



Maidenhead Rotaract Club Newswire



EDITORS WELCOME

Welcome to the 5th and final edition of Maidenhead Rotaracts' Club Newswire this Rotary year.

Open up to read about all the great activities we've been up to over the last few busy weeks, including hog roasts, sponsored swims, trips to LA and Knickers for Africa!

There are loads of great activities coming up in the near future.. It's going to be a busy summer, but I can't wait! Take a look at the back page for the up-coming events!

Happy reading, Lisa

CHARITY TALKS

We've been really fortunate to hear from 2 local charities over the last month, details of both are below. We're hoping to link with them during 2008/09, making the Alexander Devine Trust our chosen charity of the year.



Alexander Devine Children's Cancer Trust

Alexander Devine Children's Cancer Trust has been set up in memory of a little boy called Alexander. Alexander was diagnosed with a rare brain tumour in November 2001 at the tender age of just four years.

In honour of his outstanding courage and strength his parents have formed this trust. The long term aim for Alexander's Trust is to build and fund a Children's Hospice service in the Berkshire area. In order to build Alexander House an minimum of £1.6m needs to be raised to achieve this goal.

Alexander House will be a home from home environment providing respite and quality time for the whole family, palliative care, specialist respite care, 24 hour emergency care, advice and bereavement information and support for the family.

You can find out more information at www.adcct.com.

Maidenhead Adult Dyslexia Centre

The Adult Dyslexia Centre aims to help dyslexic adults gain:

- Information about dyslexia
- Understanding of their dyslexia
- Improved confidence
- Improved literacy, numeracy and I.T. skills
- Provide employers with information on how they can help dyslexic employees.
- Provide dyslexia awareness training for people working with dyslexic students in secondary, further and higher education.

We were sorry to hear that they have had their funding cut and are therefore having to withdraw some of the much needed services they provide.

You can find out more information at www.adult-dyslexia-centre.co.uk



In this issue:

- World Swim Against Malaria
- Wii Champions
- Bramble Cutting
- Burnham's 30th Celebrations
- Maidenhead Carnival
- Knickers for Africa Launch
- Los Angeles - Convention Tour

Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



WORLD SWIM AGAINST MALARIA

On Sunday 18th May three members of Maidenhead Rotaract and 3 members of Maidenhead Rotary took part a sponsored swim in aid of World Swim Against Malaria.

Malaria is one of the biggest disease killers in the world. It kills at least 1.5 million people every year with 70% of the deaths being children under 5. That's equivalent to one child dying of malaria in Africa every 30 seconds, or 7 jumbo jets full of children disappearing from malaria every day.



The team swam a total of 192 lengths of the Magnet Leisure Centre Swimming pool in just 30 minutes. But more importantly we have raised over £375 for the charity.

This money will buy approximately 150 bednets (mosquito nets) which will help 750 people in malaria infected countries by preventing the spread of infection.

Lisa commented "It was just great to have members of Maidenhead Rotary join us in our swim. Working together is one way we can make even more of a contribution to the world, helping those that need it most."

WII CHAMPIONS...OR NOT!



Nina very kindly invited us round to her house to try out our Nintendo Wii skills....which we later discovered are not that great! Adam somehow managed to get a home run on the baseball game, even he's not sure how, and the SuperMario Karts game certainly brought out the road-rage in most of us.

I don't know about the rest of you but my arm certainly hurt the next day...I must have been doing something wrong!

www.rotaract.org.uk/maidenhead

Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



BRAMBLE CUTTING ANYONE?



When we were asked to help out Maidenhead Waterways Projects clearing some brambles I don't think any of us were quite prepared for what followed.

3 of us arrived at the back of Maidenhead Police Station one Sunday morning ready to attack the overgrown weeds, luckily we weren't doing it on our own! Climbing our way up the side of the old river bank we quickly got tangled in the brambles, and my do they hurt when they dig into you!

Once we had got over the initial brutality of the vicious brambles it didn't take us long to hack them down and reveal the old wharf lettering on the wall - revealing some history of Maidenhead.

A couple of hours later and we were done, a little tired and rather scratched but we'd achieved all we wanted to!

Here's looking forward to the next project!



BURNHAM'S 30TH CELEBRATIONS



To celebrate Burnham Rotaract turning 30 years old the club organised a celebration hog roast.

Picking one of the sunniest days of the year so far, over 100 guests including current Rotaractors from round the district, past Rotaractors of Burnham and Rotarians, joined in the fun.

The hog roast (hence the picture of a worried pig!) was lovely and luckily you didn't actually get to see it, much to Lisa's relief. After the speeches we all got down in true Rotaract style to enjoy the disco in the garden of the venue.

At the end we were all presented with a commemorative gift, a glass pint glass engraved with the details of the superb 30th Birthday event.

It was great to see so many familiar faces attend the event, and even better to see some new ones, such as Andrei coming along to his first Rotaract social - we hope you enjoyed it!

Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



MAIDENHEAD TOWN CARNIVAL



The town was awash with colour and music on Sunday 8th June for the Maidenhead Carnival float parade. It was great to see all the different floats on procession round the centre of the town and even better to see the crowds lining the streets watching in anticipation of a great couple of hours.

The floats were very interesting and included a samba band, the local Asian community and even some storm troopers and Darth himself!

As a club we assisted Maidenhead Rotary with crowd control and road closures. It's amazing, you put on a yellow tabard and all of a sudden you know everything and have the power to close roads!

The weather was superb and the atmosphere electric. I know for a fact that the 6 of us who leant a hand had a great time.



KNICKERS FOR AFRICA LAUNCH

Knickers 4 Africa is a charity dedicated to providing basic necessities, including underwear and baby clothes, to those in need in Africa. Donations can be either monetary or in kind and both really can change lives.

In October 2007, Emma Donovan, a past member of High Wycombe Rotaract, went to Sierra Leone with the charity Mercy Ships for 2 weeks. Before she went, a list of items was given out, on which was a plea for cotton pants. Emma decided that she would challenge her friends, family and colleagues to help her fill a suitcase; knickers were soon coming in from everywhere, including many from people she did not know! In total, Emma handed over 532 pairs to the clinic in Freetown, much to the Clinic Managers delight. After a few conversations, Emma realised that underwear was in high demand, and decided to do something about it, forming Knickers for Africa.

Adam and Nina went along to the launch party where they enjoyed African Drummers, a hog roast, kicker models and an amusing talk by the Knicker Lady.

For more information visit www.knickers4africa.moonfruit.com

www.rotaract.org.uk/maidenhead

Maidenhead Rotaract Out & About



LOS ANGELES, USA - CONVENTION TOUR!



Lisa flew over to Los Angeles to join over 300 Rotaractors at the Rotary International Rotaract Pre-Convention, not only representing Maidenhead Rotaract, but also Rotaract throughout Great Britain & Ireland.



She had a great time, taking part in the convention workshops hearing about how best to promote clubs, ideas for international projects and alike. Lisa also ran a workshop on the programmes of Rotary including Interact, RYLA, Youth Exchange, Friendship Exchange etc.

Outside of the convention workshops, Lisa enjoyed the hospitality of the LA Rotaractors who put on a great social programme including, a welcome pizza night, a boat cruise round Long Beach and a Hollywood Club Night – yes, that's right Lisa partied on Hollywood Boulevard!

Whilst there, Lisa had the chance to have a nose round the Hall of Friendship finding out about the projects Rotary are supporting such as the Polio Plus challenge and Rotarians Eliminating Malaria. She also did a stint on the Rotaract stand, promoting what we get up to, to Rotarians from all 4 corners of the world.

Lisa was also presented to the entire convention as an in-coming member of the Rotary International Rotaract Committee for 2008-09.

It was a great experience and one that she would recommend to every Rotaractor to do in the future. The best thing about international events is meeting Rotaractors and Rotarians from all over the world, sharing ideas and fellowship.

As the next convention is coming to Birmingham, UK, I guess that's a chance for all of us to enjoy the experience in June 2009!



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 Adam (07971 672790) know by calling/texting or email maidenhead@rotaract.org.uk.

Date	Event	Location
24th June 2008 @ 8pm	Pub Night Social	The Bear, nr, Halifax
28th June 2008 @ 7.30pm	End of Year District Handover & Awards Ceremony	Burnham Resource Centre Burnham
29th June 2008 @ 3pm	End of Year Club BBQ	Adam & Lisa's Woodlands Park
30th June 2008	Maidenhead Rotary Club Handover	Maidenhead Golf Club
1st July 2008 @ 8pm	Club Meeting	The Rose Pub, King Street
5th July 2008	Diamond Day	Windsor Racecourse
15th July 2008	Club Meeting	The Rose Pub, King Street
12th July 2008	Egghead Quiz	Theale Village Hall
22nd July 2008	Bowling Night	Maidenhead Bowl
29th July 2008	Pub Night Social	TBC
2nd August 2008	Innocent Village Fete	Regents Park
5th August 2008	Club Meeting	The Rose Pub, King Street

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