



**INTERPLAST (UK)**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF TRUSTEES**  
**WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2012**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

At our last annual meeting held 16 December 2010, you will recall that Dr Ian Mair was elected as Chairman but, unfortunately, due to ill health, Ian has been unable to fulfil this role and I have therefore continued as Chairman. David Otter has also struggled with health issues during the year and we appreciate his willingness to continue as our Treasurer. Our thanks also go to Peter Scott for his involvement and support as a Trustee as he now resigns due to moving out of the area.

I have been able to complete two successful missions in 2011. In January a team of 11 of us worked in Holy Family Hospital, Islamabad, Pakistan, where 120 patients had surgical procedures including a number of patients with acid burns. In October I returned to Kumi Hospital, Uganda, with a team of 10 including two new members (Anaesthetist Jonathan Aron and Theatre Nurse Susan Maher). Being the only Surgeon on this occasion, I operated on 50 patients. I had difficulty in enlisting the help of an additional Surgeon for this trip. These two trips again highlighted the desperate need for training nurses and other professionals to facilitate ongoing care and rehabilitation of acid victims in Pakistan

and patients in Uganda where poverty leaves children and the elderly vulnerable to infections and diseases. We have therefore sent £10,000 to Acid Survivors Foundation, Pakistan, and £5,000 to Kumi Hospital, Uganda, for training provision.

In June I was on holiday in Sri Lanka and visited hospitals in the east and north of the country. They already have over 300 patients registered and needing treatment. However, the Sri Lankan Government have stopped all foreign teams visiting and until this restriction is lifted we cannot take a team.

Invitations have been received to take teams to a number of countries including Bangladesh, Nepal and Kashmir in Pakistan, all of which are being considered.

This new year therefore holds many possibilities and opportunities to serve the poor and vulnerable who are trapped in their suffering. Thanks to each one of you for your support and for promoting the charity.

Best wishes  
Charles