

Maidenhead Rotaract Club Newswire



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Welcome once again to your newsletter, and as usual it has been a very busy period. This is particularly true with respect to the community activities we have been involved in. As you read through there are a lot more details, but here is a quick summary...

We had our own horsey hopper race night, a great evening of bouncing up and down Pinder Hall in Cookham and raising over £200. The pictures and press coverage of this event were particularly amusing to see!

Then we had three teams entering Moonraker, a night time orienteering challenge to raise money for rotary charities – well done to all those who took part, it really was hard work. There was also a fantastic turnout for 'Maidenhead's Got Talent' with 450 people turning up to Taplow Court. Special recognition is due here for Lisa, as she also did all the publicity/branding for the event, a challenging job well done!

And in addition to all of this there was the Marshalling for Thames Hospice Care's charity bike ride, for which Dani and I are particularly appreciative of your support (and direction!) as we cycled round the course. What was really nice was all the feedback I've been given about how friendly and good the 'marshals' were as I cycled round the course, people really do notice and appreciate Rotaract when we do these things.

We have our community hour totaliser again, have a quick look, but what is even more impressive is the conversion of hours to money. This really shows what a difference we are all making by putting a few hours into these events – THANK YOU!

As if the community work didn't include enough socialising, have a read of the social section, from cake making to race nights, quizzes to baby showers there was loads going on! We also have had one of our major international events of the year, the world culture party. This was a great success and thank you to all of you who presented, prepared food and activities for the event. It was also great to see a good turn out from other Rotaract clubs in the district, and I would really encourage you all to get to some of the future district events.

We also have 'my time in Rotaract' article by one of our most famous members – Joseph Williams – who has singled handily pushed our environmental form score up every time he comes to a meeting by coming on public transport. It really is good to hear from you all with regards to what you like about the club, so please keep telling us. Adam and Lisa have also been to the District Conference, one of the highlights of which was seeing Zara speak to the hundreds that were there, read on to find out how she got on...

Finally, we really are now coming to the end of the Rotaract year (1st July), so please do have a think about becoming a committee member for next year. It really can be a rewarding and fun experience. To help you decide if it is for you there is more information further into the news letter.

That just leaves me to say, thank you and have fun!

Alex

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Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



COMMUNITY ROUND-UP

South Bucks Hospice called on Rotaract at the last minute to help out at their annual Snowdrop Walk as they'd been let down by other volunteers. Of course we proudly stepped in to ease the burden with Jenni and Julia lending a hand on Saturday 20th February. The event included enjoying a lovely, leisurely Sunday afternoon walk in the beautiful surroundings of West Wycombe House and grounds and seeing the wonderful array of snowdrops. This was another key event for the hospice providing funding to help with the continual cost of the hospice catering for terminally ill patients across this area.

This past-weekend (10th April) six keen Rotaractors ventured out bright and early (7am!!) to help out at the annual Thames Hospicecare Bike Ride. Initially this seemed like a daunting task but turned out to be a great morning of sitting in the sun, chatting and watching the traffic go by.

Splitting into two groups we were positioned at two key points along the route. Helen, Craig Baxter and Ruben went out to the mini roundabout turning left onto B4447 (signposted). While Jenni, Amy and Craig Fuller were positioned in on the route between Cookham and the ferry bridge over to Bourne End. Equipped with our folding chairs, goodies and hot drinks we had an interesting morning, initially shifting ourselves into the sun but once the sun was up it got a lot warmer.

There were a few near misses! We became very glad we didn't sit under the arrow showing the direction when a rather older lady took it at well over 40mph, mounting the curb and just stopping before she hit the lamp post, then changing her mind and carrying on - her poor car!

As the event got underway we waited for our bikes to be directed, feeling like we should be counting we decided on cars - push and not. We got very excited when the first bikes came through (they looked very professional in all their kit) we gave our directions and they just kept coming. We were counting up the bikers to let Alex and Danni (who were participating) know where they were. We did a sterling job at giving our direction to the extent that we even directed three races (those posh looking riders weren't for our race!!).

When the last rider had gone through we packed down and headed back to the start. Feeling like our day was nearly over - it turned out it was only about 11.30 - time for lunch. What a way to start a day - it's the longest Sunday in ages.

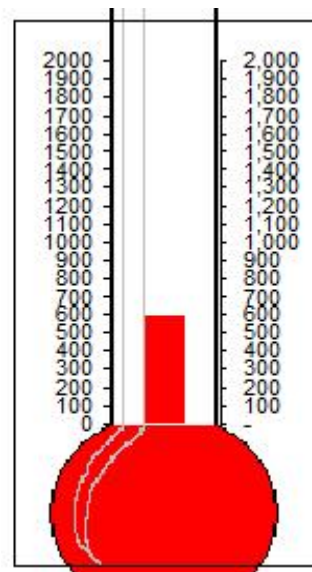
So what is coming up, how can you help, what fun adventures can we have while volunteering :

- Thames Hospicecare - Midnight Walk in Windsor on Saturday 2nd July (walking into Sunday) which we are looking for marshals or participants.
- Cancer Research - Race for life needs help on three events at Royal Windsor Racecourse. - Two on Saturday 2nd July at 11.00am and 3.00pm and then one on Sunday 3rd July at 11.00am.
- Windsor Horse Rangers - date to be confirmed (helping sort bits and bobs around the farm)
- Maidenhead Thames Rotary - "Maidenhead At The Movies" event in July and a carnival in June

I will keep you updated on more events in the coming weeks, so keep your eyes on your emails. Amy Jordan

ROTARACT VOLUNTEER HOURS

So far as a club we have donated 583 hours of time! Still a way off of our goal but still a huge amount of hours. If you convert that into the minimum wage it's a whopping £3,451.36! Well done everyone and a massive thank you to all who have helped out at an event.



Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



SOCIALISING AT ITS BEST

In the last couple of months we have attend a number of quizzes which is beginning to be the standard for our club. The first being The slug and Lettuce in Marlow where we again won, continuing from our success last year. We also attended quizzes hosted by other clubs, Maidenhead Thanes Rotary's Big quiz where we did well coming 6 out of 39 teams. Some members also attended Langley and Iver's Traditional Pub quiz night continuing their 'traditional' theme, which was great fun and saw the Rotaract team take 1st prize! Watch this space for further quizzes when we try our hand at the quiz at the Pond House and of course our very own Cheese and Wine quiz on 15th April.

A recent new addition to our club calendar has been evenings at Burnham grammar school trying our hand at a variety of culinary dishes. They started last year with Sushi making and this year we have continued the efforts with cake making and chocolate making. I think the cakes were so good they didn't even make the following club meeting! Later in the year we are also going to turn our hands at Curry - we will have to see how that turns out!!



As always with Maidenhead Rotaract there have been evenings out for food. Which have included Steak night at The Bear and Noodles at Noodle Nation. These are great relaxing evenings with a chance to catch up with people.

The girls also spent an afternoon putting on a baby shower for Lisa and Baby Hunter. There was plenty of tea and cake and of course many gifts for the new baby ranging from the ever needed nappies and baby wipes to the cute teddies and adorable clothes. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Adam and Lisa lots of health, happiness, and joy with their new arrival.



But the fun didn't stop there and most recently saw a group of us support High Wycombe Rotaract and their night at the races. A superb 2 course meal was served, in addition to canapés and a free glass of fizz on arrival! We placed bets on pre-recorded horse races and joined in with the fun atmosphere. Some of us did better than others in the bets winning more than a few races but the most entertaining race was the backwards stakes, which saw the horses going backwards around the course and the winner was the first one back to the starting post!

So as always its been a great couple of months with a variety of social events for us all to enjoy. However, if there is an activity that you want to take part in or have a special interest in please let Devin, Jess or Pete know and we'll look to undertake organising it for the club.

Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



HORSEY HOPPER RACE NIGHT



Maidenhead Rotaract went hopping mad in Cookham on Friday 25th February to raise money for a local children's cancer charity.

Guests at the event bounced down the racetrack on space-hoppers at Pinder Community Hall in a series of races at the Horsey Hopper Race night, placing small bets on who would be victorious. The evenings highlight was the final race to find out which bouncer proved to be the best Horsey Hopper jockey.

The event was organised to raise money for The Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service (ADCHS). More than 40 enthusiastic bouncers took part in the races raising over £200 for the charity whose long term aim is to build a children's hospice in the Berkshire area.

Lisa Hunter, organiser of the event, said "just like all the other events we organise it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and even better that we can do so whilst supporting a great local charity."

MOONRAKER 2011

Moonraker is a night time orienteering challenge organised annually by Langley and Iver Rotary Club to raise money for Rotary supported charities. It provides teams of 4 with the opportunity to use map-reading skills to complete a 10-mile cross-country circuit on footpaths, through woodland, common and scrubland. The course should be completed in good time for breakfast on Sunday morning.



After last years successes Maidenhead Rotaract was able to retain the coveted "Derek Breslin Rotaract Challenge Cup" as the winning Rotaract team.

A well deserved congrats to the 3 teams that took part – they all did very well and had great fun.

- Maidenhead Rotaract Quick Foxes (Craig B, Craig F and Alex) – 5th place with 44 points.
- Maidenhead Rotaract Jager Bombers (Devin, Nikki) – 12th place with 40 points
- Maidenhead Rotaract Tequila Sunrise (Ruth, Loong) – 17th place with 38 points



All sponsorship money raised will be split 50/50 with Langley & Iver Rotary Club Charitable projects and Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service.

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Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



MY TIME IN ROTARACT

My time in Rotaract - why I joined, why I stay and what I've learnt so far and my best bits!

I initially joined Rotaract because I needed something to do, I was becoming far too content sitting in front of my computer for hours on end. I was looking to find out about events in the area when I found that Rotaract was doing Laser Tag. At the time I had never heard about Rotaract and I only had a vague recognition that Rotary was a thing, so I went to a meeting to get to know more. At the end of the meeting I had not only arranged to go to Laser Tag but also a charity collection the next day along with several other charity, social, community and educational events to follow which solved my problem of having too much free time on my hands and I made some really good friends and had fun along the way.

Since joining Rotaract I have definitely become more aware of the community, I have even become involved in events and causes outside of Rotaract too. As a result of Rotaract activities I have become more confident, more active and I started going to the gym (lifting sodden car seats out of rivers is especially hard work when unfit)

My favourite event of this (Rotaract) year would probably be the trip to the New Forest because it was simply a beautiful place with lots of paths to wander down and take pictures, also the team building exercises were fun and I think we really connected as a group. Aside from New Forest trips it seems that Maidenhead Rotaract has a pretty good quiz team or at least we are having a good run.

Rotaract is a great way to get out and to get involved in the community, the people are friendly and we are always happy to have new people come along and join in..

By Joseph Williams

WORLD CULTURE PARTY

On Tuesday 8th March we held our third World Culture Party at The Rose Pub in Maidenhead. This was a chance for people to learn about other countries/cultures by presentations given by our club members.

We had three fantastic presentations, with Craig Baxter teaching us about Mandarin, Katy Ross talking about Tasmania and Lisa teaching us about Mexico. We also had the pleasure of having a go at hitting a Piñata which Lisa provided. Everyone enjoyed having a good hit at this!

After the presentations we got to see a video about what Boris Beefeater Bear has been up to on his travels so far. Boris looks to be having lots of fun. He seems to have met lots of new friends from the other Rotaract Clubs he has visited in Europe so far.

We also had a buffet of foods from around the world for people to enjoy. As it was Shrove Tuesday we enjoyed eating some pancakes too.

It was a very enjoyable night and we even raised some money for our charity Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service.



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Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



CLUB COUNCIL 2011-12

As I mentioned earlier, it's this time of year when we start to encourage you to get involved in the club council for next year.

As I'm sure you know, the council is the key to the success of the club, and the more involvement there is the better the club will be. There are numerous events through the year, all of which need a level of organisation. These may vary from big charity events down to meeting up in the pub for a drink.

The positions within the club include:

- President
- Secretary
- PR
- International
- Treasurer
- Vice President
- Community & Fundraising
- Personal Development
- Social
- Membership

We wouldn't expect you to do something for nothing, so what is in it for you? Clearly there aren't any financial gains, but here are some things that I thought of that might benefit you...

- **Personal development** - From running meetings, organising events and communicating with people from all over the world, there are a huge range of skills with lots of support to help you.
- **Your CV!** Because of the above Rotaract can look great on your CV and shows great commitment outside of work.
- **The more you put into something the more you get out of it** - when an event or activity you have organised goes well you get a great sense of achievement
- **Fun** - as with everything in Rotaract it should be enjoyable. The council meetings are always social and usually involve a bit of food.

So do please talk to any of the existing council members about what they do and let us know if you are interested.

MAIDENHEAD'S GOT TALENT



What talent, what confidence and professionalism. Maidenhead and Windsor should be very proud of its amazing young musicians representing Cox Green, Desborough Boys, Furze Platt, Newlands Girls, Charters, Windsor Girls and Windsor Boys who gave a memorable concert to a 450 packed audience in the concert hall at Taplow Court, the SGI Buddhist centre, on Friday 1st April.

The event treated the audience to a complete variety of music in the first half; the Furze Chamber Choir, a guitar and vocal pop solo by Sam Brett from Desborough school, the performing arts choir and woodwind ensemble from Newlands Girls ending with foot tapping music by the Cox Green Saxophone quartet and their Jazz Orchestra.

These were just some of the superb performances.

The music ranged from Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah', the Muppets, Rock around the Clock, the Sorcerer's Apprentice and James brown's 'I got feeling'. Then the second half was the 'Faure' Requiem performed by a 200 massed choir drawn from all the schools, a chamber orchestra of distinction, and solos by two well known BBC soloists Elizabeth Poole and Edward Poole.

John Carr, event organiser, commented "The audience was blown away. You could have been in the Albert Hall with the beautiful interpretation of this well known piece of music rehearsed and conducted by Peter Asprey."

"The standing ovation lasted for over 5 minutes and the conductor and soloists were brought back three times. It was truly a magical night", he continued.

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ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The weekend of 18th - 20th March Lisa and Adam attended the Rotary District 1090 Conference in Birmingham. For those of you who haven't been to a conference before, this is 'the' event of the year at the district level. People from all the clubs in the Thames Valley and surrounding areas came together for a weekend of fellowship, fun and interesting workshops and speakers. The district conference allows clubs to share ideas and learn about what Rotary is doing at a global level.

There were a number of very interesting speakers at the conference, including the UK Minister for Trade and Investment (Lord Digby Jones), a big cat conservationist (David MacDonald), a head teacher known for turning around a struggling school (Lady Marie Stubbs), a former Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister and War Correspondent (Jonathan Aitkin), and a former Ambassadorial Scholar who is now working for Google (Josh Woodward). All of them gave inspiring presentations and certainly provided food for thought.



Other speakers also included the outgoing GSE Team, including Zara from our very own Rotaract Club. They gave a great presentation and are certainly going to have an amazing time in Argentina. Zara did a great job, probably not helped by Lisa and Adam clapping and cheering loudly!

On the Saturday afternoon was a 'youth rally', where a group of visiting high school students from Zambia sang songs and performed traditional dances. It was incredible! We also heard the inspiring story of a Rotary Peace Scholar from Cambodia who had grown up in abject poverty but managed to work his way through university. He is now on the most prestigious Rotary scholarship studying Peace and Conflict Resolution at one of the 7 universities recognised by the Rotary Peace Scholars program.

But conference is not all about listening to speakers and sharing ideas, its also about having fun...and fun we had. With Rotaractors from 5 of the clubs in district we enjoyed some excellent Indian food, well we were in Birmingham home of the Balti. Saturday afternoon some went for a tour of the old jewellery quarter whilst others enjoyed the many shops in the infamous Bull Ring Centre. That evening we ate yet more food and enjoyed a drink or two, or three in the many pubs and bars in Brindley Place.

It was a great weekend and one that is highly recommended as you really do leave feeling inspired and motivated to continue the amazing work we do as members of the Rotary Family.

Next year the conference is heading to Bournemouth so do come along to be inspired...



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Upcoming Events



Below is a list of our upcoming events - if you want to come along to any just let Lisa (07876 341334) or Alex (07986 801255) know by calling/texting or email maidenhead@rotaract.org.uk.

A complete list of our upcoming events is available on our website www.rotaract.org.uk/maidenhead

Date	Event	Location
15th April @ 7.30pm	Cheese & Wine Quiz	Holyport Hall
16th April - all day	Charity Family Fun Day	The Emperor Pub
19th April @ 7.45pm	Club Meeting	The Rose PH
26th April @ 7.30pm	Noodle Nation Social Night	Noodle Nation
3rd May @ 7.45pm	Club Meeting	The Rose PH
9th May @ 7.30pm	Chocolate Making	Burnham Grammar Schl
17th May @ 7.45pm	Club Meeting	The Rose PH
20 - 22nd May	Club Weekend Away	Llangrose Lake, Wales
31st May, 7.30pm	Pudding Party	TBC



CHEESE & WINE QUIZ

No it's not a quiz about cheese & wine, it's a general knowledge quiz where we'll provide you with a complementary glass of wine and a selection of cheese & bread to nibble on throughout the evening!

A chance for the whole Rotary Family in District 1090 to come together for some fun and to support the local community.

Friday 15th April @ 7.30pm
Holyport War Memorial Hall, SL6 2NA
Tickets: £6.50