

Maidenhead Rotaract Club Newswire



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



There is a big focus on the New Year in this newsletter as we all start to plan for the next Rotary/Rotaract year. As you will read, there is an article about Rotary International's theme and focus's for the 2011 to 2012 year.

There is the Rotaract Preconvention that you are all invited too and a little bit more close to home, we will be encouraging you to get involved in the club council for next year too.

Boris is also off on his great adventure, and of course we have a summary of all the planned events coming up on the horizon.

For the first time we also have a measure of the amount of time we have put into community work as a club. The target has been set at one full working year, or about 2000hrs of community work. If we hit this by the end of the Rotary year I think it will be a fantastic achievement of which everyone could be very proud of. As you can see we do have a little way to go, but there are many big events coming up including our very own horsey hopper night and supporting Rotary events. Plus don't forget to record how long it took for you to complete your promises from the auction of promises. Please do take a photo of yourself fulfilling your promise, it would make a great slide show if it the event is ever repeated.

But as much as we look forward at this time of year, we also look back. As usual you can read about a selection of our past events with plenty of photos. Jenni too takes a trip down memory lane as she thinks about her time in Rotaract.

Finally, I hope you all had a good valentine's day! ;-)
Alex

HORSEY HOPPER RACE NIGHT



Join a race night with a difference!

Rather than watching a race DVD we'll be using horsey-hoppers and real-life Rotaract Jockey's!!

Support our chosen charity the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service

Friday 25th February @ Pinder Hall, Cookham - £4

In this issue:

- Community Round-up
- Socialising at its best
- International
- My time in Rotaract
- Rotary Round-up
- Club Council 2010-11
- Social Networking
- Rotary's New Theme
- Future Events

Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



COMMUNITY ROUND-UP

In the run up to Christmas Rotaract was exceptionally busy with volunteering activities. After the fantastic success of last year's annual OAP Christmas Party, which we have had loads of lovely thank you cards from, we're on the look out for new people to invite! Many of those who attended the party have said just how much they have enjoyed the event and are already looking forward to the party in 2011, so lets share this with other local elderly residence. If you know anyone who would like to be invited to the event please pass on their contact information to Amy.

In December we had a manic few weeks with more events than we could possibly have helped out on. To name just a few we helped out at the Alexander Devine Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary's Church, Slough, undertook a present wrapping day at the Nicolson centre on behalf of ADCHS and provided all the food at the East Berkshire Women's Aid Children's Party.

After the rush of Christmas the January cool down began and there were less community projects been undertaken BUT now coming into February we need to wind ourselves up and get back out there. Keep your eyes pierced for some exciting up and coming events in the coming months. We also hope to have some community talks to get everyone back in the volunteering mood.

If you know of any local charities who would benefit from some willing Rotaract volunteers please pass on contact information to Amy.

Update from Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service

As our charity of the year, here is a quick run-down of news from the charity:

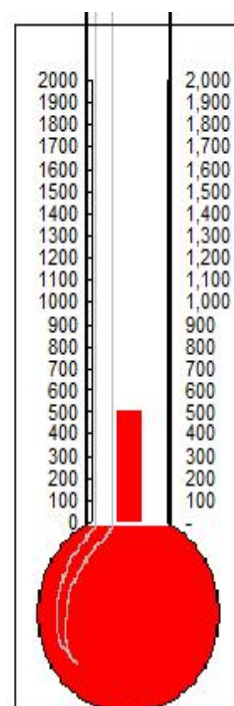
- Thanks to your much valued support, as a charity we have over £770,000 in raised funds (correct in July 2010), and are now providing a service throughout East Berkshire with our Alexander's Nurse.
- Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service is delighted to confirm that the Home Secretary, The Right Honourable Theresa May MP, has agreed to become a patron of the charity. As MP for Maidenhead, Theresa has long been a supporter of Alexander Devine, as they work to build the first children's hospice in Berkshire.
- Founder Fiona Devine said in the past year the charity had begun to offer palliative care to parents of 20 terminally ill children in east Berkshire. Now she hopes to find another nurse who can help west Berkshire families.

ROTARACT VOLUNTEER HOURS

New this year we thought we'd monitor just how many hours we volunteer as a club and have been keeping a close eye on what we've all been up to.

I'm pleased to say that to date we've volunteered just over 500 hours of our time to good causes, which equates to 25% of the hours of a full time employee. This is a great achievement so a massive thank you to everyone who has given up their time to get involved. We hope you've all had fun doing it!

With the weather getting warmer we're gearing up to spring into action so we can take these hours even further and reach our target of 2000 hours - equating to a full time employees annual hours!



Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



SOCIALISING AT ITS BEST

Over the last few months the Rotaract members have been getting together for a number fun events. On December 13th a few went to see the brilliant Pantomime Peter Pan at the Wycombe Swan. It was a highly enjoyable event the only downfall being there was no dame, according to Devin anyway!!



Adam and Lisa's Christmas Party was not as full as was quite hoped due to immense amounts of snow that had fallen that morning. A great time was had by the few that did manage to get there and surprisingly they still managed to eat all the food, even though there was enough for 50 people! Baxter was also introduced to cheese in blankets which seemed to go down well!

On December 20th we had our not-so traditional Christmas dinner at a Moroccan restaurant in Windsor. It was very nice and a new experience for many of us! It was a very good night and even though it wasn't a usual Christmas dinner we still had crackers and Christmas hats, as well as the normal lame cracker jokes!



The ladies were treated to a pamper afternoon on Sunday 9th January thanks to Miranda. The girls had the choice of manicures, pedicures and facials which they all took advantage of and were very rested and relaxed by the end of it.

Another food event (always a popular choice with Maidenhead Rotaract!) where a few people went to the Pineapple pub in Dorney where they got to choose from the massive selection of sandwiches. It was a really good event and the food was amazing.

On Wednesday 12th January many went to celebrate Jenni's birthday by going to The Bear and having a drink and good ole catch up. We hope you had fun Jenni!

On January 25th quite a few went to Diwa to experience the Indian cuisine, well we did say we like food! It was very good food and fun was had by all that attended. Definitely a recommendation for the future.

We've also ventured out to support the other Rotaract Clubs in the district - our first trip was to High Wycombe Rotaract's Quiz night. A really good evening and although we didn't win we weren't last either! The following week we attended Wallingford Rotaract's Cheese & Wine Quiz, yes we can't get enough of quizzes! A very entertaining quiz which saw Adam most taken with the cryptic cheeses round which included the questions "How do you hide a small horse"....the answer...Mascarpone!

Most recently a few of us went to West Berks Rotaract's Charity Blind Auction - bidding on unwanted Christmas gifts but not knowing what you're going to get. Some very interesting lots "won" and we think we'll see them at the next Rotaract raffle....very entertaining!

This is just a snapshot of the fun events that we have had over the last few months and many more are planned over the coming months so keep an eye out for the emails.

www.rotaract.org.uk/maidenhead

Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



INTERNATIONAL



One of the great things about Rotaract is the fact that it is an international organisation, meaning that there are thousands of clubs all around the world. This gives us a great opportunity to learn about other cultures and expand our understanding of how other countries operate. It also means that we can link with clubs on every continent to carry out joint projects and help communities further afield too.

One project we are undertaking is to send our club mascot on a tour of the world, so let's introduce you to Boris Beefeater!

Dear Friends,

My name is Boris Beefeater and for the past couple of months I have been living in Maidenhead, which is in England.

I was brought to Maidenhead by the Rotaract Club of Maidenhead, District 1090, and have been enjoying the local sights. So far I have been out for a Chinese meal, have been on a weekend away to Wales, helped raise funds for local charities and have been to many other places with my Maidenhead Rotaract friends.

However, I feel I am now ready to move on and see more of the world, especially Europe. I would like to learn about your country/culture and all the different things you do together in you Rotaract Club. I would stay with your club for a few weeks before you kindly send me onto my next destination.

So where is Boris heading first?

I am off on the first of my many travels soon! I am very much looking forward to it and hope to return to the UK with some good stories to tell and some great photos to show you all.

My first destination is The Rotaract Club of Santo Tirso in Portugal, then off to The Rotaract Club of Lisbon. From here I will travel to visit the Rotaract Club of Madrid, before finishing up in Amsterdam with the Rotaract Club of Amsterdam. I am very much looking forward to learning about the other Rotaract Clubs I will be visiting and making new friends.

I hope to go to other destinations in the future, such as Kentucky, Brazil and many more!

Boris' Birthday is 27th January and he is now one years old.

www.rotaract.org.uk/maidenhead

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 joined Maidenhead Rotaract in January 2010 because I had moved into the area and wanted to make some friends. I was a bit apprehensive the first time I met everyone, at a bowling event, which really wasn't a great setting for me as I'm pretty shocking at bowling!

However, I latched on to another newbie, Sunny, and together we seemed to do alright! Everyone was really friendly and inviting and I thought, I think I can fit in here! Since then I've made plenty of new friends and I like the way there's always something going on.

Rotaract has been, and continues to be, really good for my confidence, both in starting conversations with people and expressing my views in a large group. I've also learnt new skills, such as how to make sushi, and then realising I don't actually like it!

My favourite event of the year was our weekend away to the New Forest as not only was it a great location but it was lovely to spend a weekend with everyone and get to know people better. I also really enjoyed the OAP Christmas Party; you can't beat sausage rolls, cakes and some Christmas carols with the Borough's best OAPs!

I fully recommend joining Rotaract if you're looking to meet some great people, do some interesting activities and help out in your community.

By Jenni Howells

ROTARY ROUND-UP

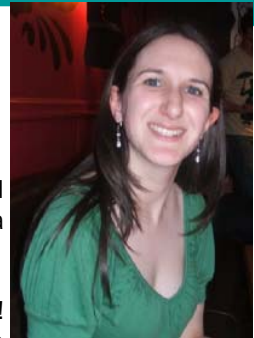
Every Rotaract club has a sponsoring Rotary club, ours, Maidenhead Rotary, has evening meetings on the last Monday of every month. As we have representatives from their club come to our meetings we also attend theirs.

At the evening meetings there is a three course meal followed by a speaker. These meetings also provide time for advertising some of our events and discussing mutual support of events as The Boundary walk, Swimathon, OAP Party and Cheese and Wine quiz, all of which give something back to the community and raise money for charity. In recent months the Rotary club has showed their appreciation for our help and support by providing us with donations to help run some of our events and raise further funds for charity. £200 for our help with the boundary walk and £500 for our general help and support.

Over the last year there has been a number of speakers from Tennis Umpires to antique dealers, and including our very own Past President Lisa. One of the more esteemed speakers expected to speak was Teresa May however she cancelled at the last minute due to her political obligations. She has since rearranged to the end of the month and hopefully she will be able to make this one. As she had to cancel this left an empty spot to fill. The President of Maidenhead Rotary was able to call on a very special member of the club, Nikki Winton. For those of who you don't know Nikki managed to get over 600 children out of Prague in WW2. At 101 he is the eldest member of the club. He was also recently the subject of a TV show, Britain's Secret Schindler, definitely worth a watch.

The rotary club has also organised special Christmas meetings – unfortunately in the last couple of years they have both had to be cancelled due to snow!! But never fear this years event was rearranged, however Christmas carols in January is not quite the same!!

I would encourage anyone who has not been to an evening meeting to attend, not only is it an enjoyable evening out with an interesting speaker. You also get to talk and network with a wide range of people and you never know what opportunities there are around the corner.



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

Between them these cover everything that we do in the club, and just because there are ten roles does not mean that we are limited to ten in the council. I know it is clichéd, but many hands do make light work, and as time for everyone is a limiting factor we will encourage having more than one person in many of the roles. So don't let the worry about time put you off. Even if you can organise just one of the larger events I can assure you the whole of the rest

of the club will greatly appreciate it, just be realistic about what you can do from the start.

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.



SOCIAL NETWORKING

I'm sure we all spend a fair bit of time on social network sites such as Facebook so why not use them to help promote our club and get new members involved?

Our club is hugely successful and is one of the largest in the area, but that's because we promote ourselves to ensure we always have new members joining us.

The PR Team could do with some help to get our name out there so why not lend a hand?

Join our Facebook Group and add photos from our events, post messages about what we're up to and invite people to join it. You can join the group at:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=5094122785>

We also have a Meetup group - Meetup is the world's largest network of local groups which makes it easy for anyone to organise a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting up face-to-face. It is free to join as a member and is a great way to attract new members.

However, its also a great tool for you as well. You can RSVP to our upcoming events, get reminders about what's coming up, suggest ideas for new events and link it to your iPhone calendar so you're updated whilst on the move. Join our Meetup group at: www.meetup.com/Rotaract-Club-of-Maidenhead

www.rotaract.org.uk/maidenhead

Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



ROTARY'S NEW THEME



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

RI President-elect Kalyan Banerjee will ask Rotarians to *Reach Within to Embrace Humanity* during the 2011-12 Rotary year.

Banerjee unveiled the RI theme during the opening plenary session of the 2011 International Assembly, a training event for incoming district governors.

He urged participants to harness their inner resolve and strength to achieve success in Rotary.

"In order to achieve anything in this world, a person has to use all the resources he can draw on. And the only place to start is with ourselves and within ourselves," Banerjee said.

Once Rotarians find their inner strength, he continued, they can accomplish great things in their communities and around the world.

"Discover yourself, develop the strengths within you, and then unhesitatingly, unflinchingly, go forth and encircle the world, to embrace humanity," he said.

Banerjee emphasized the family as a starting point in serving others. "The communities we live in are not built of individual people but of families – families living in homes together, sharing their lives and their resources and their common destinies. Good families lead to good neighbourhoods, and good neighbourhoods build good communities."

Rotarians can focus on projects that support families, such as those that provide safe housing or improve maternal and child health, he said.

Continuity in Rotary's work, including polio eradication, is also important, Banerjee said. "There are so many things we are indeed good at: working for clean, safe water; spreading literacy; working in so many ways with the New Generations, our youth, in our newest Avenue of Service and assisting them to become the leaders of tomorrow."

Citing Mahatma Gandhi's call to "be the change you wish to see in the world," Banerjee said Rotarians should also focus on change.

"If we wish for peace, we start by living in peace ourselves, in our homes and in our communities," he explained. "If we wish environmental degradation to stop, if we wish to reduce child mortality or to prevent hunger, we must be the instrument of that change – and recognize that it must start *within* us, with each of us."

Watch the video of the theme speech at :

http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/110118_IA11_themevideo.aspx

www.rotaract.org.uk/maidenhead

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
19th February 2011	Night on the Town inc dinner	Reading
22nd February 2011	Pub Quiz Night	Slug & Lettuce, Marlow
23rd February 2011	Club Council Meeting (members only)	TBC
25th February 2011	Horsey Hopper Race Night	Pinder Hall, Cookham
28th February 2011	Maidenhead Rotary Meeting	Maidenhead Golf Club
1st March 2011	Club Meeting	The Rose PH
4th March 2011	Anne Summers Party (Girls only)	Julia's Flat
5th March 2011	Roller	London
7th March 2011	Cake Making Night	Burnham Grammar School
8th March 2011	World Culture Party	The Rose PH
11th March 2011	Maidenhead Thames Rotary's Big Quiz	Holiday Inn
12th - 13th March	Moonraker Challenge	Chiltern Hills

WORLD CULTURE PARTY



Celebrating World Rotaract Week - Experience sights, sounds and tastes from around the world. All donations made on the evening will be donated to our chosen charity of the year - Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service

Tuesday 8th March @ 7.30pm
The Rose Public House
Tickets: £3

www.rotaract.org.uk/maidenhead