



THE COG

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lutterworth

Issue No: 177

Driving the wheel of fellowship

December '19 Newsletter

Programme for the next two months.

Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

December

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

January '20

Monday	6th	Normal Meeting	Mary Stannard	Mark Thompson
Thursday	9th	Council Meeting	7-30 p.m.	
Monday	13th	Business Meeting		
Monday	20th	Wycliffe Rotary	7-30 p.m.	Greyhound Inn
Monday	27th	Normal Meeting	Bridget Hunt	David Woolliscroft

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

Minor Sports 26th September

Lutterworth were drawn against Ashby de la Zouch Castle in the first round of our District Minor Sports. Our hosts had, unusually, arranged over 10 different board games, each club competing in twos. It was great fun and the games ranged from snakes and ladders, beetle drive and Jenga. After a drawn result The picture shows Ashby Castle's President, Sheila Dale battling a nail biting final with Sally Hollis.

The blocks came tumbling down on Sheila's last attempt making Lutterworth the victors.



The Narrows "What a change"

Who would have thought what a little tender care would do in the town centre Thank you to our Rotarian horticulturists.



Test driving Jaguars in Lapland - speaker Mathew Crane

On 21st October Matt Crane, as guest of Anne Baker, gave a talk on living and work in Swedish Lapland.

Having travelled around the world climbing high mountains in Pakistan, Nepal, Argentina and Africa, meeting the local people and experiencing a myriad of religions, cultures and customs. Matt's open minded attitude and love of a challenge made him apply for a job running the most remote test facility in the world for Jaguar Land Rover.. test driving cars on a frozen lake.

With two and half hours of daylight and temperatures of minus 45°C, it could be easy to struggle in such a place but the people and activities have made it his second home. Skiing, snowmobiling, the northern lights and herding reindeer with the indigenous Sami -people have all become daily activities in an unusual life for a village boy from the Midlands.



New Rotary Club Members

On Monday 21st October we welcomed our two new members **Sue Sharp** and **Zelda Taylor** just in time to help us with the oncoming Santa Fun Run and enjoy the occasion.



Val Cooper's talk on Fund raising 28th October

Our incomparable speaker Val Cooper gave us Chapter Four of her life history (up North) before she joined our club.

Her talk was as amusing as her previous three, yet on this occasion it was true.

She told us about how very successful and original her exploit was in collecting money for the Parish Church in Clitheroe that was in need of refurbishment. Val's project was to offer her services to local shops on a half day basis – all 23 of them raising some £4,000 in the process.

Nothing was lost in her recounting her contact with their customers which ranged from – bakers to dress and shoe shops and on to furniture and card shops.

She had members holding their sides with laughter.

She really could do a one night stand on her own.

Bwengu Projects Malawi

What a wonderful Christmas present for the pupils and staff.

The Bwengu Projects is a small educational charity based in Rugby that has been working since 2005 to help improve access to and the quality of education in the mountainous northern district of Malawi in East Africa. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world and schools in the rural north are generally very dilapidated with poor buildings & facilities and with classes often over 100. The charity is run by Tony & Sue Melia with their daughter Sam & her husband Rob. They have set up a very effective project based system that Lutterworth Rotary Club has supported for the last two years. We have, so far, financed the construction of classroom desks and have contributed funds to the feeding programme for orphans, of which there are 1 million in Malawi, mainly due to the ravages of HIV/Aids. Currently we are financing the building of a four cubicle toilet block for girls at the Luzi Secondary School. ...the 'Luzi Loos' project. What has been particularly impressive is that having committed the funds in mid September, the project is now virtually complete and we have been able to see progress at every stage. Bwengu Projects Malawi is very much a model for the

sort of overseas project based development that the club is keen to support.

From this



To this



Report and pictures provided by John Turner

From Church to Police - 4th November

We started November with a highly interesting and entertaining speaker Richard Keenan who was introduced by David Ayres.

He introduced himself as having been born in Hartlepool and having left school went on to Ushaw College (now affiliated to Durham University since 1968) for the training of Catholic priests in the north of England. He himself never completed his training and took up a variety of jobs before coming south to London where he met his future wife who was in the Police. It was then that he joined his wife to be in the Police some 30 years ago and due to his interest in Mental Health problems has spent many years in that field. He recounted many incidents that he has encountered – some sad and some very amusing. Far too many to recount here in a short report on his talk but prompting many questions which were eloquently answered proving his depth of knowledge on the subject and his concern in this area of policing. He was never afraid of facing danger when it presented itself and told us of some of the situations he encountered.

A very interesting talk with humour that demonstrated his passion and dedication to the job.

Remembrance Day 2019

A story for Remembrance Day told by Rosemary Chapman of her late husband's uncle who lost his life during the Second World War.

John Chapman grew up in Lutterworth, attended Sherrier Primary School and Lutterworth College then known as Lutterworth Grammar School. It was here that John became an outstanding sportsman.

When war was declared, John joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and began flight training where he gained exemplary proficiency as a bomber pilot.

On April 7th 1941 a Whitley V Bomber, John and crew of four airmen took part in a raid on Kiel in Germany and in spite of intense anti-aircraft fire, located and bombed their targets. This was repeated on many nights where dangerous missions included targeting German battleships docked in a French harbour.

On the night of 12th June 1941, 23.06 hours Whitley V Bomber number Z6489 piloted by John, took off from Topcliff Air Base in Yorkshire with his crew of five airmen – and other aircraft of 102 Squadron, to bomb Swerte. Three aircraft did not return, one being John's.

John Chapman's bomber was shot down on its return flight by a German night fighter. It crashed at 03.18 in the morning, four and a half miles from Einhoven in Holland. The Dutch Farmer who owned the land where the plane crashed tried to reach the crash site to help John and his crew but was held back by German Soldiers. John and his crew were killed in the crash and buried in Eindhoven Cemetery.

The Dutch farmer who tried to reach them, and his family, have continued to tend John's grave. They also welcome John's family when they go to visit the grave.

John Chapman was 24 years old at the time of his death.

John still lives in the hearts of his family, and is remembered with pride on the Lutterworth War Memorial in the town and on the Lutterworth College School Memorial plaque in the main hall, and on a gravestone in Holland.



Lutterworth Town Remembrance Service

Was held at St Mary's Church Lutterworth on Sunday 10th November and attended by Lutterworth Town Band, the Beavers, Scouts, Wycliffe Inner Wheel, members of the Town Council including the Mayor and Wycliffe Rotary Club plus 7 members of Lutterworth Rotary Club along with Zelda's husband Paul.

Rodney Spokes District Governor - 11th November

Our guest on Monday 11th November was Rodney Spokes our District Governor.

The meeting started by our President Sally Hollis giving a Power Point presentation on activities which the Club were involved in. Highlighting certain areas that we, as a Club, were proud of from local activities to our sponsorship of overseas support. This was followed by Rodney Spokes running through a range of Rotary items which he had circulated by card to everyone there.

This prompted a number of questions which he answered briefly in the time available. He clarified certain points about the future of the District and Rotary as a World Wide Organisation.

Foodbank collection

Foodbank locally have thanked both the public and organisations for their response in donating both food and toiletries to them but have asked whether certain extra items of which they are short could be given. Roger Rose on behalf of the Club has taken up the challenge by asking members to donate these items over the next few weeks leading up to Christmas and beyond.

The response Roger has received from members giving the foods on his regular list has been staggering, for which he has thanked you.

Each week he has provided a large bucket in which the items can be placed and this is being passed on to the Foodbank warehouse every 2 weeks.

Certain items have been in short supply such as:-

laundry powder/liquid eg. Morrison's SMALL white box of Bio powder or SMALL savers liquid wash, or any similar product.
Shampoo - Shower gel - Deodorant the essential toiletries
Sponge puddings - tin or microwave (with a long date please)
or an occasional alternative Angel Delight or a jelly.

The above list will alter from time to time and Roger will keep us up to date with Foodbank requests.

Thank you one and all for your support.

Frank our Polio representative is taking Christmas off but awaits his travels again in the new year.



Future Events

Santa Fun Run - Sunday 1st December
Starting and finishing at Lutterworth College
with a staggered start from 11 a.m.
Details - www.santafunrun.org.uk



Skittles Evening - Friday 7th February 2020
Contact David Toone for details

Misterton Plant, Food and Craft Fair - Sunday 17th May
Details to be announced nearer the time.