



LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE see page 2

Leicester University students...

'raising a glass' for Lincs with India

Sarah Keracher, aged 20 from near Lincoln, reading for a BA in history at the University of Leicester shares our interest in India and, apparently, a few friends who like a beer!

As a University of Leicester 'RAG' ('Raising and Giving') volunteer, Sarah has been able to direct almost £2,000 raised from the proceeds for charity of a Beer Festival organised by Sarah and RAG, and attended by some 4/500, to our Lincs with India Appeal for funds to build the girls new hostel at Stedland.

A former pupil of the William Farr School at Welton where she was head girl, Sarah went on a World Challenge expedition to India in her lower sixth year (2006) which included spending some time in the Himalayas and helping out on a school project there. So, Sarah has witnessed first hand the kind of child poverty and deprivation Lincs with India is trying to help with in a small way.



Sarah Keracher

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Congratulations, Peter Manton!

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Very many thanks Sarah and to all your fellow RAG volunteers

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE

The January 2009 visitors were delighted to witness the solemn ceremony involving the laying of the girls' hostel foundation stone followed, of course, by great celebrations. We, of course, have our own 'topping out' ways (involving flags and alcohol at roof level but nothing quite like this!).

Ignatius is a Christian but he regards the children in his care as being Hindu and on these occasions, as Ignatius told us, 'we follow their worship methods'. The basic concept of the ceremony is to obtain blessings for the good construction of the building "without defects or losses" and also for the "good health and wealth" of the future occupiers.

Interestingly, the senior person heading the ceremony (who Ignatius described as the Priest) was actually the chief Carpenter. The Carpenter was assisted by the head Mason. Labourers of differing rank were there too but tended to stand back. SDET's staff attended to control the excitable children.

Apparently, in the usual way, the ceremony and construction would only be started on 'the auspicious days'. This was not one of them but the ceremony had been planned for our convenience!

The Carpenter started the ceremony by lighting the equivalent of a candle and opening a coconut. He showed the coconut inner to be pure white and in excellent condition (apparently a very good omen for the builders and for the blessing of the children) and Ignatius said they were "very content with this and it would not matter that this was not one of the auspicious days". Gifts in the form of leaves, sweets, milk, coconut and grains were offered 'to the Gods'.



A hole had been formed in the ground at the very centre of the pegged out area of the proposed new building. Prayers had already been offered to the God of Earth and of Construction, "Vasthu" before the ground was disturbed. Each of the visiting group were provided with milk, water and some grains to ceremoniously give to Vasthu by pouring these into the hole into which a stick from a Neem tree was inserted. The Neem tree produces medicine used as an antibiotic and is held in high regard. The stick from a Neem tree is useful 'to drive away devils from the building site'. More prayers and then celebrations began.

Geoff Allen

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Another year having passed, the Charity's Accounts and Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2009 (as presented at the AGM) are included in this Newsletter and our thanks are due to our Treasurer, Robert Haynes of Louth, for keeping our bookwork in order.

The Accounts and the Report do no more than present mere headlines of the activities of the Charity in the preceding year for legal purposes. It is the stories behind the headlines that show the hard work and dedication of the Charity's officers and committee members and the generosity of our members, child sponsors and supporters.

The visiting party in January had the pleasure of witnessing, amid great ceremony and celebration, the laying of the foundation stone for the girls hostel now under construction at Stedland. This is most urgently needed following the loss of the rented property which had previously accommodated the girls in the nearby village, Chokkalamatti. Now, temporarily, the 25 girls (with the house-mother) are living in a single room built as a storeroom, little bigger than a large sitting room here in the UK.

Des Butler, John Roddam and John Rowland certainly have their hands full this year in fronting up our project in seeing that the girls' hostel

building is completed ready for occupation before next January's visit. According to the budget £27,000 is needed to complete the girls' hostel project but there are inevitable uncertainties, changing exchange rates and finishing off costs, so that we are talking generally in round figures of £30,000. But, while there is still much to do, they are well on their way.

Among exceptional donations towards the girls' hostel project from many sources, I would like to record our thanks here to the Rotary Club of Lincoln Colonia who (apart from donating £4,000) told our story to the Rotary Club of Twente Sud in Holland who sent £2,500. And, a very special thank you too to Sarah Keracher from Lincoln whose Leicester University mates had a 'RAG' beer festival and sent us nearly £2000. Fabulous! But, to keep the figures in perspective, our Charity trustee Committee members are just as indebted to our members for all the smaller fundraising efforts made and to the very many small donations we receive constantly and without which we could not go on.

This is an opportune time to remind our members that on the opposite side of the Account of receipts is usually a list of expenses. However, from the very beginning in 1998 in his many talks to promote our Charity, our President Brian has always been able to boast that as an entirely volunteer group we do not incur any administration expenses and that every pound we raise ends up as rupees in fulfilling our charitable objectives. The eagle-eyed among you will note that the Accounts actually show a small amount of Bank charges – these are the cost of making the numerous telegraphic transfers between our Bank here and SDET's Bank in India. Perhaps we can try to do something about that – so, look out Barclays Bank!

Of course, we do have expenses. Our most significant administration expense is the cost of sending you the subscription reminders, Notice of the AGM etc. These are a legal requirement and are unavoidable. Then, there is the cost of printing and circulating these Newsletters. However, we have been very fortunate indeed, year on year, to find (usually commercial) sponsors of all these costs. Sometimes, there is barely the faintest recognition of this in the publications themselves – just a footnote at the bottom of the last page. However on your behalf, the members, I would like to record our thanks to these sponsors who, by direct and indirect contribution in just the same way as subscriptions and donations are helping us to make a difference to the lives of some of the most deprived children in the world.

Grant Allan



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2009

1. The Charity 'Lincs with India' is an unincorporated association with a constitution based on the Charity Commission's model relating to an organisation with a membership, managed by Charity Trustees elected by the members holding office for a fixed term and who carry out the work of the Charity through voluntary effort and contributions of its members.
2. The Charity's objects are (1) the relief of sickness and poverty and the preservation and protection of good health of children in Southern India in particular but not exclusively by the provision of secure accommodation and medical costs and (2) the advancement of education of children in Southern India in particular but not exclusively by the provision of educational aids for disabled children.
3. The constitution, adopted 28th April 1998 was last varied 5th August 2008. The Charity was registered 10th September 2008 under Registration No. 125821.
4. The Charity's Officers and Trustees in the year to 31st March 2009 were:
 Brian Harrison (Hon. President)
 Grant Allan (Chairman)
 Marjorie Barr (Secretary)
 Robert Haynes (Treasurer)
 Patsy Booth, John Roddam, Kath Hayes, Jim Needley, Des Butler, Maggie Allan, John Rowland and Geoff Allen
5. During the year, the Charity's income from all sources was £29,125.16 made up as to: members subscriptions £1,030; sponsorship £7,080; donations £17,646; other fundraising events £3,295 and Bank interest £74.
6. All charges and expenses of management and administration of the Charity and costs of publicity materials and information distribution were fully sponsored or donated by members so that there were no charges against the Charity's income (otherwise than for the use of banking facilities). The excess of income over expenditure for the year was £7,830.
7. The Charity applied £21,130 during the year in funding the Charity's objectives of relieving poverty and advancing the education of children in Southern India, principally extremely deprived children from tribal settlements in Tamil Nadu.
8. The Charity Trustees policy is to maintain income accumulations only for currently supported projects. They consider that the Charity's income will continue to be adequate to deal with the fulfillment of the Charity's identifiable ongoing commitments to its current projects.

Robert Haynes

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2009

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	2008/09	£
Income receipts		
Membership subscriptions	1,030.00	
Sponsorship receipts	7,080.00	
Donations	17,645.82	
Other fundraising	3,294.70	
Bank interest	74.64	29,125.16
Payments expended		
Bank charges	165.00	(165.00)
		28,960.16
Application of charitable funds		
SDET (supported projects)	16,270.00	
ICT's home sponsorship scheme	480.00	
SDET (Girls' hostel development)	4,380.00	(21,295.00)
Excess of Income over Expenditure		7,830.16
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Cash at Bank as at 1st April 2008		7,124.25
Excess of receipts over payments	7,830.16	
Liabilities	-.-	7,830.16
Cash at Bank as at 31st March 2009		14,954.41

GIFT AID

When you make any donation to Lincs with India from money you have already paid tax on we can reclaim basic rate tax from HM Revenue & Customs on its 'gross' equivalent - the amount before basic rate tax was deducted.

If you are a higher rate tax payer, you too can benefit from the tax relief as you can claim back the difference between the higher rate of tax at 40 per cent and the basic rate of tax at 20 per cent on the total value of their gross donation.

Under present rules, for every £1 donated, Lincs with India can receive a further 28 pence from the Taxman, so the total value of the donation is £1.28. All you need to do is complete the "gift aid" bit on your subscription renewal form.

FROM THE FUNDRAISING CORNER

With the construction of the girls' hostel at Stedland now well under way the challenge has been on to raise the funds for the project.

The fund was given an enormous kick-start by the Rotary Club of Lincoln Colonia with a huge donation of £4,000. Then, on a visit to their twin club in Holland, Twente Sud, our Lincoln Rotarian members went on to enthuse their Dutch colleagues with a presentation about the work of Lincs with India and SDET which led to a donation from the Rotary Club of Twente Sud of a further £2,500. A truly marvellous effort from both clubs for which we are very grateful.

In April members from the Alford area filled the Nesha Indian restaurant there for Sunday lunch sponsored, at cost, by the proprietors which raised £200. Similar amounts came in from small events near Market Rasen and Lincoln. A 'Race Night' put on with the help of the proprietors of the Kings Head at Tealby and a walk from Dunston in May followed by

an excellent lunch hosted by Jim and Pauline Murray. A very sincere thank you to you both.

Then, out of the blue we received nearly £2,000 from the Leicester University student, Sarah Keracher, whose beer festival reminded us that raising funds for charity can be fun (like drinking beer!)

The Rotary Club of Alford and Mablethorpe held an auction of 'bric a brac' at Sutton on Sea and sent £1,000. The Rotarians have also earmarked the proceeds of the 2008 and 2009 summer bookstalls (managed by our President Brian and his wife, Bryn) for Lincs with India.

Another potentially big fundraiser (at least for the fitter among us! Ed) is planned for the spring 2010. This is a largely 'off-road' sponsored walk from Horncastle to Louth to be led by our 'resident' guide Jenny. The distance is around 16 miles. Look out

for more about this on our website.

We are more than half way towards our target. We hope our 'Buy a brick' for the girls hostel appeal and the sale of the specially designed Christmas cards will make a further substantial impact. But, could you do more? Could you host an event? It might be garden party or a coffee morning. Do you belong to any other organisation which might like a speaker to talk about our work. There are no charges for a full presentation with pictures and one or more speakers – just donations of any amount. If you need any information or help in planning an event, however large or small, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



John Roddam

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JEAN'S JOURNEY

In January this year 14 members made the trip to visit the supported projects and to enjoy a magical holiday far away from the winter gloom back here. Each party usually throws up at least one diarist and this time it was Jean Matson from Lincoln. Space here does not admit the full account to be printed but this can be found on the Lincs with India website www.lincswithindia.org.uk. Here are just one or two extracts from Jean's journey

"We were stopped and checked at the Tamil Nadu border... The villages and houses became distinctly poorer and ramshackle as we journeyed on. Typically, water to the villages was by tanker delivery with running water perhaps from one central tap and open sewage drain disposal.

Many men were to be seen hanging around, drinking a concoction from plastic cups, the cause of much litter. The women seemed to be hidden away, doubtless working or cooking or looking after their children. The modest houses and tiny single room shops

were relatively clean with the ground outside swept with the spines of coconut palm leaves (mainly used for roofing shelter). The sacred village cows with their gaily decorated heads and horns roamed freely; skinny chickens strutted around, grubbing where they could; herds of small pigs cleaned up and on the edge of the villages, goatherds were tending sometimes quite sizeable flocks."

Go to www.lincswithindia.org.uk to read the full account



Patsy Booth & Jean Matson

CONGRATULATIONS, PETER MANTON!

One of our members, Peter Manton (Rotarian with Lincoln Colonia) has just taken over as District Governor (that is, the senior Rotarian of the area). Peter was a visitor in January 2008 and often speaks of the 'life changing' experience of that trip.

Among his many varied and demanding commitments to Rotary International and the District for which he is providing leadership responsibility in his 2009/10 year of office, Peter has pledged his continuing support for *Lincs with India*. Amongst other things, precious time has been allocated at the Rotary District Conference in Bridlington in September for a presentation of our work and we will have a permanent stand there to hand out information to visiting Rotarians from far afield over the long weekend involved.

The standing and reputation of our association and our strong links with Rotary can only be enhanced during Peter's year of office and we wish him well.



WHO'S WHO ON THE COMMITTEE

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INDIA 2011

The arrangements and itinerary for the visiting group to be led by our President, Brian Harrison, in January 2010 is already in place but it is not too soon to be thinking about January 2011. Please contact Brian, or any member of the Committee known to you, so that at this stage we can simply note expressions of interest.

Incidentally, one of the key points about membership of Lincs with India is that we encourage our members to visit Stedland to see the supported projects. This is done by arrangement with Ignatius and SDET over a 2/3 day period in the poor area of Tamil Nadu while, essentially, enjoying a two week winter holiday in Kerela or other regions of India. While it is entirely possible for members to make their own travel and visiting arrangements, regard should be had to Child Protection policy (which can be found on our website or copies obtained from our Secretary). Basically, these involve members informing the Committee of the details of intended visits so that these can be coordinated and agreed with Ignatius in advance.