



ANGLO - KOREAN SOCIETY

Newsletter June 2011

Joint Presidents: H.E. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Choo Kyu Ho
Dr. Robert Hawley CBE

Chairman: Warwick Morris

From the Chairman

This is the first message since I had the honour of being elected Chairman, in succession to Stephen Brown, in March. His four years in the role have been hugely appreciated by members and committee alike. Big shoes to fill indeed, but I am delighted that Stephen is staying on the committee, with responsibility for securing sponsorship. If anyone reading this feels that their company or organisation would be interested in helping to sponsor the Society, or just an event, please do not hesitate to discuss with us. Similarly, I shall always be interested in hearing new suggestions for events.

Although I've been a member of the committee, on and off, since about 1979, I am glad now to be in a position to contribute more regularly to the activities of the Society and, along with the rest of the committee, to advance our aims of 'friendship, understanding and cultural exchange.' We value greatly the support we get from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, and increasingly from the excellent Korean Cultural Centre in Northumberland Avenue, who regularly welcome us onto their premises, most recently for our well attended AGM and for committee meetings.

Our website goes from strength to strength, in Cathy Kim's skilful hands. If there's anyone out there willing to help Cathy on the IT side of things we'd be glad to hear from you. On the membership side, to those of you who have still to renew your membership for 2011, I can say that you will be getting a final reminder very soon from Membership Secretary Peter Poole. He is very keen to hear from you! That said, our finances are in pretty good shape. We have been very fortunate to have George Harvey as Treasurer for several years and are equally fortunate to have found a worthy successor in the person of Chris Hollands, with recent experience of Korea (Standard Chartered Bank and the British Chamber of Commerce) under his belt.

Since the AGM we have had two excellent events. Dr Cornes, a sprightly 85 year old, took us through his remarkable slides of Korea in the mid 1950s, which young and old alike found fascinating. I was struck by how the rural and some urban scenes looked very similar to what Pam and I saw when we arrived in Korea 20 years later, but of course it was the next two decades that wrought the most extraordinary changes in the country. Our other event, to Standard Chartered Bank's striking new HQ in the city, was an interesting contrast. We were treated to excellent briefings on the Bank's overseas activities, especially in Korea, a tour of their fine works of art, an enjoyable reception and splendid views of the rapidly changing City skyline. With the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement finally ratified and coming into effect on 1 July, opportunities for business activity between the UK and Korea will only increase.

Finally, thanks in no small part to Sylvia Park, we have several more enticing events lined up

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50 Years of Friendship, Understanding and Cultural Exchange 1956-2006
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for the coming months, including one kindly hosted by HE The ROK Ambassador, and will be looking to arrange a couple more towards the end of the year. Opportunities to meet from time to time for an informal meal, usually at a Korean restaurant, also look set to continue. And for your diaries, be sure to make a note *now* of our dinner in the House of Lords on 14 October.

I look forward to getting to know more of you, to meeting new members, and to joining with you in our varied programme of activities.



PAST EVENTS

Annual General Meeting - 29 March 2011

The Korean Cultural Centre on Northumberland Avenue generously provided the venue and made us welcome for our 2011 Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman opened proceedings by welcoming the 43 members attending, then presented his report to the Society on the events and activities that had taken place during 2010. He concluded by announcing that he was stepping down as Chairman but remaining on the committee to focus on sponsorship. He introduced Warwick Morris, former Ambassador to Seoul, who had agreed to take over the role of Chairman.

Treasurer George Harvey followed with his report on the overall healthy state of AKS finances, despite a small deficit for the year. Membership was also holding up with a total of 199 members at year end. George also announced that he was standing down, and introduced the new Treasurer, Chris Hollands.

Social Events Secretary, Sylvia Park, outlined the AKS programme for the coming year, including some new ideas alongside the established events.

The Annual Dinner will again be held in the Peers'

Dining Room at the House of Lords, but much earlier than last year, on 14 October, surely too early for snow to ruin travel plans.

The final report of the evening was given by Colonel George Gadd on behalf of the British Korean Veterans Association. He reported on the many commemorative events held during 2010, both in the UK and Korea, to mark the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean war.

The last item on the agenda was the election of members standing for the Executive Committee. All were duly elected, and are listed on the back page of this newsletter. Warwick Morris then performed his first task as Chairman by thanking Sir Stephen Brown for his enthusiasm, drive and humour during his time as Chairman, and for his notable achievements with new events, increased membership and the introduction of sponsorship. He presented the outgoing Chairman with a book as a gesture of the Society's appreciation.

The meeting was followed by a reception with a Korean buffet and wine and a chance for members to catch up and renew acquaintances.



Outgoing Chairman, Sir Stephen Brown, with newly appointed Chairman, Warwick Morris

Dr John Cornes - Korea in the Mid-Fifties

Dr John Cornes was given enthusiastic and well-merited applause from an audience of all ages for his illustrated talk in the Global Korea lecture series at the Korean Cultural Centre on 12 April 2011, organized in cooperation with the AKS.



Dr John Cornes

In 1954, as a newly qualified doctor, John and his wife Jean, a nurse and midwife, arrived to work with the UN Korean Reconstruction Agency in Kunsan, Chollabuk-do. Dr Cornes' talk about his experiences at that time was based on his unique collection of 35mm colour slides, showing the work at the hospital in Kunsan and his travels both locally and to the nearby islands. The quality of the slides was excellent with the colour as good as ever - for some of the younger attendees this was a unique experience as they had never seen slides projected before. We saw slides of their hospital work, the conditions in which they worked, and their patients, colleagues and friends. 'Off duty' shots of thatched houses, the rural countryside, children at play, markets and street traders, kimchi making, sponge divers, high days and holidays, temples and trains, Syngman Rhee and even civil unrest were all fascinating glimpses for those who only know Korea half a century later.



One of Dr Cornes' colourful slides

Dr Cornes spoke with enthusiasm and passion for Korea and the Korean people, both of which had obviously made a lasting impact on him during his time spent there over 50 years ago. He made light of the work that he and his wife did, and the difficulties they faced, but they obviously achieved a tremendous amount in terms both of care for the sick orphans and refugees and of training local nurses. He spoke from his heart, connected immediately with his audience, and we noted one or two quietly wiping their eyes for the Korea of their childhood, or the Korea they had heard about but never known.

We are extremely grateful to the KCC for organising this event, for their cooperation, and for their excellent hospitality. We are also very grateful to Mrs Norma Broadbridge, Dr Cornes's sister, for telling us about this collection in the first place. A most worthwhile lead!

Jim Thomson

Korea Tourism Supporters Network

The Korea Tourism Organization held an inaugural event on Wednesday 23 March at their London Office, New Zealand House, Haymarket, to which all AKS members were invited. The venue was the stunning 17th Floor, Penthouse Suite with amazing views over London. The entertainment was first class, with the Korean group Kaya performing contemporary songs on classical Korean instruments. After a presentation on Jeju Island's bid to become a "New 7 Wonders of the World", everyone was invited to try their hand at creating an attractive bowl of bibimbap, which was consumed with relish, followed by a varied and plentiful Korean buffet. The food was accompanied by traditional Korean drinks including soju, makkoli and a plum liqueur. Two return airline tickets to Seoul, courtesy of Asiana Airlines, were the main prize in a free raffle. The main purpose of this generous evening was to encourage those who share an interest in Korea to become part of the Korea Tourism Supporters Network, spreading the word on tourism in Korea.



Bibimbap making competition

Tour of Standard Chartered Bank

This event was surely quite an eye-opener for many of the 30 or so AKS members who gathered in the impressive building which is Standard Chartered's London Head Office at 1 Basinghall Avenue on 18 May 2011. Any fears that a bank would be boring were instantly dispelled on entering the foyer, where a temple building from Thailand took centre stage surrounded by African and Asian art and artefacts.

In the state-of-the-art basement auditorium we were presented with an overview of the bank's origins and growth by Sir Tom Harris, Vice Chairman of Standard Chartered Capital Markets, followed by a personal account of the recent acquisition of Korea First Bank given by our AKS treasurer, Chris Hollands.

Having absorbed its history, we then learnt about the philosophy of the bank and how this is reflected in the working environment. The building's soaring architecture, impressive green credentials and stark modernity provide an efficient workspace, but it is the collection of art and artefacts that create the environment for success of which Standard Chartered are justly proud.

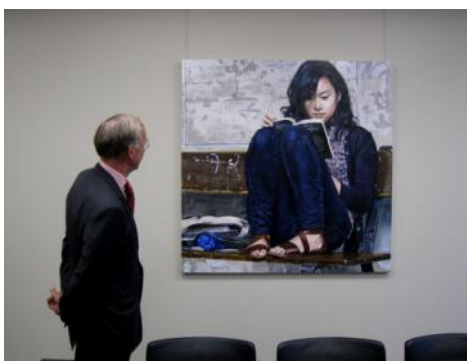
Lin Dore, who is responsible for implementing the bank's philosophy, then took us on a tour of conference rooms and communal areas where we saw an overwhelming variety of objects, both ancient and modern, covering all disciplines from sculpture through painting, photography, ceramics and furniture. The common theme was people, with all items originating from parts of the world where Standard Chartered have a growing presence, namely Asia and Africa.

After feasting our eyes on the artwork, we were whisked to the 10th floor where we feasted again, this time on the delicious canapés and exceptional wine. With a backdrop of spectacular views over the City of London we enjoyed the opportunity to chat to our hosts and discover more about this most unusual, and definitely not boring, bank.

We are extremely grateful to Standard Chartered for their generosity in opening their offices to members of the Anglo-Korean Society, and in particular to Sir Tom Harris for suggesting the evening to Sylvia Park.



Chris Hollands, Louise Riley (assistant to the curator), Lin Dore, Warwick Morris, Sylvia Park and Sir Tom Harris at the reception.



Our Chairman admires "Girl Reading on a Bench" by Del Campo.



"Couple" by Sean Henry, 1.4m high bronze figures in the atrium.



A seating area in the main foyer.

FUTURE EVENTS

“Kings Queens Clubs and Knaves”

Thursday 16th June, 6:15pm.

A guided walk exploring Royal London led by Sue King, AKS member and Blue Badge Guide.

Whisky Tasting

Hosted by our sponsors, Diageo Plc

Wednesday 13th July, 6.00pm for 6.30pm, at 21 St James's Square, London.

A tasting of specially selected whiskies followed by a reception with canapés.

Chuseok Reception

Hosted by HE Ambassador Choo Kyu Ho

Thursday 15 September, 6.30pm for 7.00pm, Ambassador's Residence, Palace Gate, London.

Annual Dinner

Hosted by Baroness Perry.

Friday 14 October at the Peers' Dining Room, House of Lords.

AKS Diners

Forthcoming dates: 6 September (to be confirmed).

More events supported by the Anglo-Korean Society:

The Second East Asian Charity Friendship Event

A classical music recital showcasing leading young performers from China, Japan and Korea, in aid of the Lord Mayor of London's Charity Appeal "The Bear Essentials".

Tuesday 4 October, 6.30pm, St Lawrence Jewry Church, Guildhall Yard, Gresham Street, London.

“Scorched Earth, Black Snow”

Britain and Australia in the Korean War, 1950 - a talk by **Andrew Salmon**

Tuesday 21 June, 6.30pm, Multipurpose Hall, Korean Cultural Centre UK

Committee Corner



Chairman Warwick Morris

Warwick is a Korea specialist who served three times, for 13 years in all, at the British Embassy in Seoul and dealt with Korean affairs at the FCO in London. In 1975-76 he attended Yonsei University as the first British diplomat to do fulltime Korean language training. He was Ambassador to Vietnam before his final diplomatic assignment as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea from 2003 to early 2008. He visited North Korea in 1991 and 2004. Warwick continues to be engaged in Korean affairs through various advisory roles, as well as participating in conferences and commenting for BBC World TV. He is Hon President of the British Korean Law Association, holds an honorary doctorate from Soonchunhyang University and was recently elected an honorary Fellow of Robinson College Cambridge. Warwick and Pam have three children, the first two born in Seoul in the 1970s. When not involved in matters Korean, Warwick enjoys tennis, promoting his home county of Kent, walking in the countryside, philately and family pursuits.

Spiritual Korea

Visiting Buddhist Temples in Korea

My husband, Karel, and I had been aware for many years of the richness of Korean culture, but it was not until 1999 that we paid our first visit to the peninsula. What we found so entranced us that we went back seven more times, but only to the Republic of Korea, never the north.

Our main interest was in seeing as many Buddhist temples as possible. We had both travelled widely in the Far East, but in Korea we at once felt we had 'come home'. We managed in our eight visits to see more than two hundred temples, leaving thousands still unexplored. No two temples are alike, and all resemble treasure-houses, even if built quite recently.

Neither of us spoke Korean, so for our first visit we consulted a travel company. I drew a map of the Republic, marking on it the thirty or so temples which guidebooks described as being either ancient or important on other grounds. We had a car and driver, and an English-speaking courier who accompanied us for three weeks around the country. I do mean 'around', because the itinerary took us from Seoul to the east coast, and then in a clockwise direction back to the capital, but with frequent diversions into the centre. For historical reasons most Buddhist temples are located among mountains, in magnificent scenery, and we could not have reached a number of them on our own.

Wherever we went, on that first visit and subsequently, we encountered great warmth and friendliness from the monks and nuns, who nevertheless conducted themselves in a dignified and correct manner, which greatly impressed us. We were also impressed by the fact that we could freely enter most of the halls of the temples and the small hermitages, something not always welcome in other countries. Quite often, if we arrived at a temple around lunchtime, we were invited to partake of the meal being provided to worshippers, and occasionally a monk or nun would invite us to take tea with them in a private room.

We saw many wonders, among them the more than 80,000 wooden blocks carved in the thirteenth century with the Buddhist texts, the *Tripitaka Koreana*, housed in Haeinsa. The Sokkuram Buddha, near Bulguk Temple, is acknowledged as a world masterpiece and is well worth the climb up the slope of Mt. Tohamsan to the cave from which the Buddha has gazed serenely for 1,260 years. It was not only the great temples and works of art that dazzled us, though. A small temple mentioned in our guidebook, Taejosa, near Nonsan, turned out to be one of the most enchanting, with orange cosmos flowers blossoming beside its steep stone steps, and a huge ancient stone Buddha standing in front of the window of the temple's modest main hall.



Marian at Sunggasa

Unique to Korea are the shrines of the Mountain Spirit, Sansin, and his tiger escort, always given a higher place than the Buddha worship halls. "He is our landlord," explained a monk. I always paid my respects to Sansin when arriving at a temple, thanking him for keeping us safe as we clambered about over river beds and up rocky mountain paths. A Korean Professor who kindly took us in his car to some of the otherwise, for us, inaccessible hermitages, called us "templing people", and dubbed me "Mrs. Tiger" because of my enthusiasm each time I found a statue or painting of Sansin's companion. Karel and I retain innumerable happy memories of our visits to Korea's temples, the last of which was to Sunggasa, north of Seoul, illustrated in the photograph.

Marian Werner, London



Marian and Karel at Sunggasa

Spiritual Korea

The Anglican Church of Korea

Contributed by Rev Paul G Mooney, Anglican Church, Seoul

The Anglican Church of Korea traces its origins to November 1, 1889 when the Rt. Rev'd John Corfe was consecrated as Missionary Bishop for Korea in Westminster Abbey. There were at that time no Anglican churches or native members of the Anglican Church in Korea but Bishop Corfe, a dignified and sturdy Naval Chaplain, had taken up the call and made his way to what was then an almost unknown land to the peoples of the Western world. Corfe and his companion, Dr. E.B. Landis, landed at Chemulpo (Incheon) on September 29, 1890, the feast of St. Michael and All Angels and it was then that Anglican work in Korea began with the establishment of a church and hospital.

From Incheon, Anglican work moved into Seoul and the first public Holy Communion service in English was held on Christmas Eve 1891 in the area near where the present Anglican Cathedral stands in the center of Seoul beside the British Embassy. By 1897 Korean believers were ready to be baptized and the Korean Anglican Church gradually became what it is today. From its very beginnings the Anglican Church of Korea has been steeped in a high church Anglo Catholic ethos with an emphasis on liturgy and on social action. In the beginnings this showed itself in a concern for the sick and orphans, this concern was later shown in pioneering work for the handicapped in Korea and in recent decades has been evident in the house of sharing movement where clergy go in to live in simplicity in areas of need and respond to the needs they encounter in whatever way they can with their limited resources.



Cathedral Church of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Nicholas in Seoul



St. Peter and Paul's Anglican Church on Kanghwa Island

Compared to the vastly more numerous numbers in the Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Methodist denominations, the Anglican Church of Korea is a tiny denomination but one that has played a very special role as a pioneer in ecumenism and in standing for democratization and human rights. In the tumultuous years of the late 1980s it could be said that the Anglican Church of Korea was a mouse that roared and many fine young people were attracted by its witness and made their way to Anglicanism.

Kanghwa island has always had a special place in the heart of Korean Anglicanism and it is well known for St. Peter and Paul's Church built in traditional Korean Style and consecrated by Bishop Corfe in 1900. St. Michael's College for training catechists and clergy was started there in 1916. St. Michael's College was the forerunner of what is now the Sungkonghoe (Anglican) University in Seoul which provides a full certified course of training for Korean Anglican Clergy as well as courses in various subjects, at all levels, for lay students. In recent years students from the Anglican Church of Myanmar have come to Seoul to study at the Anglican Sungkonghoe University and the Korean Anglican Church has come full circle establishing its own missionary presence in other parts of Asia.

NEWS

60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Imjin

On 20 April AKS Chairman Warwick Morris represented the Society at the opening of the Imjin 60th Anniversary Exhibition at the Soldiers of Gloucester Museum. The event was attended by the Museum's Patron HRH The Duke of Gloucester. He spoke about his affection for the Glosters and talked about the battle before touring the Museum and the new Imjin display room, to which the AKS was one of the major donors. The Duke also unveiled a plaque formally opening Back Badge Square on which the Museum is situated. Gratitude was expressed to the key donors, who were presented to The Duke, who also talked with veterans of the battle, Friends of the Museum and leading civic figures. If any of our members are in the Gloucester area, the Museum, in the impressively renovated Quays district, is well worth a visit.



Artefacts on display in the museum

Earlier in the month, a moving service in Gloucester's fine cathedral to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Imjin was attended by outgoing AKS Chairman Stephen Brown and incoming Chairman Warwick Morris and their respective wives. HE The ROK Ambassador and his wife, the Korean Defence Attaché Captain Choi, HM Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and a number of Korean War veterans as well as serving officers were among those present. The event also marked the Granting of The Freedom of the City to The Rifles, of whom the Glosters now form part. Korean War veterans put on a fine marching display through the city.

Seoul Sisters in South West Surrey

Many members will remember the Anglican convent close by the British Embassy and Cathedral in Seoul. This is the home of the Society of The Holy Cross whose sisters do much good work amongst the disadvantaged in Korea – the elderly, the disabled, the homeless, unmarried mothers – and raise funds for aid to the developing world, for example for the education of teenage girls in Ethiopia.

The society was founded in 1925 by the Rt Revd Mark Trollope, the third bishop of the Anglican church in Korea. It built on considerable support from the St Peter's Community in Woking which had sent eighteen sisters as missionaries to Korea between 1892 and 1950. The St Peter's Community this year celebrates its 125th anniversary. Mother Alma and Sister Catherine Oh from the Society will travel to join their mother community in a celebratory Eucharist in Guildford Cathedral at 2pm on **Tuesday 28 June**. All, of course, are welcome at this genuine Anglo-Korean event.

Kingston Korean Festival

will be held on Saturday 13 August 2011.

Organised by the Korean Residents Society

AKS Executive Committee

Chairman:	Warwick Morris
Treasurer:	Chris Hollands
Secretary:	Cathy Kim
Events Secretary:	Sylvia Park
Membership Secretary:	Peter Poole
Minutes Secretary:	Peter Corbishley
Committee:	Sir Stephen Brown
	Miriam Chung
	George Harvey
	Hyun-key Kim
	Hogarth
	Grace Koh
	Derek Marsh
	Woo Seung Shin
	Jim Thomson

Email the committee:

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