



Issue No: 195

Driving the wheel of fellowship

May'21 Newsletter

Programme for the next two months.

Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

May

Monday	3th	Bank Holiday	No Meeting		
Monday	10th	Normal Meeting	Susan Sharp	TBA	
Thursday	13th	Council	7-30 p.m.		
Monday	17th	AGM and Business Meeting			
Monday	24th	Normal Meeting	John Wilson	Philip Duncan	
Monday	31st	Spring Bank Holiday	No Meeting		

June

Monday	7th	Normal Meeting	Richard Stannard	David Woolliscroft	
Thursday	10th	Council Meeting	7-30 p.m.		
Monday	14th	Business Meeting		David Ayres	
Monday	21st	Normal Meeting	Mike Toone	Ted Wilson	

Monday 28th President Change Over Day and Club Assembly

David Ayres to Val Cooper

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

Précis of talk given on Winston Churchill's early life as an Army Officer, Journalist, and politician by Mark Thompson.

As an adult, Churchill stood 5 foot 6½ inches tall. He had an exciting life while in his 20s. He was an army officer, a journalist, an author of five books, a war hero, and a politician. These achievements gave an indication that he was destined for greatness.

1894: Commissioned in army

In 1894, when he was 20 years old, Winston's father died. Shortly afterwards, Churchill was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the 4th Queen's Own Hussars, a regiment of the British army.

1895: Wrote for newspaper

As he turned 21, Churchill spent his first military leave on assignment for a London newspaper. He travelled to Cuba in order to accompany the Spanish army, which was then attempting to stop a rebellion. This seems to be quite a good assignment for a 21-year-old. Churchill's writing ability must have impressed the newspaper publisher. His family connections also probably played a part in the assignment.

Later, after his regiment was sent to India in 1896, he secured a temporary transfer to the turbulent North-West Frontier, where a tribal insurrection was under way.

1896: Had books published

At age 22 in 1896, the Churchill compiled the dispatches he wrote for the Daily Telegraph newspaper into his first book, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*. It seems somewhat unusual for an army lieutenant to be

reporting to a newspaper while on duty, unless it was his military job or some "special" arrangements were made to allow him to do this.

1897

When he was 23, Churchill went to Egypt attached to the 21st Lancers and took part in the re-conquest of the Sudan. During the Battle of Omdurman, Churchill participated in one of the last cavalry charges in British military history.

1898

The next year, Churchill again wrote a book based on his newspaper dispatches. The River War was the most substantial work he wrote before entering Parliament.

Resigned commission

That year he resigned his army commission so that he could independently pursue his career in journalism without having to apply for transfers or military assignments. He also wanted to go into politics and at 24 ran for a seat in Parliament as a Conservative candidate. He was not elected.

Captured while covering war

Winston then went to South Africa to cover the Boer War as a journalist. The war had just broken out between Britain and the Boers, descendants of Dutch settlers. He was captured by the Boers and imprisoned. He managed to escape from prison and took the railroad into Portuguese East Africa. This feat made him a national hero.

1899 : He wrote 2 more books

In 1899, when he was 25, Churchill returned to South Africa to write about the war.

His newspaper dispatches were reprinted in two books, *London to Ladysmith via Pretoria* and *Ian Hamilton's March*.

1900: Elected to the House of Commons

When Churchill returned to England in 1900, his South African exploits had made him famous, and he was elected to the House of Commons. Though he was a Conservative, he criticized military spending and supported free trade. This soon resulted in a conflict with the Conservative leadership who supported large military budgets and protective tariffs.

Churchill also continued writing. His political ambition was evident in his sole novel, *Savrola* which was published in 1900. In the book, the hero leads a democratic revolution in an imaginary country in the Balkans, only to see the revolution escape from his control.

1903

In 1903, at age 29, he changed political parties to take a seat with the Liberal Party.

Summary

In his first 29 years, Winston Churchill developed into a prolific journalist and writer, as well as an adventurer. His family connections probably were a large factor in getting good military assignments, but he still showed the talent and drive to succeed at what he did on his own merits.

Thought for the week

Parents of brilliant children are great believers in heredity.

Easter Hamper

Our Easter Raffle bore a wonderful £560 for “Rotary Charities” thanks to members generosity in donating a wide range of items for inclusion in the Hamper and the sale of tickets lead-



ing up to Easter.

Mike and Pat Coates of Bitteswell were the worthy winners who offered a further £100 for the Hamper.

Thanks must go to John Roberson our treasurer for collecting all the money along with Mrs Frost for drawing the winning ticket.

Thanks to all involved in making this such a successful event.

Knitted Teddy Bear total end of April

Elaine reports that she has received 9097 teddies to the end of April, the latest consignment will be going shortly to Albania and Armenia.



Destined for Albania



Destined for Armenia

Eulogy for Brenda Burton sent by Graham Johnson to Club members,

It is my privilege to say a few words about our friend Brenda Burton. Firstly on behalf of the Rotary Club we extend our deepest sympathy to daughter Jane and son in law Martin, son Ian , grandson Adam and all the family.

Brenda was a clever, happy, vibrant, sincere, hardworking, lovely lady.

She loved the outdoor life and farming was a huge part of her working life with her late husband George at Mill Farm, Rugby Road, Lutterworth. She would be up early milking cows, haymaking and sharing all the work on the farm.

Brenda was Treasurer to many organisations: The Blond Aquitaine Cattle Society, Lutterworth Inner Wheel and South Kilworth Bowls Club where she was a very active member. Here she tended the garden, helped with refreshments and was an excellent and very competitive bowler.

She was a highly respected member of our Rotary Club, always on hand to help whatever the occasion.

Brenda will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace.



Foodbank talk by Jane Seager Countesthorpe Distribution Supervisor 19th April

I asked Jane to give us an update on how Foodbank had coped with the distribution of food during the pandemic and the restrictions that this imposed upon them up to now.

I have précised her very full and detailed talk which I hope will do justice to the details she gave us.

When lockdown started 23rd March 2020 she and Lucy Freeman vowed to keep the foodbank running by hook or by crook to keep those in need with the necessary support. They had to change their system because the government told all the over 70's to isolate themselves which took away

around 80% of their volunteers and direct contact with their clients. Luckily for them both councils who cover their distribution area, Blaby and Harborough, came forward with a solution. They put together teams of drivers not needed due to the lockdown and had them collect all the orders and deliver them to the doorsteps of each client. The volunteers whom they were still able to call on excelled themselves by going above and beyond what was asked of them doing extra sessions when requested to do so.

Due to the pandemic there was a marked increase in the number of clients needing the use of the foodbank. To start with they saw more families whose children were now at home who could no longer have the free meals they were entitled to at school, so imposing an extra financial struggle upon them. The furlough too started to take its toll and good as it was 80% of the normal wage packet was insufficient to meet their clients needs. This was followed by an increasing number of unemployed imposing 3 times upon their services than before the pandemic.

The super markets themselves recognised that foodbanks were suffering from panic buying and set up weekly deliveries direct from them to the centres as they did to other foodbanks around the country.

In September alone they received just over 2 tonnes of food in donations which was all moved and sorted by hand. By October this had increased to nearly 3½ tonnes and by Christmas the two local centres handed out 6½ tonnes of food!!! And also received 7½ tonnes of food in donations. By the new year the demand for their services did not abate due to their clients having extra problems such as increased heating bills on top of the food bills. Also the Christmas part time jobs evaporated sending more people back to the foodbank for assistance.

As to the future it looks grim and they can see their services needed more than ever, the country's economic situation being very unstable with more businesses going under and they will pick up the shortfall. With the hope to see a return to face to face contact with their clients, while the returning volunteers look forward to chatting and being a listening ear, a brighter future.

An excellent talk prompting a host of questions.

Future Events

Charity Golf Day with Rugby Rotary Club 7th June at Lutterworth Golf Club. Entries are coming in and it promises to be a good day. Members will be asked to help to serve food at the half-way house, supply raffle prizes or sponsor a hole.

Misterton Plant & Craft Fair : It is looking highly likely that our event can take place unfettered on **27th June**. Plans are shaping up well. Please start collecting your once beloved items for the White Elephant stall and deliver to Misterton on Saturday 26th. All members will be invited to help.

Big Bike Ride: This event is still in the melting pot, with a provisional date of **22nd August**

100 Club Winners

1st £25 David Ayres
2nd £15 Sally Parkinson
3rd £10 Rose Chapman

Spinning into Spring 25th April

Martin Iliffe gave us a very entertaining talk about purchasing and using a static bike at home. He started his talk by saying that he needed to loose weight by doing more exercise, He looked at the range of bikes available at a sensible price, finding that the "Peloton" was three times the price of the "Echelon", which did the same thing, being the Ford against the Rolls Royce.

Martin went on to give his daily routine but admitted that although he felt better for the exercise he had only lost ½ stone since January.



He said it seemed a good idea at the time!!