



**Issue No: 133**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

**April '16 Newsletter**

**Programme for the next two months.**

<b><u>April</u></b>	<b><u>Speaker FINDER</u></b>	<b><u>Grace &amp; Thanks</u></b>
Monday 4th Normal Meeting	Graham Johnson	John Turner
Monday 11th Normal Meeting	Peter Osborn	Steve Tallis
Thursday 14th Council Meeting 7-30 p.m.		
Monday 18th Business Meeting		
Monday 25th Normal Meeting	John Turner	Elaine Turner
<b><u>May</u></b>		
Monday 2nd <b>May Bank Holiday</b>		<b>No Meeting</b>
Monday 9th Normal Meeting	David Toone	Mark Thompson
Thursday 12th Council Meeting 7-30 p.m.		
Monday 16th Business Meeting		
Monday 23rd Normal Meeting	John Roberson	Susan Ensor

If you are unable to carry out your 'duty' please find a substitute and tell Bridget Hunt Tel: 01455 209105

## **Visit to Jaguar, West Bromwich – Thursday 25 February 2016**

A small group of Lutterworth Club Rotarians enjoyed an excellent trip to the Jaguar car plant at West Bromwich on 25 February.

The facility is the sole manufacturing plant for the F Type, the spiritual successor to the E Type. As an all-out sports coupe or convertible it is way up in the desirability league with a price range running from the mid £50k's to something over £100k as the mood and the budget takes one. It is certainly a formidable looking car, loaded with technology and performance.

Each of us took a little something away from the visit (sadly, not an F Type!). Having worked in the Austin Morris plant at Longbridge back in the early 1970's, it was interesting to me to see how some things have changed in car manufacturing, even if some things still remain the same. The biggest change I guess would be the switch from pressed steel to all-aluminium bodies. Gone are the days of spot welding and rivets; now it is glue and tags, all carried out by huge robotic machines that lift and turn the body sections against a glue applicator. Painting, always something of a Dark Art has now become a Dark Science with not only the need to obtain an exemplary finish (which it is), but also activate sound deadening materials hidden within the voids to reduce road noise.

Come the final assembly line, though, and the mark one human being is very much back in evidence. Whether it is fitting a dashboard, running a wiring loom or screwing on the wheels it still needs a human being to carry those jobs out. Again, numerous differences to me after 40 years from 3 years in a not-so-good working environment. The labour force has changed. I understand that strikes are largely a thing of the past now. Visitors to CAB1 in Longbridge were subject to cat calls, whistles

and frequently open abuse. Now all is quiet and polite indifference, the place is noticeably clear from litter and debris with better trackside maintenance, and – no saucy pin-ups. None anywhere. Instead lots of production, quality and maintenance bulletins, all apparently read, signed, and strictly adhered to. The place looked like a professional, purposeful and well-managed working plant and the result a credit to its owners and staff.

Another thing that struck me was how slowly the track – more a working platform, now – moved in comparison with mass-production in the bad old days. The plant is also only working two shifts instead of the 24-hour three- shift I was used to. The product is expensive, only built to order (I've heard that before!) and heavily export-biased with nearly 80 % of product destined for export. My mind tells me: go three shifts, speed up the track, reduce the product cost thereby, sell more, make more money. But hey, I'm just a Has-Been with the Austin Allegro still on my CV, so what do I know?

Our trip was made a great success by the quality of the two Jaguar visitor guides, Graham and Matt, who took us in hand and shepherded us round the plant. No question was avoided, no detail omitted and all done with great good humour and confidence.

The Club's thanks to Elaine and George Turner who organised the visit – even if Elaine could not be persuaded to take up a place herself – and also to Roger Rose who picked up the reins on the day. Finally, thank you to Mark Thompson for driving us all in a Volunteer Centre Bus so smoothly and safely.

So, a good trip and a reassuring one. Let's have plenty more.

HRS

29/02/16

**Gordon Arthur High Sheriff of Leicestershire** spoke to the Club on Monday 7th March telling us about the Office of being High Sheriff which I have reported below

### **HISTORY OF HIGH SHERIFF**

There have been High Sheriffs for at least 1,000 years. The original “Shire Reeves” were Royal officials appointed to enforce the King’s interests in a County, in particular the collection of revenues and the enforcement of Law and Order.

High Sheriffs had extensive powers. They judged cases in monthly Courts and acted as law enforcement officers. They could raise the “hue and cry” after criminals in the County and could summon and command the “posse comitatus” the full military force of the County. Sheriffs are mentioned throughout Magna Carta and were clearly fundamental to the running of the Shires. By 1254 the High Sheriff supervised the election to Parliament of two Knights of the Shire. From about 1300 their powers began to wane as more and more functions were centralised. The exchequer established to administer tax collection and to audit the Sheriffs’ accounts. A system of itinerant Justices and Assizes was set up. Sheriffs, however, maintained responsibility for issuing Writs, having ready the Courts, prisoners and juries, and executing sentences once they were pronounced. It was also the Sheriff’s responsibility to ensure the safety and comfort of the Judges. This is the origin of the High Sheriff’s modern day duty of care for the well-being of High Court judges. Future changes came with the creation of Coroners and Justices of the Peace and the establishment of Lord Lieutenants as the personal representatives of the Sovereign.

Tradition says that Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> originated the practice of appointing High Sheriffs by pricking their names when the Roll was brought to her while she was engaged in embroidery. Sadly, this is a myth since there is a Sheriffs’ Roll from the reign of her grandfather where the names are pricked through the vellum. This is in fact an early form of document security. Sheriffs had to collect unpopular taxes, and could be personally liable for any shortfall. There was therefore an incentive to try to avoid appointment. No matter how high the bribe, however, no official could disguise a hole pierced through the vellum against the appointee’s name. The practice of the Monarch pricking the names of High Sheriffs survives to this day.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Sheriffs’ responsibilities for police, prisons and Crown property were transferred to statutory bodies. Their surviving powers were codified in The Sheriffs Act of 1887. This Act, with subsequent amendments, remain in force to this day. Among other things it confirms the historic process of nomination by the Sovereign.

## **THE CURRENT ROLE OF HIGH SHERIFFS**

The Office of High Sheriff is an independent non-political Royal appointment for a single year. Today, there are 55 High Sheriffs serving the Counties of England and Wales.

Their duties include attendance at royal visits in the County and support for Her Majesty's High Court Judges when on Circuit. Supporting the Crown and the judiciary remains a central element of the role. They give active support and encouragement to the police and to the emergency services, to the probation and prison services and to other agencies involved with crime prevention, particularly amongst young people.

High Sheriffs play an increasingly active role in promoting the voluntary sector within their communities. Many High Sheriffs give their own personal Awards to individuals, often unsung heroes within small voluntary groups, who have made an outstanding contribution in some way. As the Office of High Sheriff is independent and non-political, they are therefore very well placed to bring together a wide range of people within the community they serve.

High Sheriffs receive no remuneration and no part of the expenses incurred by the High Sheriff falls on the public purse. Their role can be summarised as follows:

- To uphold and enhance the ancient Office of High Sheriff and to make a meaningful contribution to the High Office Sheriff's County during the year of Office.
- To lend active support to the principle organs of the Constitution within their County – the Royal Family, the Judiciary, the Police and other law-enforcement agencies, the emergency services, local authorities and all recognised church and faith groups.
- To assure the welfare of visiting High Court Judges, to attend on them at Court and to offer them hospitality.
- To support the Lord-Lieutenant on royal visits and other occasions as appropriate.
- To take an active part in supporting and promoting the voluntary sector and giving all possible encouragement to the voluntary organisations within the County.

## **The First World War Centenary Quilt**

Philippa McCray spoke to us in detail about The First World War Centenary Quilt, a family history community project she initiated in 2014 to commemorate lives lost during the First World War.

From conception to completion Philippa talked us through the project, highlighting the need for a website, use of social media, good publicity and the support of friends and colleagues within the family history community.

For a minimum donation of £3.50 those taking part received a pack containing a square of cream fabric, length of red embroidery thread and instructions to embroider the name of an ancestor or someone from the community who had lost their life during the war. The only criteria being that the individual had to be recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Throughout 2014 packs were sent within the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA. Individuals, church groups, family history societies and school children took part and the project 'grew like topsy'! Over 750 squares were submitted with around 800 individuals commemorated. Philippa brought along just one of the five quilts which showed a wide range of embroidery skills. Behind every square there was a story to tell of which Philippa told us just a few. Brenda Lincoln of Quilts for Injured Servicemen (Q4IS) took on the mammoth task of piecing the quilts together.

Q4IS and Help for Heroes are beneficiaries of the project, both having received over £2,000 to date. Fund raising continues.

Philippa could have talked for much longer and told us so much more but for those interested the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WW1-Centenary-Quilt-637161519681055/> includes stories of many of those commemorated and the website at <http://www.spanglefish.com/firstworldwarcentenaryquilt/> has up to date information about the project.

The quilts will be displayed at the NEC Birmingham 7-9 April 2016 as part of **Who Do You Think You Are? Live show**.

It is hoped they will be displayed at other venues later in the year.

### **Lutterworth Clean up for the Queen**



**The Obama way !!!**

## **Santa Fun Run Cheque Presentation—Wed. 23rd March**

The committee of the 7th Joint Santa Fun Run (held on Sunday 29th November 2015) presented cheques to a legion of charities at the One Stop Shop in Gilmorton Road on Wednesday 23rd March. Just over £8,000 was distributed on the night by Lutterworth and Wycliffe Rotaries to:-

*Age Concern* (£560)

*Air Ambulance*(£1,820),

*Barnardo's Young Carers* (£740),

*Canine Partners* (£1,160),

*Enterprise Centre* (£80).

*Lutterworth Mayor's Appeal* (£650),

*Rainbows Hospice* (£720)

Rotary Charities - *Lutterworth* (£450) - *Wycliffe* (£450)

*Share and Care Group* (£680),

As John Turner (the event co-ordinator) said at the presentation we were delighted with the outcome despite fewer numbers partaking this year—largely due to the weather.

**Please make a date in your diaries for our 8th Santa Fun Run on Sunday 27th November 2016.**

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **Sunday 1st May Disabled Sports at Rugby**

Rugby Rotary Club are running their Disabled Sports Day on Sunday 1st May between 10a.m. - 6p.m. to which we are invited.

It is an event where individuals rather than teams take part. John Roberson will be contacting a group of around 15 competitors early in March.

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