



A Christmas Gift from Roger

President Jeff welcomed everybody to our annual Christmas Lunch which this year featured a superb Christmas Message delivered by Honorary Rotarian (and Past President) Dr Roger James. Attending were 42 members, 4 Honorary members, 3 Rotary visitors, a prospective member and 37 guests whilst also receiving 11 apologies for absence. Amongst our guests were the Mayor of Darlington Councillor Bob Donoghue and his wife Margaret as well as the MP for Darlington Lola McEvoy who gave Christmas greetings to us all. Rotary visitors included former Darlington member Rev. Robert Williamson who came with fellow Northallerton Mowbray member Peter Gibson. We also welcomed Paul Howell from Bishop Auckland.

The Dolphin Centre presented Central Hall in all of its festive best and members found their way to allocated tables with unusual efficiency. A traditional Christmas Meal was enjoyed followed by Roger's Christmas Message.

Roger's gift for writing and delivering an address that was personal, poignant, highly humorous and not too long was appreciated by everyone.

He gave us a series of funny stories and memories from his childhood which included an admission that having an English father meant that he celebrated both Christmas and Hogmanay unlike many in Scotland at that time. He reflected on the travails of being a third child and that he received "hand me downs" as Christmas presents...something that has lasted with him as he boasted that his outfit had been purchased in local charity shops (although he admitted his underwear was from Victoria's Secrets).

Roger's memories of being a GP at Christmas, especially treating those who were in their last days, were especially poignant. The telling of these experiences as well as memories of Christmas with Alison and the family made a great impression on all present. Roger was given a standing ovation for giving us a precious gift that will stay long in the memory.

Roger was thanked by President Jeff and then we sang carols accompanied by Peter Bradshaw and led by Jane Bradshaw with members of the TLC Wellbeing Choir. We all left with a smile and hope for a peaceful and prosperous 2025.



Coming Soon...

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 –
Please be punctual and engage
with our many guests. Peter
Campbell organising

Friday 31st
12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting
Please note: 5th Friday – no
special event!!

February Tuesday 4th
19:00 Italian Night
Tre Amici, Skinnergate – full
details available soon

Friday 7th
07:15 Club Breakfast meeting

Friday 14th
12:15 Club Lunchtime Meeting

The Recipe for a Happy and Merry Christmas

A GIFT FROM THE GRAND....CHILDREN, NEPHEWS AND NIECES OF ROGER & ALISON JAMES:

A SPOONFUL OF SMILES
 A CUP OF KISSES
 A SPRINKLE OF GOODNESS
 AND A HANDFUL OF WISHES
 A DOLLOP OF HAPPINESS
 WITH A STIR OF SWEETNESS
 THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT MAKE OUR



Santa?



Santa visited Reid Street Primary School last week and is here with an elf....do you recognise him?

Visit to Aston Martin

Tony Marshall writes, "It was a bright, but chilly morning as our party made their way north. We eventually numbered 11.

Cars varied in price from £200k up to £3 million. Alex Henderson of Sales conducted a very informative tour before taking us to view the cars at the 'more affordable' Car Barn.

Following this, 9 of the party enjoyed a substantial lunch at the Black Bull Hotel.

Thanks to Alex and his team for a brilliant visit."

(More pics on Facebook)

Christmas Magic Concert

A lively programme of seasonal and other music was thoroughly enjoyed at All Saints Church, Blackwell. Hayley Jenkins Dann led the evening with her usual aplomb (and a seven month old



baby inside of her!) Many thanks again to the Darlington Concert Band for this seasonal treat. The TLC Wellbeing Choir under the direction of Jane Bradshaw also entertained and led carols to conclude the evening.

Many thanks to Ged and Lucy Wiper and everybody else who helped with the event which raised around £1,000 for our good causes.

See you there next year!

Lucy Wiper working hard on reception & raffle, thanks Lucy



Christmas Tree Collection in aid of St. Teresa's Hospice

Sign Up NOW

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



Club Information

Website: [click here](#)
 Facebook: [click here](#)
 X: @darlotary
 Club Diary: [click here](#)
 LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary

