

*GRACE THIRD
WORLD FUND*



*FUND-RAISING
HISTORY*

1998

The Jet Pull

The Jet Pull was organised in November 1998 in conjunction with Manx Airlines, who were enthusiastic in their willingness to help raise money for these 'children in need'. Three teams of sponsored volunteers pulled the Manx Airlines jet 70 metres across the tarmac at Ronaldsway Airport.

People from all over the Island, from different walks of life came to participate in the 'Pull'. There were teachers, welders, business people, nurses, badminton players, firemen, female weight lifters, church ministers, school and college students, bank staff, Airport staff and of course, representatives from Manx Airlines.



Three teams raced against the clock to see who was quickest at tugging the British Aerospace 146 Plane across the tarmac.

The 24 tonne jet was carrying 4 tonnes of fuel, but each of the teams managed to get it moving and cover the distance.

We have since been reliably informed while it was being pulled it reached an average speed of 5 miles per hour, which is slightly different from its usual cruising speed of 455 miles per hour!



As a 'celebrity' starter, Lieutenant Governor Sir Timothy Daunt got proceedings under way with an improvised starting flag, which he made by tying his white handkerchief to a walking stick.



After starter's orders, the first team of 40 men completed the task in 30.5 seconds. The second team, again of 40 men, outpaced the first with a time of 29.1 seconds.

The 50 members of the women's team finished a gallant third, although admittedly they had a little help from Sir Timothy. The Lieutenant Governor said afterwards, "The ladies didn't seem to be doing too well, so I gave them a bit of hand."

The event was a great success, and raised more than £6,000 for the children in India.



1999

The 1st Music Marathon



The Music Marathon took place in Peel's Philip Christian Centre in November 1999.

Its purpose was to raise money for The Promised Land Orphanage, which is being built in South India.

In the United Kingdom it would be a mammoth task for a small charity to raise money for such a project. However in India, a building which will give a home to 50 orphan children can be built for approximately £20,000.

The Marathon began at 6.30 on Friday 26th November night and finished at 6.30 on the following evening. The purpose was to keep the music going continuously.

Refreshments were provided throughout the 24 hour period, and someone was always there to pour a cup of tea, so the musicians weren't the only ones who gave their time and talents.

The Marathon was a thoroughly enjoyable event, and it was heartening and encouraging that so many people enthusiastically took part.

A wonderful variety of musicians entered into the spirit of the event, from the truly talented, to those who were simply eager and willing to make a 'joyful noise' ! Depending upon when you had popped in during the day, you may have been entertained by the music of the flute, the piano, the violin or the guitar.

From the lively beat of a local rock group to the explosive sound of the Rushen Silver band (see right) — all tastes were catered for.

The children of Peel Clothworkers Junior school gave a concert in the afternoon, and were joined by mums, dads and grandparents, who were enthusiastic in their support.



The Music Marathon may have been tiring — particularly for those who were unwilling to go home and "miss the fun", but it was great fun. The original aim of the Marathon was to raise £1,000 towards the orphanage project. However, when all the money came in we had raised an amazing £4,000!

Apart from raising such an encouraging amount, everyone who took part really did enjoy the Marathon. So much so, in fact, that a number of people asked if we would be "doing it again next year". See 2001 for the "re-match"!

2000

Manx Youth Orchestra and Manx Youth Wind Orchestra Concert



In the summer of 2000, the Manx Youth Orchestra and Max Youth Wind Orchestra held a concert at the Villa Marina in Douglas.

Due to the input of musicians Adrian Tickle, and Emily and Martin Richardson, a proportion of the proceeds was donated to the Grace Third World Fund.

The main "rotunda" of the Villa played host to an audience of nearly 1,000 amateur music enthusiasts.

The young people put on a rousing performance, the highlight of which was perhaps the rousing arrangement of the theme music to *Where Eagles Dare*.



Celebrity Garden Party

In August 2000, the garden party was held to raise further funds to continue building the orphanage in Visakhapatnam.

Thanks to the kind hospitality of Peel Town Commissioner Thelma Birkett (see right) and her husband Geoff, we had the use of their substantial multi-area garden to host the different parts of the event in.

As we all know the British and Manx weather is reliably unreliable, and one never knows what the day will bring, no matter how many days of sunshine there have been previously.



The Isle of Man, for some reason, has very few thunderstorms, so the Garden Party organisers were thrown into turmoil on the evening before the event, when the island experienced a tremendously violent storm.



However, when the day dawned, it gradually improved towards the afternoon, and the sun made all the difference, making it a really happy day.

More sunshine, metaphorically speaking, was provided by the opener — Sir Norman Wisdom — who was, as ever, full of fun, and amazed everyone by his ability to hold the sound of the word “open”.

He invited his audience to help him declare the event officially open by shouting the word and making it last as long as they could.

There was something for everyone at the GP. From having your photograph taken with Sir Norman for £1 to having your face painted. The children were more interested in the latter the grown ups in the former!

There were refreshments, and music, and it was altogether a very pleasant way of raising money. The final amount raised was £1,600.



Badmintonathon

In late 2000, GTWF organised a most unusual fundraising event. Perhaps the first its kind, or at least for the Isle of Man!



The Chairman of the charity, the Rev Matthew Else, was an active member of one of the island's badminton clubs, and his son Stephen, of another.

We're not quite sure who came up with the idea first.

But once hatched we were able to tap straight into the local badminton scene and convene a badmintonathon; like telethon, marathon, you get the idea!



ISLE OF MAN

badminton

SHESHAGHT VADMYNTYN ELLAN VANNIN

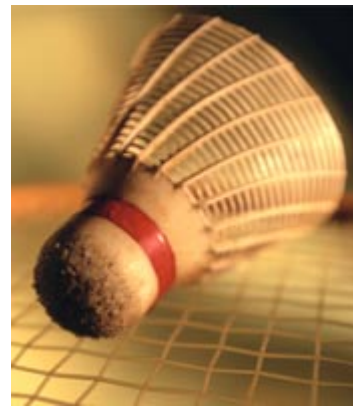
We had the enthusiastic support of many local sportsmen and women.

Thanks to the kind use of Marown School Hall (see left)(Glen Vine, Isle of Man), we soon had a 24-hour event on the cards.

A number of pairings from different clubs did battle against each other and all for the benefit of children being aided by the Grace Third World Fund.

Scores were recorded which enabled a number of awards to be given out for high scores and sportsmanship.

Tommy Tidy of Peel deserves a special mention for his contribution as one of the younger participating players who did well.



£1,000 Christmas Beard-Off ... and Coffee Morning



Matthew Else April 1992
(reproduced courtesy of Peel City Guardian)

One cold gray winter morning in December 2000, the GTWF and many supporters had convened in the Philip Christian Centre in Peel for a coffee morning in aid of the work.

Up on the stage though, our chairman was preparing to have a weight taken off his shoulders!

With the voluntary services of local hair stylist Dee Andrea of Demetri's Barber Shop, Rev Else had his grey locks shaved off for sponsorship.

We were raising money to complete the building of the orphanage (Now Grace Children's Home) on eight acres of ground known as the Promised Land site.

(Much more work has since been done, and it is anticipated that the building will be have its 3rd and final storey added before too long.)

Approximately £1,000 was still required to build the original level at that time though, and we wanted this 'Beard-Off' to enable us to reach this target.

This is situated a few miles outside the seaport city of Visakhapatnam, South India.



Matthew Else December 2000
(copy of latest Passport photo)

2001

1st Church Curry Evening



The friends at the Grace Baptist Church held a home-cooked in-house curry evening at their church hall in Market Street, Peel.

Near-military organisation was required to re-arrange the chairs and tables for the diners, prepare soup-kitchen quantities of food, and a variety of soft beverages for the guests.

Mild, medium and hot curries were prepared by the 2 chefs James Richardson and Peter Hedditch.

Popadoms, relishes and authentic tablecloths added to the atmosphere, and after dinner, a video presentation of the most recent visit to the new orphanage was watched and discussed with the Rev Matthew Else.

In the region of £200 was raised on the night.

Repeat Music Marathon

In February 2001, a repeat music marathon was held again in the Philip Christian Centre. Many local musicians took part and around £1,000 was raised for GTWF.

2002

Sankey Evening with Ms Judith Ley



Manx Radio presenter Ms Judith Ley led an august body in the singing at a Sankey Evening on 4 October. This was held at the Grace Baptist Church hall in Market St, Peel.

What you may ask constitutes a Sankey Evening? Well it is a kind of semi-formal communal gathering where folk congregate for a time of singing, poetry reading and a get-together. The music is partly religious, partly traditional folk. At times it can be almost like a talent show as individual performances alternate with corporate singing.

We used special Sankey song books from the Fishermen's Mission which have a good cross-section of traditional Sankey music.

Whilst Sankey music is found in the UK, particularly amongst rural Methodist communities, Sankey evenings seem to be largely a Celtic occurrence. They still happen in places like Cornwall and Wales where there is a strong choral tradition.



The Isle of Man is no different. However it is true to say that the devotees being almost exclusively of the older generation, that this type of event may be an endangered species.

Magic Night at the Glen Helen Lodge



In Summer 2002, the first of two evenings of entertainment were provided by the Young Magicians of Mann (and some not so young!)

The venue was the Glen Helen Lodge near St John's.

We had the private function room all to ourselves, which despite being a goodly size, was still packed with people.

The audience was treated to an electrifying performance from TV magician Rex Graham to the backing of Rondo Veneziano's La Serenissima. We paused for a buffet supper in between various acts.

The crescendo of the event was a conjuring trick by the young magicians worthy of a professional illusionist. A notable solo performance was also put in by 12-year old Lexi Watterson.

Repeat Events in 2002

- The 2nd coffee morning on 2 October at the Philip Christian Centre.
- The 2nd curry night on 6 December at Grace Baptist Church, Market St, Peel.
- The 2nd Manx Youth Orchestra concert which raised £1,200 (the exact sum required to pay for Lova Raju's surgery!) A fantastic finale to the evening was given to the tune of "Paris s'eveille" which resonated around the Villa Marina.

2003

James' "Hair Grow"

Not one to miss out on the action, another of the trustees saw an opportunity to raise some badly-needed extra cash for the cause.

In 2003, James Richardson embarked on a Hair Growing expedition for which he was generously sponsored by friends and work colleagues alike.

He started off by having his hair cut very short and then it grew ... and grew ... and grew even more.

James' head had been a scissor-free zone for 12 months – until he was cornered by friends and colleagues at Lloyds TSB's Isle of Man Offshore Centre.



Workmates, friends and family had all sponsored James for £1 per month over the 12 month period. As a result he raised over £700 which was put towards the cost of surgery for 15-year old Middey Raju, who suffered from polio and was unable to walk without a stick.



James who was a technical banking assistant with Lloyds TSB said the generosity shown by everyone had been overwhelming:

"My sincere thanks to everybody who helped me to raise the money for Middey. A special thanks to my employers Lloyds TSB who enabled the hair 'grow-a-thon' to take the place."

Well done to James!

To be updated (as at Thu 10 May 2007):



ONGOING FUNDRAISING AND REGULAR FIXTURES

PUB QUIZ NIGHTS (inc Glen Helen 18/11/02)

HARVEST AUCTIONS

HOT POT SUPPERS

INDIAN RESTAURANT EVENINGS – Saffron, Royal India

GTWF BRANDED MERCHANDISE - Light-up Pens, other stationery

COLLECTION BOXES – formerly Churchill's of India, any others?

Formerly BUSKING IN MICHAEL ST, PEEL (Eric Kelly) inc 30/11/02 –
24/12/02

Other as yet unused material...

2004 and ?

ERIC KELLY'S ACTIVITIES

ORGAN RECITAL AT ST JOHN'S

CD—CONTRASTS

Local musician and organist Mr Eric Kelly of Peel, has a long history of entertaining the people of the Isle of Man with his Music Hall style of keyboard playing. In their heyday, the

Kelly Trio were booked up months in advance for playing at Manx wedding receptions and other occasions.

2005

2nd MAGIC NIGHT—Centenary Hall, Peel (13 May); Ray's speech

2006?

TRACEY'S HEAD SHAVING!

RAY'S SKY DIVE

PARISH WALKS - Matthew Else, Dru Hamm

2007 to date

GAIETY THEATRE COLLECTION
