

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Not much is left of the year 2008, but here goes.

1. Another great meeting on the 15th November, with a talk by Frank Bird of Kate's Cakes. Frank said he didn't know what to expect from our Group, well we think he was pleasantly surprised, and he brought some boxes of lovely tasting cakes, so we all now know what Kate's Cakes taste like, "Yummy". Thanks to Dodie for the raffle, thanks to AJ on the door and Zoe, with Angela and her daughter for the tea and coffee, which was well received, a really super time was had by all and 4 new members joined our Group, making our total now over 70 members.
2. Looking forward to our Xmas Lunch, in the Europa Gatwick Hotel, we now have 21 people coming to the luncheon, so it should be good fun.
3. Our web site continues to be looked at by new countries, some of the new ones are Cyprus, Kuwait, Bahrain and we have recently added the United Kingdom, which is the second largest viewer of our pages, the USA still leads the way.
4. Don't forget our first meeting in the New Year is on the 17th January 2009, with our old friend Barry Reynolds of Lifestyle, don't forget to bring some cash, as he will be selling his bags of goodies for £10 a bag, containing 6 items

**So what's happening in the world around us?, reported mainly in the USA:-
(N.B. We are not medical experts or doctors, these items are reported purely to keep you somewhat informed on what is currently under development).**

5. **A new Gliadin test, which is used to detect the presence of gluten in foods, has been developed, it only takes 90 minutes, as against previous methods which took 8 hours, it has been designed for food manufacturers, by scientists in Spain's Universitat Roviro I Virgill.**
6. **Alba Therapeutics have enrolled a European patient from Spain, in an 8 week Phase IIb trial, with their oral Larazotide Acetate, which we mentioned in our last newsletter. This drug is described as "an inhibitor of the tight junctions", it "disrupts the intestinal permeability inflammation loop", which we believe means it limits the amount of gluten being absorbed in to the intestines, thus eliminating the damage caused by gluten on the body. This study is being Fast Tracked by the US Food & Drug Administration for the treatment of the Coeliac Disease. These drugs cannot be taken if you are on antibiotics, so a lot of work needs to be carried out.**