



THE COG

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lutterworth

Issue No: 117

Driving the wheel of fellowship

December

Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

Monday 1st Normal Meeting Carola Sander Hess Roger Rose

Monday 8th Normal Meeting Philip Duncan David Toone

Thursday 11th Council

Monday 15th Evening Meal 6-30 for 7 p.m. with Inner Wheel at Lutterworth Golf Club

Monday 22nd Christmas Lunch & Business Meeting

Monday 29th Christmas Holiday

January 2015

Monday 5th Normal Meeting Sue Ensor Peter Osborn

Thursday 8th Council

Monday 12th Business Meeting

Monday 19th Joint Lunch Meeting with Wycliffe Club Malcolm Richardson

Monday 26th Normal Meeting David Haynes Brenda Burton

If you are unable to carry out your 'duty' please find a substitute and tell David Ayres Tel: 01455 202224 email ayres4feet@btinternet.com

GEMS Charity

In October Sally Anderson came to talk to us about a charity she her husband Andy and four close friends set up in June 2012 following regular visits to the Osbourne Chemotherapy Suite at Leicester Royal Infirmary. Inspired by the hard work and dedication of the nurses and the potential life saving procedures that are carried out in the Suite it became apparent that they needed as much help as possible to make the surroundings comfortable and homely.

The Oncology Unit treats 100's of people every day with all types of cancer and it relies heavily on the generous donations and help by the public.

The aim of their charity is to help patients and their supporters who visit the Oncology Unit more comfortable. Following consultation with the staff on the ward they endeavour to raise funds to buy non - medical equipment and anything that will help to make the patient's time at the suite a little more comfortable during what can be a very difficult time for the patients and visitors supporting their friends and family.

She quoted one of the patients saying "Having spent most of last year between the Osbourne Out-Patients Clinic and the Osbourne Day Ward I know how much could be done to improve the facilities. The staff are wonderful, but working in crowded and dull surroundings must be very difficult".

The Club were very moved by her passionate talk on what they had done for the Unit over the past 2 years and will I'm sure make every effort to assist where they can in offering advice in running fund raising events.

Houses of Parliament Report on Visit 21st Oct '14

The Rotarians, partners and friends had a most enjoyable day touring the House of Commons and Lords. After our late arrival due to a State visit by the President of Singapore, we were taken by guides around the Palace of Westminster.

Following a rushed lunch to enable 15 of our number to take advantage of climbing the 364 steps to the top of Big Ben to view the clock, bell and its workings having been supplied with ear plugs to deafen the noise of the bell ringing at 3 p.m. Others were given free time either going to the House of Commons to hear a debate or to witness an inauguration of a new Baron and Baroness in the House of Lords before their debate.

At 4 p.m. we all gathered to have a delicious afternoon tea with our MP (Andrew Robathan) who then treated 12 lucky people to a tour of the Crypt.

What a wonderful experience.

Leaving London at 6-30 p.m. exhausted but having had a most interesting day that we shall remember for some time.

Disabled Sports Championship '14

Over Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd November, (a week earlier this year due to the availability of a match referee) the Leicestershire Team attended the 33rd Championships – this being the 9th year we have taken part. A maximum of 25 athletes per team are involved. This year 7 teams from all over the country took part a drop from the 9 teams who took part last year.

The sports involved this year were Table Tennis – Swimming – Triathlon – Slalom – Shooting – Pit Stop – Male and Female Weightlifting – Darts – Kurling – and Boccia both pairs and team.

As athletes get older and pass the age of falling into the junior group we made a request through the press for those interested in joining the team and were delighted when one girl and one boy responded competing in Table Tennis, Swimming, Weightlifting and Wheelchair Races.

Our success in taking **First** place overall was not only due to the enthusiasm of the team but also to John Roberson, Brenda Parcell and Bryan Cooper and many other Rotarians and their families across the club, ably assisted by our coaches Mark Beeby and John Duggan in running a series of practice nights at the Lutterworth College gym leading up to the championship.

Our thanks must also go to our volunteer drivers for collecting and returning our team to the championship and practice nights.

Our Championship record to date has been:-

2006	Our first year of entry without a full team was not graded
2007	1 st 9 teams took part
2008	1 st 12 teams took part
2009	1 st 12 teams took part
2010	2 nd 11 teams took part
2011	2 nd 10 teams took part
2012	2 nd 10 teams took part
2013	1 st 9 teams took part

This year 2014 we came 1st again against what should have been 7 teams but due to Coventry pulling out at short notice was reduced to six. However it was a very enjoyable weekend enabling us to renew contact with our friends around the country making it very well worthwhile.

The teams taking part were Avon -- Essex – Hucknall – Leicestershire – Rugby and S.Yorks/Lincs

Congratulations to our team and all those who made it possible.



Sky Diving for MS - 27th October

Lizzy Janssen (*Elaine's Grand Daughter*) gave us a hair raising account of her Sky Diving experience which she did recently raising money for Multiple Sclerosis.

In her own words said :

—

"Why on earth Lizzy would you be so mad as to do that?"

She had a very good reason to raise money for the MS Trust—last year her aunt died after a long battle with MS.



Going back to 1970 her aunt "Becky" was born becoming a very normal independent girl. In her 20's "Becky" woke up and couldn't feel her legs. A trip to the hospital and several tests and scans later would change her life for ever...

Over time the free independent Becky I knew became more and more handicapped, bed bound and having been so active frustrated with life in having to rely on other people. She died on 1st April 2013 at the age of 43.

Lizzy who was very close to her wanted to do something for the MS Trust and decided to Sky Dive to raise money for the Trust selecting a sponsored Sky Dive raising a staggering £1,300.

Should anyone like to join her next September when she intends experiencing another "dive" for the charity let her know.

Ken Billington District Governor—10th November

In his talk to Rotary he raised several pertinent points that are worth thinking about.

With falling numbers we should change our ideas as to how we present ourselves to the public in general.

We should take on board a possible change of communication—facebook—twitter and others by telling the public that through Rotary since 1985 with Bill Gates support have all but eliminated Polio throughout the world yet not getting the publicity it deserves in reaching their goal.

The other major point raised which was related to communication was the perception with the public of who and what Rotary are—many asking “What does Rotary Do?” Our aim should be to redress this lack of public knowledge.

Mark Thompson’s Job Talk—24th November

His first attempt was to join the Navy. He tried to join as a helicopter pilot on a 6 year commission. Despite lasting the four day selection course, by which time 13 of the 25 applicants had been sent home, he was not selected. He then joined his uncles company, D H Sam Thompson Ltd, working as a warehouse lad whilst deciding what to do. His uncle was a hard task master and certainly did him no favours, if he worked late one day but was 5 minutes late the next, a bollocking would ensue! This was a company of Shoe Mercers. They supplied shoe manufacturers with a wide variety of materials, buckles, laces etc but not leather, which was another industry altogether. He did this for two years and then was appointed warehouse manager. This meant not only working from 8 a.m. to 5-30 p.m. but staying one day a week until 9 –p.m. to sort all the items they had not been able to do during normal hours. He had to admit running a warehouse was not entirely to his liking.

However about two years later one of the representatives left and he was asked to take over from him. This was great news as he was given a car and could do something he found more interesting.

Over the next 5 years learnt the job, calling on customers in Leicestershire, Yorkshire and Lancashire.

His father ran another company in the same industry had a vacancy for a rep, due to one dying, and asked if he would like to join him. His wife thought he was totally mad not to jump at this opportunity, however he did not want to cause a family rift. He eventually discussed this with his father who said it was not a problem to him if it upset his younger brother, so he joined G.B.Thompson & Co Ltd in 1972.

The main area he was responsible for was Northamptonshire, a large manufacturing area of mainly men's medium and high quality shoes, and safety footwear. His turnover in this area doubled annually for the next 5 years. His duties were extended also in that it was up to him to source new materials and order and maintain stock levels of the products he sold. He later accepted responsibility for London and the West Country also.

The industry had been in decline from the 1960's when there were over 460 manufacturers, by the 1990's there were probably less than half that number and many of the large companies had closed. He decided to take early retirement in 2003.

About a year of retirement and plenty of golf and visiting National Trust properties and stock market decline, he and his wife needed more funds! She contacted a man at County Hall she had worked for 30 years previously and they started working part-time doing traffic censuses. After about 3 years he began the job of putting cameras up to record traffic movement, also radar machines which did the same job but without the accuracy of the cameras.

He finally gave this up in December 2012.

SANTA FUN RUN Photo Display

A full report on the day will be given in next months COG

However a photo display of pictures taken on the day will be held at the Town Hall on Saturday 6th December between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

PLEASE NOTE

By default I learn that RIBI's Website has change from *www.ribi.org* to **www.rotaryrgbi.org** although temporarily it will change it automatically for you should you use the old address.

Proposed Forward Programme for 2015

Thursday 19th February - Skittles Evening at Wolvey

Thursday 16th April - Mad Hatters Tea Party at Misterton

Sunday 17th May - Plant Craft and Food Fair at Misterton

Saturday 11th July - Barn Dance

Sunday 16th August - Big Bike Ride starting at Misterton

Saturday/Sunday 7th and 8th November
Disabled Championship at Coventry

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS
and NEW YEAR**



Peter J Osborn Rossett Green Valley Lane Bitteswell Leics. **LE17 4SA**
Tel. 01455 553178 email p.osborn@homecall.co.uk