

## ANGLO-PERUVIAN SOCIETY

### Chairman's Report for 2009-2010

I am pleased to report that the Society has had another active and successful year – a year packed full of events as varied as we have ever had.

But I start this report by noting the death of one of the Society's most loyal members. In early 2009 we lost Bertita Gallop, and John Hemming wrote so movingly about her and her contribution to the Society in last year's report. It is now my sad task to report the death of **Nigel Gallop**, whose support of the Society also goes back very many years. So our deepest sympathy goes out once again to Adrian their son and to all the Gallop family.

**Charitable Donations.** Funds for our donations came from a combination of sources: these included the Latin American Bridge Cup Tournament at the House of Lords; an almuerzo criollo at Bookham Grange Hotel; a visit to Kew Gardens, the annual Tennis tournament; and surpluses from the lecture evenings.

The Society sent the largest donation, of £5,000, to **Asociacion Sonrisa Peru**. Other donations included £1,700 to **Asociacion Alegria en el Corazon**, £2000 to **The Peruvian Child Care Mission** and £1500 to the **Westnell Project**. The full list of donations appears in the Accounts where it can be seen that our donations in total amounted to £16,500.

**The Peruvian Embassy.** As ever, we are extremely grateful to **Ambassador H. E. Ricardo Luna** and to all the Embassy staff for the tremendous support they give our Society. Not only do they let us use the Chancery for committee meetings, lectures and the occasional reception (free of charge, thus allowing us to give more of our income to Peruvian charities), but they have also let us use their attractive exhibition space for a joint art exhibition of the

work of young Peruvian artists. Additionally, **Ambassador Luna** generously allowed us to hold our Christmas Party at his Residence, despite the fact that he had to be away himself that evening.

**Activities.** Last year's main event was the **Latin American Bridge Cup Tournament** in the House of Lords on 24 April. This was organised with panache by **Narda van der Mast** and her sub-committee. Without **Baroness Henig**, **Baroness Hooper** and **Lord Lamont** as sponsors, this profitable and highly enjoyable event would not have been possible; we hope for a repeat in 2011. Once again we must thank **Raul Puyo-Perry** for organising the traditional Almuerzo Criollo, which has of late played such an important part in our Society's year.

The Society had another varied programme of lectures and other events during the year. It is through supporting our programme that members contribute most to our charitable donations, so a big thank-you goes out to members who participate regularly and especially to those who bring friends and introduce new members.

In chronological order, these are the events that made up our 2009-10 calendar –

22 April: **Gerard de Lisle** : 'The Little-Known War'.

24 April: The Latin American Bridge Cup Tournament.

17 May: Almuerzo Criollo and Fashion Show.

27 May: **Megan Son** : 'The Great Inca Highway'.

16 June: APS visit to Kew Gardens.

28 July: Mass to celebrate Fiestas Patrias.

12 September: Tennis Tournament.

24 September: Young Members Pisco Sour Night.

7 October: **Ann Pollard-Rowe**: 'The Cultural florescence of Paracas'.

29 October: **Meriel Larken** : 'News from the Bridge'.

25 November: **Frank Hajek**: 'Otters, miners and conservationists in Peru's Amazon Frontier'.

9 December: Christmas Party.

12 December: Christmas Celebration Peruvian Style.  
14 December: ALAF Carol Service.  
27 January: **John Beauclerk**: 'Vilcabamba Revisited'.  
25 February: **James Dunkerley**: 'The Third Man: O'Connor and the struggle for Independence'.  
11 March: **John Hemming** : 'Monuments of the Incas'.

**Membership** now stands at 194 (if you count joint subscriptions as two people). This is once again worryingly down on the previous year. We must all strive to recruit more members to join the Society and to enjoy its very varied activities. It's odd that we don't attract many more members considering how many thousands of Brits visit Peru each year? How can we reach out to them and harness their fascination with the country and its marvels? We are particularly keen to attract Peruvians living in Britain; so any ideas as to ways to achieve this would be most welcome. If you have friends who might be interested, please ask them to take a look at our recently updated website [www.angloperuviansociety.org](http://www.angloperuviansociety.org) or ask Maria Varela to send them a membership pack with leaflets describing future events.

**Administration.** **Maria Varela** continues to work tirelessly on our behalf. She is a brilliant secretary and has done more than anyone to promote our Society and to see that all our membership is kept well informed of upcoming events, both by email and by 'snail-mail'. Only now as chairman do I realise how much work she does behind the scenes. Quite apart from her vital committee meetings' responsibilities, she succeeds, lecture after lecture, in galvanising fellow members, friends, or even family, to assist her with the buying and preparation of the delicious finger food and pisco sours for the post-lecture receptions. Without her support and gentle guidance, my job as chairman would be impossible! Sincere thanks from all of us to Maria.

Thanks also to the hard-working members of the **Executive Committee**, especially to **John Hemming** in his capacity as Lecture Organiser Supremo. Without his contacts, our lecture

programme would barely exist! And to **David Dell** (not in fact a member of the Committee) who has saved me from having to take the minutes of our meetings! Special thanks also to **Terry Browne** who keeps such an eagle eye on the Peruvian charities that we support.

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 Deloitte, who has again done this admirably. I would also like to express the Society's warm thanks to our Auditor **R. M. Anstey** who has, as in previous years, ably and generously audited our accounts for no fee.

### Conclusion.

This report remains seriously incomplete without a mention of the distinguished Award presented to **John Hemming** by **Ambassador Luna** on behalf of the Peruvian Government on 24 February this year. **La Orden El Sol del Peru** was founded by General José de San Martín in 1821 and has been awarded to John for his promotion of Peruvian culture research and consequently his ability to strengthen the links between the UK and Peru. To him we all convey our hearty congratulations!

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

Hallam Murray  
Chairman.