

North Devon Conservatives

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SHELTERBOX FOR GAZA EVENING - TRIMSTONE MANOR COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

ON TUESDAY 10 February, a very successful evening event took place at Trimstone Manor Country House Hotel.

Philip and Helen Milton, who have just reopened the Hotel and Restaurant, hosted an event to raise money for the Rotary Shelterbox appeal. The Hotel donated the food and had an opportunity of demonstrating Head Chef Jon Hughes' excellent culinary skills at the same time. Shelterbox has sent 200 boxes ready for distribution in the Gaza Strip and up to a further 1000 could follow.

Despite difficulties in publicising the event because of the weather, there was an excellent turn-out both to socialise and also to see a Shelterbox and its typical contents, as demonstrated by Rotarians Michael Mant and Jerome Lyons.

Michael gave a lucid presentation of the Shelterbox cause and updated the meeting on the latest position regarding Shelterbox and the Gaza. Following that, Rotarian and Devon District Governor George Kempton from Barnstaple, gave a moving recollection of his time in the Gaza in 1996/7. This helped the guests understand much more of the background to the ongoing political difficulties there and the great trouble in sending help and relief both immediately and on an ongoing basis.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and as a result of the generosity of those who came, a Trimstone Manor Shelterbox was acquired and its progress can be mapped through its tracking number.

Philip said:

“We were very pleased to showcase our refurbished Public Restaurant for such a worthy cause. Thank you to the generosity of those who attended – if anyone wants to send money to Shelterbox for the Gaza appeal, please post it to me at the Hotel or deliver it to my office in Joy Street (Philip J Milton & Company Plc, 17 Joy Street, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 1HE) and we shall send it on.”

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Philip has visited the Shelterbox headquarters in Cornwall and has been very impressed with the whole operation and the tremendous voluntary support which is mustered every time a natural or man-made disaster arises.

Philip has been interested in the charity since its establishment and has been a Rotarian for eleven years.

ENDS