



The New Centurion

The newsletter of The Rotary Club of Aylesbury Hundreds

Issue 13

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Christmas 2011



Programme

Forthcoming events

**Santa Float
Meet 6.00 pm**



Dec 20 Stone
Meet Rose & Crown
Dec 21 Waddesdon
Meet opp Five Arrows
Dec 22 Hampden Hall and
Bierton

*Look out for the dates of other
important fundraising events*

More details contact
Jenny Bloom on
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Programme

Monday January 9th

Monday January 16th

Monday January 23rd

All club nights at Foxhills
Start 7.15 for 7.30 pm
Dinner included
Apologies to Stella



We now have leadership continuity

We are now entering one of our busiest periods as Christmas approaches. We have enjoyed our traditional European weekend, this time to Lille in France, and then our Christmas Dinner at The Queens Head – thanks to Roger King for organising both.

During December we will ‘can rattle’ at Tescos and go forth with our carol float and Father Christmas to collect for our charity fund. In the last two years we were hampered by snow and ice, which meant that most collections had to be cancelled. We have continued our charity programme but the fund has become depleted. So hopefully the good weather continues and we will have a bumper collection this year.

Just before Christmas we will take 50 children from Pebblebrook School to the pantomime Dick Whittington at the Waterside Theatre. For the first time the whole school will go - this is with the kind help of Aylesbury Town Council who have provided grant funding. I am also very grateful to the Town Council for their grant for our Technology Tournament in February.

A lot has happened since the last newsletter, including joint meetings with other Rotary Clubs – with Aylesbury to explore possible participation in the 2012 Games, and Wendover for a charity restaurant evening for the Jaipur Limb Clinic.

Our annual Young Chef Competition held at Aylesbury College was a great success and is reported elsewhere in this bulletin – many thanks to Brian



Disatrick Governor John Bromley during his visit to the club with new members Robin Elliott (left) and Steven Fitzpatrick (right) and President Jon Mullins

Billingham for organising the event.

I was delighted to induct Stephen Fitzpatrick as the second new member during my presidency when the District Governor visited us. I am hopeful that I will be inducting some more members in the New Year.

Members and their family and friends enjoyed our first ever bonfire and fireworks party, thankfully the weather was dry and mild. Many thanks to Jenny Bloom for hosting and feeding us all, and to Kim Dixon for handling the pyrotechnics. The event raised £100 for Florence Nightingale Hospice.

A lot of effort was put into our Darts Marathon to raise funds for Diabetes UK but unfortunately we had to postpone due to lack

of entries. Nevertheless, the event is being rescheduled in the New Year and this should give us time to increase participation and raise a bumper amount. Thanks to Charles Chaney for persevering with this important event.

I am delighted that at our SGM we have now confirmed the presidents for the next few years to follow on from my Vice President Barry Curryer – they will be Mark Pryer followed by Mike Bennett. This gives us some leadership continuity and will enable longer term planning. Thanks to them all for their commitment.

That leaves me to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

**Jon Mullins
Club President**

YOUNG CHEF REACHES HIGH STANDARDS

This year's Young Chef Competition was held on Saturday 19th November 2011 in Hardings' Restaurant, Aylesbury College, with six young Food Technology students between the ages of 11 and 16 selected from an entry of eleven; three from Aylesbury High School, two from the John Colet School and one from the Sir Henry Floyd School.

Once again, Daniel Richardson, Head Chef of Hartwell House Hotel was Head Judge, a role that he and his predecessors have held for nineteen of these events, together with Fred Reader, a Senior Catering Lecturer at the College, and Nigel Rumsey of Rumsey's Chocolatier Restaurants.

The students commenced by setting out their tables in the dining area, and then proceeded to prepare their dishes. They had two hours to produce two courses each, with the cost of the major ingredients not exceeding £10.00.

Judging was difficult, but eventually the top three students were selected, with a highly commended awarded to one of the younger entrants who the judges said should have a special mention.

The winner was Kira Graham, aged 13, from the John Colet School for her pan fried venison followed by brandy snap baskets, lemon curd & crème fraiche, the second was Charlie Aggett, aged 16, from the Sir Henry Floyd School for his pan fried duck breasts with honey & coriander sauce followed by pear & thyme tarte tatin, and third was Georgia Price, aged 13, from the John Colet School for her roasted honey & chilli duck followed by chocolate & hazel nut mousse. The highly commended fourth was Julia Rushmore aged 11 from Aylesbury High School.

Mayor Jenny Puddefoot presented certificates to all six entrants, and prizes to the top four. Kira Graham's prize was lunch for herself and family at the Hartwell House Hotel, Charlie Aggett won a voucher for himself and family at Hardings Restaurant, Georgia Price won a place on a chocolatier course at Rumsey's School in Stone, and Julia Rushmore received a set of kitchen knives.

Another successful event which received grateful acknowledgement from the parents of the youngsters attending.

Brian Billinghamurst



And the winner is....Kira Graham seen here with the Mayor of Aylesbury Cllr Jenny Puddefoot and the three judges

Lille Week-end a great success



Rotarians and friends enjoy some Christmas ale.

Another successful continental week-end was enjoyed by 29 Rotarians, partners and friends. This year we returned to the ever popular Lille which we first visited in 2001. But how did it all start?

In 1996 member Bob Lewis came up with the idea of a booze cruise to France. Bob was a frequent visitor to France for holidays and long week-ends, and back in those days the price differential for wine & beer was far greater than it is now, so Bob, forever looking for a bargain, organised a day trip to Ardres not far from Calais. The trip, travelling with Motts by ferry, included a lunch in a decent restaurant and a visit to a Supermarket. .

The following year Bob included an overnight stay in a quaint private hotel in Wissant, a small village half way between Calais and Boulogne. Because of its eccentricity, I think that trip will go down in the annals of Rotary 100's folklore. Since then we have visited many towns in Belgium and France including Amiens, Abbeville, Tournai, Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, Ypres, Arras and Calais & Boulogne, twice each. . Many members and friends have been regulars over the past 15 years, including Brian & Judith with their friends David & Agnes, Sue & Kim with their family & friends, and Anne & Oliver Statham. Incoming President Barry Curryer has asked me to organise a week-end in 2012 so watch this space. **Roger King**



President Jon with Tony, Mike and wives enjoying dinner on the Saturday night in Lille