

AOG Annual Ball 2011 □ - Special 30th Anniversary Celebration

In honour of its 30th anniversary the AOG held its ever-popular Annual Ball at London's Mayfair on Saturday 10th December 2011. The event was an all round success, befitting the organisation's three decades as one of the UK's leading dental community groups. The celebration is the highlight of the AOG's social calendar. All the proceeds of the ball, held at the Millennium Hotel in London's Mayfair, will go to the AOG's charitable projects in the UK and abroad.

Last year, the AOG travelled to Chikrakoot in India, where the AOG supports a cleft lip and palate treatment centre. The facilities provide dental care to 500 nearby villages. Money raised by the AOG was also used to provide blankets and musical instruments to tribal children. After funding the creation of a fourth full dental surgery and laboratory in one of the most deprived areas of India, the AOG are currently raising funds for the building of a rehabilitation centre for disabled people in Musoma, Tanzania. The AOG has already donated £5,000 towards the centre. AOG President Dr. Pomi Datta, who was delighted at the Association's ability to continue supporting this worthy cause, made the announcement at the Ball. Speaking on the charity work done so far, Dr Datta said, "Thanks to the generous support of members at events such as this, 40,000 patients have already been assessed and treated by staff and volunteers of the project. Cases have included oral cancers and the repair and treatment of hundreds of cleft palate presentations. Improvements to the Chitrakoot Dental Institute have also made possible the rehabilitation of many burn victims and more complex facial prosthesis procedures."

The 2011 charity ball was the most successful to date. As well as a sumptuous Indian dinner provided by Ragasaan, there was a fund-raising raffle, classical Indian music from Simran Ghalley while contemporary music and DJ H of Kudos kept everyone on the dance floor until the small hours. The atmosphere was set off by mood lighting sponsored by Dentsply, while Dental Directory ensured the party was in full swing by providing a free bar and complimentary drinks throughout the evening.

The AOG is a welcoming group and a magnet for like-minded dentists, their staff and families. It has grown, both in numbers and stature, attracting colleagues with a calling for giving. Although there is a committee structure, there is no social hierarchy. Coincidentally, 'aog' in

Hindi means 'welcome', hence 'AOG' is no longer an acronym and now means simply that: 'welcome'.

The AOG is well known for its packed dinner dances, fun family days, international trips and worldwide charitable projects. Its motto is, "Everyone is welcome and everyone is equal."

Next year will see fundraising trips such as a trip to South Africa and a charity trip to open the Disability Centre in Tanzania and Nairobi. During the last 40 years, all AOG activities have led to a charitable contribution as a matter of habit, with the idea to give something back in gratitude for all they had received.

For further details on forthcoming trips and events, or to join, visit
www.aoguk.org.

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