



# XWORDS

## A GLORIOUS CONCLUSION

Well! What a splendid party we had for our final meeting at the Radcliffe Infirmary, a fitting conclusion to more than 20 fruitful years of Oxford Speakers Club. Tomorrow to fresh fields and pastures new, as Milton would have said. Or did say.

President Wen Shi set the tone with a typically warm welcome. It was especially good to see how quickly our president made friends with some of the past heroes of the club.

Graham and Margaret Highton came over from Gloucestershire, with their daughter Becky who was six months old when she last attended a meeting, Betty Norman successfully persuaded husband Ken to join us, Mary Grice was on top form, Paul Holmes, Russ Hawkswell, John Willmer and Peter Thomson of our more recent members thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, Barry Perkins returned after about 10 years and realised how much he enjoyed Toastmasters and William Horwood gave us a short speech which encapsulated everything that we stand for: how a supportive club can turn even the most faltering member into a confident speaker.

Camille Koppen led us in a thoroughly entertaining game and while our singing lefty something to be desired, I think we can say that we left the Infirmary on a high note. Thank you all for your contributions of food and drink.

## THE TOWN HALL

We now carry our enthusiasm forward to our new venue at Oxford Town Hall on January 9. From now on our meetings will start at 7.30 p.m. (instead of 7.45) and we shall all need to be strict with ourselves on time keeping in order to make sure that everyone gets their chance to take part and we complete the meeting by 9.30.

Some members have asked about the nearest car parks: the easiest option is probably the Oxpens car park (either the multi storey or the open air bit) and then walk though by the magistrate's court to St Aldate's. There might be some on-street parking in King Edward Street (off the High Street, but approached via the narrow Blue Boar Lane off St Aldate's) or in Broad Street. Park and Ride is a good option from any direction. If members find other alternatives, please share information with others.

## EXTRA MEETING

Such is the enthusiasm of members to get ahead with their speech making programme that the committee has decided to arrange an extra meeting in January which will be on Tuesday January 30 at Oxford Town Hall. More details later.

Andrew Moss  
Dec 2006