



**Issue No: 204**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## February '22 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

### **February**

### **Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks**

Monday 7th Normal Meeting Sue Sharp David Toone

Thursday 10th Council Meeting 7-00 p.m.

Monday 14th Business Meeting

Monday 21st Normal Meeting Bernard Johnson Steve Tallis

Monday 28th Normal Meeting David Woolliscroft Roger Rose

### **March**

Monday 7th Normal Meeting Sally Hollis Anne Baker

Thursday 10th Council Meeting 7-00 p.m.

Monday 14th Business Meeting

Monday 21st Normal Meeting Peter Osborn John Howell

Monday 28th Normal Meeting Martin Iliffe Sally Parkinson

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

## Update on Little Faces School in Mombasa

The school was first visited back in 2011 when Sally Searle, a school teacher from St Neots, was on holiday in Mombasa. While there she visited the school and she was very impressed by the headmistress and the work she was doing with the 35 primary aged children. Through their education these children would have the chance of a good start in life. However the school was held in a ramshackle corrugated building with no sanitary facilities.

Today, through her hard work fundraising including the contributions from our club, the school now has over 300 pupils including secondary aged students. There is a brick built building with well equipped classrooms and the bonus of a modern kitchen. The separate hygienic toilet block is also available for use by the rest of the village.

In December she was going to give us a snapshot of the progress being made through her fund raising support over the past decade. Unfortunately through illness her talk had to be postponed until later this year. In the meantime may I give you an overview of what has been done and hopefully the attached pictures will show what has been achieved.



## **Joint meeting with Wycliffe Rotary**

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January **Robert Titterington from the Wycliffe Club** spoke to both clubs on a subject he entitled the three most significant Engineering/ Scientific/Innovative events that took place during World War 2

On the Allied side it was the Atomic Bomb dropped by the Americans on Japan in 1945

On the German side the V2 Bomb was the first of Hitler's weapons which carried a warhead in a low flying pilotless plane. When it ran out of fuel falling to the ground and exploding at random often on the civilian population around city centres.

And the one that stood out most was Radar which was an electronic means of identifying where enemy planes were destined for allowing the allies to identify the target before they were able to attack home airfields and factories.

He went on to explain about two of the fuses used in bombing and by the artillery, the first one detonated as it was shot with the second of these timed to detonate after the shot.

The other was the proximity fuse with the Americans making over 20 million of these during the war (while the allies fired as little as 100,000). During the Pacific war a vast number of proximity fuses were used in the shells aimed to shoot down Japanese planes flown by Kamikaze pilots. On January 5<sup>th</sup> 1943 the USS Helen fired 22 rounds to shoot down 1 plane. In a later battle on 11th May 1945 while the Americans were under attack from 156 planes in 90 minutes USS Hadley shot down 12 planes and USS Evens 23 planes.

Next an explanation of the V1 and V2 rockets. The V2 was launched from a "ski" ramp giving a low projectile so needing over 18,000 rounds from the AA guns to hit one target. A V2 launcher can be seen at the Duxford Museum and the gyroscope which was fitted to centre up the rocket's direction. The V2 could achieve 350 to 400mph and few aircraft could match this the Hawker Tempest the best available. A local Lutterworth

note "From a WW2 archive pilot Ken McKenzie (now with a road named after him) told how he used his Spitfire wing to tip the V2 and keep it out of the destined range." Other solutions were improved AA guns on the south coast and Barrage Balloons over vulnerable cities.

Of the 104 known launches - 68 were shot down by AA guns - 14 by the RAF - 2 tangled by Balloons - and 14 were faulty the others finding their target.

Finally the development of radar using photoelectric cells displayed on a screen. The more sophisticated Doppler Radar (like the radar used on our roads today to detect vehicle speed) a huge asset allowing enemy aircraft movements to be plotted and where possible destroyed before reaching the target and releasing their bombs. Many more interesting facts were given by Bob in a very professional manner - enough to fill a book.



## **Our Burns Lunch on Monday 24th January was followed by Mrs Lesley Shaw and Mrs Chris Ingham who spoke on the growth of Lutterworth & District Branch of Leukaemia Research Charity (now renamed Blood Cancer UK)**

The Lutterworth and District Branch of Leukaemia Research was recognised as a branch in Lutterworth in 1971 to raise funds through raffles, jumble sales and coffee mornings. The Branch activities steadily increased along with funds raised each year. In 1999 a small shop in Lutterworth became available so Mrs Chris Ingham and Mrs Maureen (Mo) Sheasby discussed the viability and benefits of taking over the shop and it did so well that at the end of 6 weeks they took on the monthly rent.

The shop, run by Chris and Mo was a friendly and welcoming community focal point for the Charity. The public could now drop off donations, browse and hopefully purchase in the shop at the same time and of course, like most charity shops in those days a lot of tea was drunk along with the chats.

Headquarters felt that charity shops in general were something that would stigmatise the charity.

However Chris and Mo felt that the shop could be the answer to various problems due to the volume of donations. The shop was a great success and went from strength to strength.

A local ex-teacher, Gordon Burnett, ran a book barn near our shop with all sales raising funds for the church. When he became too ill to continue he asked Chris if they would like to take over the barn and its thousands of books to sell for our charity. This was a mammoth task but soon became a success too with the donations of books sold from the shop and the barn.

We out grew the shop because of the small size with limited space preventing further growth. My daughter Lesley Shaw, who had been part of the Branch for many years and a previous part-time manager took over as the full time shop manager.

In 2008 the Branch made the decision to look for larger premises. The potential for growth and greater fund raising was clear. A shop became available in the Station Road car park, an ideal location. Anne Everett, a volunteer since 2006, joined the management team as a trustee and part-time manager. Again we had to take personal responsibilities for the shop.

The management team of Chris, Anne and Lesley, through their dedication, drive and business acumen have taken the Branch from one small shop to two very successful shops and a warehouse. The team and volunteers ran shop 1 with a happy atmosphere and it was so successful that within two years the trustees proposed to the committee that the Branch take on a second shop premises.

The existing barn was not really suitable as a retail outlet and could only open for a few hours three times a week. The idea was the new shop, Shop 2, would sell furniture, books, etc. A shop premises at Bell Street became available, very close to Shop 1, we then took on personal responsibility for all aspects of both shops.

Eventually a van was purchased to allow Shop 2 to do collections and deliveries of furniture and quickly the Furniture and Book shop also became a success. In 2012 Mrs Chris Ingham received her M.B.E for services to our charity.

In 2013 we expanded into a barn near to the two shops to be able to store the furniture needed to sell in the Furniture and Book Shop. We have now moved the warehouse to the New Street premises and this is open on the first Saturday of the month.

The Branch has over 73 staff, volunteers and 6 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers but we need more! So if you, or someone you know, have a few hours to spare each week we would love to hear from you.

We are an independent company Lutterworth and District Shops formed to raise funds under licence for Blood Cancer UK. To date the Lutterworth and District Branch and the Lutterworth and District Shops have donated over 1.5 million to the charity.

Our 2 charity and the warehouse are unique as they are the only ones raising funds for Blood Cancer UK with all profits from our shops donated directly to the charity.

## Celebration of Robert Burns Birthday (25th January)

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,  
Great chieftain o' puddin-race!  
Above them a' ye tak yer place  
Painch, tripe or thairm:  
Well are ye worthy o' a grace  
As lang's my arm*

*Addressing the Haggis written by Robert Burns 1787. The low-land Scots original translates as*

Nice seeing your honest, chubby face,  
Great chieftain of the sausage race!  
Above them all you take your place,  
Belly, tripe or links:  
Well are you worthy of a grace  
As long as my arm.





*Peter J Osborn Rossett Green Valley Lane Bitteswell LE17 4SA  
Tel 01455 553178 email [peterosborn@talktalk.net](mailto:peterosborn@talktalk.net)*