

round & about  
with Paul Cheater



## New Milton – bigger and better at seventy



**New Milton & District RT 133 has been having fun and raising money for local good causes for 70 years, and to prove it the Table held its 70th Charter Night on October 13.**

In recent years the Tablers have been involved in the New Milton Pedal Car Grand Prix, Mudford Lifeboat Fun Day and Alternative Ascot Night, and they enjoy an annual competition to see who is best at darts, pool, snooker and table tennis.

Also, through their "Conception" role playing games convention, the Table has given sizable donations to

local good causes such as the Air Ambulance, Children's Wish and to a young local lad who needed a special wheelchair.

The Table's latest annual bonfire event was a great success, particularly with a fire built in the shape of a cake!

● New Milton Tabler Neil Jones will be taking part in the London Marathon in 2008 in aid of Children's Wish, so if you fancy sponsoring him, please contact the Table or log on at [www.justgiving.com/neiljones/](http://www.justgiving.com/neiljones/)



## Tavistock provide a 'baptastic' treat

Tavistock RT 661 makes "possibly the best bacon baps in the world", according to their 'Media and PR department'. Last year's Goosey Fair Day was no exception, with 300 baps being sold before 1pm, leaving the afternoon free for the hard working team to visit every watering hole in Tavistock known to man, confident they had raised over £600 for good causes.

For those interested in such historical events, Goosey Fair hails back to 1105 when Henry I authorised the monks of Tavistock Abbey to hold a weekly Friday market. In 1116 the king issued a writ confirming the market-grant and adding a three-day fair which was to be held on the eve, day and morrow of St. Rumon's principal feast from the 29th to the 31st of August.

The market-grant in old law actually made Tavistock a 'port' which is a term borrowed by the kings of Wessex which meant a 'trading centre'. It was later that the word port came to have its maritime connotations.

Having become a port, the abbot then appointed a port-gerefa or port-reeve to oversee the markets and fairs.

In later years the fair was moved to Michaelmas Day (September 29th) and the calendar change of 1752 then moved it to its current date of the second Wednesday in October.

It is thought that at the time many of the tenants of the abbey would pay their rents in 'geese'. These geese would then be gathered up and sold at a special market, giving people the chance to buy their Christmas goose and then fatten it up for the festive dinner.

*"Christmas is a coming and the goose is getting fat..."*  
...Just like the Tavistock Round Tablers who went out in the afternoon and sampled the West Country's finest ales and ciders.