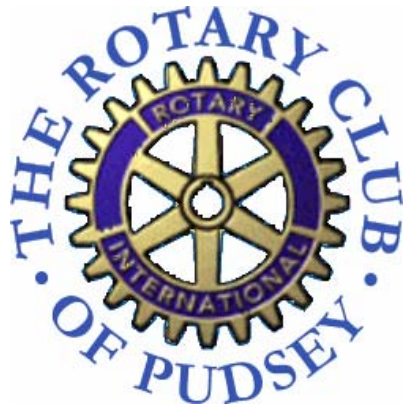


Welcome to the web version of our Bulletin



Please note: for obvious reasons certain information of a personal nature may have been omitted from this version.

Copy for:

Rotary Club of Pudsey

the Bulletin

February/March 2005



*Aquabox fills an urgent need
in S.E. Asia Tsunami disaster*

Our 'Aquabox Team' on song

As we approached our 50th anniversary year 2002, incoming President Chris Johnson-Green initiated discussions with several groups of our members for worthwhile projects.

The task of one 'brainstorming' session was to create a project which would "raise the profile of the club in the Pudsey community and involve the public on an on-going basis".

The proposal put to the club was to form a team with the main aim to buy 100 boxes in the next five years, a commitment to raise £4500.00 (£900.00 per year) and to collect the goods to fill them. After two years the project was already well ahead of the target due to fund raising events and the response of our members and Pudsey folk who contributed welfare items.

Talks and demonstrations of Aquaboxes to local groups has resulted in a lot of support and the letters we have sent out to local businesses have been surprisingly successful, especially since the disaster appeal.

The team Geoffrey Barton, Fred Beaumont, Tony Gadsby and Robert Key, with the willing support of other members, have to date collected goods and despatched 67 standard boxes and funded 10 aqua 30's and 6 shelterboxes. Another 22 boxes are already funded and awaiting availability.

Fundraising since July 2002 has come up to £8,386, more than £5,000.00 of this in January this year.



A conversation between neighbours resulted in a Bradford company, Stephenson's, giving money to our Tsunami Appeal. When the Directors decided to donate, they asked the employees to give them suggestions of local charity which could quickly turn the money to good use. Kira, their HR manager, had already been collecting 'welfare' items for our standard boxes and she mentioned this to the Chief Executive.

Within days a cheque for £3,000.00 was handed over to our Treasurer Les and a week later it was spent. We had intended that the money would fund Aqua 30's. However the high demand for boxes meant that we were in a queue and had to wait for new supplies to come from the manufacturers. During Geoffrey Barton's update talk at our lunchtime meeting on 20th January, he suggested diverting most of the £3,000.00 to providing 6 shelter boxes via the Helston-Lizard Rotary Club in Cornwall and this has been done.



Kira, and daughter Sarah & Rita Beaumont

For more details of shelterboxes see their website www.shelterbox.org. The shelterbox project is run by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall. Their latest information page indicates that they have been despatching, on average, 1000 shelterboxes each week since the disaster.



Dates for your diary

Thursday 3rd February
Speaker: Ruth Strong "Hainsworth's Mill"

Thursday 10th February
Speaker: Geoffrey Barton
"Southern Australia"



Thursday 17th February
Fellowship Meeting

Wednesday 23rd February
Founders Day

Thursday 24th February
Speaker: Charles Clough "The Quiet Millionaire" or it could be a representative of Hope and Homes for children. *To be confirmed*

Thursday 3rd March
Could be Charles Clough

Thursday 10th March
Speaker: John Walker "Thailand Revisited"

Thursday 17th March TBA

Thursday 24th March
Speaker: Captain David Boyle "My Scrapbook"

Thursday 31st March TBA
Thursday 7th April TBA

Friday 8th April Who done it? Murder and Mystery at Farsley Church Hall 7 for 7.30 start.
An International Committee presentation and the draw for the Grand Raffle.



EXTRACT FROM THE JANUARY 2005 MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT

Dear fellow Rotarians, I feel a growing sense of anticipation as we count down to Rotary's centennial. As we approach Rotary's 100th anniversary next month, thousands of clubs around the world are planning service projects, banquets, parties, and other special events to mark this milestone occasion. I am asking Rotarians to carry out projects in four areas of emphasis – family of Rotary, health concerns, literacy, and water management. More than one billion people do not have access to safe water. Rotarians can raise awareness in their communities by helping to build water wells, fund water conservation, conduct river cleanups, and install sanitation systems. Water – the world's most precious commodity – is truly a gift of life. I encourage Rotarians everywhere to Celebrate Rotary in their own special way. Even if you don't like birthdays, this is one celebration you will not want to miss! Glenn E. Estess Sr.



Amongst the many events taking place in our District of 1040 to mark our 100th birthday is a Centenary Dinner and Ball organised by the Bradford Group. I will be held in Bradford Grammar School on Saturday 26th February and the cost is £28.00. Contact Rtn. Charles Balding on 01535 272003.

Our own club Centennial Project, the rebuilding of the water fountain in Pudsey Park, is awaiting final council approval.

News of our members: **Charles Holdsworth** *Following his nasty fall at home, says "I was surprised to be told by my doctor that I had depression. This may explain why I have not wanted to go out, I even got shaky amongst the shoppers in the supermarket. Fortunately that feeling is wearing off now and I hope to be back at the club soon".*

David Dickinson. *It was good to see President David back in the chair at our last meeting and he feels that he is making progress although the chemotherapy treatment knocks him back, the blood transfusions often perk him up.*

Jack Sagar. *News is that Jack and Moira will be moving from their home in Boroughbridge down to Surrey in the near future.*

Bernard Moss *transferred from Wharfedale hospital on Wednesday to Ghyll Royd House nursing home in Guiseley: Tel: 01943 870720. "First impressions of this place is 'quite plush', I'll tell you better after a weeks meals".*

Chris Johnson-Green organised a collection day at the Owlcotes centre on Saturday 15th January in the foyer outside Boots the chemist



The morning shift of collectors, buckets and smiles at the ready



This picture and report, by CJ-G, was in the Pudsey Times 13/1/05

The weather was wet and blustery but the shoppers were out in force, and attracted to our display were soon dropping lots of money into our collection buckets. The Aquabox team were well supported by members, their wives and friends and it was all worth the effort as we counted just over £1100.00.

The Aquabox concept is proving to be more popular than ever with lots of clubs in RIBI and RI putting effort into it.

The idea appeals to all sections of the community with those not willing or able to make a cash donation finding 'welfare goods' for us to fill the standard boxes. Any member receiving donations should give the cash to Geoffrey and the goods for sorting to Fred. We continue to be grateful to Hainsworth's mill for space to store our boxes and goods, prior to sending off to the depot at Wirksworth in Derbyshire where they are then despatched via trusted Aid Agencies, all over the world whenever disasters occur.

Further update: We have just received copies of the new list of items for Aquaboxes and notice that most of the clothing items have been deleted and more emphasis put onto hygiene and tools etc. We have updated our club leaflet to reflect these changes and a copy is enclosed. Please ask Fred for more of the leaflets if you need them.

David Hainsworth, our man on the spot, gives a graphic account on how tsunami victims are coping.

"I was in India from 6th to 22nd January, on holiday with my family and visited the affected coastal area. We were impressed how the Indians are good at looking after themselves. They are coping well and in fact the government is donating funds to help Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Virtually everything is available in the local markets and we saw them making shelters using plastic sheeting, ropes, bamboo supports and coconut palm leaves. We were fascinated by seeing the importance of the coconut palm which seemed to be everywhere. It makes a micro eco system in its own right. It produces a wonderful cooling energising drink; the flesh is both eaten and converted into cooking oil and fuel; the shell is an ideal bowl; the outer husk is Coir from which they make mats and rope; the palm leaves are used for thatching and weaving. They even strip the palm leaves and use the dried veins for sweeping brushes.



We did not see the most devastated areas but got the feeling that the aid most required is what they cannot provide for themselves such as counselling for traumatised families, funding to buy water, pots and pans, and everyday basics which are available in the local markets. We contacted St Georges School and Orphanage run by The Bateman Trust in Chennai. The children were away on holiday because it was Harvest Festival but their aim to "help them to help themselves - for life" seems to be the right approach".

The photograph was copied from The Hindu newspaper dated January 13th 2005 with the following text **"CHENNAI Jan 13th.** The local Rotary District here distributed shelter boxes to the Tsunami affected in Sulari Kattu Kuppam near Mut-tukkadu as part of its temporary rehabilitation plan.



Seven hundred and fifty Shelter Boxes will be distributed in the state, part of the Government's aim of providing one lakh (10,000) temporary shelters. The Rotary International Director, Shushil Gupta, distributed the multi-purpose, home on the move shelters - cum -survival kit that was put together by the Rotary. The shelter, a three compartment dome-tent, can accommodate ten persons. The tents have an inner tentage, an outer fly sheet and a repair kit. Earlier, Mr. Gupta handed over 100 kits at Nagapattinam on Wednesday a total of 250 kits have been distributed so far. Costing over Rs 1 crore (£500.00) the tents were donated by the Helston- Lizard Rotary Club in the United Kingdom. Indian Airlines flew down the consignment weighing 14,000 kg, from New Delhi to Chennai without charges. Earlier, Virgin Atlantic carried the cargo free of cost from U.K. to India.

Letter from THE BATEMANS TRUST 14 January 05

On behalf of the Batemans Trust I write to acknowledge safe receipt of the most wonderful cheques totalling £ 915 which I have passed on by hand to the Treasurer. The Trustees are enormously grateful to the Rotary Club of Pudsey for this splendid additional help in the work in funding and enhancing the standards at St Georges Orphanage in Chennai. You will have already seen our latest Newsletter, but all is still going well and steady progress is raising the living standards accommodation, of education, health and eventual job prospects of the children. Although the orphanage and our two hostels are situated in Chennai which was badly affected by the tsunami on 26 December, thank heaven all the children from St Georges Orphanage were safe, and returned from their guardians or extended families after Christmas. Not so lucky were many children on the beaches, and we know of one team of little cricketers with which we had contact who were all swept away. Your members generous help is enormously appreciated and we will endeavour to get the sum matched by the Chennai Rotary using your covering letter. There is a member whom we think might be able to ease the process in our very bureaucratic but lovely land! With all good wishes and gratitude from the Batemans Trustees.

Yours sincerely Nick Thompson Hon Administrator