diabetes to cerebral malaria and brain tumours.

ROI - Into Action!

The Rotary Ophthalmoscope Initiative (ROI)

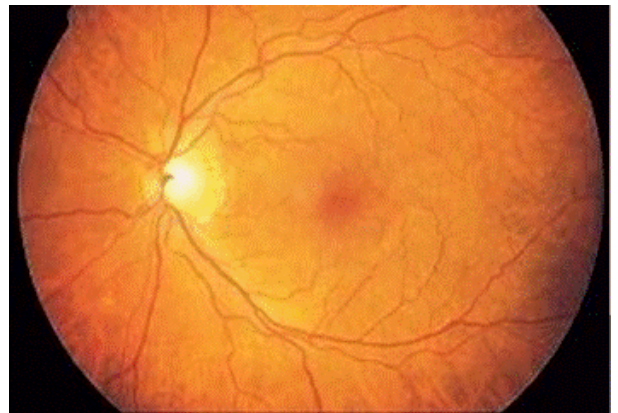
has been launched by Stevenage Grange to encourage Rotary clubs in RIBI, and the rest of the world, to donate Rotary Optyses for distribution to ophthalmic medical personnel in Africa and South Asia. The target is to distribute 25,000 Optyses within the next five years.

The special price for a Rotary-engraved Optyse is £25. If every club in the district donates at least four units, then ROI will be on its way to the target. If every club in RIBI supports ROI, then we will be over a quarter of the way towards the target!

The order form for Optyses is on the Stevenage Grange website: www.sgrc.org.uk

Just download it and fill it in. When donations have been received for 500 units, instructions will be sent to Ophthalmos, the manufacturers, to dispatch them to Sight Savers International, who is collaborating with Stevenage Grange on distribution.

Seeing Is Believing



An ophthalmologist's view of a retina

The Optyse is amazingly simple to use. All at District Conference in Cardiff, and RIBI Conference in Belfast, will be able to try out the unit on a sympathetic friend! Two years ago when Roger Armour was testing out his idea, he had to rely on his wife, Gillian, and their cooperative cat!

Roger will be coming to Cardiff, to hold the hands of those requiring support.

In January, Roger was a finalist in New York in the Saachi & Saachi World Changing Ideas competition for 2005. From the eleven finalists,

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he went on to win the Edward de Bono “Medal for Thinking” for 2005. His device was chosen by Edward de Bono for its simplicity and application. The Optyse, recognised as an RIBI Centennial Project, is destined to play an important part in the Vision 2020 drive to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

It Is Always The People That Matter

In the first phase of ROI, Roger created the invention and deeply appreciated support from Ian Begg and the Rotary Club of Stevenage Grange for his ophthalmoscope project.

“I presented my ophthalmoscope to the Club in February 2004 and the interest shown boosted my confidence that my idea could be realised. Club enthusiasm was also helpful when raising funding for the development work required, and the name of Rotary has been a useful reference in interesting other organisations working to help blind people.”



*Ray Turner, Bryan Cornish, Roger Armour,
Ian Begg and Stephen Sypula*

The project has now entered its second phase, making an idea into a humanitarian reality, with the launch of the ROI Target on January 30th.

The Club’s President, Bryan Cornish names three objectives:

- Support for Vision 2020 in eradicating unnecessary blindness
- Promoting awareness of the wider Rotary movement
- Supporting local innovation having a wider humanitarian impact



Is it a pen ... no it's a Rotary engraved Optyse™

Most successful Rotary projects, like AquaBox, begin in a club with vision and drive. The rest of us must then appreciate the power of the idea, and provide our full support. So come on, 1260!

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