

### From the desk of the Chairman

#### Happy New Year!

Where I come from, Bonnie Scotland, Christmas is mainly for children, and New Year is definitely for adults.

If you celebrated just one of these holidays then I hope you had a good time, no matter what you got up to.

Disaster-wise, 2015 got off to a relatively quick start with shipments of tents and water filters to Malaysia to help some of the 200,000 displaced by the flooding caused by exceptionally heavy rains in late December.

Our Disaster Aid Response Team (DART) personnel, out of Australia and the USA, are working with our newest partner, Disaster Aid Malaysia, and The Red Crescent to bring relief as quickly as possible.

The Red Crescent is not the only other



organisation we have been working with recently. We entered into a partnership, of sorts, with Medair to get the promised water filters to the Syrian refugees. Medair has been busy in Jordan for some time and we were able to use the funds we had been given to provide water filters, to help finance one of their projects. On this occasion we did not have sufficient funding to “go it alone” but with Medair’s help we were able to bring about a project that had costs as good as our own would have been. A total of 139 water filters were supplied.

And it does not stop there. Since we have stopped packing LifeBoxes in the UK we have had a stock of soap tablets that we could not use. Water Survival Box, another Rotary club project based in the UK, accepted our offer of approx. 700 kg of usable soap tablets. At a rate of 4-6 tablets per box it could be quite

some time before they need to buy more soap!

Finally, to borrow phrase from a well known supermarket, “Every Little Helps” but on this occasion we are looking internally at how we can continue to do what we do well for as little as possible.

We recently switched to a new provider of on-line donations, BT My Donate, to bring down the costs associated with this service. We also decided to discontinue taking donations by Text as it has not been a popular option of late.

These, and other changes, will all be covered in our literature as soon as we can get it printed. Meanwhile, please refer to our website for current details of how to make donations.

**Robert**

## Pre-positioned stock

We now have some “pre-positioned” stock in The Philippines. Four containers bringing 5,000 tarpaulins and approximately 200 Family Survival Kits arrived in November 2014.

In December, when Typhoon Hagupit caused severe flooding, the need for tarpaulins was immediate so shipments to survivors in the Borongan, Samar area was effected very quickly.

## Malaysian flood relief arrives



*The key to a tent's longevity is how well it is erected. Our DART experts (this time Tore Knos) take great care in instructing local volunteers on how to do it correctly.*



*Setting up a SkyHydrant water filter properly will ensure that it lasts its expected lifespan of 10 years or more. Here, dirty water will be fed from above and gravity will push it through the filter into the adjacent container. Up to 1,000 litres per hour of filtered water can be delivered.*

# Winter 2015 Newsletter

## Getting the 'Word' out



We have committed to exhibiting at the RIBI Conference in Belfast in April 2015. However, due to space restrictions in the area set aside for the House of Friendship, we will not be able to erect a tent but even so we should manage to get our message across.

Our team of Ambassadors continue to visit clubs to speak about our mission and answer questions. Most recently we accepted invitations to speak to the Rotary Clubs of Manchester Trailblazers, Bilston & Wolverhampton West; Leek; Alderley Edge & Bollin Valley; Wellington Salop; Bolton le Moors; Eccles; Crewe & Nantwich Weaver; and Horwich.

We have also attended the District 1260 International Evening and will soon be showing our faces at a similar event in District 1280.

## A Race Night with a Curry/Chilli Supper



Plans are being made to hold a fund-raising night with a difference.

Participative horse races— a two course supper— some modest betting and inexpensive drinks are all being discussed.

As soon as the date is confirmed we will be making a detailed announcement.

## Donations

The supplies of aid to Nepal, India, and Malaysia were all made out of our reserves and we now need to re-stock our warehouse in readiness for the next disaster.

We are immensely grateful to all of the Rotary clubs, other organisations, and those people who have donated personally. However, this humanitarian work never stops so if you have some spare cash in an account somewhere and would like to put it to a good cause then please consider helping us.



[www.disasteraiduk.org](http://www.disasteraiduk.org)