



**Issue No: 162**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## September '18 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

### **September**

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

Monday	3rd	Normal Meeting	Brenda Burton	Hugh Robertson Smith
Monday	10th	Normal Meeting	Steve Tallis	Roger Rose
Thursday	13th	Council		
Monday	17th	Business Meeting		
Monday	24th	Normal Meeting	John Wilson	Martin Illiffe

### **October**

Monday	1st	Normal Meeting	Ted Wilson	Tony Kingston
Monday	8th	Normal Meeting	Elaine Turner	Steve Tallis
Thursday	11th	Council		
Monday	15th	Business Meeting		
Monday	22nd	Normal Meeting	Speaker	DG Tim Tucker
Monday	29th	Normal Meeting	Martin Illiffe	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



Mark Mair gave us a very full insight into what and who the Gideons were both Internationally and in the part they played in the UK—their headquarters being based next door to the Greyhound Coaching Inn where we meet each week.

It was on 1st July 1899 that racial tensions were rife in America and technology was revolutionising the way the American people lived in the world. Against this backcloth of change and instability three business men met together at the YMCA in Janesville, Wisconsin to make a commitment to encourage each other to share Jesus with everyone they met regardless of who they met.

John H Nicholson—Samuel E Hall and William J Knights became known as the Gideons—the name being taken from the Old Testament.

Within a year more than 600 joined them—the majority being commercial travellers who spent a lot of time in hotel rooms throughout the country.



*The Gideons UK Headquarters based in Lutterworth*

Fred Woodcock—one of them—took a trip to Scotland where he saw that the British based Commercial Travellers Christian Association placed Bibles in the British Hotel Rooms suggested that the same was done across America, starting at the Superior Hotel in Iron Mountain, Montana in 1908. This was the start of 2 Billion (yes Billion) bibles that have been distributed since then.

There are now 300,000 members in 200 Nations.

The Gideons are a non-denominational national organisation supported by a Global Church.

When asked what version of the Bible do they distribute - Mark said it was the English Standard Version (King James Version) which costs around 5\$ a copy to both print and distribute.

## **Rain at last**



Can I get rid of these for this year?

Who would have thought that 10 minutes of rain after 7 weeks of total sunshine would have made the news.

Britain's weather being sun or rain will always be a talking point.

We are still waiting to see the garden turn from brown to green.

## **Milele Charity 10th Celebration**

As reported in last months COG they celebrated their 10th year by holding a Dinner at which they raised a staggering £10,084. Congratulations Amy and Rob.

## **David Walton**

He was born in Lutterworth cottage hospital on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1952, and is the eldest of three sons and one daughter. His father was a Rugby lad and his mother worked for Frank Whittle at Brownsover Hall during the war. His mother's family farmed at Gilmorton Lodge and she had two elder brothers who subsequently farmed at Gilmorton Lodge and Kimcote Lodge. His mother and father were married at Walton Baptist Chapel. All the family are still very local to Lutterworth.

David's father began a business of agricultural contracting for local farmers in 1950, which was the year he was married, and this rapidly grew to include ditching, land clearance and land drainage.

The Walton family home was on the side of the old Husbands Bosworth Airfield.

Both he and his younger brother went to boarding school at Wellingborough when he was 10 and his brother 8, joined by their youngest brother two years later. One of his distinct memories from his early days at boarding school was when the housemaster walked into his prep-school at about 7pm and announced that President J F Kennedy had been assassinated. As he said it's strange how you remember exactly what you were doing at such momentous times.

David's main interests at school involved all sporting activities, and he was captain of Athletics for two years in junior school and a further two years in the senior school. He represented Northamptonshire in the All England Schools competitions at both 400 metres and long jump and he was in the school teams for athletics, cross country, soccer, shooting and tennis. As he said he was fortunate that he found the Academic work fairly easy, but his teachers all said he could do better, however he always excelled at exam time.

He left school age 18 with 3 A-Levels and 8 O-Levels, and his teachers expected him to go to University. In fact he turned down a place at Silsoe Agricultural College, preferring to go straight into the family business. Father's hard work and foresight led to a rapid expansion of the drainage business and his involvement in the development of plastic drainage tubing and the trenchless drain-laying technique led to him receiving the MBE in the 1973 New Year's Honours. The presentation at Buckingham Palace was on David's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday –as he said it's not everyone who can say they spent their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in Buckingham Palace - and as you can imagine he had a great party that night!

He was always mad keen on going motor racing but upset his father when he and his brother came home with a 500HP formula 5000 single-seat racing car on a trailer. The noise when they started the car was earth shattering and his Dad's reaction was to threaten that if they insisted on wasting their money going motor racing, he might as well

sell the business and enjoy the proceeds! Needless to say, within a month or so they sold the car and bought an aeroplane instead! They then proceeded to learn to fly the aeroplane and as soon as he had qualified as a private pilot, he had the need for something even more exciting, so went on to buy a helicopter and within weeks had learnt to fly that as well. He flew several hundred hours over the next few years, supervising their drainage gangs all over the country taking aerial photographs of completed drainage schemes, taking customers up for flights over their land and fetching spare parts for broken down machines as well as a bit of pleasure flying.

In 1983 the Government decided that grants for farm drainage would stop and they realised that their business was going to be severely affected and they needed to look at other business opportunities. They decided to buy Bruntingthorpe Airfield from Peugeot, and since that time developing Bruntingthorpe has been their main activity. It was manna from heaven for them as they all had a passion for fast cars and planes.

He met Elizabeth in 1982, and they were married in April 1985, and lived in their beautiful but cold cottage in the Northamptonshire village of Holdenby. Their first son Matthew was born in February 1986, they didn't waste much time, as 18 months later their second son Joe was born. Three years after having their first child, they were still living in the small cottage, but as he said with two sons and their new born daughter, Jaime it was time to move! But not before his brother presented them with a belated wedding present an 8 week old Bearded Collie cross Staffie puppy! Which as fast as they packed things into boxes, he was tearing them apart.

And so as they moved into their newly built house on the corner of the Airfield near Bruntingthorpe, where they live today.

In 1993 their family hit the headlines when they purchased the last RAF Vulcan nuclear bomber to become a part of their growing aircraft museum, but with the possibility of one day returning the aircraft to the air. As you know this has now been achieved by the Trust to whom they handed the aircraft,

but at huge cost which in the current climate is hardly sustainable.

David joined Rotary in 1994 and was very quickly seconded to Fund Raising and chaired the committee in 1995 when they celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day with a huge party for about 2,500 people in part of the main hangar at Bruntingthorpe. This remains the single largest fund raising event the club has organised and perhaps soon they will be able to do something similar. He enjoys being part of Rotary and is proud of everything they do, but day to day business and family commitments mean that he often doesn't have the time to get fully involved in Rotary activities.

Since buying the Airfield he has been fraught with problems with the planners and a very small minority of local residents who expect nothing to happen on this huge commercial facility. But as he says they have a close family bond and have overcome these difficulties develop their business to the point where they deal almost exclusively with major multinational blue chip companies. This is quite a departure from the close links they had doing business with the local farming community.

## **Lutterworth Rotary Big Bike Ride 19th August**

The Seventh Lutterworth Big Bike Ride took place in fine weather once again on Sunday 19th August and cyclists were attracted out in larger numbers than ever.

Six hundred and four cyclists registered to follow one of four routes that ranged from 11 miles up to 62 miles. The routes all followed the quieter country roads of south Leicestershire and north Northamp-



tonshire and included parts of the national cycle network. Of those taking part 300 completed the 62 mile route with a further 130 covering 39 miles.

As in previous years the event started and finished in the beautiful grounds owner of Misterton Hall thanks to the generosity of Mrs Craven.



Returning cyclists were welcomed back with a delicious Hog Roast provided by Neil Green Catering, the event's main sponsor. Drinks, cream teas and ice cream were also available.

Cyclists were then able to relax and recover from their efforts on



the well manicured lawns of the Hall and enjoy the lovely views down to the lake and the tree lined grounds beyond.

The event was organised by Lutterworth Rotary Club as part of its charitable fund raising effort.

It is hoped that this year about £6,000 will

have been raised, the funds going to support the work of Epilepsy Action, Rotary Disabled Sports and other Rotary supported charities.

***Please find overleaf the statistics on the number who took part in Big Bike Ride over the past 5 years.***

## Lutterworth Big Bike Ride Statistics

Year	11 mile	23 mile	39 mile	62 mile	No shows	Grand Total
2012	No stats					
2013	55	79	126	124		384
2014	87	61	124	124	15	411
2015	100	94	124	110	6	434
2016	57 [21f]	88 [39f]	105 [16f]	145 [15f]	9	404
*2017	[27]	[84]	[74]	[143]	15	534
2018	59 [26f]	98 [41f]	130 [47f]	301 [37f]	16	604

**“On the day” entries:**

**2013:** 239   **2014:** 263   **2015:** 227   **2016:** 210   **2017:** 336   **2018:** 326

For 2016 and 2018 ‘f’ represents female entries.

\*For 2017 bracketed figures of “who did what distance” relate to “on the day” entries only. On line entries were predominantly for the 62 and 39 mile routes.

Total number doing the 62mile route will have been well over 250.

Numbers include both adults and children.

**Children’s Entries: 11 miles   23 miles**

**2018                    20[4f]                    7[4f]**