

Kingfisher Chronicle - 2007-2008

December 2007

Edition No. 229

Presidents Ramblings

On 20th November we hosted Miss Sarah Siu, an Ambassadorial Scholar from Hong Kong. Sarah is studying Mechanical Engineering and is spending her year here at Birmingham University.

She gave us an informative talk with still photographs about Hong Kong. She covered its recent history since the British handover to China in 1997 and the events that had taken place during the last ten years.

Sarah referred to the opening of the new Hong Kong International Airport in 1998, after six years of construction. She then outlined the several disastrous occurrences that had taken place in recent years such as the H5N1 avian flu epidemic and the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) which took place in early 2003.

Hong Kong is quite a contradiction, maintaining a highly capitalised economy built on a policy of free market, low taxation and government non-intervention within the largest Communist state in the world. It is the wealthiest urban centre in the Peoples Republic of China. The Basic Law of Hong Kong stipulates that HK operates with a high degree of autonomy until at least 2047, fifty years after the transfer of power.

The speaker for 27th November was our very own Peter Ramage who is this years District Chairman of Rotary Foundation. And surprisingly enough Peter gave us a talk about the work undertaken by Rotary Foundation. This was supported by a film showing the various projects undertaken with the aid of Foundation funds throughout the world.

Particular emphasis was given to the aim of worldwide polio eradication. Reference was made to the equal partnership of the Bill Gates Foundation and Rotary Foundation which will provide total funds of \$200m. It is anticipated that with such support the end of polio as a disease will be achieved in the not too distant future.

Peter stated that it should be the aim of all Rotary Clubs to raise \$100 (£50 in real money)

per member each year for Foundation. Our own Club is set to increase its contribution this year via the "100" Club lottery by £550. A figure of £1,000 per annum should be achievable by the Club and this would be a substantial move towards the sum of £1,250 which we should be aiming to achieve.

When Peter had concluded his presentation a discussion took place among the members present about fund raising by the Club and the Committee organisation structure that should be adapted for the future.

The points raised should, I hope, be aired after next weeks Special General Meeting has been completed.

I give below the Club Programme for the coming weeks:-

2007

December 4th	SGM
December 11th	A King to arrange
December 18th	Bangers and Mash
Fellowship Evening at David and Judi Strain's	
December 22nd	Sainsburys Collection
December 25th	No meeting
December 28th	President's Bash
(1.00pm to 4.00pm) at home (Hot food to be served from 1.30pm)	

2008

January 1st	No meeting
January 8th	D Saunders to arrange
January 15th	Help the Aged Speaker
January 22nd	J Savigar to arrange
January 29th	"Unchristmas"
	Dinner with ladies

Duties this Week

Meal collection – David Brittain
Grace – Surinder Bansal
Vote of thanks – Neil Wycherley
Reserve – Jim Willis

Raffle

The editor won the raffle last week (again) and it was well deserved!

MEETING NOW AT THE WESTMEAD - APOLOGIES TO DAVID SAUNDERS on 01527 854466
*****WINNER OF THE 2004-05 BEST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER*****

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