

Skålink

EDITION 72
DECEMBER 2008



Skål International London

From your President



Nothing can beat our Christmas Luncheon at Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park Hotel! The magnificent Ball Room with view over Hyde Park must be one of the most beautiful rooms in London. Service and food just great (the best Christmas turkey ever!). The entertainment was just lovely - these school kids really get you going. We collected a significant amount of money for the Rotary efforts to eradicate Polio in Africa. Our speaker, Sir John Southby Bt,

told us about his latest adventures in Africa, and Botswana here we come!

This was my last event as Social Secretary for the club. It was nice to go out with a "bang" as a Christmas luncheon! After many, many years I'm now leaving the Skål London Events in the capable hands of Jayne Byott. To Jayne I say, good luck and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I have done!

2009 is around the corner and our AGM on the 22nd January, as usual followed by a luncheon. Please try to attend - we want to hear your views. We cannot take our club forward without your thoughts! If you are not able to attend but have some important views you want to be discussed, please drop me a line. I promise I will speak for your cause!

As you are aware of, e-mail and web-sites are nowadays the main tools of communication. Our web-site, www.skallondon.co.uk is growing every day and is full of useful information. There is still need for improvement and I would appreciate your in-put. Please let me know how we can improve, what you are missing etc!

Finally,
I would like to thank you for all the support I have received during 2008!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Mats Wivesson



President Mats starts off the festivities by welcoming everyone to the Christmas lunch. The children of the Sir John Cass School choir sung us some carols.

Calendar of events

Date	Venue	Event
2009 22 January	RS Hispaniola	AGM & Lunch
18 February	Limonia Tavern Regents's Park	Greek dinner and Annual Draw
19 March	University of Westminster	Recruitment lunch
16 April	Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese	Our traditional pub lunch (Note change of date)
21 May	Westminster Kingsway College	Veterans' Lunch

Last event—Christmas Lunch



↑ Three presidents, Anthony Gay, Brighton, Diana Hall, Luton and Mats Wivesson, London enjoying a glass of champagne with guests.

↓ Three wise Skål men—from right—Robin Jackson, Ian Hurst and Peter Adamou with guest, George Canakis, AMEX.



Message of our Christmas speaker End polio now!



Sir John Southby pictured giving his appeal on behalf of Rotary's campaign to eradicate polio everywhere in the world, including Africa. Polio is endemic in only four countries—India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. Eradication depends on Effective immunisation Programmes. And this is what the campaign sets out to do by organising National Immunisation Days with the World Health Organisation

Rotary promised 20 years ago for a polio free world. We are not there yet, but the fight goes on!

The Skål hymn gets its yearly airing



The choir of Sir John Cass School, conducted by their Musical Director, Pat Bilborough, singing the Skål Hymn at the Christmas Lunch. (see below—learn it for next time!)



*Skål - union linking ev'ry land,
Long may we prosper and expand!
Health, joy and happiness is our goal,
Friendship fraternal!*

*Skål - bond of peoples understood
One world wide creed and brotherhood!
Joyful we sing with heart and soul,
Heaven bless our Skål!*

Looking further ahead in 2009



There are some exciting new events planned for 2009. In July we are taking a London Duck Tour (see picture left) followed by a flight on the London Eye and lunch at the Slug & Lettuce.

In September we are off to the Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Avenue (see picture right).

And in October we are having a mediaeval banquet lunch at the Tower.



Next event—AGM and lunch

We start 2009 with our AGM which has been brought forward this year. The date is **Thursday 22nd January**. The AGM itself will be at 1100 on board the RS Hispaniola at Charing Cross. A very reasonable lunch will follow at 1215 for 1300 costing only £20 (less than last year). Please do try and attend—your club is facing challenging times. It is your opportunity to question your Council on how they are running the club and to voice any opinions. And...if you think you can do a better job... why not come onto Council? Speak to one of the Council members if you wish to put your name forward for nomination. And there will be a vacancy this year for Hon Secretary. Your current Secretary, your's truly, David Steer, is stepping down. **PLEASE BE THERE!** As an incentive I'll buy you a farewell drink! Now there's an offer you can't refuse!

Coming up soon

FEBRUARY—A Greek dinner has been arranged for 18th February at the Limonia Tavern, Regent's Park. At this event the **Benevolent Fund Annual Draw** will be made. It should be a (plate) smashing evening.

MARCH—Jayne has organised a recruitment lunch at the University of Westminster on the 19th March. As you know Young Skål gives an opening for young people to join Skål at a reasonable cost. If the Skål movement is to have any future, it is vital to recruit young people today, who will be the captains of our industry tomorrow

APRIL—We are back at that perennial favourite—Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese for our traditional pub lunch on the 16th April.

POLITE REMINDER

Have you paid your subs for 2009 yet?
They are due by 31st December.
If you haven't paid yet—please settle up soon!

A very happy

2009

To all our readers

Puzzle Corner

Chariot of Peace
Where is this splendid sculpture?
What does it commemorate?



Last month's solution



This lighthouse is part of the Ability Group's Building in Baker Street. It and the white tower it stands in were preserved when the old insurance building was completely gutted. It still flashes on and off.

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Skål International is a professional organisation of tourism leaders around the world, promoting global tourism and friendship. It is the only international group uniting all branches of the travel and tourism industry. Its members, the industry's managers and executives, meet at local, national and international levels to discuss and pursue topics of common interest