**ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE**

**D 3310 TO D 1200**

**6TH – 17TH AUGUST 2014**

PP Charles Chiam & spouse Venetia was on the Rotary Friendship Exchange to D 1200 comprising of Rotary Clubs in the counties of Somerset, Wiltshire and Dorset in England, U.K.

The first hosts are PDG Brian Murray and spouse Marian who welcomed us at the Bristol International Airport. As we enter the driveway to their home called West Street Farm in Somerset, the mini Malaysian flags were lined at the driveway cheering us up from the jetlag.

The sights included Montacute Stately Home managed by the National Trust, the Hayne Motor Museum, where the classic cars of yesteryears were displayed like the Morris Minor, Austin A50, Jaguar MK II including the famous Harley Davidson Motor Bike. Brian and Marian also took us to a seaside resort where we had Fish & Chips.

We also attended the Rotary Club of Yeovil meeting where PDG Brian Murray is a member and the Guest speaker was DG Judy Barnard Jones. Exchange of Club Flags were carried out. At this meeting there was a Rotarian by the name of Dr. Joseph Gary Sowerby who looks like the actor Michael Caine, and Rotarian Anama Cheriyan who by chance happen to know R C Malacca Rtn Dr. S. A. Duraisingam and spouse Patricia. PP Michael Nethaway and spouse Maureen brought us to see another Stately Home, Kingston Lacy managed by the National Trust. We took the opportunity to buy PDG Brian Murray and spouse Marian to a dinner at Roses & Crown, East Lambrook, South Patherton.

The second hosts are Rotarian Bob and Sharon Haigh who lives in the countryside in their lovely home called Rose Cottage in Launcherley, Wells, Somerset. They had a nice garden with a Conservatory where breakfast is held. A Fellowship Dinner was held at their home especially for us and 29 members from the Rotary Club of Wells turned up. I did a power point presentation showing the countries of D 3310 and R C Malacca projects and the scenic parts of Historic Malacca. Souvenirs and R C Malacca flags were exchanged. A squeaky chicken was presented to President Peter of R C Wells which made everyone laughed. Spouse Venetia Chiam also gave a short talk on the topic of Baba & Nyonyas of Malacca. We were taken to the sights of a hill named Glastonbury Tor with a Saxon ruin on top of the hill by Rtn Wendy Lucas. Other sights include the Wells Cathedral and the Bishops Palace. We were taken a ride in a vintage car, a 1924 Belsize manufactured in Manchester, England owned by Rotarian Richard Leworthy, a Dentist by profession. We were taken to watch a movie on Monty-Python at Strode.

The third host is Rotarian Clive Sills whose home is in Langport, Somerset. It is a 2-storey bungalow on a one acre land. He has a big Conservatory and he owns a 20 room hotel in Weston-super-Mare. He was formerly attached to W.H.Smith, a well-known British Book Store located worldwide. He showed us many old churches and brought us to a Boot Sales and the Clarks Village Outlet for shopping. Another Rotarian Phil and spouse Jenny took us on a boat ride on the River Perett. Rtn Phil’s profession is an undertaker.

The fourth host is AG Rotarian Peter Wragg at Wheatsheaf, Coombe Hay, Bath in the country side. We were taken to Castle Combe, Bradford-on-Avon to see the Locks and Canals, Bath Spa and Stonehenge. We were fortunate to see the display of military vehicles, uniforms and armaments commemorating the First World War and nearby was the Lacock Abbey where the Harry Porter scenes were shot.

In conclusion, staying in Rotarian homes is different from staying in hotels. One feels like you are with a family and we are able to learn and taste their food culture, their lifestyle, the cottages with thatch roofs, the conservation of stately homes and old churches. Even the Lock Canals come to life with boats for rent.

We encourage Rotarians and their spouse in D 3310 to participate in this Rotary International Rotary Friendship Exchange. Appreciation to PP Choo Chor Tek and DG Hj. Andre Suharto.

LIGHT UP ROTARY

PP Charles H Y Chiam BKT,PJK,PHF

The Rotary Club of Malacca.

Dated: 4th September 2014