

## **Community Cinema and Rotary collaborate to help end Polio**

Leyburn Arts and Community Centre and Wensleydale Rotary Club collaborated together to raise money for the eradication of Polio worldwide when the Community Cinema at the Centre screened the film *Breathe* as part of its ongoing Friday evening film programme. *Breathe*, about the life of pioneering polio survivor Robin Cavendish is heart-warming and heart-breaking in equal measure. Based on a true story, it told the story of Robin, who was struck down by polio at the age of 28, and was given only a few months to live. With the help of his wife's twin brothers and the ground-breaking ideas of inventor Teddy Hall, Robin's life was turned around. Some of the audience remembered the devastating effects of polio amongst childhood friends in the 1960's.

Filmgoers were invited to make a donation to the 'End Polio Now' campaign and in return received a purple crocus lapel badge. The purple crocus being the campaign symbol.

Rotary have been committed to eradicating this incurable disease since its campaign started in 1985. At that time there were over 1000 cases being reported every day in over 122 countries. Since then Rotary have raised over £1bn and helped set in place worldwide vaccination of children, 2.5bn by the end of 2017. This has resulted in the eradication of the Wild Polio Virus Strain 2, and there have been no cases of Strain 3 since 2012. In 2017 there were only 22 cases of Strain 1 reported worldwide with only 3 countries now affected.

A grand total of £87.00 was raised on the night and thanks to the generosity of the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation, who have pledged to triple all Rotary donations; this will generate £261.00 which equates to the vaccination of 780 children for life.