



Maidenhead Rotaract Club Newswire



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Doesn't time fly when you're having fun!

For a bit of inspiration I was looking back at the September 2009 newsletter to find Lisa welcoming me along with 14 other new members to the club. That means that I have been a member for over a year now, and on reflection what a year it has been!

I have been involved with everything from dressing up in a Santa Suit through to dragon boat racing. All of these events and activities have enabled me to do so many things and meet so many interesting people.

This also hit home how much the club has strengthened in recent times under Lisa's guidance; 15 new members and 'a full club council' reported in last year's article. As you read in the last newsletter, this year our club council is stronger than ever and the calendar already packed through until Christmas. So I would like to **welcome our first new members of the rotary year; Stuart, Ays and Tessa** – I trust that you will enjoy and make the most of being in the club, and have no free time as we're keeping you busy and entertained!

Unfortunately, it's not all to be good news. As proved at the meeting at the on 21st September we are a relatively 'young' club, in that the majority of members have been so for less than a year. Inevitably, given the age group we are, people will often move on quickly. But clearly retention of members is not easy, which seems a shame given that Rotaract is something that should appeal to all who want to make friends and get involved in the community.

The feel of Rotaract has changed a lot over the last year, I believe for the better, but if you are feeling that it's not working for you please tell us. We will endeavour to take onboard your thoughts and concerns and act on them to make it a better and broader club. We have a large committee; they want to **support the club, to support you**.

To make sure I finish on a positive note – just have a look at the huge variety of activities that have happened recently and all those still to come!

Have fun!
Alex

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Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



COMMUNITY ROUND-UP

It's the calm before the storm with Community and Fundraising at the moment. The highlight of the past few months has been the highly successful, if slightly damp, Boundary Walk. This event is run every year by the Rotary Club of Maidenhead and supported by Rotaract. 17 Rotaractors acted as marshals' at this years event, not being put off by the ominous weather forecast. People were positioned along the route to direct and assist the people taking part in this years walk. I was lucky(?) to be positioned at the ferry crossing, where boats are provided free of charge by Bray Boats to transport participants across the river just south of Maidenhead Bridge.



It was great to see not only the number of people participating, but also the range of people joining in. There was young, old, single people and entire families all walking together to raise money for their individual charities. I was particularly impressed with people walking with enormous pushchairs over the uneven ground and onto the boats.

It was heartening to have random people thanking me for helping to host the walk. Obviously I took all the credit and explained how instrumental I was in the walk going ahead... ahem. Speaking to the people taking part, everyone has a different reason for being there, be it having an illness, knowing someone suffering, school nominated charities of the year, scouts etc. For many people, the Boundary Walk is a regular event. One lady I spoke to was walking with her daughter and grand children for the fifth year & had been accompanying her granddaughter since she was 2 years old! Another gentleman was raising money for the 8th year running!

The Boundary Walk is a truly great event- one charity facilitating the fundraising for many other charities which are supported by the people of Maidenhead. Rotaractors donating just 2hrs of their time are able to help the event be a success year on year. Lets hope for better weather next time though!

Several other events have been taking place over the last couple of months including tin shakes (Lisa and Jenni) on behalf of Alexander Devine and in August a group of people volunteered to assist the Waterways Project clear a stretch of water in Bray.



This was great, with people clearing branches & taking them to the chipper. A sad but necessary end for the branch, which was then recycled and spread as chippings to aid the growth of other plants. Ah, the circle of life... You can see from the picture on the left, sent by the organiser, that the guys and girls did a great job & the stretch of river has already been explored by a band of canoeists (should that be band? Maybe it should be gaggle. Write in and let me know in the next newsletter!). Another clearance session is being held on 16 October, so we are looking forward to some more hands-on work.

Amy and I have also been talking to some charities we haven't helped so far during this Rotaract year & also those we have helped already. We are working to organise some great events from tin shakes, marshalling, charity stalls, gardening (creating a sensory garden for the blind at the recently vandalised Braywick Heath Nurseries & the traditional daffodil planting) and helping at the Longridge fireworks (always great to help at as it has good food and some fantastic fireworks), so watch this space and keep your weekends free as there is bound to be some volunteering to do!

Zara Leete, Community Officer

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Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



BANBURY CAMPING RALLY

On a bank holiday weekend in August a horde of Rotaractors arrived at a field in Banbury, including a 15 strong Maidenhead contingent, for some this would be their first nights under canvas.

Upon arriving the first priority was pitching tents, the darker it gets the less fun it is. Everyone helped out and we made good time, though guy ropes seemed a new concept to a few people and there was the customary peg shortage. Car head lights and head torches were on hand for the final tents then it was time for some serious... Socialising.



Fancy dress was the way of things at Banbury with each evening having its theme, the circus, pyjama party and cartoon characters. A huge amount of effort was put into costumes and if you weren't in fancy dress you really stuck out like a sore thumb, conversely 6 foot men in nighties blended into the crowd. The club had a full complement of Ninja Turtles on Saturday night, we were honoured by the presence of 2 lady turtles who came to keep the men in check. There were also representatives from Toy Story, The Flintstones and 4 Dennis the menaces!

The quiz on Saturday night allowed us to show off our intellectual prowess, we did particularly well on the "name the kids tv tune" round. Singing (or maybe shouting) along with each theme was great fun but I think we let slip a few answers as we got a little carried away. We went on to win though apparently having 3 times as many team members as anyone else is deemed a little unfair. Half the pot was our prize which we duly spent on shots at the bar. Come on all profits went to charity! Having started so well we really did need a Banbury first to complete the evening. One of our esteemed members was barred from the bar, something about being in no fit state to drive tomorrow if you carry on. Something to be proud of - I'm unsure!!



The high winds provided ideal kite flying weather. Kite in tow Fuller takes up position in the middle of the field many spectacular crashes later and Fuller might actually be getting better, but fate isn't having any of that. 10 minutes later Fuller's skidding across the field at the mercy of the wind a mad grin on his face. It was great fun, though the next morning I woke up with muscles aching I didn't know I had. Though great for kite flying the ferocious winds were not so kind on some of the tents as can be seen on the left!

Other activities included a treasure hunt, welly wanging, beer shopping and pub trips. There were a few down pours which meant hiding in tents and playing board games a tradition that has continued at our weekend in the new forest and the forthcoming games night. It did leave us with one question though, what colour are the cheapest properties on a monopoly board?

There are 2 things close to every Rotaractors heart food and drink, so it's no surprise that Maidenhead club was running the food for the weekend. Being up for 8am to start breakfast wasn't so fun after a heavy night though waking up your fellow campers ready for breakfast with ladle and saucepan is really rather satisfying. All profits from the food, a total of £1,077.06, went to the Wessex Neurological Centre who looked after Lisa's Mum when she suffered a subarachnoid haemorrhage earlier this year. Maidenhead also ran a Strawberries and cream event on the Sunday raising £156.60 for Breast Cancer UK.

The overall event raised a whopping £1,900 for the charity Whizz Kids so massive congratulations to High Wycombe Rotaract for putting on such a great event yet again!



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Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



EXPERIENCE NEW ORLEANS



Do you want to strengthen your Rotaract club? Learn more about excellent Rotaract service projects? Build lasting friendships with fellow Rotaractors from around the world? Experience one of the most vibrant cities in the world? If so, you'll want to attend the Rotaract Preconvention Meeting!

Taking place in New Orleans, USA from 20 - 25th May 2011 come along to discover the true internationality of the Family of Rotary, it's the event of the year so make sure you don't miss out!

What is the Rotaract Preconvention Meeting?

At this meeting, participants will have the opportunity to exchange ideas on a wide range of Rotaract topics in interactive workshops and listen to interesting and informative speakers, all designed to support and enhance the Rotaract activities underway in your community. Keynote speakers will include the leaders of Rotary International.



In addition to the official program, there are social events specially planned for Rotaractors by local Rotaractors on the "Rotaract Host Organizing Committee." Their job is to make sure there is plenty of fellowship and this year is no exception!

The Rotaract NOLA2011 Team has been working hard to produce an exciting line-up of social events for you in New Orleans. These events are the perfect way to top off your Rotaract Preconvention and RI Convention experience and provide the perfect setting to experience all that New Orleans has to offer. Read more about the social events on the next page!

It is the only "OFFICIAL" Rotary International sponsored Rotaract event for 2010 and the only one where the RI President will address Rotaractors specifically at our own convention meeting. It's truly international, not regional!!

Why should I attend?

There are many reasons to attend the Preconvention and Convention. First, it is a chance to see the world of Rotary and Rotaract in a whole new light. You know that Rotaract is an international organization, but when you attend a worldwide meeting, you really see that aspect of Rotaract differently. You will also learn more than you thought possible, get new ideas for your club, make lifetime friends, and have a BLAST. It's hard to do justice to the experience with words. It's something you have to experience for yourself!

How do I Register?

1. Rotaractors can only register by [downloading the paper form](#), filling it out, and [e-mailing](#) to RI.
2. Register for the social events at www.rotaractnola2011.com. Buy before 14th January and save money!
3. Book your hotel room - You will find information on the [RI website](#) where you can [download the housing form](#). You can [book your lodging online](#), also. Note that there is a specific hotel designated as the "Rotaract Hotel" (the La Quinta Downtown).
4. Book your flights and travel!



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Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



EXPERIENCE NEW ORLEANS

Here's the full schedule of social events:

Rooftop Picnic by the Pool at the Rotaract Hotel: After arriving from your travels, the Rotaract HOC will welcome you to New Orleans with a rooftop picnic by the pool at the official Rotaract Hotel. This event will be a perfect chance to reunite with old friends and make new friends.



World Famous New Orleans Funk: The Howlin' Wolf has a long history as one of New Orleans' finest locally owned and operated venues. Named after the legendary blues man Chester Burnett, New Orleans was introduced to the Howlin' Wolf in 1988, when it opened up in Fat City. After outgrowing its' space in a cotton warehouse, the venue relocated to what was previously the New Orleans Music Hall. The bar is as unique as you will find anywhere, made from hand carved mahogany; it was taken from Al Capone's hotel The Lexington during demolition in the 80's. Over the years, The Howlin' Wolf has had everyone from Harry Connick Jr. to Arturo Sandoval, the Foo Fighters, Bare Naked Ladies, Dr. John, Allison Krauss, Jimmy Page, and Jimmy Buffet are just a few of the musical Luminaries that have graced the stage. For dinner, enjoy a traditional New Orleans Po' Boy Sandwich of alligator, brisquette, or veggie with a side of jambalaya.

Steamboat Natchez Dinner & Jazz Cruise: Let us take you back to when life was as slow and graceful as the current on the Mississippi. Savour the beauty and romance of the New Orleans skyline aboard the last authentic steamboat on the Mississippi River, the Steamboat NATCHEZ. Enjoy entertainment by the world renowned Dukes of Dixieland jazz band and a gigantic buffet dinner with plenty of Louisiana cuisine favourites. You won't leave hungry! Finish off your evening in true New Orleans style with a night out on Bourbon Street, the party hub of the city, where you can experience the unmatched nightlife that Bourbon Street has to offer.



New Orleans Ghost Tour: Since its beginnings, New Orleans has been indefinably mystical. The legacy of death and dying, inhospitable surroundings, merciless disease, above ground burial as well as the horrors of slavery, savage piracy and outrageous corruption make this legendary haunt like no other. Experience an eerie evening walk of suspense into the dark edges of the haunted historic French Quarter. Drink in the history of the city as it's woven through legendary stories of the city's most infamous and blood thirsty. This tour combines the ancient art of storytelling with historic research and documentation. Discover why the un-rested and living dead roam among us,

especially in New Orleans.

New Generations Luncheon: Celebrate Rotary's Fifth Avenue of Service, New Generations. This luncheon conveniently takes place at the Hampton Inn Convention Center, which is just across the street from the Morial Convention Center so that you can quickly and conveniently return to the convention centre for the afternoon workshops. A New Generations program participants, alumni, Rotarians, and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Musee Conti Wax Museum: Enter the fascinating world of the French Creoles as the story of New Orleans unfolds before your eyes. Beautiful costumes, accurate décor, and unbelievable stories are woven into a history unlike any other city! Begin 300 years ago as you meet the local legends: Iberville and Bienville discovering the swampy city, the duc d'Orleans planning New Orleans, the casket girls, Napoleon as he sells Louisiana, Jean Lafitte the pirate, Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans, Marie Laveau and her voodoo dancers, Mardi Gras Zulu King Weatherspoon, Louis Armstrong and Pete Fountain. Plus the eerie Haunted Dungeon!

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Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



CLUB WEEKEND AWAY



After the success of our weekend in Wales we decided to do it again, this time we ventured to The New Forest reasoning that there was less chance of getting lost, as it's closer to home. We stayed in two cabins which meant we were back to bunk beds. Camping is great fun but it was cold and we all enjoyed the creature comforts. On arrival it was a little chilly as the heating wasn't set to come on until 8pm. So we did what anyone would do turn all the gas rings on. The kitchen and lounge

are toasty and warm, great we thought. Then someone opened to the door to the sleeping/toilet area and set the fire alarm off. Panic! Panic! You need a code to turn the fire alarm off, Matt to the rescue, the codes 1234, thank god for easy defaults. 2/3 more fire alarms and this games getting old, thankfully the sleeping area had warmed up so it wasn't a problem again.

Once everyone had been fed and watered we got down to business. A plethora of intoxicants were drunk that evening, aided by some silly games and lots of talk, we were up till 3am. At which point we stumbled back to our rooms in the other cabin. For reasons that I still don't understand rather than sleep in his bunk Stuart decided to spend the night on the sofa, the next morning he really looked like he suffered.

On the Saturday most of us had arranged to take part in some onsite activities including archery lessons where our skills varied greatly, some not quite managing to reach the target at all and others managing to find the apple on top of the target (some people did have previous experience which is an unfair advantage!) Others took part in an assault course which included spaghetti strings, planks and seesaw, to make it more difficult some did it blind folded, unable to hear anything or unable to communicate with others – harder for some members than others I expect!!



The rest of the day was filled with bike rides, football, walks in the surrounding area and some outdoor games. We also developed a game called 'spinnny' a chance to really indulge the inner 6 year old. The basic premise is to hold you hands at arms length, stare at them and spin round in circles as fast are you can, once truly dizzy do a shuttle run, 2 people do this and it's a race to see who can complete the run first. Remarkably simple you might say, but we can assure you it's not. Unfortunately there is some video evidence doing the rounds.



Saturday night got off to a slow start given the long day and the indulgences of the night before, gone are the days of mad partying more than once a week! The game of life played centre stage with brief appearances of Logo and taboo. Given the nature of the British weather we decided to forgo the traditional Saturday night BBQ, instead opting for industrial quantities of Risotto, the first time Devin had cooked it. Members of Bournemouth

Rotaract also joined us for the evening with prospective member Brian, meeting us lot a baptism of fire if ever there was one.

The next morning we all enjoyed, and welcomed, the large cooked breakfast complete with hash browns!! A bit of grease does wonders. We would all like to thank Devin and Pete for supplying food over the weekend, Matt for doing the washing up and everyone else that chipped in, it was all greatly appreciated. After cleaning the cabins we started our journey home, stopping off a pub for lunch midway. Everyone made it home safely and the weekend was a great success. Roll on next time!

Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



SOCIALISING AT ITS BEST

Here is a quick highlight of some of the amazing events that Maidenhead Rotaract have embarked on in the last couple of months.

About ten people enjoyed a thrilling day out at Thorpe Park in early September. An amazing day was had by all. The scariest part was the saw maze where some people were so scared they couldn't open their eyes throughout the whole experience, but we won't mention any names!



One Thursday quite a few of us enjoyed a curry (plus one burger) at The Shire Horse, it was very good food and even more fun!! Definitely a trip to be repeated!

On the 28th September 4 teams entered the Slug and Lettuce quiz in Marlow. It was the hardest quiz in the world but well done to one of the Maidenhead Rotaract teams that won (thanks to Adam) and very kindly put their £55 winnings towards the OAP Christmas party.

On the 19th September a few members went to Bournemouth for the day to visit Ruth and baby Matthew. Being British and some would say stubborn we were determined to spend the day on the beach...and we did! We enjoyed a lovely BBQ down at Ruth's beach hut, played a few games and of course played with Matthew too! On our way back we called into a country pub for a bite to eat - a really lovely day. Thanks Ruth!

Steak night - around 15 of us went to The Bear for a steak night and its true what they say... where there's food there will be Maidenhead Rotaract! It was very good food especially if you consider the price and location! We had the whole of the upstairs dedicated to us and our very own waiter. It was good fun and we need to do it again!!!

One Tuesday we had a competitive night of bowling with 4 lanes booked up. Though some people cheated and had the barriers up! Afterwards a few of us stayed for a drink and a few games of pool.

On the 14th September we had a fun filled night going down the flumes at Coral Reef in Bracknell. It was a very quiet night in the pool at one point we were the only ones there! Devin and Alex were very competitive and raced down the flumes. It was very good fun.



Maidenhead Rotaract does Marlow Brewery: The club definitely can organise a party in a brewery! Instead of our usual club meeting we decided to take the opportunity to unlimited drinks available at the Marlow Brewery. The evening involved a tour around the brewery, a generous amount of ale and a complimentary pint glass. Great fun was had by all!

This is just a handful of the events over the last couple of months, hopefully the next few will be just as fun and fulfilling.

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.

Date	Event	Location
19th October 2010	Club Meeting	The Rose Pub
21st October 2010	Club Social: Bingo Night	Gala Bingo, Slough
22nd October 2010	Pamper Night - all welcome, including the boys!	Lisa's House
23rd October 2010	Safari Super - good food touring round Maidenhead!	Pete's House, then Craig's Flat
25th October	Maidenhead Rotary Meeting - Auction night	Maidenhead Golf Club
26th October 2010	Pub Quiz - can we win again?	Slug & Lettuce, Marlow
27th October 2010	Club Council (members only)	TBC
30th October 2010	Alexander Devine Collection	Sainsbury's, Taplow
30th October 2010	High Wycombe's Harrowing Halloween - pumpkins & ghouls galore!	Burnham Resource Centre
2nd November 2010	Club Meeting	The Rose Pub, King Street
5th November 2010	Bonfire Party	Nikky's House
6th November 2010	Maidenhead Charities Fair	Maidenhead Town Hall
6th November 2010	Longridge Fireworks Festival	Longridge, Marlow
7th November 2010	Daffodil Planting	TBC
9th November 2010	LinkedIn Training Session	The Bear Pub
13th November 2010	Horsey Hopper Race Night	TBC

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