

Dear fellow Rotarians,

It was great to have best wishes for Rotary Day coming in just after we finished the NID in New Delhi and in Karnal, an industrial town 3 hours to the North Here are reports of the NID . Richard and Ann Wickham from the Forest of Blean went to Karnal whilst my daughter Amy and I stayed in New Delhi.

Participants in NID 18 & 19 Feb

Apart from the NID itself, it was the participation of Rotarians from around the world that made the greatest impact. Nine came from our own District 1120, and the RIBI party of 44 included three from the RC of Eindhoven as well as an Australian. There was a party of 40 from Clubs across the USA and Canada but the most vociferous were the 30 or so from Hong Kong Clubs (mostly female and seemed under 30!). So the local Delhi Rotary Clubs had to deal with well over 100 visitors for each of the three days.



Rotarians from Hong Kong Clubs



Dispensing of medicines on Rotary health day

It was interesting to have Fergus Walsh from the BBC with us: he had huge technical difficulties with interviews but he was professional enough to keep re-recording until he got it right. Many have commented on how great the coverage was for Rotary

Local Rotarians

Every month local Rotarians, their partners and children are out manning the NID booths: we could tell as on the mop-up day the date was chalked on doors alongside those of the previous months. The Saturday saw us visiting a very busy Rotary-run community health day that concentrated on giving free medical consultations to the slum's residents as well as the Rotary Blood Bank which many of you know about.

NID on Sunday

The RIBI group had split, half going north to Karnal, the rest went to a poor area near to the new business centre of Gurgaon, nr Delhi. The Karnal group took part in a colourful, exciting procession through the city on Saturday joining school children who danced, beat drums and blew whistles. On the Monday after the NID they went through a migrants' shanty town picking up children missed the previous day.



Amy Kemball-Cook finds a willing customer



RCs of Canterbury Forest of Blean and Maidstone Riverside

The seven members from these two clubs visited a Special Needs School in the shanty town. They had been warned that they were to be asked to provide £600 to buy equipment for these children with mental and hearing difficulties. The members presented £700 in rupees. Well done!

Manju, the health visitor, is an expert

Wealth of India

There is obviously debate on the apparent wealth of India and UK aid. For Rotarians the answer is simple: we are pledged to aid child health and there is a massive need in this sub-continent, whatever the Indian government says. The burden is shared as all levels of Indian society contribute: three out of India's richest families gave over \$100m last year to the polio campaign and not only are local Rotarians the driving force behind the Eradication programme at all levels but I have now visited a number of impressive, effective, time-consuming, projects run by local Rotary clubs in the very poorest areas.



Spot the two fathers holding their tiny babies

Thanks

Many thanks to Mike & Bernice Yates who have organised the event for RIBI for many years: they do this alongside running their Indian business contracts. Thanks also to the Presidents of the RCs of Delhi South West and Gurgaon South City for their hospitality and hard work.

Yours in Rotary

Richard Kemball-Cook
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RC of Canterbury

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