

## MEETING REPORT - The Christmas Party

Some 46 members and friends attended the Memorial Hall for our Christmas party, despite the cold and icy weather. Once again the catering was by "To Dine For" and they provided a mouth-watering meal of steak and ale pie, or Parma ham wrapped chicken, with seasonal vegetables. (The Hasselback potatoes were particularly delicious!) The portions were huge and, unusually for our members, few people could manage seconds. The delicious desserts of mulled wine pear tart or gooey chocolate and hazelnut tart just about finished off one or two of us. Those with formidable constitutions managed to tackle the selection of cheeses as well. With tea and coffee and mints to finish, we all had a highly enjoyable meal.

We were once more presented with two fiendish quizzes, to tax our flagging brains. One quiz was a picture quiz with well-known people disguised under Santa Claus beards, and the other was on "Tube stations" with cryptic clues. Much head scratching and argument ensued. (No it didn't matter how clever your answer was if it wasn't the one on the answer sheet!) Strangely no-one scored full marks, but the team on Gary and Caroline Jackson's table did remarkably well, scoring a creditable 32 out of 36. The Table Decoration competition this year was hotly contested, although it was disappointing that no men entered (come on guys go for it next year). It was a People's Choice vote and the winner for the second year was Caroline Jackson, who made a superb edible reindeer and Christmas tree table centre. She won the monthly cup and received a prize of a red Poinsettia. John Bradley won the raffle, with Ian Johnson winning second prize.

We were all delighted when Briony was presented with the Carol Nolder cup for her outstanding service to the Horticultural Show. A very well deserved award, we all agreed, for the huge amount of work that she has put in. Briony then gave a vote of thanks to Jan Bradley for her sterling efforts in organizing a very pleasant evening, and to the terrific "Elves" who set up the hall during the afternoon. It all looked very festive and jolly. Thanks to those who helped clear up afterwards too. We all managed to stagger out into the night, avoiding the ice, and we look forward to seeing you all back again in January for our next meeting. Let's hope there's no more snow and ice.