

Kingfisher Chronicle - 2005-2006

November 2005

Edition No. 178

VIRGIN ATLANTIC TO FUND FLIGHT FOR ROTARY AID FOR PAKISTAN

Rotary Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland have been working around the clock to meet the urgent demands for aid in Pakistan. With the onset of winter the need for shelter for homeless families is acute and Rotary Clubs in Pakistan are desperate for tents, blankets and medical supplies. This operation has been greatly aided by the generous offer of free air transport from Virgin Atlantic Airways who are donating a flight to Rotary next week. The airline is donating the use of a Boeing 747 aircraft, with a cargo capacity of 55 tonnes, which will fly from London Gatwick to Islamabad on Monday evening. The plane will be filled with 400 Rotary Shelterboxes, tents and medical supplies provided by Rotary Clubs throughout Great Britain and Ireland.

To date Rotary has shipped 1200 Shelterboxes, thousands of tents, 852 Aquaboxes and 300 Emergency boxes to Pakistan. Rotary is also supporting the International Rescue Corps who have a team of 6 Scotsmen and 8 Englishmen working in the earthquake area.

Report from District Conference

Peter Ramage and Bryan Carpenter with their ladies represented the Club at the District Conference held in Southport 28th – 30th October and a jolly good time was had by all.

Despite a drive of some 4 and a half hour's we arrived in time to have the last cream scone and a cuppa at the tea dance on Friday. We were still a little peckish after having not had time to stop for lunch so on the way back to the hotel we stopped for a bag of Southport chips which we ate on the front (hope no other Rotarians saw us). On Friday evening we were entertained at the theatre by Smackie with a selection of songs from the Musicals. Smackie were formed in 1976 by Barry Walker and went on to support Del Shannon, Johnny Tillotson and Bobby Vee on European Tours. They survived the 80's and the 90's and continue

to expand their repertoire and entertain well all who turn up to see them.

After a late night we were up early on the Saturday for the first plenary session and after the usual welcomes we were entertained by the returning GSE Team from the USA. Sound like they had a great time. The representative of RIBI David Lyddiatt was at his usual humorous best with some great stories. On Saturday evening Peter and I attended the Musical Ball dressed in keeping with the theme and using Miss Saigon as the theme for the fancy dress. Donations were made to the District Governors Charities Hearing Dogs, Voice UK and Leukaemia Research during the evening. We did not win the fancy dress award – perhaps next year with a little more help from members.

The final session was equally as good as the first with a superb presentation from Angela Baker who was Miss October in the Calendar produced by the The Women's Institute back in 1998. She has gone on with five other Calendar girls – now called the Bakers Half Dozen – to raise well over one million pounds for Leukaemia Research. The storey of the Calendar is now portrayed in the film Calendar Girls and is the 7th most successful film of all time. It is sad that her husband John tragically died of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma before the Calendar was produced.

We could not close with out mention of our own Dawn Williams, the Inner Wheel Chairman. She gave a good account of the problems facing Inner Wheel and the membership issues which are in a way similar to Rotary.

Overall an excellent Conference - which you can only appreciate if you attend. A long weekend break at the end of October is great to recharge the batteries before the long haul to Christmas. So make a note now and support your club, support Rotary and support next years Conference in Bournemouth – last weekend in October. Who knows we could challenge for the Conference Shield – It's about time we won!

Bryan Carpenter

Club Programme

November 8th - Ambassadorial Scholar, JESSICA SEQUER, from the USA, who is studying at the University of Birmingham.

November 15th - Dr K. Erdley – Kidney talk

November 24th – Visit to Droitwich Saltway

November 29th - Prison Officer from Long Lartin high security prison.

December 6th - Special AGM

December 13th – Christmas meal with partners/friends.

December 20th - Visit to B&Q then for probably bangers and mash at David Strains house.

Sainsbury Collection.

Just a reminder that the above collection takes place on Christmas Eve. I need to know who will be able to assist in the collection in order to formulate a timetable. Please notify me a.s.a.p of your ability to attend. Many thanks David Saunders.

This Week in History

On November 9th 1989 Berliners celebrated the fall of the Wall. The Berlin Wall was breached after nearly three decades keeping East and West Berliners apart. At midnight East Germany's Communist rulers gave permission for gates along the Wall to be opened after hundreds of people converged on crossing points. They surged through cheering and shouting and were met by jubilant West Berliners on the other side. Ecstatic crowds immediately began to clamber on top of the Wall and hack large chunks out of the 28-mile (45-kilometre) barrier.

The wall was erected in 1961 on the orders of East Germany's former leader Erich Honecker to stop people leaving for West Germany. Since 1949 about 2.5 million people had fled East Germany. After 1961, the Wall and other fortifications along the 860-mile (1,380-kilometre) border shared by East and West Germany have kept most East Germans in. Many of those attempting to escape have been shot dead by border guards.

Thoughts for Today

You know you are living in 2005, when...

You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.

You have a list of 15 phone numbers to

reach your family of four.

You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.

You make phone calls from home and accidentally dial "9" to get an outside line.

You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.

Thanks to Judy Strain

Humour

It was visitors' day at a mentally challenged institution. (God forbid we use the word lunatic). All the inmates were standing in the courtyard singing "Ave Maria." and singing it beautifully. Oddly, each of them was holding a red apple in one hand and tapping it rhythmically with a pencil. A visitor listened in wonderment to the performance and then approached the conductor. "I am a retired choir director," he said. "This is one of the finest choirs I have ever heard." "Yes, I'm very proud of them," said the conductor. "You should take them on tour," said the visitor, "what are they called?"

"Well in the beginning this was a big problem. One inmate wanted to call them the Big Apple with Little Brown Seeds Singing Sons of Siam, but I said it was too long and, anyway, no one was from Siam." Then, another thought The Pencil Leads was a good name but the others disagreed because they had no-one to write to.

"Well," the visitor asked, "What name did they finally agree on?"

"Surely that's obvious," replied the conductor. "They all agreed to call themselves ...

The Moron Tapanapple Choir !!!

John Wall

Duties this Week

Meal Collection/Grace/Vote of thanks – no idea, whoever turns up I guess.

Raffle - no idea who won last week but they must have been in the same room as Peter ramage.

Club Committees

Do they exist? Let members know by putting an article in the newsletter. All contributions to this newsletter welcome by email to J.lscott@btopenworld.com or even snailmail will do.