

**ROTARY and INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH  
AT THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW  
SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2006**

Rotary's float, an open-top double decker London Big Bus, was led by Christopher Biggins and Lesley Joseph, accompanied by RIBI President, Peter Offer, and London DG Clive Amos.

The Rotary/Institute display featured some 50 individuals on foot, including Rotarians from several districts, together with representatives from The Institute of Cancer Research.

The Institute of Cancer Research is one of the President's preferred projects this year, with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of early detection in the successful treatment of cancer. This aims to raise public awareness about cancer and its symptoms and help save lives.

Christopher Biggins said: "It's such a privilege for me to be in this parade representing two remarkable organisations. Rotary and The Institute of Cancer Research are going to make a huge difference across the country in creating more awareness of cancer and this is an ideal forum for them both to promote their excellent work."



**CHANGE OF VENUE**

After 15 years at one venue, the Hemel Hempstead RC has moved to the Holiday Inn Breakspare Way, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4UA. The location is close to Junction 8 on the M1. The club will continue to meet on Tuesdays at 7.30 for 7.45 pm. Hotel contact is 01442 206252

**DISTRICT QUIZ**

Wednesday  
17<sup>th</sup> January 2007  
Wheathampstead  
Memorial Hall,  
Marford Road, Wheathampstead



Hopefully, you will have noted the date for the above Quiz in the District Calendar. I now formally extend a cordial invitation to your Club to participate in the District 1260 Quiz to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

Each team will comprise four Rotarians. Each Club can enter as many teams as it chooses, provided of course we have sufficient room in the Hall! The cost per team will be £48, which represents a slight increase from 2006 due to increased costs. The price includes a hot supper and, as always, there will be a cash bar which will open at 6.45 pm. The Quiz will start promptly at 7.15 pm. Supporters are very welcome, for whom there will be a charge of £12 per person.

D Farr (Luton North RC)

**RICKMANSWORTH MEMBERSHIP DAY**

Rickmansworth RC held a membership day to attract new members on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The venue was a corner site in Rickmansworth High Street, where the club set up a small marquee along with the Home2Rome rally car driven by Wendy and Guy Coertze plus the ShelterBox they took with them and finally a wheelchair from the Wheelchair Foundation Project.

Complete with a good supply of Rotary literature members of the club manned the site from 9.00 am until 2.00 pm and talked to, approached and occasionally accosted various members of the public. Literature was handed to about 50 people. Some spent time talking in depth about Rotary and the Rickmansworth club. We are hopeful that some will wish to take things further.

This was the first time we had run an event like this and all who took part enjoyed the day, in particular a chance to spend time and talk to fellow Rotarians.

Gerry Rees



IF YOU SEE NO MENTION OF YOUR OWN ROTARY CLUB  
ASK YOURSELF: WHO'S TO BLAME?  
Please SEND forthcoming NEWS, REPORTS of recent events,  
PICTURES or COMMENT for future issues of the  
DG's NEWSLETTER to John Rowlands,  
Communications Committee Chairman  
email: handbooks1988@aol.com  
or lardi@btinternet.com



**District Governor's Newsletter**  
*Humanity in Motion*

Please circulate to all members  
Issue No 15 • November 2006

**District Governor's Findings**

Here we are with just over a month to go before Christmas and a lot is happening. Since our last newsletter I have been advised of 26 new members which is great news! Congratulations to Watford and the Langleys who have at the time of writing recruited 5 of this total. I am sure there are a number of clubs who have added members I am not aware of. If this is the case, please let me know as I would like to write and welcome them to the family of Rotary.

I have now attended three half-year meetings: Youth Activities in Sept., Membership early Nov. and International on Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. I was extremely pleased to see them all so well supported. I hope that all Rotarians who attended picked up valuable information and enjoyed the discussions. Each Chairman and their team ran meetings that were informative, interesting and friendly. They invited discussion with every member of the audience and brought to the fore, the latest news.

I had a fun night at the Hoddesdon Club in the presence of comedian Frank Carson. An auction raised a big total on the evening for Rotary Charities. Another auction evening Pam and I attended was run by the Stevenage Club on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. It raised in excess of £3,000 which will be used towards supplying food parcels for the elderly and needy this Christmas.

The third week in November will have seen my 34<sup>th</sup> club visit completed; with very few exceptions I am now scheduled to see every club. Will those 'exceptions' please contact me and arrange an early date.

**Wheelchair Foundation**

Many clubs agreed to donate a minimum of £300 to the International request from Roy Lester to buy wheelchairs and fill a container. Some of the cheques have now been received. Could I encourage those who have not yet pledged a sum to Roy that they do so in the near future and boost the total. Who knows, we could fill two containers!

**GSE Argentina/Foundation**

Gary Eastman tells me we are now getting close to finalising our GSE team for Argentina. If you still have candidates lined up please let Gary know as soon as you can. It's a wonderful opportunity for those chosen to make up the team.

IPDG  
Meirion  
Morris  
enjoying  
Hoddesdon  
Celebrity  
Night  
with  
District  
Governor  
Charles



**District Designated Fund**

A reminder to all, we still have the best ever DDF total for all clubs to claim their share. If you have a suitable project that will enable you to set up a matching grant, don't miss out on this chance to help with a special overseas project. There are plenty that need support.

**Branding Guidelines**

By the time you read this all clubs will have received a copy of the new 'Branding Guidelines' The RIBI website will also be updated to enable downloads of the items featured. I would encourage you to feature the new Corporate Identity on all your club communication material, use it on new displays and literature and join with other clubs and districts around the country in lifting the Rotary image.

**Home2Rome**

Congratulations to Wendy Coertze our District Membership Services Chairman, who, with her husband Guy, set off on the "Home2Rome" expedition which she did to help Shelterbox. Although the car let them down in the final stage, they made it in effort and deserve all they collect in sponsorship, which will support this worthy charity. *Details of her adventure appear in this Newsletter.*

**District Secretary**

We are sad to lose the services of Debbie Harvey who has been our District Secretary for the past three and a half years. Debbie resigned earlier this month. I would like to thank her for all she has done in the past and for me in my year to date and wish her all the best in her future Rotary activities.

**New District Secretary**

Rtn John Bromley, currently Assistant Secretary, has agreed to take on the secretarial role for the rest of this Rotary year.

## RI Convention, Salt Lake City 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Rotarians who would like to go to Salt Lake City should think about registering now to ensure their participation. Full details and registration forms are downloadable on the RI website. I am aware of a number who are going from District and it would be most encouraging to have a good party representing 1260.

It is a superb setting for what will be the 98<sup>th</sup> annual RI Convention. The old "Wild West" of America, is famous for the Genealogy Research Rooms, Yellowstone Park, and it's the home of 'The Osmonds'~ Whoops!

You can register now on [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and *Lead the Way* on a Rocky Mountain experience.

## DG's Sponsored weight loss

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support ~ at November 17<sup>th</sup> **I have lost 1 stone 6lbs.**

Thank you to all who have confirmed their support. With 7 months yet to go I have no fear I will not make the 2 stone target loss.

Following Christmas I will perhaps re-assess and up the anti by a further half stone??!

## District Governor's Diary

Visits to:

Rotary Club of Milton Keynes - Nov 20<sup>th</sup>

Rotary Clubs of Bushey & Oxhey and

Watford and the Langleys ~ Nov 20<sup>th</sup>

Marketing Group at Alcester ~ Nov 21<sup>st</sup>

District Council ~ Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>

Past District Governors Meeting ~ Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>

Rotary Club of Hertfordshires ~ Nov 29<sup>th</sup>

Rotary Club of Luton ~ Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

RIBI Focus Group - London ~ Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

Rotary Club of Ampthill ~ Dec 6<sup>th</sup>

Milton Keynes Theatre ~ Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

District International Christmas Gathering ~ Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

Don't forget to contact members of the District Team if you need any help or guidance.

Yours in Rotary,  
Charles Chaney

Lowri Gott at Rotary



... and Lowri with children at the opening of a new Library.

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Frank Carson, already making jokes, is greeted by Peter Haynes (Hoddesdon), who holds a very special, framed, £5 note which was later sold at auction with a bid of £500; proceeds from the evening raised a total of £11,000 for charity.

## DISTRICT 1260 ACHIEVES A FIRST!

Lowri Gott, our Ambassadorial Scholar for the current year, has already made a remarkable achievement by being the first Rotary ambassadorial scholar to study in mainland China.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of St Albans Priory, Lowri set off in September for Shanghai and Nanking to start her one year course at the Johns Hopkins University.

On her arrival in Shanghai, she was met and welcomed by the Interim Rotary club of Shanghai and attended their meeting. She was asked to read the aims and objects which she did in Mandarin, much to the amazement of the locals.

RI were having difficulty initially in finding a host counsellor for Lowri as the two local clubs have no experience with the programme. St Albans Priory contacted the clubs direct and since her arrival, she has been very well looked after.

Lowri has visited Fuyang in Anhui province with an organisation that has strong links with the Rotary club of Shanghai, called the Sunrise Foundation. She travelled with the Foundation to see the work they do in subsidising education, providing books amongst other things.

While she was in Fuyang, a group of Aids orphans visited the town (a huge problem in China due to sales of donated blood) She was then entertained by the children with songs and dances and even some food, small cakes filled with sweet red bean paste and an egg yoke made to represent the moon.

We look forward to more emails and photos and hearing her stories when she returns next summer.

Gary Eastman, District Foundation



## SHELTERBOX DELIVERS 'SCHOOL AID'

The team of volunteers from the ShelterBox are in Pakistan distributing emergency accommodation to families facing a second winter living in the open following last year's devastating Kashmir earthquake.

During October, following a direct appeal from Pakistan's National Rural Support Programme, ShelterBox has sent sufficient tents for 8,000 people to Kashmir.

In addition to the ShelterBoxes, the charity also sent some individual children's packs and basic supplies for teachers. This latest batch of ShelterBoxes included those donated by Flitwick Vale RC.

In early November, two members of the team reached Balgran, a village about two hours north of Pattika along a dangerous mountain road that is still heavily damaged and hit by regular landslides.

ShelterBox photographer Mark Pearson said: "We stopped at Balgran village and had to walk another 300ft up to reach the school. There were 50 children there, both boys and girls, ranging from five years to 17 years. They were waiting outside the school for lessons but there was no teacher there as he had gone to Muzaffarabad to get his pay."

The school was an old UNICEF tent that had no floor, just hard earth. There were no chairs so the 50 children sat on the bare ground with only one blackboard and no teacher. We met the local doctor who helped us distribute the school equipment."

Each of the pupils at the school received a pack that contained a small blackboard, as well as chalk, crayons, pencils, a geometry set and a notepad. The item that made the greatest impact was the blackboards, with many pupils using them to write out their names in both Urdu and English.

Tom Henderson, ShelterBox founder and general manager said: "Our first priority is to provide shelter for those people who still do not have decent accommodation and are facing the onset of another winter.

"Another part of our mission is to provide practical comfort to disaster victims and if, by the provision of some relatively inexpensive school equipment, we can also help to improve the lives and chances of these children then *that is a massive bonus.*"

## PAKISTAN HONOURS ROTARY RELIEF EFFORTS

The government of Pakistan has announced an award to recognize Rotary's swift response to the plight of survivors of a 7.6-magnitude earthquake, the worst in the country's history.

More than 75,000 people were killed and 3.5 million left homeless by the devastating quake that ripped through the North-West Frontier province and Pakistani-administered Kashmir in October 2005.

District 3270 (Afghanistan; Pakistan) set up a disaster relief account to accept donations from concerned Rotarians and friends. Food, blankets, medicine and tents were among the donated items that Rotarians sent and helped distribute to survivors.

Rotary has contributed more than US\$5 million in cash and in-kind donations to assist survivors. "Rotarians in Pakistan feel tremendous pride in receiving this award because this is the first time that

the efforts of Rotary in Pakistan have been properly recognized," says Muhammad Faiz Kidwai, immediate past governor of District 3270, who coordinated the relief efforts. "This will positively contribute in improving the image of Rotary in Pakistan."

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf will present the award, officially called Sitara-e-Eisar (the Star Award for Courage and Sacrifices), to Rotary International in February 2007.

## POLIO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN KENYA

As escalating factional violence in Somalia triggers an influx of refugees into neighbouring Kenya, a child living in a camp along the border has been diagnosed with polio – Kenya's first reported case in 22 years.

"On September 17, a three-year-old girl was brought by her mother to a hospital in Hagadera refugee camp in Daadab, northeastern Kenya. She was suffering from paralysis," explains UNICEF Communication Officer Sara Cameron. Within a month, medical authorities in Kenya and abroad confirmed that the little girl had polio.

The girl was born and has lived her whole life in the refugee camp – one of three in Daadab housing more than 162,000 people in overcrowded facilities.



"The risk of polio appearing again in Kenya is really quite high, because polio travels easily, particularly in unsanitary conditions," says Ms Cameron. "We don't know if it was brought in by refugees, but what we do know is that we have a really serious public health emergency in Kenya."

In response, UNICEF and its partners have moved quickly to prevent any more children contracting the crippling and sometimes fatal disease – which the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative** is working hard to wipe from the face of the earth.

The Kenyan Government, UNICEF and the World Health Organization are now preparing to deliver polio vaccination to all children under the age of five in the five districts closest to the border with Somalia.

UNICEF is also raising funds to carry out two rounds of national immunization days, commencing in January and reaching 5.5 million Kenyan children.

"We know that polio is a highly infectious disease. It can travel very, very quickly," says Ms. Cameron. "We all have to work together to make sure that it really doesn't spread any further."

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## JAMES COX MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

On 2nd November 2006 Des May, President of Aylesbury Rotary Club, launched The **James Cox Memorial Scholarship** in honour of James (Jim) Cox.

Buckinghamshire born, and educated in Aylesbury, Jim practised locally as an architect, was an Aylesbury Rotarian from 1952 until his death in 2005, serving as President in 1959/60, and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 2003.

The Scholarship is designed as a series of annual awards to assist young people up to the age of 25 years, who have left full time secondary school education, to further their educational aims. Applicants must have either completed their education in, or normally reside at the time of application in, Aylesbury or within 7.5 miles of St Mary's Church in Aylesbury.

Applicants must have had some connection with Rotary such as Youth Speaks, Technology Tournament, assisting with the Carol Float, Young Chef, Group Study Exchange, Essay Competition, Youth Exchange.

Applications for an award must be made by the end of April in each year and will currently consist of one single award of up to £500 and five individual awards of up to £100 each.



Des May and the son of "Jim" Cox, Howard.

## "JUST ADD WATER"

The first quarter of the Rotary year 2006/07 has been a fantastic success for WaterAid due to the enthusiasm of so many Clubs. Over £15,000 has come in already, all of it going towards our work in Tanzania.

Looking back, at the very beginning of the Rotary year WaterAid's Ryna Sherazi and Rtn Doug Muncey attended the RI Convention in Copenhagen/Malmö.

August saw the drop of our Rotary appeal: "Just Add Water". Rotary International President Bill Boyd highlighted water, health and education in his President's address at the beginning of the year and "Just Add Water" explains the huge difference that clean water and sanitation can make to a child's education. The wider impacts of our work are seen in the life of twelve year old Erika Makalli from the Dodoma region of Tanzania.

*"Before we got clean water in the village my life was so very different. I had to get up at 4am and walk a long distance to find water. I used to try and rush to get to school and wouldn't be able to wash or have any breakfast beforehand. Most of the time I missed school altogether because I was sick or just exhausted."*

By supporting WaterAid, Rotarians are giving children like Erika the chance to act like children: go to school, spend time with their family and friends and have a real hope for the future. **For "Just Add Water" call Sarina Jesudason on 020 7793 4550 or email [rotary@wateraid.org](mailto:rotary@wateraid.org).**

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES MIDYEAR MEETING

5<sup>th</sup> November 2006

The meeting was attended by 35 Rotarians, as well as the District Membership Team.

The meeting was opened by our very own District Governor, Charles Chaney, whose words of welcome emphasised the importance of membership to continue the good work that Rotary does.

We immediately broke into groups to discuss topics that had been highlighted by Rotarians from 1260 last time we met.

The three topics on the agenda were

1. Finding and keeping New Rotarians
2. The Health and Safety of your club
3. Extension and new clubs in your area.

Discussions then took place in half hourly slots so that every group got a chance to discuss each topic.

Notes were taken for circulation to each club, so any one who has not yet received them and wants to use them in their own clubs should please contact Wendy Coertze, on [coertze@aol.com](mailto:coertze@aol.com) The day went quickly with lively discussion and some valuable "best practises" which were shared with the groups.

**Feedback** included the following quotes:

*\* I think it was very well organised and the numbers encouraging*

*\* Just a short note to say how much I enjoyed the meeting this morning. The format was excellent with the meeting flowing very well and plenty of interaction in each of the discussion groups.*

*\* I just wanted to congratulate you and the team on a terrific meeting this morning. Everyone felt positive, and gained some really worthwhile ideas and information.*

*\* I thought that the meeting last Sunday went off very well and there were several useful points to think about introducing within my club. I shall look forward to receiving the reports and other papers arising from the meeting.*

Wendy Coertze

Membership Services Chairman

## Book Review Eyes on the Khyber

and other travels with Alec, by Pauline Barclay

Dr "Alec" Barclay's story, told in galloping style, includes a wide range of people and places who have to be included - and all of them are fascinating!

In the 1960s Peshawar was considered rather a backwater, much in need of surgical and nursing skills which Alec and his colleagues provided.

Alec's work as an eye surgeon pioneered the techniques which have proved routinely effective in later years.

Rotary involvement with Roger Armour's neat invention of the Optyse, now being used in Kabul and many other areas, as well as continuing efforts to give sight to the needlessly blind are gratefully recorded in this first hand account.

Ready soon, hardback £15 (plus £2 p+p), illus.  
Order now from Pauline Barclay, Yew House,  
1 Oxenden Drive, Hoddesdon, EN11 8QF

## Home2Rome Rally

Car Adventure to Support ShelterBox

We decided to do this rally because we are both passionate about the good works that this charity is doing in our disaster and war torn world.

All Rotary clubs in District 1260 were asked to sponsor just £100 per club and we also rallied (excuse the pun!) support from friends, family and work colleagues to sponsor us, in order to make the journey worthwhile.

We found an old Ford car from a good friend who was selling it for £100 – perfect for our mission.

We obtained a demo ShelterBox, which was perfect for all the pre-rally promotional events.

### Day 1 ~ 20th October 2006, Calais to Montelimar

We reported to the car park at Cité Europe where 120 bangers were rotting quietly in the car park. Their proud owners all dressed in a free-for-all of Fancy Dress.

Three other cars were racing for charity. Cancer Research was being promoted by another Rotary club, and also Save The Children and Breast Cancer Research. All the rest of the cars were there for sheer driving pleasure and the fun element.

The challenge for the day was Eye Spy – we had to find things along the road beginning with the letter M. Every item had to be photographed and presented as a list later.

The route was straight down the centre of France, a run of around 600 miles. At 4 pm we stopped to help Banger 42, four young lads dressed as intrepid explorers to Africa. Their little car disguised as a zebra, had a flat tyre and the spare was even worse than their flat. We made a detour off the A31 and 2 hours later were back on the road. At about 22h00 the car started smoking really badly and temperature was rising fast. We pulled over but visibility was very poor and the rain was really hard.

When the car had cooled down, we pulled back onto the road and limped to the next tollbooth at Montelimar. By this time the black smoke was billowing from all around the car and a rather surprised French lady tried frantically to tell us that the car was on fire. We managed to limp to the nearest hotel, and decided to check out the damage in the morning!

### Day 2 ~ Montelimar to Menton

Allegedly a quick blast to Menton, which was only 210 miles from Montelimar, and could be covered in 3 hours. However the challenge for the day was some very steep driving in the hills. We soon realised that our car would never make it, and we were towed unceremoniously to a local garage. So we hitched a ride in a Daimler. Holding on for dear life, overawed at the spectacular scenery, praying that the brakes would hold, we finally got to Menton.

### Day 3 ~ Menton to Sottomarina

Sottomarina was a short drive south of Venice. The main part of the day was the challenge, which involved driving to Venice and taking the car's spare wheel to St Marks Square where it had to be photographed in a team photograph. The journey with the wheel started in Mestre, just north of Venice, involved a train trip with

commuters and a river ferry ride. It was, however, entertaining seeing all the teams carrying spare wheels around Venice – all in fancy dress.

### Homeward Bound

At this point we had to turn back as we had a car to go and scrap – and we had to hire a car from Montelimar – and make our way back home. Work was calling!

We rented a hire car and drove back to Montelimar to scrap our faithful Rotary Banger. We had blown the head gasket, snapped the clutch cable and managed to put another 556 miles on the car plus the extra that we did when helping out the other drivers.

So.... No Rome and no grand prize this year – but next year we aim to do the Czekwrecks Race – from Calais to Prague – 1500 miles in a £100 banger!

120 cars took part and 82 finished. This was our first race and next time we too will put a lot more work onto the car, as others did.

A huge thank you to all who supported us, especially Gerry Rees and John Wellham from Rickmansworth (my back up crew), John Rowlands for his PR management and Craig Fisher for updating the website. Finally to Bryan Cornish of Stevenage Grange RC for doing all the decals on the car – it looked so good while it lasted and enabled us to talk to many more people about Rotary, Rotaract and the ShelterBox Charity.

All money that was pledged will go directly to ShelterBox. Guy and I financed the trip ourselves. Thank you to Rickmansworth, Ware, Hoddesdon, Milton Keynes, Winslow, and Hitchin Tilehouse RCs who have send me cheques so far.

Outstanding sponsorship money please send me cheques payable to ShelterBox. If all pay up, we hope to hand over a cheque for around £1,200 – at least 3 new ShelterBoxes!

Wendy Coertze



The decals clearly on display, while fund raising was in progress, before the rally.



St Mark's Square, Venice, the end of this year's attempt ~ but, who knows, next year?

**A PERSONAL VIEW from Past District Governor: Aldred Evershed**

There have been so many advances in technology, but mankind has not advanced enough to live in peace.

The fact that there continue to be conflicts in different parts of the world confirms that peace eludes us and I have become aware and depressed with the situation in Sri Lanka.

This has come about as I have recently met a GP living and working in Milton Keynes, who was himself born in Sri Lanka. He has helped to form a charity called Hope Outreach Ministries in South Asia (HOMSA). HOMSA now arranges for volunteers from the medical and dental professions to form teams in this country to go to the northern areas of Sri Lanka to enhance the meagre services available by holding clinics, dispensing free medicine, giving dental treatment, undertaking eye tests and giving encouragement to those who are desperately struggling to run the local services.

HOMSA is also providing support to orphanages, which house children who are either destitute following the 20 year civil war or have been adversely affected by the tsunami on Boxing Day 2004 and 20 elderly medically infirm ladies, in the poorer northern parts of Sri Lanka. Due to the current problems, with Sri Lanka still involved in civil war, in all but name, further help is required. In fact one of the orphanages suffered from bombing by the government forces.

I have been in contact with Bobby Senaweera, current Governor of RI District 3220 which covers Sri Lanka, with a view to establishing a contact with an appropriate club in the north of the island to provide some further help through Rotary. Bobby has informed me that there is currently a breakdown in communications and he is unable to make contact with any club in the north of Sri Lanka because of the conflicts. It is therefore regrettable that I am unable to establish a link.

As a worldwide organisation Rotary International has reached out to help those who are suffering and in need. Rotarians take pride in its achievements. In this country Rotarians are struggling to increase membership, particularly with younger people, however, I believe Rotarians need to reach out to discover new ways of living in harmony and create a vision of a world where all can live in peace and war is no longer a means of solving disputes. The challenge is there for all Rotarians if Rotary International is to continue as a worldwide force.

*Details of HOMSA may be obtained from Dr Sam Muthuveloe at 21 Lower Stonehayes, Great Linford, Milton Keynes, MK14 5ES*



**IW PRESIDENT VISITS DISTRICT 26**

Inner Wheel District 26 celebrated the visit of the National Association President, Phyl Fennelly, with a service which involved thirty ringers, singers and readers from clubs in the District, directed by the IW District Chairman, Sandra Maizels.

One of the highlights was the team of eighteen handbell ringers drawn from several clubs who performed three pieces. The service was followed by a lunch for nearly 160 people.

DG Charles Chaney and Pam, and AG Les Lee and Jeannette represented District 1260. Also present were President Des May from Aylesbury RC, which is DC Sandra's link club, and members of Gt. Missenden RC, to which Sandra's husband belongs.



*Inner Wheel District 26 Belle Ringers*

**DISTRICT AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARS 2006-7**

Kozo Yanagawa in the costume which he says he will wear when visiting Clubs in our District. It is also the "armour" which he uses when practising the Japanese marshal art of Kendo. He is studying for a PhD in Applied Linguistics at Bedfordshire University (Luton). His host-counsellor is PDG Geoffrey Farr (Luton North) 01582 881891 e: grdf@coppers.supanet.com

Our other Scholar this year is Miguel Lorenc from Lisbon, Portugal, who is studying for a Master's Degree in Human Factors and Safety Assessment in Aeronautics at Cranfield University; host-counsellor is David Dibley (Newport Pagnell) - Tel: 01234 391743 e-mail david@odenvale.freeserve.co.uk

Any Clubs in District who wish either (or both!) to speak at a club meeting, please contact their host-counsellors, who are organising their diaries.



**NEWPORT PAGNELL JAIPUR CHARITY DINNER**

One of the best kept secrets (by those who have been to the event) in District 1260 is the Annual Jaipur Charity Dinner organised by Newport Pagnell RC, and held at the Jaipur Restaurant in Central Milton Keynes.

The eleventh event of its kind will be held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2007, commencing at 7.00 for 7.30 pm and the price of the meal will be the same as for the last two years, £25 per person. The menu will be Indian, with English and Vegetarian options available if ordered at the time of advance booking.

Previous supporters of this fantastic evening will be aware that a percentage of the proceeds is given back to the Newport Pagnell Club through the generosity of the owner, Abdul Ahad – who is himself an Honorary Rotarian of Newport Pagnell.

This year Ahad has kindly agreed that the proceeds of the evening will be shared equally between the Restaurant and Rotary, for which we are extremely grateful, and which will ensure that the Jaipur Limb Project will receive an increased contribution in 2007. This will of course only happen if we get the usual encouraging support from neighbouring Rotary Club members and their friends.

Please put the event in your diaries NOW make to keep free the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007. If you have been before you'll know what a super evening it is. If you haven't attended before, then come and see what you've been missing!

For more information/ tickets/ reservations etc. please contact Rotarian Brian Haigh on 01908 679949 or e-mail brian.e.haigh@btinternet.com



**WHAT IS THE JAIPUR LIMB ?**

It is an artificial leg, developed at the Mahaveer Hospital in Jaipur, India. The unique component is the Jaipur foot, a clever combination of wood and various densities of rubber vulcanised into a realistic looking brown foot.

The Jaipur limb is hard-wearing and will last for three or four years, longer if worn with a shoe.

One of the major differences between Jaipur and western technology is the cost - whereas a western limb will cost between £1,000 and £2,000, a Jaipur limb can be made and fitted for as little as twenty-five pounds.

**DEE CAFFARI, World Record Yachtswoman**

Dee Caffari was the Guest of Honour and speaker at the Chesham Rotary Club's Gala Charity Dinner held at Harewood Downs Golf Club in Amersham, October 27<sup>th</sup>.



A capacity audience of club members and their partners was augmented by the local Fleet of the International Fellowship of Yachting Rotarians. The event raised over £2000, most of which will go to the Jubilee Sailing Trust, which promotes the integration of able-bodied and physically disabled people through adventure tall ship sailing holidays.

Dee started her career as a teacher, and sailing was a hobby, but her love of the sea proved too strong and she became a full time sailor. Her first major circumnavigation of the world was the Global Challenge Yacht Race in 2004/5. She told it as something of a junket with parties at every port, but as the only woman skipper, and a largely amateur crew they completed the course in good time, and she determined to try a solo trip.

It was suggested to her that she attempt to be the first woman to make a solo circumnavigation of the world against the prevailing winds and tides as the AVIVA Challenge. It had previously been done by just four men. The challenge was too much to resist, and on the 18th May 2006, Dee sailed into Ocean Village Southampton after an epic journey of 178 days and 29,000 miles, to go into the record books as the first woman ever to sail the "wrong way" nonstop. The first person to achieve the contra-circumnavigation was Sir Chay Blyth in 1971, in 292 days!

Dee related her story with great humour, explaining that it was a highly emotional time and a journey of discovery of her own abilities. Told modestly but with great honesty she charted her own learning curve as overcoming high seas, adverse winds, icebergs and lack of sleep to sail into the record books. Obviously a courageous lady, but also vivacious, inspirational and funny.

All present were privileged to have the opportunity to listen and ask questions.

Geoff North (Chesham)

