

Kingfisher Chronicle - 2007-2008

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Presidents Ramblings

On 8th January the Club assembled after the Xmas break, for its first meeting of 2008.

We were treated to a very interesting illustrated talk by Andy Taylor and Tess Bromley about their trans-USA tandem cycle adventure (the cycle was on display at the meeting). The young couple covered a distance of some 4,000 miles in 80 days and after allowing for an additional 10 days rest (2 on the way and 8 at the beginning and end of their trip) they managed to keep within the 90 day rule for their USA visit.

Their route took them from Seattle in the west, across the northern USA, to the east coast. They managed to avoid Chicago but covered several of the Great Lakes also incorporating a trip to the Niagara Falls. This was a truly outstanding achievement overcoming many obstacles (mainly airport luggage handlers!) by a very nice, modest couple.

A small donation was made by the Club to the couples' nominated Charity of the Born Free Foundation, which is an organisation that works to prevent animal suffering, protects threatened species and keeps wildlife in the wild. Their major international projects are devoted to animal welfare, conservation and education and the protection of lions (the animals – not a competitor club!), elephants, chimpanzees, tigers, polar bears etc.

At our meeting on 15th January we hosted a guest speaker, Sue Moreve, from the Charity Age Concern, Redditch and District. Sue explained that Age Concern was organised on a local basis and is the largest Charity in the UK, working with and for older people. Their competitor Charity "Help the Aged" was organised and administered from a central London base – however, talks are afoot with a view to merging both charities in the long term.

The mission of Age Concern is to promote the well-being of all older people and to help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

The local Redditch office was set up in 1988 and as more of the residents, of what was once a

New Town, reach the age of 65, the workload of Age Concern becomes greater each year.

The Charity provides booklets and personal help on such issues as keeping warm in winter, obtaining low cost reliable tradesmen for minor repair works at home, healthcare, keeping fit, benefits and tax reduction claims and travel insurance at reasonable rates for the over 65's.

It is shocking to learn that in our country 21% of pensioners (2.2 million people) are living in poverty and that £4 billion in financial relief such as council tax, housing benefit and pension credit go unclaimed by pensioners each year.

The Club gave a donation of £250 to Age Concern Redditch, this being the President's second and final charitable cause for 2007/08.

Finally, I was able to announce to the meeting that we had at last heard from Tesco Supermarket who, it appears, are likely to offer the Club a Saturday collection slot sometime between July and October this year. We will be informed if we have in fact been allocated a date by 31st May.

2008

January 22 nd	Fellowship evening
January 29 th	"Unchristmas"
	Dinner with ladies
February 5 th	David C Baxter Smith
(surgeon) Speaker (Guests welcome)	
February 12 th	J Savigar to arrange
February 19 th	J Scott to arrange
February 26 th	Tom Cryer Speaker

Club Subscriptions

Second half year subs of £25.00 are now due, the Treasure will be most pleased to receive them.

Duties this Week

Meal collection – David Medcalf

Grace – Keith lea

Vote of thanks – Alan King

Reserve – David Field

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