

## ANGLO-PERUVIAN SOCIETY

### Chairman's Report for 2008-2009

During most of last year, the Anglo-Peruvian Society had Richard Ralph as its admirable chairman. But towards the end of 2008, sadly for us, he stood down as chairman because of a financial offence that involved Peru but in no sense this Society. So I am acting as chairman again, until we can elect a new chairman. I hope that we will soon elect Hallam Murray as Chairman. He is an old friend and has demonstrated his deep commitment to this Society. I know that he will make an excellent Chairman, and wish him very well in that enjoyable role

The Society has recently lost two of its most stalwart supporters, to whom we owe an immense debt of gratitude. Bertita Gallop was for many years the Society's wise and charming representative on ALAF (the Anglo-Latin American Fiesta). Many of us will recall Nigel Gallop's delightful account, at an AGM a few years ago, of how he wooed and won the lovely Bertita. So our deepest sympathy goes to Nigel, his son Adrian who is on the Committee, and all the Gallop family.

The other supporter who died during the past year was Natalie Grey. She, together with Bertita Gallop, quietly made the delicious canapes that we serve at the receptions after lectures. These are one of the main reasons for the success of our programme, and they help us to justify charging for meetings - so that we can send any surplus to charities in Peru. So these two exceptional and unassuming ladies will be sorely missed by all of us.

Apart from these very sad events, the Society had another good year. There were plenty of activities, and we again supported many deserving charities in Peru.

**Charitable Donations.** Funds for these donations came from a combination of sources: profit from the Dinner-Dance and its raffle; an Almuerzo criollo at Bookham Grange Hotel; sponsored runs by the Young Members; modest surpluses from various lecture evenings, and María Varela's rigorous control of expenditure (including her own).

In the Accounts, the Society sent £1400 to the **Westnell Project** (for child care). We have recently sent a further £8,500 from last year's surplus to five main charities in Peru. The largest grant of £2000 went to the **Anglo-Peruvian Child Care Mission**, which gives schooling to over 1200 poor and destitute children in Arequipa. Then we supported equally the **Asociación Alegría en el Corazón**, which is building a home in Chinchá for children with physical and mental difficulties; the **Casa Hogar del Padre Marhenio**, which looks after thirty abandoned and terminally-ill children near Pacaritambo; and a project to equip a **school for indigenous children in Iquitos** with a library; and lastly the **Asociación Pequeñas Empresarias** which takes in battered and abandoned young mothers and trains them in commercial knitting as well as teaching their children.

The **Young Members' Committee** , led by its chairman **Igor Siveroni**, raised £900 for charity from the 10-km sponsored Nike run.

**The Peruvian Embassy** supported the Society more than ever last year, under the dynamic Ambassador **H. E. Ricardo Luna** and **Minister-Counsellor Gloria Olivares**. Among many other things, the Ambassador allowed us to hold the Christmas party in his Residence as well as giving receptions for visiting archaeological speakers, the Cusichaca Trust and many others, and we often benefit from holding lectures and even committee meetings in the Chancery.

**Activities.** Last year's great event was the **Dinner-Dance** in The Regency Hotel in Queen's Gate on 16 October. This was one of the best organised and attended that I can remember, with the usual excellent pisco-sours to start a very merry evening, dancing to

(sometimes rather loud) latin-american music, and a hugely successful raffle introduced very wittily by Richard Ralph. This had prizes generously donated by Air Comet, Orient Express Hotels, Solmartour travel, and others. Quite apart from this, the event made a profit of some £3,300 – as can be seen from the ‘Social Events’ items in the accounts.

The Society had another full programme of lectures and other functions during the year. Thank you all for being so supportive in attending these events. In chronological order, these were:

8 May. **Marisol Mosquera** on ‘Peruvian Gastronomy’ gave a superb demonstration of the ingredients that are unique to Peru, and the reasons why its cuisine is now world-famous.

13 May. **John Hemming** on ‘The Amazon: Naturalists’ Paradise, Rubber Bonanza’. Although this was part of Canning House’s plant programme and not strictly a Society lecture, I did talk about botanists’ work in Peru and stories (not always favourable) of the country’s rubber boom.

18 May. **Almuerzo criollo**, at Bookham Grange Hotel – an enjoyable and successful fund-raiser.

12 June. **Martin Li**, ‘Inca Trails’: he described and illustrated a beautiful walk from Lake Titicaca, through remote hills to the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu.

25 July. There was the usual **Mass** and reception to celebrate the **Fiestas Patrias**.

6 September. The Embassy of Peru’s **Tennis Tournament** was rained out, but there was a quiz and entertaining speeches at the Comida Criolla that followed it.

16 September. ‘**The prehistory of the Andes**’ a day of public lectures about Peruvian archaeology, at The British Museum. This included talks by **Professor William Isbell** on Wari culture, **Professor Peter Kaulicke** on society in ancient Peru, linguistic

luminaries (**Professor Willem Adelaar**, **Professor Rodolfo Cerrón-Palomino** and Drs. **David Beresford-Jones** and **Paul Heggarty**) with important new theories on ancient Peruvian languages; and I myself told about the scholars, explorers and charlatans who have been discovering ruins in Vilcabamba.

16 October. **Dr Rosemary Thorp** on 'The Challenges of Peruvian Mining' about the history and challenges of one of Peru's greatest industries.

24 October. A **charity concert** of songs by the Peruvian tenor **Rudi Fernández-Cárdenas** and pianist **Andrew Kingsmill**.

26 November. **Tony Morrison**, 'The Inter-Oceanic Highway: Benefit or Tragedy for Peru?' Our previous chairman gave a brilliant picture of the impact of the highway linking the Amazon forests of Peru and Brazil, through the Andes to ports on the Pacific.

11 February, 2009. **Matt Currington**, 'Snakes and Ladders: Filming in the Amazon with the Machiguenga'. The film-maker Currington showed how a group of Machiguenga are confronting change, in the beautiful world of the Urubamba and Pongo de Mainique.

The **Membership** now stands at 173 (or 223 if you count Joint subscriptions as two people). This is a worryingly down on the previous year. I do urge you all to continue to recruit more members to join the Society and enjoy its activities. We are particularly keen to attract Peruvians living in Britain; so any ideas about what would appeal to them would be most welcome. If you have friends who might be interested, please ask Maria Varela for our attractive leaflets to send them.

**Administration.** We continue to have the good fortune of **Maria Varela** as the Society's Secretary. She again did a marvellous job in every aspect of running the Society - from skilful use of her computer to arranging the post-lecture receptions and other events. She also represents us with ALAF (Anglo-Latin American

Fiesta) and worked tirelessly to make a huge success of the Peruvian stand at it. Sincere thanks from all of us to Maria.

Thanks also to the hard-working members of the **Executive Committee**, particularly to **David Dell** who so often manned the entrance and sold last-minute tickets, prepares minutes of meetings, will probably revive the Trade & Industry Group (TIG), and has wise advice about many aspects of our work. Special thanks also to our Honorary Treasurer **Terry Browne** and to Raul **Puyo-Perry** for helping so much in organising the Dinner Dance and the Almuerzo Criollo.

**Expeditions.** **John Forrest** again dealt with this aspect of the Society's work. During the past year, we supported only Oxford University's **Orchid Mapping Expedition.**

Last, but by no means least, **Finances.** Every charity depends on having its finances in good order. So we are extremely fortunate to continue to have as our Honorary Treasurer **Terry Browne**, formerly of the chartered accountants Deloittes, who has again done this admirably. I would like to express the Society's warm thanks to our Auditor **R. M. Anstey** who has again ably and generously audited our accounts for no fee.

**Conclusion.** I want to express the Society's gratitude to **Richard Ralph** for his excellent chairmanship, and a hope that we may soon have him back in our midst. As I have said in the past, the Society is in good heart. This is thanks to our Secretary, honorary officers, committee, helpers and speakers - and to you, its very active and supportive membership. It is also thanks to the fact that Peru is such a great country, with so many interesting facets for our lecture programme. Peru generates lasting affection in all who visit it and particularly in those of us who know it well.

I now ask Terry Browne to take us through the accounts.

John Hemming,

Acting Chairman.