



The Banbury Bulletin

SERVICE Above Self

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The Club agreed to sponsor Elizabeth Paine (formerly of The Warriner School), a 4th year medical student, at The Royal Free & University College Medical School in London who is spending 7 weeks in Shell, Ecuador undertaking a medical elective – I have received e-mails from her and thought that members would be interested to hear her progress:

Shell has a population of 3,000 and is situated 150 miles south-east of the capital Quito.

Hospital Vozandes del Oriente is a 30 bed primary care hospital with a 3 bed emergency department – over 40% of Ecuador's population has no access to health care and this hospital serves marginalised segments of the community who are part of the 40% made up of Latin Ecuadorian, Highland Quichu, Jungle Quichu, Waorani, Shuar & Achuar – each group has a unique language and culture.

Elizabeth flew into Quito and then took a 5 hour bus journey to Shell – these are her words:

On the journey I saw people in different stages of dirtiness, the homes were small and seemed so poor – I felt quite oppressed by the visual reminder of how so many people live with so little and with no hope of change. But perhaps for all that they are richer in some ways than we are, we take so much for granted and expect so much for ourselves. On arrival at Shell I was given a tour of the hospital, met lots of staff all at once and everyone was very friendly - I felt very welcome.

For the first few days I shadowed staff to learn the ropes – we do rounds with the Consultants, residents & interns (everything is in Spanish but I am coping with the language), we take histories, examine the patients when they arrive in the emergency department, we change dressings, write out forms and prescriptions and assist with surgery. After the initial 2 days honeymoon period when everything was fine I had a couple of hard days – I was following other interns BUT not doing very much and although I was helping, at times the communication difficulties and explanation needed made me feel more of an irritation – I am also a little disorientated with time and a lack of sleep. My supervising doctor has allowed me to start to see patients on my own and I learned a lot by having to do things.

It's interesting how different things are here – very rarely is a door shut while we are seeing patients – other people wander in to see what is happening, very little privacy but people don't seem to mind. One of the first patients I was involved with (an 84 year old lady with severe burns) died on Wednesday night and a little boy involved in a car crash died on Saturday - I haven't really come into contact with death much and it brings home the reality of it.

I am doing more and more on my own – I took 2 histories and one of my patients has been admitted (either TB or pneumonia) I have to present her at the morning briefing tomorrow – my first patient, I'm so pleased because I am starting to pick up how to do things and really enjoying it because I'm being useful. Today I was 1st assist with a gall bladder removal by keyhole surgery and learnt to suture. I am so fortunate to be here and excited to be helping people who really have very little access to healthcare – I find it sad how money limits what can be done though. the doctors and staff here are doing an amazing job.

I was involved with treating a young pregnant girl who had been bitten by a snake over the period of a week – her leg was swollen, she had a severe fever and several abscesses' which had to be drained and it was

quite dramatic – once again I practiced my suturing. Unfortunately there were complications and the girl miscarried, it was so sad and I was deeply shocked by this and this was made worse when the lady with TB who was in the intensive care room (my first patient) became unresponsive and sadly, despite the best efforts of the medical team she passed away.

A very sad night for us all, and very difficult for me to come to terms with.

I am extremely tired – on call, worked extremely hard and got only 3 hours sleep – I'm getting a taste of how junior doctors used to work!! However it has been an amazing experience so far. Money is a big issue here – people have to pay for everything although there is a charity fund for those who can't but that is for emergency treatment only and doesn't cover long term treatments.

This is just a flavour of the work that Elizabeth is involved in (she has been in Ecuador since 3rd September and I have a diary covering events up to 24th September) – if anyone is interested in reading the full account please contact me and I will forward it to you by e-mail.

I hope that those of you who read this feel that the donation we, as a Club, made was money well spent and I hope to give more information regarding her trip in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Rtn. Alan Wolstencroft

Courtesy of Janet Chapman we have a few apt turns of phrase.....

From the brochure of a car rental firm in Tokyo:

When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn.
Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he
still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.
In a Bucharest hotel lobby:

The lift is being fixed for the next day. During
that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

In a hotel in Athens:

Visitors are expected to complain at the office
between the hours of 9 and 11 A.M. daily.

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery:

You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

In an Austrian hotel catering to skiers:

Not to perambulate the corridors in the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant:

Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

Outside a Hong Kong tailor shop:

Ladies may have a fit upstairs.

Thanks Janet!



FOUNDATION NEWS

Ambassadorial Scholars

The traditional “Meeting the Scholars” evening will be held at Benson Parish Hall on Thursday 12 October at 7.30pm I will be going so if anyone is interested in attending what is usually an entertaining evening, please let me know.

We shall be arranging for a Scholar to speak to the Club in the New Year.

Group Study Exchange

This Rotary years’ Group Study Exchange will be with District 3450 – Hong Kong. As we hosted the Australian team last Rotary year we will not be hosting the incoming team but we can put forward applicants for the Team Leader and Team Members. The visit to Hong Kong will be from mid May 2007 for approximately 4 weeks. Any member of the Club who is interested in being considered as Team Leader should let me know immediately as applications have to be submitted to District by 16 September!

Team members for the outgoing team need to be between 25 and 35 years of age – either male or female and potential leaders in their vocations who are starting to progress up the Managerial ladder.

If you know of anyone who would be a suitable candidate please ask me for an application form. This is a wonderful opportunity for any young manager so if you want further information please contact me.

Rtn. Roger May

Speaker Report Friday 1st September

Rob McKay - Economic Development Officer, Cherwell District Council

The primary role of the Economic Development Unit is to provide, business, employment and export opportunities – developing the wealth of the local community for the benefit of all North Oxfordshire residents.

By establishing and sustaining a healthy local economy in association with local partners, the unit has helped to create employment and wealth in the district that for many years has been well above the national average. Over the past decade sustainable business growth has been seen based on a comparatively explosive expansion of business activity in the area following the opening of the M40 motorway in the early 1990's and the recovery from the recession of 1989/1992.

The unit looks to achieve its objective by:

- Encouraging inward investment
- Developing skills and training opportunities
- Providing information and assistance to business
- Maintaining and sharing detailed local databases
- Creating wide ranging networking opportunities.

This economic development is based on a strategy of involving key business groups and building team effort for a common purpose – the prosperity of the local community. Rob chose to draw a comparison with the Banbury Rotary Club's objectives by highlighting the units focus on developing new relationships, maintaining high ethical standards, encouraging personal involvement in the community effort and identifying valued international relationships.

As an example of the work undertaken Rob outlined the formation of the Cherwell-M40 Investment Partnership that is a public/private sector initiative

providing a range of business services by combining the skills and expertise of local business people and Cherwell District Council staff. The Partnership aims to provide both practical and informed advice as follows:

An entry point for businesses considering investing or locating in Cherwell, North Oxfordshire
Impartial advice and district-wide knowledge
Up-to-date economic information and data on the area
Information on land and premises availability
Links to both Cherwell District Council Services and other sources of business support in the region

Skill training links

A personal service tailored to helping individual businesses find the right location
Help for start-ups and businesses looking to expand within the area

Further initiatives include local networking clubs, groups sharing resource efficiency ideas and processes and a local purchasing and trading club. The encouragement of corporate social responsibility via involvement in the community, decision making and sponsorship and a skills based forum also figure in the work programme undertaken.

By competing successfully for external funding the Economic Development Unit has been instrumental in bringing a network of Innovation Centres designed to stimulate the new technology sector in North Oxfordshire to the area.

The Economic Development unit plays a key role in developing the long term plans of the Local Authority that drive the major issues of town centre development, housing, education and infrastructure decisions.

A small but very important unit dedicated to protecting the environment, the supply of wealth and the provision of effective local public services for all.

Bernard Goodchild