



Issue No: 198

Driving the wheel of fellowship

August '21 Newsletter

Programme for the next two months.

August		Speaker	Finder	Grace & Thanks
Monday	2nd	Normal Meeting	David Haynes	Mark Thompson
Monday	9th	Normal Meeting	TBA	Graham Johnson
Thursday	12th	Council Meeting	7-30 p.m.	
Monday	16th	Business Meeting		
Monday	23rd	Normal Meeting	David Toone	David Ayres
Monday	30th	Summer Bank Holiday		

September

Monday	6th	Normal Meeting	Steve Tallis	Ted Wilson
Thursday	9th	Council	7-30 p.m.	
Monday	13th	Business Meeting		
Monday	20th	Normal Meeting	Roger Rose	John Wells
Monday	27th	Normal Meeting	Anne Baker	Philip Duncan

If you are unable to carry out your 'duty' please find a substitute and tell **Anne Baker** Tel: 01455 285674 **email** christinabaker304@btinternet.com

Club Quiz 28th June

June finished with a (Zoom) quiz which Val Cooper presented to members with a variety of thirty very different questions, getting us all scratching our heads and muttering to ourselves that we knew the answer but not able to recall it when needed. (Many other quizzes have the bonus of our working in teams each member assisting each other to come up with the right answer). A highly entertaining meeting as one would expect with Val at the helm. The eventual winner was our treasurer John Roberson following a tie break with Roger Rose.

Bwengu Projects Malawi—5th July

On Monday 5th July we had a Zoom meeting presented by Sue and Tony Melia's daughter Sam and son-in-law Rob on the progress being made on the "Bwengu Projects Malawi" a charity set up in 2005.

They first gave a presentation about their Charity to the Club some 18 months ago. Since then the club has donated money to assist in furthering the progress of their current projects. For those not present at our first introduction to them may I give you some details on the country Malawi initially known as Nyasaland.

According to the International Monetary Fund in June 2018, Malawi is the third poorest country in the world.

One in ten adults live with HIV/AIDS and one million children have been orphaned by the disease. Unusually in today's world **53%** of the population is **under 18 years of age** (about 7 million).

Bwengu is a mountainous district in Northern Malawi, a six-hour drive from the capital Lilongwe in the South. Although the North is more fertile most development occurs South of the Capital. The Bwengu district is the size of Warwickshire and includes 52 villages with a population of 18,000 people and a total of 32 primary/secondary schools.

Over the years, a wide range of community projects have been undertaken by the charity but going forward from 2020 they will focus on these key areas:

Renovations of School Buildings
Provision of School Toilets
School Furniture
Whole-class Teaching Kits
Adult Literacy
Orphan Care

Out of a total population of 19 million, 12 million people are living below the international poverty line on the equivalent of 96 pence per day.

All money raised goes towards the projects, using minimal overheads. The trustees have built-in systems of governance to maintain the effectiveness of all project work undertaken in Malawi. They said in their talk they use the local head teachers to monitor and report on progress being made on their projects.

During questions that ensued following their talk a question was asked as to what it would cost to give the children at their school one meal a day - the reply being £600 would cover this up to the end of the year i.e. around 2p per pupil per day.

NHS - George Medal presented by the Queen on 5th July

To Honour their Keyworkers

**NHS
George Cross**



What a difficult year for our fund raisers

What a year it's been for our fund raisers due to all the restrictions and concern caused by the pandemic when running any event or meeting. Yet, with the odds against them, the club has continued to have meetings (largely through Zoom) and some planned events have taken place in spite of it all.

As the pandemic took hold of the country in March we quickly realised the devastating impact lockdown would have on our traditional methods of generating income and funds for our charities.

As has been said in the past, we as Rotarians are very resilient so have continued to support as many charities as funds allow.

Mercy Ships

Over the years we have supported Mercy Ships once again we were able to take advantage of the generous "two for one offer" from their sponsors, so doubling the money donated. This year we donated £1,000 giving them a grand total of £2,000.

They were delighted with our donation and have said a big thank you.

The results for the 100 Club June Draw were:-

No. 19 – Val Cooper - - - - 1st Prize £50

No. 87 – Graham Johnson - - 2nd Prize £15

No. 59 – John Roberson - - - 3rd Prize £10

David's Cheque giving Day

David and Val had a full day last Wednesday presenting a cheque for £1,500 to each of his chosen charities for the year.

Rainbows Hospice

LOROS

Hope against Cancer

All three were very pleased to receive their donations.

Jenny Perry Rainbows Hospice



Jo Kavanagh LOROS

**Jessica Southworth
Hope against Cancer**



News from South Africa — Anne Thompson

I thought you may like to hear a little about the happenings in SA over the past days in early July.

I don't know or understand the politics behind the unrest, but let me tell the story as I see it.

Going back a few years, Jacob Zuma was president of SA from 2009 to 2018, when he was 'removed' from office and current President Cyril Ramaphosa was elected into office. They are both members of the main political party the ANC.

It would appear that during President Zuma's 9 years in office

many unlawful deals were done!!!??? for which he is now being investigated. But he keeps refusing to attend court hearings etc, etc. Recently he was tried, found guilty and sentenced to 18 months in goal for contempt of court for ignoring summonses to attend hearings.

He was arrested on 8th July and taken to jail. This caused his followers to start planning to riot and cause general uproar, chaos and trying to make the country ungovernable, in order to get him out of jail.

So from late Sunday 11th July to approx. Wednesday evening 14th we experienced looting, burning of property, disruption of road transport, mayhem and rioting as not seen here for many years. This mainly happened in KwaZuluNatal and to a much lesser extent in Gauteng (Soweto mostly). Remember KwaZuluNatal is Zuma's stronghold.

Shopping malls, industrial parks mostly were targeted, not private communities. It was not a racial matter in fact much damage was done in the areas closest to the rioters homes.

The Police force simply could not cope, eventually limited Army support was called in but also could not be everywhere.

The amazing thing is that then the Neighbourhood Watch and local Community Policing groups banded together and started protecting their own areas. Ordinary people, from all walks of life barricading roads and quietly, calmly stopping any unlawful activities near Malls etc. In some areas it was too little too late but generally they did amazing work, with lots of support from residents delivering food, coffee etc to them during the long shifts.

Although the mayhem stopped. Many, many stores had been looted and because the supply chain (road network) had also been targeted, re-stocking warehouses and supermarkets could not take place so basic food ran out and local shops were rationing shoppers.

My daughter Louise and husband Tim with grand-daughter Emily queued for 4 1/2 hrs outside a supermarket. They arrived in the dark at 6.00am and were already number 141 in the queue. When they got to the door only 1 family member was allowed in and they were only allowed to purchase 20 items, and pay with a card (no cash). But they had made a plan as they were shopping for 3 families.

It was very frightening as we did not know which way it would go and of course mis-information, rumours and lies abounded. It was amazing how fast it exploded and how fast it was quelled. Of course the long term recovery of businesses, malls, warehouses and roads will take months and we weep for small shop owners who lost everything. Just a week later, and things are getting back to normal but it was very scary. Over 212 people died, some in stampedes to get into the stores!! 3,000 + have been arrested, recovery operations to get back some of the looted items is underway and so on. Zuma is still in jail despite all this.

Hand Over of President from David Ayres to Val Cooper with Roger Rose as Vice President.



Misterton Report

On Sunday 25th July 2021, the Rotary Club of Lutterworth with the kind permission of Mrs Craven held the 14th Annual Plant, Craft & Food Fair at Misterton Hall. The weather forecast for the day suggested that our visitors and stall holders might get a little wet, but on the day, the weather held and it was a joy to see families out enjoying the sunshine and

warm conditions.

The fair would normally have taken place on the 16th May but due to the governments restrictions relating to COVID-19 it was re-scheduled not once but twice. As such it presented more than a few challenges to organisers and stall holders alike, but despite everything everyone pulled together and supported each other to present a great show.

There were approximately 1,100 visitors to the fair with the usual mix of plant, craft and food retailers, they all reported brisk business with enthusiastic visitors. There was musical entertainment throughout the day and a tea cup ride for the children, as well as old country fair favourites such as horse shoe throwing and field skittles, where many participants walked away with a prize.

Around 30 classic and vintage vehicles attended the fair enthralling the visitors with their presentation and on the day, a 1964 Ford Zodiac and a 1970 Triumph TR6 were deemed to be best in show.

It was a brilliant day and the organisers would like to thank all of those people that came out to support us, the stall holders for offering such a great retailer experience, the classic and vintage vehicle owners for a super show, the volunteers as without them it would not have been possible and finally Mrs Craven whose garden looked spectacular.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year, at the usual time of year, put the date in your diary **15th May 2022.**



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