



# THE COG

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lutterworth

**Issue No: 141**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## December '16 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

### **December**

### **Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks**

Monday 5th Normal Meeting Martin Iliffe David Toone

Thursday 8th Council Meeting

Monday 12th Joint Christmas Dinner IW Lutterworth Golf Club

Monday 19th Christmas Lunch

Monday 26th Christmas Holiday

### **January '17**

Monday 2nd New Year Holiday 2017

Thursday 5th Council Meeting

Monday 9th Business Meeting

Monday 16th Joint Lunch Meeting Wycliffe Club Bernard Duesbury

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

## The Battle of the Somme 1st July—18th November 1916

Johnathan Bonner gave us a fully detailed and illustrated talk on the Battle of the Somme some 100 years ago.

It was fought by the armies of the British and French Empires against the German Empire between 1st July and 18th November 1916 both sides of the River Somme in France.

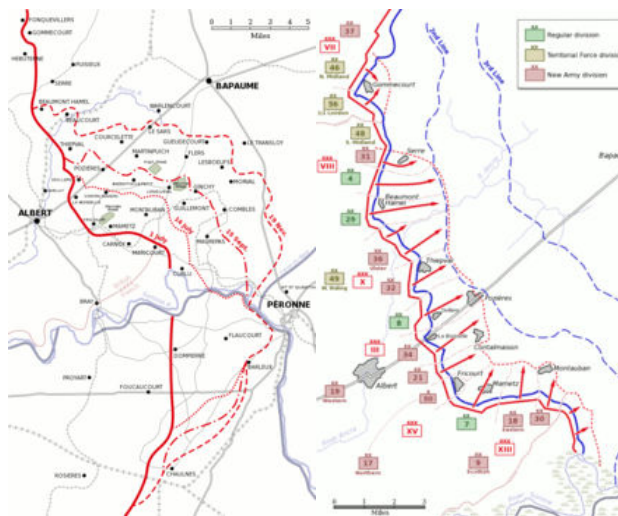


Thiepval Memorial

The battle was intended to hasten a victory for the Allies and was the largest battle of the 1st World War, on the Western Front.

More than 1 million men were wounded or killed in 141 days making it one of the bloodiest battles in human history.

The French & British had committed themselves to an offensive on the Somme during the Allied Conference at Chantilly between 6—8th December 1915.



The German Army began the major battle at Verdun on the Meuse on 21st February 1916.

The first day on the Somme saw a serious defeat for the German's 2nd Army.

We were told that the battle is notable for the importance of air power and the first use of the tank.

As you will appreciate full details of his extensive talk is too long to report here but the detail he gave left us spellbound prompting a great number of questions.

Thank you Johnathan for reminding us this dreadful battle in our history with its massive loss of life never to be repeated—certainly in our lifetime.

### **Rotary Foundation Irvin Metcalf—7th November**

We had a very informative talk on Rotary Foundation who are Rotary's own and only charity. Rotary with 34,000 clubs in 200 countries and 1.2 million members have the potential through their charity (Foundation) to transform lives around the world.

Apart from "End Polio Now" they have highlighted 6 main global areas where money and manpower is needed.

1. Peace and conflict
2. Disease prevention and treatment
3. Water and Sanitation
4. Maternal and child health
5. Education and literacy
6. Economic and community development

Many Rotarians including myself were ignorant of what the charity does and how it fits into the Rotary World.

He cited areas where they get involved covering areas where large amounts of money are needed to make an impact when certain projects are launched such as "The eradication of Polio" across the world, "The elimination of Malaria" would be another. As is the provision of "Clean Water and Sanitation" where education of the local populace is needed to save million of lives.

The subject was (in my view) too large to cover in a 20 minute talk and should be split into each of the 6 areas he cited one linking into the next where he could have spent time illustrating his points by giving examples of where success has happened.

His talk gave us plenty to think about and ponder on.

Thank you Irvin.

## **Minor Sports**

On Friday 11th November at the Cherry Tree Pub in Cattothorpe Lutterworth Rotary Club played Leicester Novus Club at a game of Bar Skittles, Devil among the Tailors and Quoits. It was a great evening with nine Rotarians on each team, together with wonderful food supplied very kindly by Sue (the proprietor). A really good evening was had by all in which we beat Leicester Novus by 4 games to 2.

We now await the next leg of the



competition which we need to complete by the 12b February next year.

A very big thank you to all who played and especially Leicester Novus for a brilliant evening.

### **Joint Bowls Evening 18th November**

On Friday 18th November members and friends from our club supported a bowls evening organised by Wycliffe Rotary at the Bowls club in Hall Lane. Not only did we have a wonderful social evening with our sister club but came away as winners with a trophy which is ours for the next 6 months before we hand it back in time for next year's event.

### **Land Ahoy - Mark Thompson 22nd Nov.**

Mark Thompson spoke about his family holiday sailing around the Ionian Sea. He also brought along two types of charts and a pilot book. Explaining how all Lighthouses within a large area have different characteristics, so when you see one you can tell which one you are looking at. Also a sea mile is 2068yds compared with a land mile of 1760yds, so a knot of speed is faster than mph. He advised that one minute of latitude is equal to one sea mile.

He went with Maria, their eldest daughter and her partner and their three children, aged 8, 10 & 12. The area was chosen for lightish winds, plenty of nice little harbours and wonderful swimming in crystal clear water. The boat was chartered through a UK company, being an agent for the Greek one with the yachts. It was a 41ft Bavaria, which they joined at Palairos.

He explained how the boats moored up stern to quays or rafted up together with anchors holding the bow and lines from the stern to the shore, all next to each other, with pictures illustrating this. The living accommodation was also shown, a double berth in the bows and two doubles in the stern, also the table in the saloon converted into a large double bed.

Water was held in two tanks, but as you could not fill up at every stopping place a little care had to be taken. The boat had two "bathrooms", shower, washbowl and loo. When having a shower the "proper" method was to wet yourself, switch the water off, then soap, then wash off. Mark recalled a sailor, who lived on his boat, telling his friends and relatives to do this, but if he thought they were using too much water he switched the pump off and told them they had run out of water. If you were in a bay or harbour, the waste from the loo went into a tank and this was emptied when you were a few miles offshore.

The cockpit had a folding table where meals were taken, with seating for three or four each side. We would always have breakfast and lunch aboard but usually eat ashore in the evening. Maria used to sleep in the cockpit, as she found the cabins too hot and airless. This area had a canvas cover overhead so if you did not want to be in the sun, there was plenty of shade all day and it kept the dew off Maria at night.

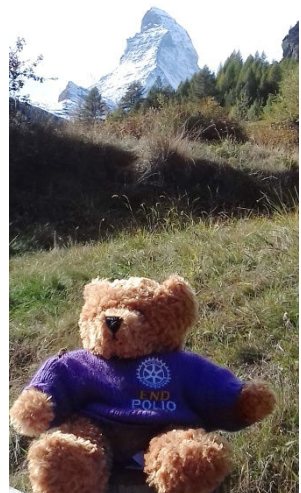
The yacht had a mainsail and a genoa. The main rolled up inside the mast, which made getting it out and reefing (if it was too windy) very easy, it is a relatively modern concept but very common nowadays. The genoa, on the bow, also furls and with the exception of racing yachts, there are very few which do not use this system. There was a dinghy for getting ashore, with oars or an outboard motor, which had to be lifted from the yacht and attached to the dinghy.

Following his talk I'm sure many of us will wish to sail off the Greek Islands. Many thanks Mark.

**Frank our "End Polio Now" Bear ever onwards around the world.**

**Hosted** by John Turner in the Alps this Summer

**Hosted** by Ted Wilson in Key West this Autumn



Frank, the “end polio bear”, has just returned from his short vacation in Key West. He had an awesome time in the Florida sunshine. He checked out the history with a visit to Fort Zachary



Taylor, a ride on the Conch Republic train, and Ernest Hemingway’s house. He tried many of the local bars and restaurants, watched the power boat racing from the State Park and climbed to the very top of the lighthouse. He was impressed that he was the most southern bear in continental America, but what he liked most was the Key West City moto which is **“One Human Family.”**

## **Teddies for Traumas**

Some newer members may like to know a little more about this project as regular updates may mean little to them.

It all started with an advert in the Barwell Church magazine asking for knitters to knit Teddies for Traumas. Doctors said that children with teddies recovered faster from trauma than those without.

When I had knitted a few, I had enjoyed it so much that I thought that others might enjoy knitting with a purpose too.

Using the power of the press and Rotary PR contacts to advertise I was inundated with requests for patterns. A Tsunami of teddies arrived with the postman even putting them through the catflap if I was not at home (he still does).

Unfortunately the lady who wanted teddies for abroad no longer needed them and I decided to research where to send them as people were keen for them to go to disaster areas. The Mothers Union send them to various organisations in this country. These include the Police, Ambulance Service, Prisons.

I have also placed them with Apart (an organisation for new mothers), Red Cross, Barnados, LUCY Air Ambulance for Children, a Rehabilitation Centre, Lord Mayor’s Christmas Appeal, Toys on the Table

and Christening teddies for a Church.

After lots of research I found at least five organisations ( I do have a list of these) and 6400 teddies have been knitted and distributed to 38 different countries. (I do have a map with these on).

Patterns have been translated into Maori , Danish, and Swahili. Inner Wheel in Denmark knit and distribute teddies after visiting us over here. People in South Africa also knit their own.

Barclays Pensioners and Rotarians from all over the country knit and send them to me on a regular basis and a Barclays pensioner sent me a donation of £100 which has been used for postage and sending acknowledgement letters. This is the only cost I have incurred and it is thanks to my army of volunteer knitter throughout the country that this amazing project has, like Topsy, 'just grown'.

A lovely story epitomises how precious these teddies are to their recipients:

A young girl who suffered with a cancer on her knee and underwent many operations and chemotherapy for her condition was given a teddy to comfort her. She made friends with another child with a brain tumour but sadly she died. Our first young lady has recovered and wanted to do something for youngsters with brain tumours and has asked me for teddies to give to the Indee Rose Trust who send boxes to hospitals for those children. (The lady who runs the Trust was on the Pride of Britain Awards recently).

Special thank you to all Rotarians who have helped by taking teddies abroad or to the organisations who then send them abroad.

Elaine Turner

## **Santa Fun Run - Report**

A full report will be in the January COG

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND NEW YEAR**

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