



**Issue No: 174**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## September '19 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

### **September**

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

Monday	2nd	Normal Meeting	Brenda Burton	Hugh Robertson	Smith
Monday	9th	Normal Meeting	Steve Tallis	Roger	Rose
Thursday	12th	Council	7-30 p.m.		
Monday	16th	Business Meeting			
Monday	23rd	Normal Meeting	John Wilson	Martin	Illiffe
Monday	30th	Normal Meeting	Ted Wilson	Tony	Kingston

### **October**

Monday	7th	Normal Meeting	Elaine Turner	Zelda	Taylor
Thursday	10th	Council	7-30 p.m.		
Monday	14th	Business Meeting			
Monday	21st	Normal Meeting	Susan Sharp	Steve	Tallis
Monday	28th	Normal Meeting	Martin Iliffe	Brenda	Burton

If you are unable to carry out your 'duty' please find a substitute and tell  
**John Howell** Tel: 01455 553209 email [sheila.m.howell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheila.m.howell@hotmail.co.uk)

## Rotary

**received notable recognition in Parliament last month as outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May paid tribute to our fight against Polio.**



## The Circus Years—Val Cooper

I've done the early years, the military years and I now I want to tell you about the circus years.

In my final year of school, I met Audrie Bradshaw who I immediately got on with, even though she was the complete opposite to me.

One day she came to school and dealt me a body blow, she told me her parents were moving to Blackpool to run a guest house and therefore moving away.

One day I received a letter from Audrie telling me about her new boyfriend and keen for me to meet him, she described him as tall, dark and handsome!

He took my hand and kissed it and said, "Hi I am Kwando, Jonny Kwando". I later discovered his name was Sydney Johnson and his parents had a chippy on Central Drive and he worked at Blackpool Tower Circus and was an excellent knife throwing performer under the name 'The Mighty Kwando' and Audrie was standing in as his assistant.

I watched rehearsals with fascination, I told Audrie how lucky she was, and I would love to do that to when she immediately said I could stand in for her.

Fortunately, Audrie and I were the same size, so I donned her silver leotard, fishnet tights and stiletto heels, and Jonny was bare chested in his silver tight trousers, together we looked quite the part.

We were being announced in the circus ring, I had to stand in front of a large wheel with a balloon and Jonny would throw a knife and burst it. Finally, I had to stand on a wheel it spun round while knives at me. My eyes were tightly shut and I could hear the knives hitting the wheel as well as the gasps and cheers of the audience! It was the best feeling ever. Then it was all over.

Prior to her talk Val had handed President Sally two sealed envelopes and at the end asked her to open envelope **one**, whiereshe asked for everyone to vote on whether her story was true or a lie ..... Everyone voted it was true  
The **second** envelope revealed ... **the story was a lie!!**

## **STONEY COVE visit 5th August**

Stone quarrying first began in Stoney Stanton at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Where Granite from local quarries was used to repair roads.

Around 1850, a railway line was built to move granite out of the Top Pit. The railway line ran through a tunnel and surfaced near St Michael's Church in the centre of Stoney Stanton linking the village with the busy Birmingham to Leicester railway line. .

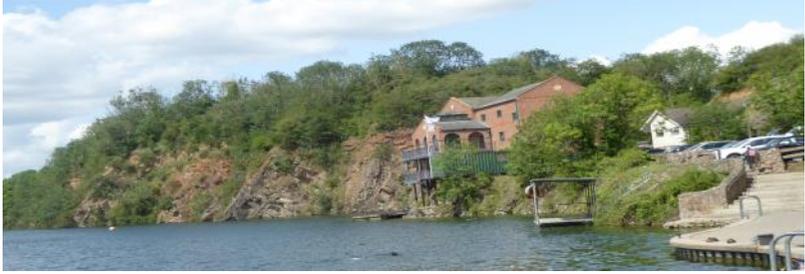
During the quarry's working life, the spring water was a constant problem. Pumps were used to prevent the quarry from flooding. When all quarrying ceased in 1958 spring water was allowed to flood the quarry workings.

Five years later the flooded quarry had already become popular with local pioneers of diving and water -skiing.

24 Rotarians on their visit at the beginning of the month were welcomed by one of the diving school's senior diving school's instructors Margaret Baldwin she made her way to their bar and restaurant overlooking the lake where a sumptuous meal was given us.

This was followed by being shown a DVD on both its history and development over the years while we had coffee.

Margaret (*both a diving instructress and member of the local Speaker's Club*) gave us an illustrated talk on the history of the place - what they offered and how they could get involved in being a member should they wish to do so.



## **Thank you Hugh**

Peter – This amused me!

“There’s sufficient evidence that Stanley Kubrick directed the fake moon landing film, but being a perfectionist he did it on location.”

*Quote: Runcie Balspune  
22 July 2019*

# Lutterworth Big Bike Ride 18th August 2019

## *Our Cyclists*



## *Our not forgotten Outreach Marshalls*



*John Cookson*

*David Wolliscroft*

*Hugh Robertson Smith*

After an early shower the eighth Lutterworth Big Bike Ride took place in fine weather once again on Sunday 18th August and cyclists were attracted out in their usual large numbers. Over 450 cyclists registered to follow one of four routes that ranged from 11 miles up to a new 67mile route. They all followed the quieter country roads of south Leicestershire and north Northamptonshire and included parts of the national cycle network. Of those taking part over 200 completed the 67 mile route with a further 100 covering 39 miles. The new 67 mile route that travelled from Misterton out beyond Market Harborough to the Langtons and Eyebrook Reservoir was well received by the riders, though the journey back against the wind certainly presented a real challenge to some.

As in previous years the event started and finished in the beautiful grounds of Misterton Hall thanks to the generosity of Mrs Craven whose owner it is. Returning cyclists were welcomed back with a delicious Hog Roast provided by Neil Green Catering, the event's main sponsor. Drinks, crêpes 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 £5,000 will have been raised, the funds going to support the work of Epilepsy Action, Rotary Disabled Sports and other Rotary supported charities at home and abroad.

## **Gazeley Park - Club Visit 22nd July**

In October 2016, Gazeley successfully secured planning permission to expand Magna Park beyond Mere Lane to the northwest. The permission granted was for a single distribution facility extending to 1,085,475 sq ft (100,844 sq m) as well as infrastructure improvements including a new A5

roundabout; new roundabout and realignment of part of Mere Lane. The construction works were completed in 2019.

The building will be occupied by Wayfair who are an American e-commerce company that sells home goods.

Following and including the first phase of expansion, Gazeley has also secured outline planning permission for the erection of up to 419,800 sq m Storage and Distribution (B8) with ancillary offices (B1a), up to 3,700 sq m for a Logistics Institute of Technology (D1) with associated playing field, up to 9,000 sq m small business space (B1a, B1b), change of use of Bittesby House barns to exhibition centre (D1), the creation of a Country Park, other open

space and landscaping works on land to the north of Mere Lane.



Club Members were invited to tour the new facility which are extensive and awe inspiring by its sheer size



## Stoneywell House Visit -21st August

A party of 12, including 7 members of Lutterworth Rotary Club, arrived at the National Trust property of Stoneywell just north of Markfield. All were punctual and we had time for a coffee before the tour started .

Stoneywell is an "Arts & Crafts" cottage built in 1899 into the side of a rocky slope. Part of the internal walls and stairs are actually the base rock, the small pantry is rock floor and water seeps in to a depth of up to 5 in. when heavy consistent rain falls, like this August!



We were shown round by a volunteer who was very knowledgeable with tales of the Gimson family, three generations of which had lived there. It was built for Sydney, who ran the family business in Leicester, by his brother Ernest an architect. They originally lived there for about six months of the year in the summer-time. Electricity was only installed in the early fifties and a bathroom with hot water was put in in 1953 when Donald Gimson and his wife and child moved in. They lived there until 2012, although his wife died four years earlier.

After the house tour of about 50 minutes we had a guided tour, by an extremely knowledgeable and pleasant lady, of part of the 4 acres of gardens which was almost entirely trees and shrubs. These had been planted by the first Gimsos and included plants from all the continents, including many unusual ones.

Finally we had a very pleasant light lunch sitting in this lovely garden. All agreed it was a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting visit.

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