



A Buffet and a Man at the Bar

President Jeff welcomed 35 members and 3 guests to what turned into another very pleasant way to start the day, Guests were three potential members Mike Clements, Bryan McCourt and Maire Kennan and we look forward to getting to know them better in the coming weeks. 11 apologies were received. Full English Breakfast was served buffet style to much relief.



Our speaker was recent recruit Charles McCain who gave his "My Life So Far" talk as most were still eating breakfast. Born in 1959 in Sunderland, Charles described being brought up by parents Doris and Charlie the latter of whom ran a decorating business with much of his work in the shipyards. Charles remembered his childhood in this environment with his sister. His father was a Rotarian at the now defunct Bishopwearmouth Club, including being President. His mother was an active member of Inner Wheel as well. In addition his busy dad was Captain of the Golf Club and Head of the Masonic Lodge.

Charles's hard-working parents ensured he attended a local prep. school in "red cap with gold trim" thus causing attention from the local secondary school. He went to boarding school near Fylde and studied law at Liverpool University. His career started as a solicitor including working as a prosecutor for Northumbria Police Service for many years. He then became a barrister and has chambers in Newcastle where he specialises in Family Law. He described a couple of recent cases he has worked on which were, given the nature of Family Law, not very pleasant.

Charles has two children in their late thirties and is awaiting grandchildren!

He joined Round Table many years ago and has made many friends, some of whom are now fellow Rotarians. He regaled us with stories of David Hayward including his predilection for Primark clothing.

We welcome Charles to the club and Andrew Wilson gave a warm and humorous vote of thanks ... including a detailed commentary on Charles's weight through the years.

Following the talk from Charles we proceeded with the usual notices which included nothing of note to report on members' health from Walid whilst the good news for Bob Devonport and Bill Carter was relayed as they won the Bonus Ball this week...also, Fred Greenhow won in "5th Friday" week.

The President described another busy week starting with the Race Night which he thanked Jane Bradshaw for organising, especially as it raised over £430 towards Club Funds from which we will all benefit. He then reported on an enjoyable Charter Dinner at Polam Hall on Friday and then the Santa Run for St. Teresa's Hospice on Sunday. (See pics on [Facebook](#))

continued overleaf.....

Coming Soon...

Wednesday 11th

10:00am Final Tree Tagging

Friday 13th

12:15 Club Lunchtime Meeting

Speaker: District Governor Joy Palmer-Cooper "The Magic of Rotary"

Saturday 14th

11:00-12:00 Reverse Advent Box Collection at St Augustine's Parish Centre, Larchfield Street

Thursday 19th

19.30 Christmas Magic Concert at All Saints Church

Friday 20th

12:00 Christmas Message Meeting - See overleaf

Friday 27th

NO MEETING - MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY

January Friday 3rd

07:15 Club Breakfast meeting

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th

From 08:30 Christmas Tree Collection - see overleaf

Friday 10th

12:15 Club Lunchtime Meeting

Friday 17th

07:15 Club Breakfast meeting

Friday 24th

12:00 Austin Brooks Youth Day - See overleaf

Friday 31st

12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting

A Buffet and a Man at the Bar....continued

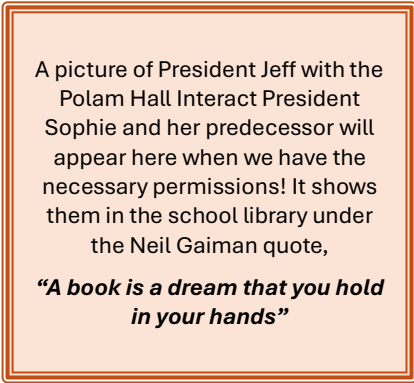
President Jeff also reflected on Monday’s Club Council and Thursday’s Community Service meetings where much was discussed - members are urged to read the minutes when available.

Alex Nicholson gave an update on Rotary Foundation and made an appeal for members to become a **Sustaining Member**. £15 of our club subs go to Foundation and Bonus Ball also contributes £600+ pa plus contributions from some winners which is usually over £100 pa.

David Hayward gave warm thanks for all who had tagged trees and acted as marshals for the Santa Run but also urged everyone to sign up for the collection of Christmas Trees.

Tony Marshall gave some details for the planned visit to Aston Martin, a board for Christmas Message circulated and all was well.

Finally a new bylaw, previously circulated, to allow Corporate Members into the club was adopted by a large majority.



Christmas Message Meeting

Friday 20th December
12:00 Noon



Speaker:



Dr Roger James

£25 for two course Christmas Dinner plus mince pies & coffee

Also featuring Festive Singing (Bring your best voice)

Meals to be ordered in advance, pay on the door, board & email circulating with menu choices.

Email Steve Rose

Tables of 10 can be arranged by contacting Steve or Kevin Hudson

DRESS CODE: CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Magic Concert

Thursday 19th December

7:30pm

All Saints Church

Tickets: £10



Our Annual “Welcome to Christmas” a programme of festive and other music.

Book in advance on board circulating or contact Ged Wiper

Please note we are asked to pay in advance to Charity Account 52-30-18 41856392



Visit to Aston Martin Workshop

Tony Marshall is organising a visit to Aston Martin Workshops at Beamish to take place on 11th or 12th December. Will include a visit to their cheaper Car Barn showroom and Ineos Grenadier facility. Lunch optional. More info. of workshops on Aston [website](#).

Tony will be sending an email to those who have previously responded – this is the final call for anyone else who may wish to go.



Austin Brooks Youth Day

Friday 24th January from 12:00

Peter Campbell and the Youth Service Committee are looking for a few more volunteers to help run the Youth Day. They have the nine presenters for each awardee but more helpers would be greatly appreciated.

One of the highlights of the year!

Xmas Tree Tagging & Collection



Final Tree Tagging

10:00 a.m.

Weds 11th December

Sign Up NOW for Tree Collection

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th January
8:30am: Taylor’s Pies, Lingfield Way
Full details contact **David Hayward**



Reverse Advent Calendar Boxes

Put a gift in a box every day during advent in aid of Darlington Care Leavers – 18-25 year olds who are now living independently. Boxes available at Club Meetings **to be delivered 11:00-12:00 to St. Augustine’s Parish Centre on Saturday 14th December.** Nigel Little for full details.



Club Information

Website: [click here](#)

Facebook: [click here](#)

X: @darlrotary

Club Diary: [click here](#)

LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary