



President Roger Worrall

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HAITI DISASTER APPEAL

The Shelter Box Response

PRESS RELEASE

Families with newborn babies and pregnant women have been given emergency shelter by the ShelterBox Response Team operating in Haiti.

The Response Team have set up a ShelterBox camp for up to 1,000 people on the Henfrasa sports field in Delmas, Port au Prince, Haiti, providing emergency shelter for the most in need and the most vulnerable.

ShelterBox Response Team member and General Manager Lasse Petersen said: 'We agreed with the local community that the initial tent allocation would be for families with pregnant women and families with newborns.

'We're prioritising women and children, providing disaster relief tents, blankets, water containers, children's packs and kitchenware, basically enough to set up families who have lost everything.

'The Dutch marines have been very helpful for us in providing storage at Port au Prince airport as well as providing security to our team during the distribution of aid. There are hundreds of thousands of people left homeless but this is the first of our deliveries with many thousands more to come.' Haitian hopeAid for more than 20,000 people has already arrived in Haiti and is being distributed by the Response Team with the help of the Dutch marines, Rotarians, French aid agency ACTED and the French Red Cross.

ShelterBox's team of volunteers in the UK are continuing their hard work packing boxes. Another 3,000 ShelterBoxes are due to arrive by the end of this week taking ShelterBoxes commitment of boxes above the 5,000 mark.

Haiti's President Rene Preval has urgently appealed for more tents to house the estimated 1.5 million people made homeless by the earthquake.

ShelterBox's Mark Pearson, who has now been in Haiti for nearly two weeks, said: 'There are hundreds of thousands of people who are injured. The walking wounded are everywhere.

'People are being taken to hospital in wheelbarrows with their legs bandaged up with plastic bags. The people here are very scared to live in the buildings and only feel safe in the tents. Shelter, medical care, water and food are important. They are the most basic things people are screaming out for. Aid is starting to arrive so there is a lot of hope here.'

Lasse Petersen added: 'Port au Prince is overflowing with encampments of people sleeping without basic shelter. The demand remains enormous, but with the help of our donors, ShelterBox has flown five aircraft and over 2,000 ShelterBoxes to aid those left homeless by the quake.

'In the hospitals, orphanages and local communities we are making a difference and thousands of more boxes are en route.'

Camps are set up as aid begins to flow Four year-old Carlos had his leg amputated on Wednesday. He is now recovering in a ShelterBox tent.

Hundreds of ShelterBox tents are providing emergency shelter in and around Port au Prince and hundreds more boxes are set to arrive.

Shelter Boxes have been distributed at Bernard Mews hospital in Freres, a suburb of Port au Prince and at a second hospital in the capital. ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) member and General Manager, Lasse Petersen (UK), says the use of the tents by hospitals is already helping save lives.

Mark Pearson said: 'We've been working really hard the past few days setting up tents in two separate hospitals that are having an immediate impact and saving lives. As soon as the tents are up at the hospitals there are patients moving into them.'

Small camps have been set up in different locations. 50 boxes have been distributed in Delmas, 50 in Petion-Ville, 50 in Carrefour and 100 in Leogane, one of the worst affected areas. Rotarians in Haiti have been working with the Response Team to coordinate the distribution.

The 700 ShelterBoxes and 100 ShelterBox disaster relief tents sent from Newquay Cornwall Airport landed in Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic and have now travelled overland to Port au Prince. Another 200 ShelterBoxes, flown from Vatry, France by the French Red Cross, landed in Santa Domingo and are also travelling overland to Port au Prince. A further 400 ShelterBoxes, sent from the UK to Miami, USA with the help of Virgin Atlantic, have landed in Port au Prince .

Head of Operations John Leach said: 'The situation is still constantly changing but we now have a good number of boxes in use and a large number set to arrive .

'The support we've had across the board has been fundamental in making this happen but the job has only just begun. We're in this for the long haul and couldn't do it without the continued commitment of our supporters, volunteers and of course our amazing response team members.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING??????

There was an immediate response by our club to the Haiti earthquake disaster, Community Chairman Andrew Fairbairn with the help of Rotarian Alan Wolstencroft quickly organised street collections with emergency licences from Cherwell District Council.

A day in Castle Quay shopping centre and a day outside in the Market Square and High Street during very cold and rainy weather did not deter the people to give. There then followed a Saturday collection at Sainsbury's.

There was a wonderful response from the people of Banbury, with a total of approx. £4950.00 collected enough for 10 Shelter boxes. Further donations and schools collecting has produced enough for at least another two boxes.

Alan Wolstencroft has been speaking to schools, and children have been doing their own fundraising and contributing to our total.

District 1090 has now collected over £100,00.00 and still rising as the clubs in District respond and send their collections to Shelter Box. A cold sleety Wednesday morning saw a lonely Rotarian (Fred Riches) braving the elements. Fortunately as the morning progressed the people appeared and gave generously to the appeal. There was also another collection point in High Street where many Club members turned up to help.

The collection points were continually manned.



ROTARY MISSION CHALLENGE

“making a real difference in Sierra Leone ”

CHRISTIAN HOPE SCHOOL, KISSY, FREETOWN

In January 2007 I agreed to fund the building of a 6 classroom extension at the school and as most of you will have seen in my last Newsletter the 6 classrooms were “officially” opened in June when I last visited.

The good news is that ALL the work was completed by the end of July and a major step forward is that at the request of the community elders secondary school classes started at the school in September.

I am also funding the refurbishment of the original classrooms as they need some general repair work to floors & ceilings and re-painting throughout.

There is also the opportunity to convert the basement into an open plan meeting room/assembly hall and although I have had a realistic quote for the job I have made the decision to put this on hold for the moment as I do not see it as an essential project. This will also give me some breathing space to ensure that the new building is being adequately looked after and maintained & also to make the school realise that I am not a “money tap” that they can just turn on & off.

STORAGE BASE, BANBURY – SPONSORSHIP

As many of you are aware I receive donations of school uniform, shoes, football kits, corporate wear, kids clothing, pens, paper rulers etc for shipping out to Sierra Leone and Storage Base in Banbury have just committed to a year's free storage in return for advertising in our Rotary programmes. This is a great benefit to me and I am truly grateful to the Company and staff at Storage Base for all their help and support in setting this up – I currently have approx 40 boxes of donated goods, bagfuls of stuff still to sort and “stuff” coming in all the time. **IF YOU ARE LOCAL AND NEED STORAGE GIVE THEM A TRY!!**

So I hear you ask what's next for you in Sierra Leone ??

When I first arrived at Lungi airport in November 2005 we were met at the airport by Pastor Mark (on behalf of Mercy Ships) and he has become a great friend to Rotary.

I have met him on all my visits and regard him, and his wife Bridget, as good friends and I felt I would like to help his community in some way if it were possible.

Less than a mile from the airport is the Calvary Church – currently the local children are taught in the main body of the church as they have no school building – yes you've guessed a new school is going to be built and I have agreed to be the principal funder. They have been given a structure, similar to a “dutch barn” and all I need to do is raise £5,000 to complete the project - £500 has already been sent to Pastor Mark and currently I have £1,400 banked with pledges for a further £450 – not a bad start!!



Thank you to the following for recent donations:

Kidlington Townswomens Guild , St Margarets Circle, Whitnash, Sour Valley Visually Impaired Group, Southam Friendship Club, Philippa Madge & Backwell Primary School, Bristol, Bicester Wives Club, John Webb @ Tredegar 41 Club

Alan Wolstencroft.

SPEAKER REPORTS.

Our lunchtime speaker on the 8th. January was John Giddins M.B.E. his subject "The Cold War"

John Giddins is a remarkable Octogenarian who is still very active. Last year he was Chairman of Banbury Probus Club and organised many events and persuaded the C.D. Council to subsidise the clubs outings when of an "Educational nature".

Considering Banbury was in the grip of ice and snow, we were lucky that he was able to come at all! When asked what he would be talking about he said "the cold!"

Once he was speaking it became apparent he was referring to the cold **war!**

After telling us he was reducing a 50 minute talk to 15 minutes he explained that from 1950 to 1989 he had been a member of the Observer Corps. He had served throughout the whole of the cold war period, from about 1955 - 1970.

The Corps responsibility was to track aircraft and detect any explosions due to atomic bombs

He then explained that across the country there were some 1600 underground posts. In the Banbury area there were 29 groups.

Teams kept up 24 hour surveillance. Each team consisted of 3 men and there were 3 teams + one "Sergeant" acting as supervisor Tours of duty could last for 12 hours. In an endurance trial John and his team lasted 19 hrs before having to give up. There was a 14 day supply of food in case of an attack. (+ one Elsan!)

There were 3 levels of operation: At **ground level** a photosensitive device detected a flash of light from a bomb. This device let the light in such a way that the angle of incidence could be shown. Thus several devices situated at different sites could be used to "triangulate" and hence pin point where the device had been detonated. Another special tube allowed the pressure from a blast to be measured.

Level two was at 30 ft where the 3 man teams operated. Someone would nip up to ground level regularly to check the strip of photosensitive paper for markings.

The RADIAC (radio active) Survey Instrument (like a Geiger Counter) measured the radio activity. Using the above data the direction of the bomb, the height at which it was detonated and the local level of radioactivity could be calculated. This was important as the the worst scenario was a ground level detonation when radiation would be forced upwards and outwards. At high altitude the Effects of the explosion would be directed downwards and therefore not spread so far and wide.

If positive, they would initiate "TOCSIN" a code to indicate atomic activity and notify the local "Ops Room(s)" of these facts.

(Bob Nurden remembered one such post at Banbury police station)

Level three was much lower. At Oxford it was 75 ft and in Birmingham 150ft, hopefully too deep for radiation, blast or heat to have any effect.

From here action could be taken to move aeroplanes, tanks and shipping out of the path of the radioactive fallout.

John's post was at Barford St Michael at 30 ft. He explained what a strain it was to man these posts and at the same time follow a normal professional career.

The system fortunately was never put to the test. The general public had been told to "stay at home" in a safe corner or under the stairs. Mapping the course of poisonous clouds was primarily intended for military use and it was unlikely that civilians would be moved, due to the logistical problems involved and lack of experience with the effects of atomic bombs.

John finished his talk at two minutes to two. We all enjoyed the clarity of his presentation.

Tony Wiltshire

The lunchtime speaker on the 15th January was Mrs Alison Hooker who is the fund raiser for Banbury and indeed the Cotswold area for Helen and Douglas House.

Helen House was set up in 1982 by Sister Francis to care for children and young persons in the Oxford and surrounding areas who were in need of the treatment, respite care and end of life support. Also to give respite to their families and care as a young person nears the premature end to their lives.

Children stay at Helen House and in the year 2000 plans were put in place for Douglas House to be built which would care for young adults aged 16 to 35 years who were in similar need. Douglas House opened in 2004 and is well equipped with long corridors (for wheelchair racing!!!) a bar and full internet facility.

Both houses cater for residents staying for short periods of time, except of course for the time when their lives sadly come to an end.

Helen House has facilities in the form of furnished flats for relatives to stay to be near to a child and in order to give a more relaxed facility for siblings, the Elephant Club was formed. There are special after death rooms at Helen House which allow for parents to spend precious times with the deceased child. There are also art rooms, sensory rooms and even a spa facility.

The catchment area for both houses is limited to a 1.1/2 hour radius of Oxford. Both houses rely largely on donations for support and the yearly running costs amount to a staggering £4.5 million pounds. There are a total of 26 Charity shops which support both houses, our local Banbury shop being located at 10 Church Lane which opened in 2007 and is staffed by 16 volunteers across a wide age range.

Obviously the Charity is always seeking ways in which to raise funds either by donation of goods to the Charity shops, financial support and special events. One of which is a charity walk arranged in Chipping Norton on the 9th of May this year.

Mrs Hooker gave many interesting facts concerning her work and all members found her talk most interesting. Leaflets and home collection boxes were there for members to take advantage of in gaining further information.
Bob Nurden

Our latest new member Shirley Kershaw was our speaker on the 22nd January. When a new member speaks to us for the first time we usually have a My Job Talk, this was not the case this time we heard of something much more interesting. Shirley set up a charity in 1998 in response to a newspaper article and T.V. programme in 1997, describing the plight of street children in Romania. She went on to tell us how on hearing of the terrible living conditions of the children who were living in sewers under pavements or in caves she decided to set up a charity to help.

This charity is **BEKIND**, "Benefitting European Kids in Need & Distress". BEKIND aims to find material resources for charities and individuals working with street children in Eastern Europe.

It is currently supplying resources to an orphanage in Transylvania which houses 250 babies and toddlers. Approximately 35 of these children have AIDS and are cared for in a hospital wing.

An orphanage on the Romanian/Moldavian border also caring for young children.

A house for 19 boys aged 10-19 run by a priest in Bucharest, some of the aid sent to him is also given to children he cannot accommodate. The charity is also now making contact in Poland and the Ukraine.

A shelter for 10-12 homeless boys aged 10-17 run by a religious group.

A hospice in Albania caring for street children who have developed AIDS.

Kosova, via Albania the lack of resources there is very serious and many children are living rough.

Russia – an orphanage in Chernobyl for children abandoned after the nuclear disaster.

BEKIND collects and sorts donations of clothing, bedding, chemist goods, household cleaning materials, dry and tinned food and specific items of need.

This splendid talk by one of our own members deserves our support; the many items that Rotarian Shirley listed are easily obtainable by us. I am sure she would appreciate any approach from Rotarians who are able to give new or used items that fulfil the needs of the street children in eastern Europe.

David Hitchcox

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Foundation.

The Christmas Festival of Music raised approx. £2,000, from this total a sum of £250 is to be sent to The Home Farm Trust. Other donations to Foundation include the Christmas card donations of £736.70. This together with other members donations will enable the Foundation committee to reach its target of £4,000 a cheque for £500 has also been sent to RIBI for the Polio Plus appeal.

Don't forget Rotary Day 23rd. February when various events are planned to promote Rotary in our town.

Sports and Entertainment.

Club Darts Monday 15th. February Banbury Cricket Club. Wednesday 3rd. March. Inter Club Quiz.

16th. March Poetic Licence with Sonia Blinkhorn "Devout Coward" based on the works of Noel Coward.

19th March District Golf Competition Willingdon Golf Club.

27th. April Club Outing

May Towcester Races.

May Clay Pigeon Shoot

19th May Spring Golf Tournament

A host of items to put in your diary.

International.

Contact weekend in Germany from 13th May, there will be an additional few days for those interested on Lake Constance.

Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club Club News

An Evening with... John Wooley'

John Wooley was the first policeman at the scene of the Great Train Robbery. Come and hear his hilarious account of the day he's never forgotten. his exciting evening is being held be held at the Whately Hall, Banbury 7:15pm. This is a Black Tie event to help fund-raise for local Rotary charities. The evening will also include a three course dinner and it is anticipated that carriages will be at 11pm.

Tickets are £30 a head and more info can be obtained from John Rathbone..

The Great Train Robbery was the name given to the audacious robbery of The Royal Mail's Glasgow to London traveling post office train on 8 August 1963 at Bridego Railway Bridge, Ledburn near Mentmore in Buckinghamshire, England.

The train was stopped by tampered signals and attacked by a 15-member gang, led by Bruce Reynolds along with Ronnie Biggs, Charlie Wilson, Jimmy Hussey, John Wheeler, Brian Field, Jimmy White, Tommy Wisbey, Gordon Goody, Buster Edwards and three men only known as 'Number 1', 'Number 2' and 'Number 3'.

"The heist netted the gang £2.6 million and it was noted for its meticulous planning, with no guns being used."

However, the train driver, Jack Mills, was struck on the head with an iron bar during a struggle. Mills never recovered from the attack and didn't return to work. Although he died of leukemia in 1970, his family maintains that the attack contributed to his poor health.

No one knows for sure who first came up with the idea of robbing the Glasgow-to-London mail train, but one thing is certain, it led to one of the most audacious crimes in British history and turned the likes of Ronald 'Ronnie' Biggs, into an infamous celebrity.

HON SECRETARY – Dr. Ian Rodrick **CLUB WEBSITE** :- www.banburyrotaryclub.org.uk

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