

Kingfisher Chronicle - 2007-2008

March 2008

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Presidents Ramblings

Our speaker for 19th February was our own editor-in-chief John Scott. John provided us with an eye opening account of his Christmas visit to Uganda. He commenced his photograph display with some interesting statistics comparing the U.K. with Uganda (U.K. pop 60m, Uganda pop 30m). The statistical information that John gave to us showed how very few people in Uganda lived in urban areas compared to the U.K. and such matters as the number of doctors per 1000 population (are you sure that this statistic was the right way ... John – it seems very difficult now days to actually see a doctor in the U.K.!).

The appallingly low average wages in Uganda were highlighted and compared to petrol prices (on a level with our own).

John's photographic record of his visit showed us the basic living conditions of the ordinary people and the poor state of the road systems throughout the country.

The popular meat dish seemed to be goat with the possible addition of chicken, when this could be obtained. Some of the restaurants and cooking facilities would have sent our U.K. food hygiene inspectors into orbit and the rotary venues that John scored several 'near misses' at in visiting left a lot to be desired.

Well done John a very informative evening about conditions in an under developed country that we in Rotary, should all aspire to help via foundation etc.

On 26th February our guest speaker was past D.G. Tom Cryer (of District Quizmaster Fame). He certainly seems to have landed himself with a nice 'cushy' job as a Hosting overlord for the 2009 International Convention at Birmingham - I may have misunderstood his role in this event!

Tom gave us an up to date report on the hosting arrangements for the International Convention. It is estimated that potentially Birmingham and District 1060 could be hosting between 25,000 and 30,000 members and partners from all over the world (it was particularly estimated that 600+

caravans may have to be catered for near to the N.E.C.

Hosting could be arranged on an individual or club basis (one evening is involved). The cost of the hosting arrangements would have to be met by individual clubs and therefore fund raising by either organised events/ sponsorships receipts/levies on meals/subscriptions etc would need to be budgeted for in the 2008/09 Rotary Year.

Volunteers will also be required as meeters/greeters at airports etc, taxi services and stewards at the various Convention events that are planned in and around the Birmingham Area.

Tom outlined the history of how Birmingham came to be hosting the 2009 Convention after the sudden withdrawal of the original South Korean Hosts although Korean culture would not dominate the Convention there would be a few references to it during the planned programme.

At the meeting I had to regretfully inform the club that we had received a letter of resignation from David Field due to work and family commitments. I hope that this will only be a temporary situation and I have written to David to let him know that 'our door is always open' should he wish to return in the future.

Finally I give below the club programme for the next few weeks for your information:-

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|------------------------------|--|
| March 11 th | Gordon Forrest (Wildlife Conservation in Worcs -part 2) (guests welcome) |
| March 18 th | J Savigar to arrange |
| March 25th | No meeting – Bank Holiday |
| April 1 st | AGM |
| April 1 st | 100 Club draw |
| April 8 th | M Townsend to arrange |
| April 15 th | Hospital Visit (D Strain) |
| April 22 nd | D Tyrrell to arrange |
| April 29 th | J Wall to arrange |
| May 6th | No meeting – Bank Holiday |

100 Club Lottery

'The 100 Club' Lottery had its first draw on 4th March and the lucky £50 winner was Diane Davis (ticket No 6) who is a secretary at Mike Townsend's work place. Second place (ticket No 87) for £25 was our own Clubs Foundation Account.

To explain this - as we had sold only 82 tickets, and after consultation with our President Alan, it was agreed in order to maintain the full prize money payouts i.e. without a pro-rata, the Foundation account would stand the possible £99 loss of profit from the lottery by covering the 18 tickets not sold. We have however, agreed to win no more than £75 max towards this potential loss over the period of the lottery i.e. ending in June.

If our tickets are drawn after this amount is recovered (should we be lucky enough) then they will be returned to the box and drawn again.

Don Raines

Reminder

Remember those plastic bags that were distributed so you could put your loose change into them? Well please look them out and change the cash that you have collected in your plastic bags and make out a cheque to Rotary District 1060 or give the proceeds to the Treasurer. The leading Club for contributions under this scheme is now Stourbridge can we can beat their total which is less than £200.

Don Raines

News from RIBI Institute of Cancer Research

The Institute of Cancer Research has been working with Rotary since 2006 to raise awareness of the symptoms of cancer and support The Institute's world-class cancer research.

To find out how people learn about the latest developments in cancer research and, in particular, how the media affects their understanding, they are conducting a short survey of Rotarians and their friends and families. For those of you with internet access this survey can be found by following the link [here](#). It should take no more than ten minutes of your time to complete. In order for it to be statistically valid, they need at least 500 people to take part so we

would be very grateful if you could encourage everyone you know, including non-Rotarians, to go to the website.

They hope to release the results of this survey to gain some publicity on how Rotary and The Institute of Cancer Research are working together in time for the RIBI conference in Blackpool.

March is Literacy Month

This extract from the RI website can be found at:

<http://www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/RotaryLeadership/RIPresident/Pages/Literacy.aspx>

Literacy empowers people. It is the foundation for virtually all forms of education and an essential component of poverty reduction, social inclusion, and economic development. Did you know that despite the importance of literacy, there are more than 800 million people unable to read or write in the world today, and 64 percent are women and girls.

During the next year, the Rotary resource group will raise awareness of literacy issues and encourage Rotary clubs to undertake literacy projects both at home and abroad.

The Literacy Resource Group encourages Rotarians, in cooperation with the [International Reading Association](#), to support literacy projects during Literacy Month in March 2008. In addition, members of the resource group will seek opportunities for alliances with other organizations and [identify major Rotary literacy projects around the world](#).

Contact your [Literacy Resource Group Coordinator](#) for guidance on how your club or district can get involved in a literacy project.

Duties this Week

Meal collection – Colin Smith
Grace – John Scott
Vote of thanks – John Savigar
Reserve – David Saunders

Raffle

Colin Smith won the raffle last week.

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