

Rotary International Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

1st July - 28th July 2006

2006 followed much the same format as 2005 although there were 2 RYLA programmes, one for the International Achievers and the other for Achievers from the United Kingdom you will note similarities in both accounts. The total length of the programme in 2006 was 4 weeks from 1st July to 28th July. A fantastic achievement for our District 1060

The 2006 District 1060 Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) was extended from 2005 to include a RYLA for Achievers from the United Kingdom. Once again the programme was a huge success and enjoyed by all those taking part. Not only did all the Achievers on both programmes receive the Rotary Youth Leadership Award but they also qualified for the Canal Crew Certificate

Six overseas candidates were accepted onto the 2006 programme and 4 from the United Kingdom, aged 17 - 21 having been selected by their country and our District of 1060 as suitable RYLA Achievers. 7 young ladies and 3 young men:-

Klara Ryskova (CZECH REPUBLIC): Laura Lestani (ITALY): Simonas Makrickas (LITHUANIA): Agnieszka Kostrzewska: (POLAND): Eneko Amezaga (SPAIN): Sina Theiler (SWITZERLAND):



The International Achievers have their photos taken with the RYLA certificates and their national flags



Laura, Eneko and Sina - Klara, Laura and Sina go on the big wheel whilst Dream Catcher was moored in Gas Street - Agnieszka at Hatton Flight

The programme for our Achievers was to travel on and learn about the inland waterways of the United Kingdom, operate the boat, the locks and to take the Complete Canal Crew course. The course would give the Achievers a purpose besides enjoying a narrow boat adventure

The first learning curve was to understand why it is called a Narrow Boat. Looking at the length of the boat it seems very big but once inside to their complete surprise, they see how narrow a narrow boat really is. The programme had been arranged so that with four bunks in each compartment and only two occupants in each there was far more room than in 2005. Something we learnt from last year

Being a self-catering programme one of the Achievers was appointed head chef assisted by one other on a particular day. The Achievers already knew they would be responsible for cooking and feeding the volunteers so had prepared their national recipes prior to coming to the UK.



Dream Catcher coming into a lock - Exiting a lock on the Lapworth Flight

At various times during the programme the appointed leader had to ensure they operated as a team in order to complete the route. Leadership qualities were shown throughout the programme together with skill and determination most fitting for this event to be a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) programme.



An addition to this year's RYLA programme was for the team to build a raft that would be entered into the Royal Leamington Spa Rotary Raft Race on the River Leam. They were not allowed to race the raft in case an injury would prevent them from taking part in their main RYLA programme. The Achievers helped run the event and the raft they built raised over £250 for the Life Education Caravan. They also visited the Royal Agricultural Show where they were met by our RIBI President, Peter Offer and our District Governor Don McConnell

On Sunday and the crew were told they had to negotiate the Hatton flight of locks, part of which is called the "Stairway to Heaven" because they were designed to line up with St Mary's Church in Warwick (see background), a total of over 40 locks with an arrival time of 4.00pm.



Waiting patiently as the water drains out of the lock - Eneko says cheers to Rotary for a wonderful experience

From Hockley Heath the crew moved to Gas Street Basin in Birmingham where Klara, Laura and Sina went on the big wheel and Klara saw Symphony hall. One day she will be back as Klara is a very accomplished pianist.

The following day we all set off to Worcester ready for the return trip with the Achievers from the UK. The change over went successfully and the new crew embarked on the return journey to Rugby via Gas Street basin where our District Governor Don McConnell present them with their Rotary Youth Leadership awards. Fantastic - Thanks Don

The UK Achievers were sponsored by the Rotary Clubs in (-): James White (Alcester Rotary): Lisa Cook (Great Barr Rotary) Orla Swindells (Meriden Rotary): Sophie Gelsthorpe-Hill (Royal Leamington Spa Rotary):

The complement included:- Chief Volunteer Helmsman and National Community Boats Association Instructor Andy Smith in charge of "Dream Catcher". Andy was assisted at various times by Volunteer Helmsmen: Ian Bentley (Rugby Dunsmore R.C.): John Hughes (Royal Leamington Spa R.C.) and David Parkes: Royal Leamington Spa Rotary Club also sponsored Stephen Thompson - our youth professional in charge of the group. Stephen was presented with a Rotary Youth Leadership Award and received the Canal Crew Certificate



Don McConnell presents Orla with her RYLA - All 4 Achievers with their RYLA's - Sophie being presented with her RYLA from Don