Children with a different ability

Rtn. P. V. George, brought his Guest Rtn. Martin L. Pember, President, Rotary Club of Maidstone Dawn Patrol, from RI Dist. 1120, Kent, UK to the Rotary Institute for Children on Saturday.

Rtn. Martin Pember’s message to us Rotarians is to spend family time with the children of the Institute. According to him money and other contributions are important, but more important is for the children, ours and at the Institute, to spend time together, which will make the Institute children feel normal and accepted and for our children to appreciate and understand children ‘of a different ability’.

Rtn Martin Pember, who is a retired Stock Broker, now spends a lot of time working with, as he says, “Children with a different ability” back in the United Kingdom.
STRONG SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL TALENTS - archana jagannath,
THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

21 November, Trivandrum

Santhosh is busy completing his assignment. He does not want to be disturbed till he writes down the alphabet. He recites each letter as he goes by.

When he is done, the teacher asks him, “Which day was September 5.” He responds without hesitation, “It has passed by but it was a Sunday.” He responds correctly to similar queries on dates and their respective days. No one knows how he manages to do so.

Santhosh is one of the 201 students of the Rotary Institute for Children in Need of Special Care, Trivandrum established in 1964. It is run as a non profitable organisation without fee. It is funded by the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and contributions from well wishers. The classes here are structured around the syllabus provided by the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad. Students are divided into groups of pre primary, primary, secondary, pre vocational and vocational. Promotion is on the basis of functional assessment. Students also get assistance in job placements. Ten year old Govind is excited about his photograph being taken, he poses with changing expressions. Reena is a quiet girl but her paintings speak for her. Her class room is filled with her works. Arfas, 14, shouts out the answers as his teacher points out components of the computer.

All of them are trained in social skills, language improvisation, yoga, songs, dance, communication skills and food etiquette.

The majority of the 42 staff members of the Institute have been working here at least for two decades. They teach, scold and yes, cuddle the children.

The winner of the 2004 Best School Award of the All Kerala Special Schools Association, the Institute also provides free hostel facility.

Principal Mrs. Mothy Habeed says, “What we need is proper financial support at the right time.”

Meanwhile Santosh is immersed in his own world, where

REACHING OUT TO THE MENTALLY CHALLENGED.

Teachers at the State Institute for Mentally Challenged at Pangapara, Trivandrum now have a tool for their music therapy lessons. The Institute received recently an audio video system that will help children absorb music better. Teachers at the institution use music therapy to enhance the students’ social effectiveness.

The audio visual system was donated by employees of Alamy Images India Pvt Ltd, a Technopark based company. The company’s cultural and social club is called ‘CLICKS’. Michael a student of the State Institute and a promising sprinter is being supported by the company. President of Clicks, Sindhu Pillai said, “This initiative is only a beginning in our efforts to help the needy and the challenged.”

Late Rtn. Augustine Mathew Kayyalackakom who dedicated his life to the children of the Rotary Institute.

K.Govindan Kutty Journalist and Author

Rtn. Prof. Sumitra Ross Chandran. An asset to our club.

Rtn. John Rodricks. He is happy. He keeps every one happy!
### Vocational Training Teams

- **Vocational training opportunities**: Global grants also may support vocational training teams, which are groups of professionals traveling abroad to either learn more about their profession or teach local professionals about a particular field. They
  - May build the capacity of either the team itself or a specific benefiting community
  - May be carried out in conjunction with a humanitarian project or scholarship
  - May be multivocational but must share a common purpose in support of the selected area of focus
  - Must consist of a minimum of one Rotarian team leader and three non-Rotarian team members with no maximum limit of participants

- Vocational training opportunities under District 7980's Global Grant
  - No restrictions on participant age or length of time for training
  - Permit one or more teams to travel under each grant
  - District 7980 will fund one such Team with a $30,000 Grant if it is organized as an exchange. Ideally a team would come to District 7980 from a Pilot District to be trained in one of the areas of focus and a Team would travel back to the visiting team’s country to help them implement what they have learned. A committee chaired by the district governor will review proposals for such an exchange suggested by Rotarians and make a selection.
  - Any Club can propose a Vocational Training Team as part of their Global Grant. In previous years such visiting teams were called GSE (Group Study Exchange) Teams. Now they are called VTT.

**PROGRAM OF VTT in District 3211.**

Team will arrive at Kochi on 18 January. After visits to Aleppo, Kottayam and Quilon they will arrive at Trivandrum on 2nd February 2011.

Rtn.PP. Titty Mathew will receive them at Trivandrum Club and take them to respective host families.

TRIVANDRUM PROGRAM 3 - 12 February 2011.

At Trivandrum a grand reception will be arranged for them before they leave for the U.K on 12 Feb. The District Governor and GSE coordinators will attend this gala function along with other rotary clubs in Trivandrum.

**12TH BACK TO UK. Via Trivandrum airport.**

### Rotary Club of Quilon East Get Matching Grant of Rs.17 Lakh.

RC of Quilon East has received a matching grant of Rs.17.31 lakh from the Rotary Foundation for providing safe drinking water in seven locations in Quilon District. Their international partner is Rotary Club of Florence in District 5110, USA.

The club is implementing the project in association with ‘Well for Life’ organization.

**RC of Trivandrum should also try for such grants.**

### PDG John Wilton Of District 1120 U.K.

Official Representative of the RI President District Conference “Saugandhika’ 2011.

RI President has confirmed that PDG John Wilton of UK will be his official representative for our District Conference.

DG Scaria did his first matching grants with him during 1994. The Rotary Jaipur Limb project extended its service area to South India through them. Rotary provided over 14000 limbs free of cost in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The Rotary Jaipur Limb project supported the Vinod Patel Limb Centre at St. Thomas Hospital Chethipuzha which is the largest non matching grant in our District 3211.

PDG John and his wife Liz will attend the conference along with DG John Dunkley and Sue from the same District.

This year we are partnered with District 1120 of the UK for the GSE team. The first ever Univocational GSE from our District will consist of teachers specialized in the education of the disabled. The team will get more training from such institutes in the UK. But it is a pity that the teachers of the only permanent project of its kind in District 3211, the Rotary Institute, Trivandrum did not get a place in the GSE team.

### MERGING OF CLUBS WITH LOW MEMBERSHIP CONSIDERED BY ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

RID Rtn. K.R. Ravindran

In District 3211 there are many clubs with membership less than 20.

It may be better to merge these sick clubs with other rotary clubs in the nearby areas.

**Names of clubs:**

- Adoor Town
- Anchal
- Balaramapuram (15)
- Charumoodu (13)
- Ezhukone (13)
- Kallara
- Kanjiramkulam (10)
- Kattakada (11)
- Kollam Coast End (12)
- Kureepuzha
- Neyyattinkara (10)
- Paaripally
- Trivandrum Arora (10)
- Trivandrum Fort (16)
- Trivandrum Galaxy (15)
- Trivandrum Metro (19)
- Trivandrum Royal (15)
- Trivandrum Sea Coast (12)
During a long, enjoyable and successful career in education I taught in a wide range of schools including schools serving diverse communities, faith schools and schools that were in difficult circumstances. For two years (1987-89) I worked in a bi-lingual school in Colombia, South America. Having trained to teach Modern Foreign Languages (I speak near-fluent Spanish, good French and some Portuguese), I served as Head of Department and Head of Faculty in a number of posts before going on to be a Deputy Head teacher in two inner-city London schools. From 2003-2009 I was Head teacher of a boys’ secondary school in Kent, south-east England. For me it was always important to try to provide the best opportunities and education for all young people and as a Head teacher I was able to improve the quality of the curriculum and standards of teaching as well as ensuring that young people felt safe and secure and that they were treated fairly. As a Head teacher I was privileged to meet and work with people from all walks of life and I was also able to serve as a Governor at a school, a Pupil Referral Unit and a 6th Form College. In September 2009 I took the opportunity to leave my post as a Head teacher and, after a break, I now work as an independent education consultant and tutor.
ENABLE THE DISABLED
This year the District Governor has chosen ‘Enable the Disabled’ as the District Project.

During the last 45 years the Rotary Institute for Children in Need of Special Care is functioning at Trivandrum. There are 204 students here and 42 teachers and helpers. Nearly 100 students stay here. This is a project, all Rotarians should be proud of. When you are planning your contribution for the District Project, do keep in mind the Rotary Institute, also.

We need mattresses, mosquito nets, water purifiers, cooking vessels, nutritional food supplements, teaching aids and sports equipments. We request you to visit this institution as early as possible. The children here welcome visitors and they feel happy to mingle with other people of their age as well as elders. Experts are visiting the institute from the National Institute for Speech and Hearing and training our teachers.

Rtn. PDG. M. Ramaswamy Iyer  Rtn. PDG. Dr. P. Sukumaran

DG Rtn. Scaria Jose Kattoor  “Take care of these children with a mother’s compassion.”  Rtn. B. V. Krishna Kumar  President, RC of Trivandrum.
PICTURE INDEX
1. Class room
Rtn. B.V. Krishna Kumar (President) and Rtn. K.C. Chandrahasan.
3. Onam celebrations
4. Dr. Pavithran conducting classes for staff and parents - speech and hearing evaluation camp

NAMASTHE

Rtn. K.V. Rajagopal
Hon: Secretary
Rotary Institute

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ROTARY INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE
The biggest and oldest permanent project for mentally handicapped children run by the Rotary in India. Established in 1965