

LINCOLN BRANCH OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2011

This is my valedictory Chairman's report as I have completed six years as chairman and thus must step down. It has been a thoroughly rewarding time. I have met many interesting people, learnt a great deal and had a lot of fun.

2011 has been a lively and busy year. Our social weekend in a bunk house in Northumberland enabled the more energetic to walk sections of Hadrian's Wall, whilst others investigated the local history.

On a beautiful evening in July 2010 members were given a tour of Chambers Farm Wood, by staff passionate to share their knowledge of the ancient Lime wood and its attendant flora and fauna.

The charity evening again focused on India. A splendid Indian buffet sourced by Peter Penn followed an enthusiastic presentation by two Bishop Grosseteste students illustrating their India Trip.

In spite of the bitter weather and challenging road conditions the Chairman's evening was very well supported and most enjoyable. Michael Barnaby, our speaker, described the huge impact his redistribution of discarded spectacles has on the poor of India and Romania, enabling them to continue to read their religious texts.

The World Wise quiz for G.C.S.E. students was most successful. Sixteen teams participated and had an enjoyable evening whilst demonstrating some awesome geographical knowledge. Thank you to St Peter and St Paul School in Lincoln for generously hosting the event.

The Sixth form conference in December was a hugely popular. Hosted by Bishop Grosseteste University College, with lecturers from Sheffield University and the additional attraction of David Redfern as the final speaker, it was standing room only!

Our Thursday evening lecture programme began with a wine and cheese party enabling new members to meet each other. All the lectures were brilliant and were relevant to students and their curriculum whilst remaining accessible and of interest to the wider membership.

The committee who enables all this to happen is slick and efficient. My thanks must go to:-

Muriel Robinson, Principal of Bishop Grosseteste University College who generously allows us to make B.G. our base; Patsy Booth who provides wonderful buffets apparently effortlessly; John Benson who stood in for me at last year's A.G.M. when I was marooned in Turkey courtesy of the Icelandic volcano; Peter Penn, who organises our lecture programme and provides sound wine for all our socials; Andy Baxendale who, as social secretary, maintains communication with our membership and delivered a thought provoking lecture on the hard choices to be made concerning the Lincolnshire coast and Julie Saul, for publicity and support with the World Wise Quiz. My final thanks must go to Maria Hawley, who as treasurer kept our finances in good heart and to whom I send best wishes on behalf of the branch as she prepares to relocate to Australia in the autumn.

Hilary Baxendale