



SRI LANKA: Members enjoy international week of friendship

AFTER THE TSUNAMI

Eight members and their families did their bit to help one of the countries most effected by the Asian tsunami, when they attended the International Friendship Week organised by colleagues in Sri Lanka - less than a year after the disaster.

Linda Bailey, vice-chair of the NSY Branch was joined by fellow branch member Steve Gale and his wife Christine, along with Richard Noon from Southampton, Michael Hendrick and David Hilder from Kent, and from Scotland, Neil Bain and his son Kenny.

'It was a packed itinerary from start to finish,' recalls Linda, 'allowing us the chance to see many of the sights that made it a very memorable adventure.'

'I arrived with the other four members from London, and members of the organising committee were there to greet us. The journey itself was an eye-opener; dusty, manic, suicidal... I don't think I've ever seen such chaos! Tuk-tuks (three wheeled taxis) cut everyone up continuously and the only time all traffic stopped, was when a cow wandered into the road!'

The group of visitors for the week consisted of Australians, Japanese, Czech, Swiss and, of course, the handful of Brits. 'The total number of guests was 18 - much less than had originally shown an interest in the week, but it was a good number to allow for interaction and getting to know each other.'

The welcome dinner, began with the arrival of the President of IPA Sri Lanka and

the new national president, Mr Chandra Fernando. After a series of traditional dances, performed by a team of six police-women, the group dined on a vast selection of local fare, before dancing the night away.

Over the seven days which followed, the guests were taken on a whistle-stop tour of the country, including stops at the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage; at Polonnaruwa, the site of an ancient city; at the Royal Spice Garden at Kandy and a Karaoke night - several virgin performers made their debut! Of course there was also plenty of relaxing in the sun, swimming in luxurious pools and lots of delicious food and drink.

The group also filled three Jeeps at the Minneriya Game Reserve, where they saw lots of elephants and bird life. 'It was thrilling,' admitted Linda, 'especially when one of the biggest 'Nellies' decided to charge my jeep. I was terrified! Would the jeep manage to out run her?'

'For the final night, we returned to the capital, Colombo, where we were conveyed to the Police Mess at Wellatta for the farewell dinner. Entertainment started the proceedings - dancing police officers in beautiful costumes. A live band provided the music, whilst we ate dinner, and then presentations were made. With so many memories and new friendships formed, many promises were made to return to a fabulous country in the sunshine. Here's to the next time.'



There are IPA houses in 20 different countries and all can be viewed on the fabulously informative and easy to use IPA house website
www.ipa-houses.info

NORTH WEST BRANCH

The luck is certainly with two members in Northern Ireland, after they won prizes in the North West Branch 100 Club draw - for two months running! Sam Kincaid came away with the £75 third prize in December and the £100 second prize in January, while Trevor Crutchley came away with £25 in December, and doubled his luck to win £50 in January. Other winners in December were: 1st Prize £250 Andy Lindsay, 2nd Prize £100 Colin Rainey, 4th Prize £50 Kenneth Hamilton. And in January the 1st Prize of £250 went to Ian McLaughlin, the 3rd Prize £75 to Geoff Laird, and branch chairman David Parkhill took away the 5th Prize of £25.

STAFF COVER AT BSAC

There's been a change to the staff provision in the general office at BSAC. The general office will be covered by Di and Liz on a part-time, job share basis every Monday to Thursday, from 8am-4pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS

Are you moving house? Are you retiring? Please remember to let BSAC know if you are moving house, as we have no way of tracing you. If BSAC has been using your station address (particularly relevant to members from PSNI) then you need to remember to contact us when you retire. Either phone 0115-9813638; email mail@ipa-uk.org or use the update form on the British Section's website at www.ipa-uk.org

EXTRA GIMBORN COURSE

The European Anti-Fraud Office has agreed to give sponsorship towards an IPA Seminar at Gimborn from May 2-5. The subject will be "Fraud and Corruption in the field of EU finances" and will include conference and workshops, to exchange methods and experiences in Europe.

This follows five English language courses previously highlighted in *Police World*. They are: **Violence And Sports - Criminology** in association with big sporting events. 3-7 April; **Trauma And Stress** - How to cope with extreme experiences - with special reference to policing. 29 May-2 June; **Road Safety** - The risk group - young drivers [seminar preferably for young officers up to 35 years] 7- 11 August; **Community Policing** - New approaches and experiences. 9-13 October; **Organised Crime And Trafficking** in human beings. 20-24 November

Full details are available from the Gimborn website www.ibz-gimborn.de and don't forget, that for British members, the courses are free.