

QUANTON SUMMER DELIGHT

Jane, Nigel and friends to Motec Life –UK. 18th July 2009

By P. Ofori-Atta

Mrs Jane Jackson, Clinical Nurse Consultant, West Hertfordshire NHS Trust Hospitals said a few months ago to Kay Bowers, Orthopaedic Secretary: One of these summers, I will organise a barbeque to raise funds for Motec life –UK. True to her words, she worked on her promise with her husband Nigel. Lo and behold, the summer day arrived!

On the eve of the 'eventful' day, the rain was heavy and this forced the cricket game between the English and the Aussies at the Lords to a premature suspension. There were concerns that the much awaited barbeque could be rained off. Wrong! Jane had done her home work and wrote to me 72 hours before - Rain on Thursday and Friday but our Day of Delight would be dry. How could Jane make such a confident prediction? Even the weather officers always say- there will be a little bit of rain here and there. Does she live on the windmill to see beyond Quanton? But I thought she was right when the rain stopped the cricket on Friday late afternoon. Yes! It seemed to me that England was on the winning edge and several millions of people were praying for a historic victory at the Lords. **SOMEONE UP THERE WOULD LISTEN.** For sure, I knew that a week before, the people's voices were heard and the Cardiff cricket agony of England was written off by a combination of tact and rain.

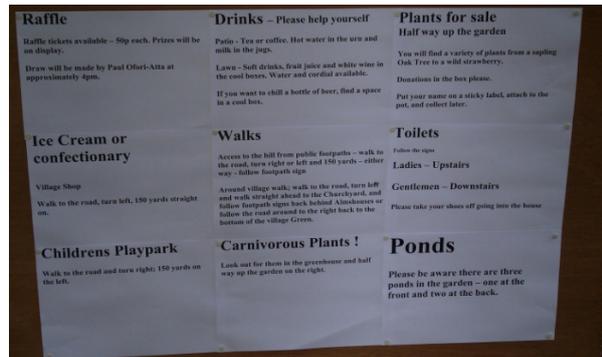
So the day came and the hearts of the friends of Jane, Nigel and Motec were warm. Engines roared. When I branched off A41 onto a narrow road to Quanton, I began to worry about my navigator and of course myself. Countryside road to nowhere? This is a story I have heard about TOM TOM navigation. Nothing prepared me for what I was about to see. One of the most beautiful villages I have seen in my life. Cute village centre and a colourful gigantic windmill, I suppose of historic importance overlooking the house of Jane and Nigel! No wonder Jane does weather forecasting in her spare time and Nigel some financial work somewhere in the City.



QUANTON IS BEAUTIFUL AND THE WINDMILL IS UNIQUE

When I arrived, many had arrived already. The event had been beautifully organised. 3 balloons to welcome all. Pre-op Assessment information style notice board to tell

you where to go and the complication to avoid – eating alive by carnivorous plants. To be honest with you, I would welcome ‘fellowship’ with these carnivorous plants that defy all rules of engagement and eat creations through deception, suffocation and lysis. Beauty was to be admired on this occasion, and there was an additional incentive of joy in my heart for the opportunity to see the whole garden of Mill View and the wonderful people within.



THE HOUSE WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED AND THE PRE-OP STYLE EVENT GUIDE

Sooner than I expected, I was to be invited to make good the advert that Motec put up for the occasion. ME as a chef? Never had I cooked for more than myself since I got married a quarter of a century ago. Who would eat ancient African food - the only food I could cook with my eyes closed? Well well! Luck was on my side. On the Motec website advert of the event, I had Nigel by my side and he proved to be a dedicated mentor. So as families and friends arrived, I had to don the chef’s identity apron. I just wondered how better I would have looked with a hat on and how tempting it would have been for me to change jobs.

People ‘jelled’ together very well. The garden tour was popular. There was a variety of drinks. Some neighbours made independent trips, unknown to each other—several miles, to be surprised to meet at Mill View House – the venue. A common purpose shared deep within their hearts unknowingly.

The walk up the local hill happened when I was deeply enjoying the fruits of peoples’ labour and my cooking skills. Since my only walk was within the confines of the venue, I would like to take the opportunity to take you for a walk through the Summer Delight at Mill View, Quanton on the index day.



FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WERE THERE TOO.



AND PEOPLE WERE QUITE RELAXED AND FELT AT HOME



EACH CORNER OF THE GARDEN WAS ALIVE.



STEADY! STEADY! GO! BOY OR BOY! YES, PAUL - WOBBLY JOBLY BUT NIGEL CHIEF CHEF WAS COOL AND COLLECTED AND A GOOD TRAINER. OFF OUR HANDS WE GIVE TO YOU!



FOOD AND DRINK EVERYWHERE



WINNERS ROSTRUM

The participants were gracious. The garden and summer atmosphere was worth 'soaking-up'. The food was brilliant as the Chief Chef was excellent. The secret bucket for donations moved round gracefully. A Raffle in between was an exciting arrangement in which Jane and Nigel and participants donated prize items. Everybody was a winner. In the end, people filled up with good food gathered around the winners' rostrum and the raffle draw was an event that brought everybody clapping and urging Motec Life to succeed with the Charity work in Ghana. Over 20 prizes were won. Nigel picked the last prize ticket which was won by Ruth.



EVERYBODY IS A WINNER, BUT ALL REPRESENTED HERE BY RUTH - ONE OF RAFFLE WINNERS BEING PRESENTED WITH HER PRIZE BY PAUL WITH ORGANISERS OF EVENT JANE AND NIGEL SHARING THEIR SMILES WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS.

Over three hundred pounds was raised for Motec on that delightful day. I would like to express my profound gratitude to Jane and Nigel for their hard work, sacrifices and commitment to good courses. Also sincere thanks to all participants whose warm heart made complete the object of unity of purpose for the good of all people. I would like to assure Jane and Nigel as well as donors that the money will be used well as part of our effort to promote good health in our target hospitals in sub-Saharan Africa, Ghana through education, transfer of skills, workshops, sponsoring recourse Personnel from UK to Ghana in our October 2009 working visit. Much to delight of all, Jane and Nigel intend to make the event an annual event. May they live long!

PICTUREs OF THE DAY



YES MUM! I CAN SEE IN YOU THE BEAUTY OF YOUR HEART!



YES DAUGHTER! IT FEELS JUST AS WARM IN GHANA AS OUR HEARTS