



# Aquabox news

JUNE 2022 - AQUABOX NEWSLETTER

## Could YOU organise an Aquabox 'Walk for Water'?

**AQUABOX**, the clean water charity set up by The Rotary Club of Wirksworth in 1992, is celebrating its 30th birthday in June this year - and we are encouraging groups across the whole of Britain to mark the anniversary year by organising a fund-raising Walk for Water in 2022.

The first of the Walks for Water have already taken place: the Rotary Club of Doncaster raised £410, the RC Worksop raised £600, and RC Ayr raised a magnificent £2,600, and the Rotary Club of Ripon in Yorkshire is following it with another walk on 23 July along the Ripon canal. But that's not all - a further



11 Rotary clubs and other groups have confirmed plans to Walk for Water so far, with the promise of more to come.

Anyone can organise a walk: a club, a school, a company, even an individual; and the walk can be as long or as short

as you like, as long as it raises funds for the charity. Fundraisers can donate through our JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/campaign/Aquabox-30thAnniversary](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Aquabox-30thAnniversary). Or you can create your own fundraising page linked to ours.

We're suggesting that a river or canal walk is particularly appropriate, and the Canal and River Trust publishes a selection of illustrated leaflets showing a selection of possible routes, and you can download them at [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk). But it doesn't have to be a waterside location - any route is good if it helps to raise funds for Aquabox. »



Aquabox is supported by



**Aquabox** is both a registered charity, number 1098409, and a limited company, number 04774277. To contact us:



**Aquabox**

**Mail:** Aquabox, PO Box 5398, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 4ZP

**Phone:** 01629 825178 (outside UK, phone +441629 825178) - please be aware that this number is sometimes diverted to voicemail

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**Facebook:** [facebook.com/aquabox charity](https://facebook.com/aquaboxcharity) **Website:** [www.aquabox.org](http://www.aquabox.org)

» The charity's formal 30th birthday is June 18, but anytime in the summer or autumn would be ideal.

Run and staffed almost entirely by unpaid volunteers, Aquabox assembles robust hand-pumped water filters and sends them to disaster zones, conflict areas and refugee camps around the world, so that people living in extreme deprivation can at least have access to clean, safe water for drinking, cooking, and washing.

Over 30 years, the charity has sent out tens of thousands of filters, helping to



*Ayr Walk for Water, raising funds for Aquabox.*

save hundreds of thousands of lives, by providing millions of litres of clean water to people in disaster areas, whether natural or man-made disasters, in more than 50 countries throughout the world.

If you're interested in organising a Walk for Water to support our life-saving work, please contact Kevin Barclay at Aquabox: [aquaboxwalksforwater@aquabox.org](mailto:aquaboxwalksforwater@aquabox.org). We have sponsorship forms which could enable us to claim back Gift Aid.

And remember that the Aquabox team are always happy to provide speakers for club meetings, church groups, schools and so on, explaining the charity and its work. For more information, go to [www.aquabox.org](http://www.aquabox.org).



## UKRAINE: our number one priority

**IN VIEW OF** the unfolding situation in Ukraine, the Aquabox board of trustees has agreed to make Ukraine our number one priority for the production and supply of shipments of Aquafilters for the coming six months.

Production will focus on maximising output of family filters during this period, and we are working with our key partners to ensure that the consignments can be securely transported and distributed to those most in need.

Over the past two months, Aquabox has committed and supplied more than £10,000 worth of water filters to

the Ukraine. These filters will provide safe drinking water for 15,000 people – or 30 million litres of water over the lifetime of the pumps.

### Shipments to date have included:

- 12 family filters through the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower
- 4 community filters through the Ukrainian Society
- 48 family filters through Lifeline, the Chernobyl children's charity
- 20 community filters through the Rotary Club of Potsdam in Germany and Kiev Rotary Club
- And a joint effort with another Rotary disaster response charity, Water

Survival Box, to supply a further 300 family filters plus 20 community filters.

These shipments represent Aquabox's initial response to the disaster unfolding in Ukraine, but as the situation becomes clearer it is evident that access to safe drinking water is going to be of paramount importance. The cost to Aquabox of this initiative will be £16,000 plus shipping – but it will provide safe drinking water for a further 15,000 people.

How are we paying for all this? We financed our initial shipments to Ukraine from the

Aquabox reserves – but for this larger joint response, and to cover the costs of ongoing shipments, we ask for your continued help in order that we can continue to save lives through the provision of safe water.

Such help could include organising street collections, fund raising events, accessing foundation grants – or simply sending a donation from your club to Aquabox.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported our efforts in Ukraine so far – please keep it going.

*Roger Cassidy, chair of trustees*

# Aquabox works with Ukraine relief agencies

**THE WAR IN UKRAINE** has created a massive humanitarian crisis, and Aquabox is working with several partners to help deal with the suffering.

An initial consignment of Aquabox family filters has already been sent to Ukraine, as part of a broader emergency supplies consignment organised by the Billericay Mayflower Rotary Club in Essex. Each filter will ensure that as long as there is water of some sort available, a family - or possibly more than one family - will be able to process it into safe, clean water for drinking, cooking and washing.

We have also been working with the Ukraine Society, which has dispatched a large consignment of medical equipment including hospital

beds, wheelchairs, surgical supports and dressings to Lviv. We contributed to this shipment with four community filters, ideal for field hospitals, community centres and the like; each community filter can provide safe water for as many as 500 people.

And Aquabox has also teamed up with the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline, a charity which has supported families in the Ukraine since 1991. Lifeline sent a shipment of medical and rescue equipment, including generators, cutting equipment and medical supplies to Ukraine in mid-April, and Aquabox supplied a parcel of family filters for this shipment as well.

This aid is destined for northern Ukraine, where



towns north of Kyiv have been badly damaged, with buildings and infrastructure destroyed during the conflict. In many cases the water supply systems have been disrupted and many families do not have access to safe water. Our filters will make

a real difference in these communities.

We continue to liaise closely with these and other partners to identify where Aquabox filters can make a difference by providing safe water and preventing the spread of disease.



## Aquabox

30 YEARS 1992-2022

## AQUABOX 30TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

**2022 IS A SIGNIFICANT DATE** for Aquabox: it marks the 30th anniversary of the charity's foundation by Peter Hare and Michael Hoole, members of the Rotary Club of Wirksworth. In the three decades since then, Aquabox has manufactured thousands and thousands of water filters and distributed them to disaster zones all over the world. It's impossible to estimate how many lives may have been saved thanks to Aquabox.

To commemorate the anniversary, Aquabox is hosting a day of celebration on Saturday June 18 for volunteers past and present, supporters, ambassadors



and key people in north Derbyshire: community leaders, mayors and councillors, school heads, church group leaders and Rotarians.

Elizabeth Fothergill CBE, HM Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, will formally open the event, and we hope to welcome Sarah Dines, MP for Derbyshire Dales, as

well. Sadly, the Wirksworth Rotarians who founded the charity are no longer with us, but their widows have been invited as well.

"A key aim of the day, in addition to the all-important celebration of our achievements, is to provide an opportunity to meet up with people we rarely get the chance to see together," said trustee Roz Adamson. "Our guests will be given tours of the new Aquabox depot, including demonstrations of filter assembly and gold box packing." The plan is to follow up with another open day, this time throwing the doors open to the general public.

# We're shipping more and more aid!

**THE AQUABOX POLICY** is and always has been straightforward: we will send aid when we can, wherever it is needed, and wherever we are certain we have a reliable local partner to oversee the all-important final distribution, to ensure that the aid we send actually reaches the people it's intended for.

The last major shipment of Aquabox aid in 2021 was a large consignment of filters to Haiti, as part of our continuing effort to support one of the world's poorest countries in the wake of the devastating earthquake which hit in August last year. We sent 12 community filters and 20 Aqua 12s - 240 family filters, in other words - which will together enable thousands of Haitians left homeless by the earthquake to have access to clean, safe water for drinking, for cooking and for washing.

Our volunteer teams then concentrated on building stock for the next major shipment, and at the start of March we sent eight Aqua 12s (96 family filters) and 16 community filters to Malawi in east Africa, where tropical storm Ana is estimated to have left 190,000 people homeless. Our filters will ensure that at least some of them will have access to safe, clean water.

Then without warning, Europe was suddenly confronted by its worst humanitarian crisis since WW2 as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Our stocks were low, but we were able to contribute some filters to shipments



**Volunteer Albert Ripamonte supervises as another consignment of aid leaves the depot.**

being sent by other agencies to both Ukraine itself, and to a nearby refugee centre in Moldova.

Meanwhile the gold box packing teams had been building stocks for a long-planned follow-up shipment to Yemen, where the terrible civil war has left thousands of people destitute. On March 25, a massive shipment of 300 gold boxes left Wirksworth at the start of their journey to Yemen, where they will help to make life a little easier for some of those desperate families.

The total cost of these shipments, including freight, has come to almost £70,000 - a significant sum for a small

charity. But we are pressing on with more planned shipments: 24 Aqua 12s and 12 community filters to the Philippines, 250 gold boxes to Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and another 250 gold boxes to Nepal. We're dealing with disrupted supplies on some items, notably cooking pots and hand tools; and the cost of the component parts of a family filter have risen, from £25 per filter to £30.

But our policy remains straightforward: we will send aid when we can, wherever it is needed, and wherever we are certain we have a reliable local partner.

## Aquabox returns to Utility Week Live

**AQUABOX** volunteers had the opportunity to meet potential supporters and partners in the UK water industry at the National Exhibition Centre on May 17-18.

Thanks to the generous support of the organisers, Faversham House Ltd, we again had a presence at the Utility Week Live exhibition, a major national event for professionals working in the UK utilities industries.

"Our presence at these events enables us to talk directly to key people in the water industry - people working for companies whose objectives are closely linked with those of Aquabox," said trustee Kevin Barclay, who oversees the charity's corporate partnership programme. "Aquabox is already supported by water industry partners like Hydro-X and AVK, and being at Utility Week Live 2022 created a valuable opportunity for us to make contact with more prospective partners and supporters."

The two-day event was open to strategic, professional and operational personnel in all the UK utility sectors.



*Aquabox volunteers spent two days talking to water industry people.*

## Worksop Rotarians walk for Aquabox

Many Worksop Rotary Club members have been away on various jaunts and sponsored events, but as the summer approached we decided to stage a sort of mini event at the start of April, and half a dozen of us walked a stretch of the River Idle and round the Idle Valley wildlife reserve with explanation of Aquabox to anyone who would pledge us a few quid.

To spice it up a bit, I agreed to carry two gallons of water with me just to emphasise the 'no tap in the kitchen' message.

We are still waiting for the last bits and pieces of pledges to trickle in, but as a result our treasurer should be sending you Aquabox something in the region of £600 soon.

*Geoff Lewis, president, Worksop Rotary Club*



*An Aquabox Ambassador tells a U3A group in Bolsover about Aquabox and its work.*

## Looking for a speaker?

**ARE YOU A MEMBER** of a Rotary club? A Womens' Institute? A Townswomens Guild? A church group? A local social group? Inner Wheel? Probus? U3A? In fact, any club or association which uses regular or occasional guest speakers? If so, would you like to hear from an Aquabox speaker?

Aquabox has a network of Aquabox Ambassadors all over the country, ready and eager to come and talk to you. They will tell you and your colleagues about the charity, what it does, how it's funded, and most important of all - the difference that Aquabox has made to the lives of so many desperate people around the world.

Your Aquabox Ambassador will bring an Aquabox filter and demonstration kit, so your audience can see for themselves the way it can convert filthy polluted water to safe, clean water for drinking, for cooking and for washing.

To find out more, or to book a speaker, go to the Aquabox website: [www.aquabox.org](http://www.aquabox.org). Click on 'Find out more', and then on 'Book a speaker'. Or contact us through Facebook: [www.facebook.com/aquaboxcharity](https://www.facebook.com/aquaboxcharity). Or write to us: Aquabox, Unit 10, The Hill, Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3QL.

## Aquabox at the NEC

Aquabox Ambassadors Colin Cartwright (below left) and Keith Hardy manning the Aquabox stand at the Volunteer Expo event at the NEC earlier this month. Volunteer Expo is a national Rotary event highlighting volunteer opportunities, connecting communities, and showing what a difference volunteers make to the world. Exactly the right environment for Aquabox!



## AGM report

**AQUABOX'S** Annual General Meeting was held at the Wirksworth depot on March 21.

Chair Roger Cassidy reported that donations in the year to June 2021 totalled £168,00, compared to £203,000 the year before, but that the trend in the current year was much more encouraging, with all overheads now covered by regular donations.

He reported that long-serving trustee and honorary treasurer Colin Lloyd had decided that following his stroke in January 2021, he was unable to continue. "He has been a

trustee for around 15 years, and has done a brilliant job," said Roger.

As a result of Colin Lloyd stepping down, the charity now has only five trustees. "We are working hard to recruit some new trustees," said Roger, "and we are hoping to appoint a new honorary treasurer in the next three months."

Roger Cassidy was re-elected as chair, with Roy Cutt acting as interim honorary treasurer, and trustees Roz Adamson, Bea Jagger, David Hood and Kevin Barclay re-elected *en bloc*.

# Come and see us!

**HOW ABOUT** a day out with a difference? Come and visit the Aquabox depot!

We are proud of what Aquabox has achieved over the past 30 years, and we welcome visiting groups at the depot so we can show them how we work, and tell them about our plans for the future.

The Aquabox depot is easy to reach by road – we are just off the A6 at Cromford – and we have plenty of free parking right outside the door. All the main activity is on the ground floor and



*Chesterfield Trefoil group visited the Aquabox depot in April this year.*

wheelchair accessible. You will see the Aquabox water filter in action, watch filters being assembled and tested, and see our Gold boxes of humanitarian aid being packed. And afterwards, we can direct you to several of the excellent pubs, restaurants and cafes in the area.

Have a day out! Bring your group to visit Aquabox – just go to **www.aquabox.org**, click on ‘Find out more’, and then on ‘Visit the depot’. We’re looking forward to welcoming you.

## David Hood retires

**DAVID HOOD** has stepped down from the Aquabox board of trustees after a total of 25 years as a supporter, volunteer and trustee, including a period as chair of the board of trustees.

He was instrumental in establishing Aquabox’s presence in Nepal – a country which is subject to frequent earthquakes, landslides and fires, and where there is a constant need for our aid. Our enduring links with Nepal began as a result of a Rotary Group Study Exchange, leading to a strong relationship with the Rotary Club of Pokara. Nowadays, Aquabox regularly sends water filters and gold boxes to Nepal, in partnership with Devon Fire and Rescue Service, and with transport and distribution overseen by the British Gurkha Rifles; and we now have an Aquabox storage depot in Katmandhu which enables us to stockpile aid, and to respond instantly to needs as they arise. In all of these initiatives, David played a pivotal role.

He also took the lead in establishing the partnership between Aquabox and the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, and set up a partnership with Fire Aid to facilitate additional transport potential. And in his time as district governor of Rotary District 1220 – which includes Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and some clubs in Leicestershire, Staffordshire and South Yorkshire – he used his tremendous networking skills and contacts to Aquabox’s benefit in many ways.

“David has boundless energy, humour and enthusiasm for the Aquabox project, and we’re sure this will continue,” said Roz Adamson, deputy chair of trustees. “But his wise counsel and common sense will be greatly missed.”



*‘Sherpa’ David Hood with another shipment of aid ready to leave for Nepal.*



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