



**Issue No: 185**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## July '20 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

### Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

#### July

Monday	6th	Normal Meeting	Mary Stannard	Rose Chapman
Thursday	9th	Council Meeting	Zoom meeting with South Africa 7-30 p.m.	
Monday	13th	Business Meeting		
Monday	20th	Meeting TBA	David Haynes	Sally Hollis
Monday	27th	Brenda Burton	Wycliffe joining us	Mark Thompson

#### August

Monday	3rd	Meeting TBA	John Turner	Sally Parkinson
Monday	10th	Meeting TBA	Sue Postlewaite	Graham Johnson
Thursday	13th	Council Meeting	7-30 p.m.	
Monday	17th	Business Meeting		
Monday	24th	Meeting TBA	John Roberson	Steve Tallis
Monday	31st	Bank Holiday	No Meeting	

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

Bernard and I felt that with the 75th VE Day celebrations having just been celebrated it might be of interest for you to read about a fellow Rotarian's exploits during the war. Reported by the BBC and known by his friends as Mad Max He joined the Club in February 2001 and leaving in 2004/5 having told us interesting stories of his time in the RAF during the War while being very modest about his time assigned to 501 Hurricane Squadron based at Kenley in Surrey just 2 miles from where I (Peter) spent the war years

## **Wing Commander Ken Mackenzie DFC**

In early 1939 he joined the RAFVR as an Airman u/t Pilot and started training at 24 E&RFTS at Sydenham.

Called up at the outbreak of war, Mackenzie was sent to 3 ITW Hastings on 28th December 1939. He moved to 5 EFTS Hanworth on 25th February 1940 and then to 3 FTS South Cerney on 25th May.



With his training completed, Mackenzie was posted to 6 OTU Sutton Bridge on 31st August to convert to Hurricanes. He joined 43 Squadron at Usworth on 21st September. After sixteen training flights and two operational patrols, Mackenzie was posted to 501 Squadron at Kenley on the 29th.

He shared in the destruction of a Ju88 on 4th October, claimed a Me109 destroyed on the 5th and another destroyed and a second shared on the 7th. The Me109 destroyed on this day was attacked by Mackenzie with no apparent result. He followed it down to almost sea level and when it did not ditch he struck the tail plane with one of his wings and the enemy fighter crashed into the sea. Mackenzie then made a forced-landing at Hope Farm, west of Capel-le-Ferne outside Folkestone, in Hurricane V6799

On 25th October Mackenzie claimed a Me109 destroyed, another shared and another damaged. In a later patrol that day he was in collision with P/O V Goth of 501, as he manoeuvred his section to attack a formation of Me109s. Mackenzie, in Hurricane V6806, baled out unhurt but Goth, in P2903, was killed when he crashed in Bridgehurst Wood, Marden.

Mackenzie was awarded the DFC (gazetted 25th. October 1940). On 27th, 29th and 30th October he claimed Me109s destroyed, on 8th November a Me109 destroyed, on the 12th a Ju88 shared and on the 15th a Me109 destroyed and another damaged.

Mackenzie was posted to 247 Squadron at Predannack on 19th June 1941 as a Flight Commander. He destroyed a Ju88 at night on 6th/7th July and a He111 at night over a convoy on the 12th/13th.

On 29th September Mackenzie led a strafing attack on Lannion airfield in Brittany.

Mackenzie was hit by heavy flak from the ground defences and ditched in the sea. He took to his dinghy, paddled to the shore and was captured.

On his way to a PoW camp, Mackenzie gave his guard the slip on a crowded Paris railway station but was soon recaptured. At Oflag VIB at Warburg, northern Germany, which was predominantly an army camp, escape attempts were a major industry and Mackenzie joined the tunnelling team. Working 24 hours a day, they reached the perimeter wire but flooding prevented further work until the spring. On resuming in April 1942, Mackenzie was fortunate not to be buried alive when a ton of clay fell from the roof, he just managed to scramble clear. With rumours that the PoW's were to be transferred to another camp, the prisoners decided to risk breaking open the tunnel early. As the first prisoner crawled from the tunnel exit, a guard spotted him.

Mackenzie and a colleague decided to build a one-use tunnel from a ditch close to the perimeter fence. A diversion was set up and the two men reached the ditch unseen. Hiding under blankets, they waited for nightfall when they planned to dig a shallow tunnel under the wire.

As night fell a guard was seen taking a close interest in the area so another diversion was created and the two men were recalled into the compound. A few weeks later, Mackenzie was transferred to Stalag Luft III at Sagan.

Over a long period of time he feigned madness and developed a severe stammer for the purpose, which subsequently he never completely lost.

Mackenzie was repatriated to the UK in October 1944, arriving at Liverpool on the 10th. He was posted to 53 OTU Kirton-in-Lindsey on 19th December as an instructor. On 17th June 1945 Mackenzie went to 61 OTU Keevil, as a Flight Commander.

In July 1951 he was promoted to command the Meteor fighter wing at Stradishall in Suffolk, where he was also the chief instructor. He was awarded the AFC (gazetted 1st January 1953).

In 1965 he was serving in Kenya when Ian Smith declared UDI in Southern Rhodesia. The following year, the RAF mounted a major airlift of fuel into Zambia and Mackenzie served in the hastily-created headquarters in Lusaka where he remained for three months.

Mackenzie retired from the RAF on 1st July 1967 as a Wing Commander.

Because of his service in Zambia he was invited to join the newly-independent Zambian Air Force as the deputy commander, a post he held until April 1970. He then ran Air Kenya in Nairobi as managing director until his retirement in 1973 when he moved to Cyprus before returning to the UK in 2000. Mackenzie died on 4th June 2009 aged 92.

## **change of President**

The handover to our new President David Ayres took place on Monday 29th May from our current President Sally Hollis after a difficult but very successful year.

**Sally's** designated charities for the past year were:-

**Cancer Research  
MIND  
Twenty/Twenty**

A big thank you Sally from the Club. we look forward to seeing how much you made as soon as figures have been produced.



**David** will be supporting

**LOROS  
Rainbows Children's Hospice  
The Hope Foundation**  
during his term of office.

**In spite of the Corona Virus Lutterworth Rotary is still alive & well!**

On 1st June, at 12.30pm 14 members joined on Zoom to compete for an excellent bottle of wine donated by the Quiz Master Val Cooper.

Val asked 30 questions, ranging from music, food, geography and history assuming Rotary brains would breeze through the answers with ease. *WRONG*.

The best score was Mary & Richard Stannard with 15 correct answers. However, as they worked together, they gallantly agreed to a tie break question against John Roberson (14 correct), who succeeded in winning the prize.

David Ayres thanked Val for providing us with such great fun and banter.

**Poem by Benjamin Zephaniah**  
**Appropriate to this difficult time**

People need people,  
To walk to  
To talk to  
To cry and rely on,  
People will always need people.  
To love and to miss  
To hug and to kiss,  
It's useful to have other people.  
To whom to moan  
If you're all alone,  
It's so hard to share  
When no one is there.  
There's not much to do  
When there's no one but you.  
People will always need people.  
To please  
To tease  
To put you at ease,  
People will always need people.  
To make life appealing  
And give life some meaning,  
It's useful to have other people.  
It you need a change  
To whom will you turn.  
If you need a lesson  
From whom will you learn.  
If you need to play  
You'll know why I say  
People will always need people.  
As girlfriends  
As boyfriends  
From Bombay  
To Ostend,  
People will always need people-  
To have friendly fights with  
And share tasty bites with,  
It's useful to have other people.  
People live in families  
Gangs, posses and packs,  
Its seems we need company  
Before we relax,  
So stop making enemies  
And let's face the facts,  
People will always need people - yes  
People will always need people.

## **Uzbekistan. March 2018 with Sally Hollis**

**Why did I go?** I rearranged my planned visit to Moscow as following the Novichok nerve gas incident, plus the World Cup, I went off the idea and exchanged my holiday for Uzbekistan. Initially I couldn't even spell it let alone knew where it was.

**I discovered it was one** of the only two **double land locked** countries in the world. (the other Liechtenstein, with 2 borders). While Uzbekistan is surrounded by 5. Kazakh-stan, Kyrgyz-stan, Turkmeni-stan, Tajiki-stan and Afghani-stan. Stan meaning "land of". Water in this desert state is worryingly getting scarce. The Aral Sea, in the north of the country, is the world's **fourth largest saline lake**, created by glacial melt. Since 2000 it has however split into two due to climate change and to the excessive diversion of water through made man canal systems created to irrigate agricultural areas. These areas grow cotton, making Uzbekistan the 5<sup>th</sup> largest cotton producer. Silk production was its major product but not now due to the reduction in planting of mulberry trees and a decision to encourage tourism.

The country has significant reserves of gas, coal and minerals. The **yellow over ground gas pipes** criss-cross the country side, leading to EVERY house and it is estimated to be able to continue the supply for another 50 years.

**TASHKENT** is the capital (formerly **Samakand**). It is a modern capital having suffered a major earthquake in 1868. Much of the rebuild was undertaken by the Russians creating large organised green parks.

**History.** Independent from Russia from 1991. It was a former state of USSR since 1860.

Origins from 6th -7th century BC. Core tribes Indian-Iranian. Population 31.8 million now. Birth rate currently is adding circa 1 million per year. Weddings are an important part of life, with several bridal processions seen during my stay. Wedding parties visit all the local Minarets & Mosques. Most marriages are arranged and Moslem. The couples are noticeably NOT smiling as we would expect. I asked why, apparently as they have to leave their family it is considered bad form to look happy.

The literacy rate is 98%, and there is little sign of poverty, most Uzbeks enjoying car ownership with surprisingly few motorbikes and scooters.

Uzbek is the official language, but most also speak Russian, and young people are now learning English & they eagerly enjoy the opportunity to practice on the tourist. Sadly, Uzbeks don't seem to age well, with only 5% of the population over 65. Most elderly women flash a smile of golden teeth which are extracted on death and passed to their children as part of their inheritance!

Whilst being a secular state, Islam is practiced by 90% of the population. However, spirits are consumed by most – perhaps due to Russian influence in the past – especially vodka. Food is surprising bland – with few uses of spices.

But the highlight of Uzbekistan is the hundreds of Mosques, Minarets, Madrasahs and Mausoleums which can be found in towns and cities along the Silk Route.



**Then a flight West into the desert to KHIVA. A trading post half way between China & Rome.**

**KHIVA** is an UNESCO site. A historical city in the western lower reaches which was built as an internal fortress on the edge of the desert. The strong defensive walls contain over 60 architectural monuments. Our hotel was positioned within the walls of the ancient city making visiting a pleasure.

**BUKHARA** A 2,500 year old Sacred town of pre Arabian times. Situated south along the oasis of the Zarafshan river. Trading Domes invite the traveller into the bazars and shops which continue to flourish. A beautiful town and for me my favourite.

**SAMARKAND** One of the most ancient cities in the world, surrounded by the snow-capped mountains bordering Kyrgyzstan. It is 2,750 years old and the major point of the silk road. It is a busy and vibrant city often being visited by Moslems as an alternative to Mecca, this is mainly due to the sacred mausoleum for Muhammad's cousin. It was fought over by Alexander the Great, Chingiz-Khan, and Amir Temur.

**Registan** (see photo). The central square in **Samarkand** is Registan ("a sandy place") built in the 14th century. It is the heart of Samarkand and the Timurid Empire - busy but beautifully kept. This is the jewel in Uzbekistan with again endless and wonderful Mosques, Mausoleums, Minarets and Madrasahs spread over a large site. At this stage it was so enormous it was easy to be **Blue Tiled Out!**

### **Some Uzbek Superstitions**

Bread must always be face-up

Everything **MUST** always be in pairs as odd numbers are unlucky

Old shoes can ward off evil, and can be seen hung over the entrance door of some houses.

Do not eat or shake hands with your left hand.

Horsemeat sausages increase **male potency**

**I would recommend visiting Uzbekistan**

## Results of JUNE 100 Club

**No. 49 Hugh Robertson Smith £50**

**No. 27 Sally Hollis £15**

**No. 59 John Roberson £10**

## Keep the Cans Coming for Helipads

Tony Kingston thought we might like to have an update on the **aluminium can situation** in **Rugby**. He is pleased to report that things are going well and can only conclude that Rugby is enjoying a multitude of parties during lockdown. The vast number of can donations has meant he has had to move from storing the cans in his garage to using builders' bags (which are capable of holding up to a ton of gravel) located at The United Reformed Church in Hillmorton Road. Tony says we moved to builders' bags a few weeks ago and have now filled a second one this month so hoping that we may have donated half a helipad by now!

Graham Johnson adds that his collection continues to grow and, with the return of summer weather is expecting his can collection to grow rapidly. A reminder to **Lutterworth** Rotarians, families and friends to continue drinking the contents of a variety of cans —responsibly!

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