

Community

Club Reports

Long Eaton Probus Club

New President

FOLLOWING the Christmas and new year activities, members of the Club met early in January 2010 for their AGM. President Bob Thurlow interrupted coffee, biscuits and chatting to organise about 40 members for the first meeting of the year.

The President welcomed everyone, paying special thanks to secretary George Fearn, who had held the position for eight years,

before presenting him with a certificate for his special commitment to the Club.

Malcolm Hutchinson was voted as Member of the Year 2009, both for his regular attendance and 100 percent involvement in all of the club's activities, always being available to help and assist everyone.

Committee members then gave brief annual reports, after which the 2009 President Bob Thurlow handed over to 2010

President George Fearn, and Vice-President Michael Atherton.

The programme for the year ahead was outlined and a particular reminder made for the next meeting, Member's Hobbies and Crafts – Buffet Lunch at Risley, on February 4 at 10.15am.

Beeston Probus Club

FOR their latest meeting, Carol Hampton had been invited to take the members of the Beeston Probus Club on a photographic tour of Israel, showing slides of the religious buildings in the country and chatting about her most recent visit.

Carol has visited Israel in the past, and ventured the opinion that the country hasn't changed much over the last 10 years or so.

Most people are aware that Jerusalem is the centre for three major religions, and Carol had pictures of

the main religious buildings, the Golden Dome and the Wailing Wall as well as pictures of the older parts of the city, where the narrow alleys and passageways encompass the Via Dolorosa.

Then, in stark contrast to the city's older parts, she revealed the newer buildings of the modern city together with the Parliament building, the Knesset.

Away from Jerusalem, Carol took a tour of the country and visited Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity, then

Nazareth and the area around the Golan Heights and the Sea of Galilee.

At Galilee, the pictures showed a contrast to the drier parts of the country and depicted a beautiful area, with the blue of the lake surrounded by green fields and abundant woodlands.

At the end of this photographic tour, Carol was warmly thanked by the chairman for a very colourful and interesting display of the religious buildings of the Holy Land.

Inner Wheel Club of Beeston

Haiti Disaster Appeal

THE Inner Wheel Club of Beeston spent their time at the latest meeting filling two 'aqua' boxes with items that would be of use in the wake of a disaster: a bucket, saucepan, hammer, nails, soap, toilet paper, and so forth.

The boxes were then taken to the distribution centre at Wirksworth organised by the Rotary Club, and sent out to Haiti the next day. Hundreds of such boxes have already been sent out to the disaster zone, and others will be dispatched during the year.

Beeston Inner Wheel

usually fills 'aqua' boxes each year on Inner Wheel Day on January 10. This year, however, the event had to be cancelled because of the bad weather, but was fortunately completed the next week at the regular meeting. £100 was also donated to the Haiti disaster fund.

Rotary Club of Beeston

WITH less than 24 hours notice, permission was given for The Rotary Club of Beeston to have a street collection for the Haiti Earthquake Disaster Appeal on Beeston High Road, in The Square and on the Sainsbury's frontage, on Saturday, January 14. Rotary Club members collected for the Appeal with assistance from Wollaton Park, Long Eaton Dawnbreakers, the Nottingham Rotary Clubs and a Beeston Shopmobility volunteer. A follow-up

collection was held during a Burns Night event at Beeston Fields Golf Club.

Rotary wish to thank all those who gave so generously to raise £4390.66.

The money, all of which will be spent on the disaster, is being sent to the Rotary Haiti Appeal.

On Monday January 18, a total of forty Rotarians, wives and partners held a very successful meeting at Yiannis Restaurant on Haydn Road, Nottingham. The

Greek members of the club, who wanted the other club members to join them and sample their own culinary delights, had suggested this. A further similar evening is being planned.

At the latest meeting, the speaker, Professor Peter Ling, gave a talk entitled, "Barack Obama – One Year On". He gave details of the complex situation and challenges that Obama now faces. Following a lively questions session, Nick Doughty gave the customary vote of thanks.

Two O'clock Club

Talk on Police Aid Convoys charity

THE Annual Celebration Party to mark the beginning of the Two O'clock Club's seventh year, due to take place on January 7, was postponed because of the bad weather and will now be held on February 11. The cold weather also meant that attendance at the dance on January 14 was lower than usual.

However, things were back to normal by January 21 in time for a presentation about Police Aid Convoys, given by Liz Martin. Liz has replaced David Scott as the charity's speaker, and she explained how the charity was started in 1993 in response to a need created by the war in Kosovo for the collection and distribution of items no longer required, recycling any that were unusable to generate funds.

The charity has a warehouse in north Nottinghamshire.

Public collection points are to be found at Tesco stores. Support is currently being sent to Albania and Zambia, and the first container load of items has been sent out to Ghana.

Lorries making deliveries to Albania are provided by Wilkinson's, with the charity providing the drivers and paying the insurance.

In addition to textiles, refurbished school furniture, second-hand uniforms, chairs for use in a hospital as well as bedding, have all been supplied. Volunteers have also helped with a school refurbishment in Albania.

In Zambia, help with building a school is being provided. Some volunteers have gone out at their own expense, taking books with them and helping to set up a library, and manufacturers have donated surplus items of school uniform.

Ms Martin went on to describe some of the other

activities undertaken by the charity, including the sending of 15,000 dresses, sewing machines, fabric and thread to the Russian charity 'Caring Heart' to provide training for young girls who might otherwise be lured into sex slave trafficking.

Another scheme, appropriately called 'The Cinderella Project', loans out wedding dresses, also sent from the UK, to girls getting married who would not otherwise have the means to procure a dress for their special day.

The Police Aid Convoys charity has also started to recruit young offenders to rebuild wheelchairs and bicycles for distribution, allowing them to sell one in 10.

Liz Martin was thanked for the quality of her presentation, which captured the full attention of the audience.

Toton Women's Meeting

AT the recent meeting at Toton Methodist Church, Women's Meeting President Mrs Eileen Hall spoke of the life of Fanny Crosby, the world's most prolific hymn writer, who was credited with the composition of at least 8,000 hymns, many in her married name of Frances Jane van Alstyne.

Fanny Crosby was born in New York in 1820 and

became blind at the age of six weeks. She died in 1915. At her funeral, the minister described her as 'The Queen of Sacred Song'. After the talk, the Women's Club members joined in singing Fanny's most famous hymn, 'Blessed Assurance'.

The next meeting of the group will be on Tuesday, February 2 at 2.15pm. Mrs

Pamela Levens will bring the latest news of the work of the Leprosy Mission and the group will hand over used stamps, postcards and foreign coins that have been collected throughout the year.

A welcome is extended to all ladies to come along to the meeting.