

## Focusing on business news in the St Albans district

# Rugby team cooks up a fine-dining feast

Members of the Old Albanians Rugby Club swapped ball skills for cookery skills at a special evening held by top city chef Phil Thompson.

Players and committee members donned aprons, given cooking equipment and set to work making a beef Wellington and a dessert of mille feuilles from start to finish.

Phil provided instructions and expert guidance on how to do it properly – including making sure there were no air pockets in the pastry and cooking it evenly.

The amateur chefs were then set to work on the dessert: layers of puff pastry alternating with gin-poached rhubarb and pastry cream and decorated with homemade chocolate garnishes, where the players were able to show their creative side.

Rugby fan Phil said: “The evening was all about furthering the mutual relationship with the OAs, a club which we at Thompson@Darcy’s have been pleased to support over the past year

“It was a great evening where we were able to demonstrate what we do here in St Albans as a restaurant



■ Old Albanians rugby players join chef Phil Thompson in the kitchen

for the whole community and beyond and the feedback was great.”

Having cleared up after the team, Phil is now looking forward to joining a list of list of highly-respected chefs and industry grandees at the final of the Roux brothers’ Scholarship Awards next week.

The scholarship is a competition for chefs under 30 who are working

in the UK, based on technical skill, a strong palate and a deep appreciation and understanding of the history of classical cooking.

Phil added: “It’s a real honour to be on the guest list for such a prestigious event featuring so much talent in the culinary world.

“It’s also an opportunity for me to help inspire new talent and watch

these young chefs fulfil their career dreams as I have. I know how much hard work it is and any inspiration I can give will be another honour for me.”

The final takes place at London’s Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Knightsbridge on Monday.

## Vets offers 24 hours service



A St Albans vets has received a prestigious accolade which reflects its high standards of care.