

## June Overseas Service Report 2010

### AGM

I can't believe that a year has passed since I foolishly decided I couldn't say no any longer!! However no regrets and I'm still here.

So many disasters, so many calls on our resources, yet Inner Wheel in this district rises to the occasion. An amazing £13600 raised up to last December as I reported in my March report plus all the goodies you have collected.

I have forwarded on more of Sheila Halliday-Pegg's newsletters to nearly all club Overseas Service Organisers. They have given information about various charities and any Disaster funds when necessary. The newsletters are much appreciated and seem to join the big wigs to the grass roots of the Organisation.

On the subject of getting goods to the charities Sheila has suggested approaching local delivery companies if they are going in the right direction or friends and clubs who are based in the right vicinity. I have to point out that I am prepared to go to Grt Yarmouth with goods but they will only go to Mr Potter and the International Aid Charity not necessarily a particular charity of your choice. Mr Potter is most grateful and always sends a lovely e-mail. If you are able to take things direct to him you will have a very warm welcome [tel no. 01493 445533] I can take things like **working** sewing machines to Bury St Edmunds Aid2Hospitals worldwide [the 1080 charity which I was asked to be involved with by Richard Pither of Rotary District 1080]. As for Teddies for Tragedies the Organiser I deal with has written to me yet again detailing faults. I pointed out we didn't have complete control of the knitters who did it for pleasure. I propose giving any Teddies I receive in future either to Mr Potter or the Aid2Hospitals Worldwide charity who put

them in the containers initially to protect delicate equipment and then give them to the children at the destination. If you do take any Teddies to the address in Diss please tell her who they are from.

Please put spectacles in the boxes often provided by opticians. I'm sure you all have local outlets. Stamps are taken to my local Tesco for a hearing Dog for the Deaf charity. Are there any other boxes about?

As far as medicines via Intercare I will try to put a leaflet in each new Overseas Service organisers pack so that each club can try to persuade surgeries and dentists to collect unwanted drugs in a box to be sent officially to this charity. The charity [tel no. 0116 269 5925] supplies a GP pack. Pharmacies are unable to help. Last year £389,825 worth of returned patient medicines were sent to some of the poorest of Africa. That is out of an estimated £800 million worth of NHS drugs that are not used.[National Audit Office ]

The Shoeboxes which are being sent to our troops in Afghanistan are very much appreciated and I have had a lovely e-mail from Mrs Browning of Operation Shoebox in Bury St Edmunds who has sent out 100's of boxes. So thanks to Letchworth and Thetford and anyone else who has sent any. Many go to the troops who are in the forward positions with no access to a NAAFI type shop and if an address is inside often send a letter of thanks back. I'm told crisps are a delicacy! Please do not send any boxes just to 'a soldier' they only clog up the PO and will be thrown away. I have even put an Inner Wheel Club on the South Coast in touch with the charity in their area.

Now to the amazing Overseas Service Rally hosted by Thetford in May. We raised £988.54 which included the proceeds [£194] of the stalls run by Watton N Walsham and Cambridge. District has taken

the cost of the hall out of this but as the speaker gave her expenses of £27.20 and sold £41 of goods plus Bury St Edmunds sent a cheque for £177 this total has changed to £1246.24. This has been sent to Mercy Ships to be used specifically for the dental project. I have had a very fulsome letter of thanks for not only the money but the huge amount of goods which Letchworth kindly delivered. I can't thank Thetford enough for their support and all of you who attended. There were 21 clubs represented and 102 paying guests! If you look on Thetford Rotary's website you will see on the Inner Wheel pages a lovely picture of Hilary King the speaker, our Judy and Sheila Halliday-Pegg and I see we have a write up in the Magazine which is also to be found on our brand spanking new District 8 website. Incidentally Sheila was born like me in Oldham so we got on like a house on fire...two Lancashire lasses...well middle aged ones. She enjoyed herself so much she asked to come to another District 8 event.

Please keep up the good work and I look forward to seeing the new or continuing Club Overseas Service Chairmen at Mildenhall.

I must thank all the executive and Liz Thomas in particular who has helped and guided me on this new road and for looking after a lot of 'stuff' before it got to Mr Potter. I have said she shouldn't be allowed to leave the executive committee but she didn't listen. Finally it has been a joy to have Judy as my Chairman and I wish her a happy time after all her journeys round the district and to Jacquie I look forward to working with her and all the new executive.

This is my report and I ask for its adoption.

Marian de Bass District 8 Overseas Service Organiser.

