



# The Cog

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lutterworth



**Issue No: 154**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## January '18 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

### January

Monday 1st New Years Holiday No Meeting  
Monday 8th Joint Meeting Wycliffe 7-15 Evening Greyhound  
Thursday 11th Council Meeting 7-30 p.m.  
Monday 15th Business Meeting  
Monday 22nd Normal Meeting David Haynes Ted Wilson  
Monday 29th Normal Meeting John Roberson Sally Hollis

### February

Monday 5th Normal Meeting John Roberson Sally Hollis  
Thursday 8th Council Meeting 7-30 p.m.  
Monday 12th Business Meeting  
Monday 19th Normal Meeting Roger Rose Rose Chapman  
Monday 26th Normal Meeting Bridget Hunt Philip Duncan

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

[www.lutterworthrotary.org.uk](http://www.lutterworthrotary.org.uk)

## Birmingham Airport Dev. - 20th November 2017

Mark Thompson's speaker was Andy Holding, Corporate Responsibility Manager at Birmingham Airport. His talk was fascinating very detailed, this is a summary.

The Airport celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2014. The first flight being in May 1939 from what used to be called Elmdon Airport - planes all being domestic flights to Croydon, Glasgow, Shoreham, Southampton and Manchester.



During WW11 the airport was requisitioned by the RAF and the Navy and had a flying school for the Fleet Air Arm. More recently they were one of the first to create a Euro Hub where both Domestic and International flights are handled from one airport baring Heathrow. By 2015 they had a capacity of 11.6 million passengers a year rising to 13 million by the end of 2017. 89% being scheduled flights and 11% charter.

They are planning to have a throughput of 55 million by 2055. He ran through a wide range of development planned for the airport over the coming years too detailed for the current report on his talk.

However he told us that employment at the airport was currently 6,500 and would naturally rise as the development of the airport took place.

The Airport now has their own Air Traffic Control organised and run by the airport itself where outgoing and incoming planes can be seen in addition to just off a screen.

17% of flights are now Business 83% leisure and 79% being International against 21% Domestic - a complete transformation from the airport's early days.

The passengers being 75% British National and 25% Foreigners going to 160 different destinations around the world. He also said that by extending their second runway by 400 metres they would be able to increase their passenger market by 25% on non-stop flights which the modern International planes are able to do.

When asked where other income came from outside moneys handled by the Airport Authority itself such as landing fees he gave the following list:-

*36% Carparking,  
23% Duty Free,  
13% Catering,  
10% Retail,  
6% Foreign Exchange,  
5% Car Hire  
and 7% other.*

Another snippet of information given during his talk was that unlike other airports in the UK where the runways run East - West - Birmingham is North - South.

I know I have not given his talk full justice but I hope it has wetted your appetites to learn more off their websites about this large International airport within 30 miles of us here.

**4th December 2017**



Mary Tyler our speaker from Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd said they are a unique service provider of help against domestic abuse and sexual violence to women.

The Charity was established in 1974 when they opened the first refuge in Leicester to support women and children fleeing domestic abuse. Since then they have continued to provide vital assistance to all victims in whatever form it manifests itself.

We learnt that they provide a range of professional services.

- A helpline offering telephone support from Mon. to Sat. up to 8 p.m.
- Face to face support.
- Group support.
- Counselling.
- Therapeutic services

And include - isolation - physical abuse - financial- deportation - drugs - drink - loss of confidence and self esteem to name but a few. Help to the victims is paramount in what they do on a daily basis.

We were shocked to hear that there are two domestic murders a week in the UK and an average of two domestic cases a week in Leicestershire alone.

Overall £23 Billion (yes Billion) a year is spent on domestic abuse in hospitals and by the police a staggering amount .

One in three women experience violence in their lifetime against on in six for men, affecting all ages.

We were told that many children are not believed when they report abuse to their elders leaving many cases not reported but this is now being addressed and more is done at an early stage of the problem allowing help to be given.

An interesting talk prompting many questions.

### **Martin Iliffe – Career Talk—27th November 2017**

Martin left school in the summer of 1979 with one GCE in English. He is Leicestershire born and bred as were his parents – Dad from Belgrave and Mum from Braunstone. He is one of three – two older sisters Lynne and Shirley he arriving in 1963. Having left school at 16 what career did he want to pursue? His Dad had served in the Royal Engineers during the war and worked with his hands – lorry driver, milkman, welder and finally

maintenance engineer for a variety of employers in the Leicestershire area. His father suggested engineering but not mechanical engineering as he didn't like getting his hands dirty!! He was offered 6 apprenticeships – Adcock and Shipley – Textron – Wadkins – Jones and Shipman – Marconi Radar – GEC Fisher Controls and Gent of Leicester. The last 3 were offers of Electrical Engineering. Gent of Leicester was the chosen firm. His 4 year apprenticeship began in July 1979. The first year was spent either at college or at a government run engineering training school – in year two and three years he returned to the Gent factory where the plan was to spend 3 months in each department learning all aspects of the business. So at 19/20 he became a fire alarm and clock service engineer.



In 1982 he met Pat, his future wife, where she both lived and worked in Milton Keynes Hospital and moved his lodgings from Dunstable to become her new lodger. In 1988 he decided to set up his own business with his boss and began trading on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1988. In December 1988 he was asked by his previous employer if he would be prepared to carry out a commissioning of a large fire alarm system on their behalf in the Middle East. In considering the money on offer he said yes without knowing the destination. He flew out to Iran in January 1989 via Frankfurt to Bagdad to commission a new fire alarm system in a new building constructed on the side of the river Tigris. It was code named P700, being told on his first day on site that it was a command and control centre for the Iraqi air force. It had been built by a Yugoslav Building contractor who invited him to breakfast the next morning at a local café with 6 or 7 other people. To his horror there was no food, just a bottle of Johnnie Walker Red Label. He said, we go to work when this ..... pointing to the bottle .....is empty. He was there for three weeks, and in his final days they had to prepare for the opening of the building. He said that the building was like a palace, gold taps, marble floors, a TV Studio, games rooms, sleeping accommodation and restaurant as well as the Control Room, which he assumed was its primary function. He said that he imagined the following year,

when the first Gulf War began this was destroyed in some of the first air strikes!

He went on to say that his next commission was in Russia in Suzdal about 250 – 300 miles east of Moscow to commission a large new fire alarm system in a factory manufacturing fibre optic cables. The catch this time was that it was **not** a country at war with its neighbour but that there wasn't much food to eat. When he arrived the country was on the edge of despair. Communism was just coming to an end and for the first time in decades there were Russians with little work. The supermarkets were literally empty, it's the strangest experience he had to visit a local shop to buy food, find it open and fully staffed, but see no food on the shelves for sale. Also the roads and infrastructure being on the verge of collapse. The irony of the situation was that in Suzdal itself the shops were full and goods available providing you purchased in US Dollars or Pounds **not** Roubles.

Once on site he discovered that most of the equipment hadn't arrived, so another shipment was sent out in a sealed container from the UK. This took a week to arrive at the port, and once it did it vanished, a complete shipping container lost without trace. The third container did arrive.

In 1992 he and Pat bought their first house together in Milton Keynes later to move to Ullesthorpe and in September 2009 got married.

As he said there is no point rushing into things is there!

### **Joint Christmas Dinner with Inner Wheel 11th December 2017**

Having had an appalling day of snow the day before the intrepid attendees of our Annual Christmas Dinner braved the elements and enjoyed a wonderful evening, the first festive occasion for many of us.



John Howell our President hosted the evening with 65 members and guests attending.



The meal offered by the Golf Club was both varied and excellent being served by a young team slim enough to get between the tables. The evening continued with entertainment from "The Entertainers" who provided both Monologues, a brief appearance from "Charlie Chaplin" and songs, all accompanied by John Howell's wife Sheila at the piano.

Not to be outdone members did a confused but hilarious dance routine called "The Bowler Hat Brigade" which brought the house down. This was followed by Anne Baker who read, *in an American Accent*, an update on the poem "A night before Christmas" written by Ralph Nader (an American Activist, Consumer Advocate and author) an amusing but thought provoking end to a memorable evening.





Happy New Year

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