



**Issue No. 193**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## March '21 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

**MARCH 2021**

### March

### Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

Monday	1st	Normal Meeting	Rose Chapman	John Wilson
Monday	8th	Normal Meeting	Graham Johnson	Rose Chapman
Thursday	11th	Council Meeting	7-30 p.m.	
Monday	15th	Business Meeting		
Monday	22nd	Normal Meeting	David Ayres	Martin Iliffe
Monday	29th	Normal Meeting	David Woolliscroft	Val Cooper

### April

Monday	5th	Bank Holiday	No Meeting	
Thursday	8th	Council Meeting	7-30 p.m.	
Monday	12th	Business Meeting		
Monday	19th	Normal Meeting	Peter Osborn	Anne Baker
Monday	26th	Normal Meeting	Martin Iliffe	John Howell

**16th ANNIVERSARY**

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

## **Little Faces School Mombasa Kenya** by Sally Searle

What does the school provide for these children?

It's an all-round good general education for over 300 children, provided by qualified teachers, starting at kindergarten and going through all primary stages. Currently up to the age of 11 the children rely on the underfunded state system, although fund-raising plans are afoot to provide secondary education in the future. Education is provided in English, unlike the state school system which is taught in Swahili. All the best jobs and much of the state infrastructure in Kenya requires written and spoken English, so Little Faces provides hope for a better future for all the children. Sharing reclaimed, donated laptops, the school provides appropriate access to the internet and to help them learn basic computer skills.

When the kids have gone home, it's the turn of parents and other local adults to take the opportunity to learn about IT. The children are taught the Kenyan National Curriculum and subjects taught include maths, English, science, IT, environmental and Kiswahili and classes are limited to 35 children as a maximum. In a state school they could be in a class of over 100, with just one teacher.

It's not just education, these children could be starving without help. The school provides two free meals each day, breakfast and a hot substantial lunch. That's typically porridge before school and rice and beans at mid-day. This means the children are healthier and are able to concentrate far better. Hungry kids just can't pay attention so well and results have perked up since a daily breakfast was introduced. Facilities are still basic and need to be improved. Since "adopting" the school we've provided well over half a million meals. That's a lot of porridge and a lot of rice! A teacher's annual salary is just £750.

**School History** — How the charity came to help the Little Faces School.

When Sally Searle arrived the schoolroom was a rusty tin shack held up with sticks. There were no desks and few chairs and the children had to write while sitting on the floor. There were no toilet facilities, just a small room used by the entire community with no running water. In 2011 Sally Searle went to Mombasa on holiday where she met Mary Atieno who was head of Little Faces School. It serves one of the poorest communities in Mombasa and at that time there were 35 children in one "schoolroom". With no background in charity work in the corporate sector, Sally went to work back in the UK to form the

Little Faces Charity. With no paid staff, just with a lot of hard work and much help from volunteers. Since then the charity has raised funds so the school now teaches over 300 children. There is now a new stone building with 4 classrooms and new toilets specially for the children, and what's more they now have hand washing facilities. They have to share desks still, but they have stationery, books, 7 computers and a printer.

The school is in one of the most underprivileged areas in Kenya. The school is based in an outlying district of Mombasa, a coastal city on the east coast of Kenya. It's the second largest city in the country after the capital, Nairobi, with an estimated population of 1.2 million. Its history shows it was an important trading centre. In the late 19th century it was a plantation-based society, dependent on slave labour before it came under British control. Like many African states, Kenya has a wide discrepancy between rich and poor. Sadly the level of youth employment in Mombasa stands at 44%, over double the national average, worse in the outlying areas of the city.

What's state education like in Kenya?

State education in Kenya is free, although many children cannot and do not attend because they can't pay for books, pens, exam fees and uniforms. Government schools often have up to 100+ children in one class. In Kenya in 2010, one million children were still out of school. At that time that was the ninth highest of any country anywhere in the world. of young people don't reach secondary education.

*Phase 1* of the new-build primary school now provides 4 large classrooms, a small school office, a small kitchen and at last separate washrooms and toilets for boys and girls. This has enabled the first 300 children to benefit from a purpose built school.

*Phase 2* will provide a further 7 classrooms, including a custom-built IT room. This will provide good educational space for a further 200 children. It will also include a health centre, so the children won't have to rely on the extremely basic, almost non-existent government health care.

Fresh water at long last.

Funding has been raised to dig a borehole at the school, so for the first time these children have a source of fresh water as well as water for the kitchen and the toilets. Running fresh water saves lives.

This supply was being sponsored by Alan Brighton and ActionCOACH but it's now good to report that they are in a position of having their own borehole. This borehole now provides their own fresh water.

What we need right now

It's vital we secure the basic day to day education for all the children. We currently have over 100 children who are not supported by a sponsor and it's important we put this basic help in place for every child. All it costs is just £10 per month for kindergarten or primary age children to give education and two meals a day to a child.

### **Elaine's Knitted Teddy Bears**

As of the end of January Elaine has despatched **8,987** to orphanages all over the world, but due to her couriers being restricted in travelling she has had to put a temporary hold on teddy bear production which she hopes to resume as soon as the pandemic is over. May we congratulate both her and her knitters over the past few years for what they have achieved. By giving so many children in orphanages their first 'soul mate' by way of the teddies, a toy that is really their own. The joy they give has been seen in the pictures sent to Elaine during these difficult times. **Thank you team from all of us.**

### **Profile of Cyril "Squib" Burton Founder Member of Lutterworth Rotary Club 1953**

Cyril 'Squib' Burton was born on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1908 at Cossington into a farming family.

He moved to Lutterworth at 8 years old and later attended Lutterworth Grammar School.

He was repairing cars at 13.

At 14 he was a side car passenger grass track racing.

He left school at 15 and was an apprentice at Humber Motor Co. Then he started with Rochdale Speedway Racing. In 1930 he captained the English Speedway Team to New Zealand, travelling there by steam ship and taking Doris, his wife, with him on a nine month adventure.

He drove in a Midget when car racing.

They travelled back through the Suez Canal and calling in Saudi Arabia he witnessed a beheading.

On his return he started Burton's Garage and for many years was manager of Leicester Speedway.

He holds one of the records, winning a grass track race at Donnington Park. A race is still held to honour him and he also enjoyed driving in stock car racing.

In 1953 he was a Founder Member of Lutterworth Rotary Club, was President twice and a member of the Club until his death in 1990

He was a magistrate for 25 years and Chairman of the Bench for many years.

During his lifetime he was a dedicated member of the Masonic Society.

Cyril and Doris had a son & daughter – John and Pat.

Many years after Doris died he remarried . He was 72 and widow Mrs Norah Johnson was 71 and they then had a very happy ten years together.

Cyril died in 1990 aged 82 and is buried with Doris in Lutterworth Churchyard.



*Graham Johnson*

## **Laptops for Schools**

You will be pleased to know that several unused laptops and an ipad have been donated by members - sensitive information having been removed. Now delivered to the local Primary Schools in Lutterworth to enable more of their pupils to work from home. Our thanks must go to those who donated their unused ipad and laptops.



## **Major John David Berry 1918 – 2011 (continued from December COG)**

David Berry having returned from the Norway Campaign was posted to Folkstone where all Officers (he was now a Lieutenant) were trained. During his time there Montgomery addressed them about a new campaign that they would be involved in. So in 1942 he found himself in Algiers.

While on a night patrol German mortar bombs landed near him, three seemed duds so he carried them one by one off the road into a ditch. (A very brave action!)

In the battle for Kasserine Pass of 700 soldiers in his regiment 350 survived uninjured, the rest were wounded but with very few fatalities.

He recalls patrolling with Major Tony Cripps who was told to 'find the enemy'. Coming across a dark looking patch in the road Tony threw an exploratory stone which hit a German soldier's helmet. Almost immediately a fierce fire fight started. Major Cripps then returned to their base leaving David in charge. A sergeant came to David and told him that Sergeant Clare had been seriously wounded and as he couldn't carry him on his own he had had to leave him in the minefield. David told the sergeant to stay with him while he walked back through the minefield to the base. Being at night he used a farm house outline on the near horizon to navigate his way to base

using his Christmas cracker compass. Having collected the stretcher bearers he reversed his compass readings and they all walked safely back through the minefield to retrieve Sergeant Clare, who later sadly died of his wounds. For this gallant action he was awarded a MiD (*Mentioned in Dispatches*).

Later his daughter (Rose) was told "*David had taken out two German tanks single handed, using an anti tank gun, during the North African campaign*"

David accompanied his regiment to Italy, having earlier been promoted to Major. Where David was seriously wounded in the leg by mortar shrapnel. and was found by Sergeant Smith who gave him a morphine injection to ease the pain writing "M" on his forehead. He was immediately taken to a forward dressing station and dosed with penicillin which gave him a good chance of surviving. Shortly later he was flown to Naples and eventually back home.

Writing up his WW2 story for grandson Stuart's school project he went on to give talks locally. He later joined Rugby Amateur Radio Club and in 2005 they helped make a recording of his talk and it is still in use.

*Anyone can find his talk on "You Tube Captain John David Berry escape from Norway 1940"*



## **Ghost Stories 8th February**

Simon Entwistle our speaker gave us a fascinating talk on the Pendle Witches.

The trials of the Pendle witches in 1612 are among the most famous witch trials in English history, and some of the best recorded of the 17th century. The twelve accused lived in the area surrounding Pendle Hill in Lancashire, and were charged with the murders of ten people by the use of witchcraft.

## **Talk on Sherrier School by Kellie Kirby Deputy Head and Mark Janssen Chair of Governors**

Sherrier C of E School, is part of the Embrace Multi-Academy Trust; c. 400 pupils 4 to 11 age group. and was formed in 2019; is a Church MAT; like minded South Leicestershire Schools, comprising of 1 Secondary and 7 Primary schools collaborating for mutual benefit and follow a Christian ethos. • In some guise, a 'Sherrier' School has been in the Town since 1732; Rev Edward Sherrier's Will bequeathed sums of money for the foundation of a School for the poor children of the parish.

**Sherrier - Vision and Motto** • As a Church of England School, we aim to create a positive learning environment where everyone is valued, sup-

ported and encouraged to achieve their full potential in all areas of life within our Christian ethos. • Learning for Life .. "Teach children how they should live and they will remember it all their lives" .. Proverbs 22:6 • "Community, Creativity, Compassion". The three words form the basis of everything we do and underpins the Christian ethos.

**Sherrier - Community** • 'The Sherrier Family'; a School community that cares for each other and celebrates our differences, achievements and contributions. • We support each other through challenges and difficulties in acts of friendship, kindness and compassion. • Our aim is that all children and families have a sense of belonging and feel they are treated fairly and with respect. • Sherrier plays a central role in the local community and is continuing to build links and partnerships with local churches, businesses and charitable organisations • We aim to allow children to see themselves in the wider world community and hope they will make positive changes in global issues

**Sherrier - Creativity** • We enjoy working together to teach our children to create new and exciting solutions to make our world a better place. We believe we can make a difference no matter how large or small. • Our School is a place where we can experiment and take risks in order that we might better ourselves, our learning and the world we live in. • Children at Sherrier are taught to think creatively and we encourage looking at things from different viewpoints

**Sherrier - Compassion** • This centres around care for ourselves, care for others and care for the world. • Care for ourselves: This is connected not only to health and hygiene but to care for our own mental health and wellbeing. In an ever-changing technological world, we will focus on teaching children to stay safe online as well as how an awareness of their own personal safety. • Care for others: We are proud of the relationships that develop between the children and staff at Sherrier. We always go the Extra Mile for our families and provide personalised pastoral care for children and adults alike. Our families are always generous when giving to chosen charities and children are always keen to help others in many other ways. • Care for the World: An integral part of the Curriculum is to support children to be articulate and effective problem-solvers. We are raising awareness of current global issues and what action we must take to care for the world and the people in it

**School Priorities - 2020/21** • Curriculum; connecting Primary to Secondary; transition to Secondary • Cultural Capital; richness of where children live and understanding the breadth of other cultures • Enabling Remote Education; donations of computers and tablets, the way in which parts of the Community has responded is genuinely moving. • Wellbeing; support those in need • Outdoor Learning . School Priorities - 2020/21 • Curriculum; connecting Primary to Secondary; transition to Secondary • Cultural Capital; richness of where children live and understanding the breadth of other cultures • Enabling Remote Education; donations of computers and tablets, the way in which parts of the Community has responded is genuinely moving. • Wellbeing; support those in need •

**Outdoor Learning – What is it?** • "Outdoor Learning is a broad term that includes discovery, experimentation, learning about and connecting to the natural world, and engaging in environmental and adventure activities." [www.outdoorlearning.org](http://www.outdoorlearning.org) • It is more than playing, it changes attitudes and provides a sense of space and surroundings; meets the 3Cs definition • It supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. • It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

**Outdoor Learning – The Benefits** • At a global level: fostering a connection that leads to respect and care for the natural world, an appreciation of biodiversity and sustainability, and proenvironmental behaviours. At the societal level: developing a sense of place leading to greater engagement with the community and an appreciation of the opportunities available to live, learn and work in the local area. • At the interpersonal level: providing a safe and supportive setting to enhance social skills, appreciate and value difference. Encouraging loving and meaningful relationships across generations that foster tolerance, respect and kindness. • At the intrapersonal level: engagement with nature and the environment for health, wellbeing and nature connection, leading to lifelong participation and outdoor competence. Developing character, resilience, positive risk taking.

**Outdoor Learning – How?** • Listen • Scavenger hunts • Finding Wild life • Growing vegetables • Getting wet and dirty • Using full School Infrastructure; rural environment; pond and wooded area already in use.

**Infrastructure – an Opportunity** • Lutterworth College - Ex-Little Rainbows Nursery site off the Bitteswell Road and is adjacent to our wooded area • It is land for educational purpose in tenancy to the College • We have an idea .. For the College and Sherrier to re-landscape into a partially wooded Outdoor Learning environment .. trees, bushes, grasses, planting areas, wild flowers. • Benefits are educational, environmental, ecological, added value to character of the Town; meets 3C's at is needed? **Early thoughts** • Design; variety of eco-solutions; sustainable and low maintenance; involve students at the College and Sherrier. • Co-ordination; liaise with College Premises Team; site needs some remediation work and a general clean-up. • Machinery; re-profile ground; we have topsoil! • Labour; when safe to do so. • Just ideas at present on funding; charitable donations; Woodland Trust, Harborough Woodland Community Volunteers.

## **Water Aid**

Latest collection from Wishing Well £80

## **100 Club winners**

1st	£25	David Ayres
2nd	£15	Philip Duncan
3rd	£10	David Woolliscroft

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Please make a note in your diary.

We've got our fingers crossed that we will be able to run the **Annual Misterton Plant and Craft Fair on Sunday 27th June.**

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