

Kingfisher Chronicle - 2005-2006

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Many thanks to Arthur Worthington who gave us an interesting talk on the work of the Air Ambulance and how it has grown to run three helicopters all supported by charitable donations. A further thanks to last weeks speaker Past President Keith Lea who didn't really speak but showed us a video on the story of the River Arrow. That's two weeks running that no one has fallen asleep must be a club record.

Members Announcements

This weeks speaker is a Malaysian scholar whose talk is on Cambodia and Vietnam. (Don Raines)

Thanks to all of those members who have enquired after my health following my recent visit to hospital. I will be sending the editor an update for the Chronicle shortly. (Alan King)

Half yearly subscriptions are now due for the bargain amount of £20. (Mike Townsend)

This years Worcestershire Evening is planned for Friday 7th april at the Raven Hotel Droitwich, further details to follow. (David Strain)

The bangers and mash evening raised £130 which was donated in remembrance of Coral Barlows son to Cancer Research. (David Strain)

Meeting Apologies

Apologies for the next few weeks, to David Saunders please.

Christmas Card Donations to Foundation

The following members wish other club members a Merry Christmas and have made donations to Foundation instead of sending Christmas cards.

David Field, Peter Ramage, John Scott, Mike Townsend, Jim Willis

(If you wish your name to appear here please let me know and pass a donation to the treasurer in due course)

LIFESTRAW - the Invention of the Century

How to provide someone with safe water for a year for less than the cost of a pint.



More than one billion people – one sixth of the world's population - are without access to safe water supply. At any given moment, about half of the world's poor are suffering from waterborne diseases, of which over 6,000 – mainly children – die each day by consuming unsafe drinking water. The world's most prolific killer though is diarrhoea a disease caused by bacteria. Safe water interventions have vast potential to transform the lives of millions, especially in crucial areas such as poverty eradication, environmental improvement, quality of life, child development and gender equality. LifeStraw was developed as a practical response to the billions of people who are still without access to these basic human rights.

This LifeStraw was designed with special emphasize on avoiding any moving parts, as a sealed unit with no replaceable spare parts, and avoiding the use of electricity, which does not exist in many areas in the developing world. But as force (power) is required to implement the filtering, Vestergaard Frandsen chose to use the natural source of sucking, something that even babies are able to perform.

The aptly-named LifeStraw is an invention that could become one of the greatest life-savers in history. It is a 25 cm long, 29 mm diameter, plastic pipe filter and costs just a few dollars. It is a personal, low-cost water purification tool with a life time of 700 litres – approximately one year of water consumption for one person. The original idea was created ten years ago by Torben Vestergaard Frandsen, but over the years in partnership with the Carter Center, Rob Fleuren from Holland and Moshe Frommer from

Israel, the Lifestraw has emerged from work designed to make water filters capable of safeguarding against Guinea Worm. The final product of that work, the LifeStraw, can do much more than the original concept and positive test results have been achieved on tap, turbid and saline water against common waterborne bacteria such as Salmonella, Shigella, Enterococcus and Staphylococcus.

The price of an individual LifeStraw will be US\$2.75 (approximately £1.50).
For more details go to:
<http://www.vestergaard-frandsen.com/>

The above article appeared on the RIBI website. Perhaps we should look further into this.

SHARE

Watch this space for an announcement on how we have voted on the SHARE initiative.

This Week in History

1901 - Queen Victoria dies at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, England after a brief illness.

1905 - Russia's 'Bloody Sunday' in St Petersburg as guards at the Winter Palace open fire on a procession of workers and their families carrying a petition for the Tsar. More than are 100 killed - sparking riots elsewhere in Russia.

1923 - The tomb of Egyptian King Tutankhaman is opened by British archaeologists Lord Caenarvon and Howard Carter.

1935 - In America, canned beer goes on sale for the first time - made by the Krueger Brewery of Richmond, Virginia. That's at least one good thing the USA have done.

Club Programme 2006

Please note some dates and names have changed since the last publication:

January 24th - D Raines to arrange

January 31st - A King - Rtn. Ken Roberts, Immediate Past (National) President of I.C.F.R.

February 7th - Hall Green Dogs

February 14th - Valentines evening with Ladies, gents are asked to wear something red.

February 21st - J Scott to arrange

February 28th - C Smith to arrange

March 7th - D Strain to arrange

March 14th - G Till to arrange

March 21st - M Townsend to arrange

March 28th - J Wall to arrange

April 4th - AGM

April 11th - J Willis to arrange

April 18th - No Meeting - Bank Holiday

April 25th - A Corbett to arrange

May 2nd - No Meeting - Bank Holiday

May 9th - Club Assembly

May 16th - N Wycherley to arrange

May 23rd - D.Field to arrange

May 30th - No Meeting - Bank Holiday

June 6th - D. Tyrrell to arrange

June 13th - S.Bansall to arrange

June 20th - Peter Ramage

June 27th - Handover Meeting - Joint

Thought for Today

"It isn't pollution that's harming our environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it" (Al Gore)

Duties this Week

Meal Collection - David Saunders

Grace - Peter Ramage

Vote of Thanks - Don Raines

Raffle - The Ramage affect continues, last week Jim Cottle won the raffle, he was sitting next to PR. The previous week Bryan Carpenter won who is a close friend of PR. It has been suggested that each member takes it in turn to sit next to PR and therefore be more likely to win the raffle.

And finally: a telephone conversation with a Technical Support line:

Tech Support: "I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop".

Customer: "OK".

Tech Support: "Did you get a pop-up menu?".

Customer: "No".

Tech Support: "OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?"

Customer: "No".

Tech Support: "OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?"

Customer: "Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'".

All contributions to this newsletter welcome by email to J.lscott@btopenworld.com or even snailmail will do.