



Issue No: 176

Driving the wheel of fellowship

November '19 Newsletter

Programme for the next two months.

November

Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

Monday	4th	Normal Meeting	Martin Iliffe	David Toone
Monday	11th	District Gov.	Rodney Spokes	Bernard Johnson
Thursday	14th	Council 7-30 p.m.		
Monday	18th	Business Meeting		
Monday	25th	Normal Meeting	David Haynes	Philip Duncan

December

Monday	2nd	Normal Meeting	John Roberson	Ted Wilson
Monday	9th	Christmas Dinner + IW	at Lutterworth Golf Club	
Monday	16th	Christmas Lunch + Guests	Greyhound Inn	
Monday	23rd	Christmas Holiday	No Meeting	
Monday	30th	Christmas Holiday	No Meeting	

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

John Wilson Life talk 23rd September

John the third of four children, two elder sisters and a younger brother, was born at Spencer House, Welford. The son of small farmers Walter and Connie, who had moved from Blakesley near Towcester in March 1937. It was an ideal place for a carefree childhood, and consequently he concentrated on the important things in life, (getting into mischief, learning to whistle and swear, making trucks from old prams. Like Mark Twain he hated the idea of school getting in the way of his education.

He joined Welford Young Farmers Club at an early age and excelled in all the practical crafts and skills e.g. hedge laying, hedge topping, ditching, ploughing, sheep shearing, machinery maintenance, stock judging and of course public speaking and debating competitions.

He later became chairman winning the Northamptonshire County Cup and later becoming Club Leader and President.

To his surprise at 14 ½ instead of going to work at home his parents found him a job on an arable, beef, sheep and pig farm at Husbands Bosworth. Working there for the next three years. Being put in charge of the pigs he saw their potential and soon bought his own stock and owned his own pigs in his own right for the next 50 years.

When his fathers health deteriorated and the family farm was sold, John decided he should gain new skills and worked in engineering for the next 5 years soon becoming a senior Auto - setter in charge of 4 other setters. Over this period of time he continued to build up his small pig business on one and a half acres, buying store pigs and selling them as porkers in Rugby Market.

John and Sue were married in 1968 and had brought the bungalow and an acre and a half from his parents at Court Lane Farm. Where they have been for the past 42 years.

At his 21st Birthday Party John was offered a position as representative for Northants. Farmers Ltd, which also allowed him to continue with his pig Trading as JE & SF Wilson.

Over the next 36 years they built up their holding from 1½ acres to 700 acres, with 2,500 breeding and finishing pigs, 300 finishing cattle and 400 acres of combinable crops.



Exporting breeding pigs to many EU countries and starting their own small pig marketing enterprise “*Court Lane Hybrids*”.



John was Chairman of the NFU Three Counties Pigs Committee in London for 3 years. In his semi retirement John plays bowls, and has been President of Lutterworth Rotary Club. All in all still a very busy man.

Lutterworth and Villages Foodbank – talk by Lucy Freeman (project Manager).

Lutterworth & Villages Foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust Network, which is a nationwide charity made up of over 450 food banks who all provide a minimum of three days’ emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis in the UK. The local Foodbank is a project facilitated by St Mary’s Church, Lutterworth, supported by other local churches, schools, community groups, organisations and businesses working together towards stopping hunger in our area.

They opened their doors for the first session at the Church Gate Centre in Lutterworth in January 2014. In October 2015 they expanded their operation to include a second distribution centre at the Methodist Church Hall in Countesthorpe.

Since opening, they have provided 6,470 3day emergency parcels across their two centres’ almost 90,000kg of food!! in 2018 they provided the equivalent of 13,653 meals to their clients.

They rely on the generosity of local people and business to

donate the food and essential items that they give out to their clients in crisis. Their Warehouse volunteers then receive, weight, date and sort the food before it is delivered to their two Distribution centres, ready to be packed into parcels for their clients.

Their volunteers run two sessions each week at each Distribution centre; every Tuesday and Friday. Each session allows their clients to come and be welcomed with a hot drink, biscuit and a friendly, confidential, non-judgmental ear. They also give them the opportunity to be told of other agencies who may be able to help their crisis further. They give them 3 days' worth of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable emergency food for 3 meals a day, to every person in the household.

As part of The Trussell Trust, they run on a red voucher referral system which means that everyone who receives a food parcel from them have been referred to their services by either a front-line professional such as a Housing Officer, GP, Liaison Officer Social Worker or someone from an organisation in regular contact with vulnerable people such as Age Concern or Citizens Advice Bureau.

The data collected through the vouchers that client's exchange for food, is then anonymised and used by The Trussell Trust to research the causes of food poverty and to lobby government to press for change.

You may have noticed the campaigns currently in the national press such as "5 weeks too long" which is lobbying for the minimum 5 week wait for a Universal credit claim to be reduced.

People come to them because of a huge variety of complex reasons. They know that from talking to clients that factors such as the changes and implementation of Universal credit, zero-hour contracts and temporary jobs all take their toll on family finances and on a families' resilience.

For those clients with additional needs, such as those with disabilities or mental health issues, the problems are often exacerbated.

How can we **THE PUBLIC HELP?**

Firstly, and most obviously, they need food!

Last year they collected over 20 Tonnes of food!

Secondly, you won't be surprised to hear that the thing that goes hand in hand with their need for food donations is their need for financial support to cover warehouse facilities, fuel for the collections van and a paid part-time project manager.

They of course apply for grants, but many grant-funding bodies will not award monies for supporting ongoing costs such as staffing or property rental so that their income is limited.

So as Lucy said in her conclusion, financial donations are always welcome.

A Grand day out!

Tuesday October 1st 10 of us descended on Aqua box.

Despite the rain this was a day to remember. Everything in the unit where Aqua Box is based is centred on fulfilling the task. There are no frills and certainly no heating that we could see. The dedication and commitment of those volunteers working there is something we will never forget. On the ground floor we were shown round by Roger Cassidy who explained about the history of Aqua Box the funding of it and the vital help the contents of each box give disaster struck countries around the world.

Upstairs is the water filter assembly room where we saw a myriad of plastic components being glued and fixed together. It is the most ingenious piece of equipment imaginable. David the assembly manager gave us an in-depth talk including sourcing the many plastic parts that go into them to testing the finished article and bagging them complete with instructions. Incredibly each pump/filter only costs £25 while the American version costs £100!

Following our trip the Club have decided to donate £200 to them.

AQUABOX

From the safety of our armchair we watch families in their hundreds fleeing for their lives not even knowing if loved ones have escaped the disaster caused by wind, wave or man's brutality.

Whatever the reason we feel sorrow and helplessness. Fellow humans who have lost everything and struggle for life, they are far away and need help right now.



Rotary is good at raising money to provide for those charities which react quickly to provide immediate help on many levels and we should always support those who have the skills and wherewithal to act on the ground.

Our organisation is at its best when it is hands on. Take polio for example where Rotarians volunteer to be part of a team in the Far East giving millions of children the precious vaccine or when Philip Duncan went to the Philippines to give refugees dental treatment.

Close to home is the work with the disabled sports team, the Stroke Club and gardening at schools and in town.

The Aquabox project is totally hands on with teams of Rotarians filling boxes with vital life saving items including the filter pumps for converting dirty water in to safe drinking water; these are also made by the team at Wirksworth.



Filled boxes are stored in the warehouse ready to be flown anywhere in the world and



distributed by local Rotarians.

It is not difficult to imagine the feelings of a family who have nothing opening the Aquabox to find essential items to get them through a difficult time and the joy of the little girl when she sees the knitted teddy.



Taking on running a Swiss Chalet

On 7th October Allan Rimmer gave us a talk on how he and his American wife ran a Swiss Chalet in the Alps following his early retirement around the age of 60.

His friends thought that he was crazy at that age yet he told us that he still went ahead.

Although it was hard work he enjoyed every

minute giving them both the opportunity to enjoy their new found hobby of skiing on their days off.

He enthusiastically told us of the pitfalls they enthusiastically tackled and the rewards they had in making the venture a success.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and maybe some of our skiing members might consider doing the same next year.

Inner Wheel News

To support one of our charities there will be a Coffee Morning on Thursday 28th November in the Town Hall 9am-noon with a Christmas theme and a raffle for a Christmas hamper.

President Sue Staples is also joining Rotary to support Cancer Research UK and we look forward to assisting with the two day collection in December at Morrisons.

Our new International rep. Mary Oldham has chosen Mercy Ships for her charity. Last year Mary Blott's charity was Mary's Meals based in Africa, for this we collected items to fill backpacks with essentials for a child's day at school which would then entitle them to a school meal. Transporting the backpacks from all our clubs to Africa was then arranged by District 7.

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