



**Issue No: 206**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## **April '22 Newsletter**

**Programme for the next two months.**

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

#### **April**

Monday 4th   Normal Meeting   Philip Duncan   Mary Stannard

Monday 11th   Normal Meeting   John Wells   Elaine Turner

Monday 18th   **Bank Holiday   No Meeting**

Thursday 21st   Council Meeting   7-00 p.m.

Monday 25th   Business Meeting

#### **May**

Monday 2nd   **Bank Holiday   No Meeting**

Monday 9th   Normal Meeting   Ted Wilson   Mike Toone

Thursday 12th   Council Meeting   7-00 pm

Monday 16th   AGM and Business Meeting

Monday 23rd   Normal Meeting   Richard Stannard   Sue  
Postlethwaite

Monday 30th   **Bank Holiday   No Meeting**

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

## James Herriot and all that (7th March)

Our speaker on Monday was a local vet (Mark Furber) and Rugby Rotarian who gave us a highly entertaining talk on some of the cases he had been called out to. A couple of examples were when Heather Craven, owner of Misterton Hall, had called for his help with one of the geese on her estate who was in trouble. However he never thought he would be rowing her furiously across the lake to retrieve the patient. Another tale he told was when he went to assist a cow in labour, only to find that she had given birth on her own and his services were not needed when the new calf was found safe and sound in the field.

### All part of a vet's life.



## Rae Flowerday was our speaker on Monday 21 March 2022.

Rae is an active member of the Lutterworth Military Veterans Association and knows our President Val (also a Military Veteran). By coincidence Rae was serving in Aden at the same time as Val's husband, Gary Cooper.

Rae spoke about her time when stationed in Steamer Point, Aden as a WRAF, when she was just 19 years old.

She reminded us why and how the British Forces were present in this part of the Middle East.

The Aden Protectorate was a British Protectorate in South Arabia from 1839 following the conquest of Aden by the Bombay Province of British India. Initially its



aim was to support and protect the shipping to India following the Independence of India in 1947.

This importance became even more critical following the loss of British Colonies in 1945, and subsequent disastrous Suez Canal Crisis in 1956.

By the 1960's, and in the ensuing years, anti-British guerrilla groups with various political objectives, threatened the stability of the Protectorate. Two major groups (NLF & FLOSY) fought not only against the British but amongst themselves. As a consequence, Military personnel were stationed in Aden from 1962 to 1967.

The British Military suffered repeated attacks and took the humiliating decision to withdraw in 1967 following the brutal & decisive battle of CRATER. Shortly after the NFL seized power. The area is now known as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Rae's memories and photographs however illustrated an exciting time for a young WRAF who had never been overseas before. Rae would work 2 days on and two days off in Communications. Regardless of the unrelenting heat, marauding Baboons and rugged inhospitable mountains, she enjoyed parties and trips to the local lovely beach with her fellow serving personnel. This was until circumstances forced her to be confined to the perimeter of the camp for safety.

Rae is a member of the Aden Veterans Association which celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at York Minster which she attended.

Rae joined fellow military personnel in 2017 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the withdrawal of troops in Aden. Members thanked Rae for sharing her memories with us.



### **The Glory of the Garden**

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,  
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,  
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;  
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,  
You'll find the tool and potting-sheds which are the heart of all,  
The cold frames and the hot-houses, the dung pits and the tanks,  
The rollers, carts and drainpipes, with the barrows and the planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'prentice boys  
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise;  
For except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,  
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can pot a rose,  
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows;  
But can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,  
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made  
By singing: Oh, how beautiful, and sitting in the shade,  
While better men than we go out and start their working lives  
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.

There's not a pair of legs so thin there's not a head so thick,  
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick,  
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,  
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth everyone.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,  
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;  
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,  
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees  
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,  
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray  
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!  
And the Glory of the Garden shall never pass away!

## **Latest news on Elaine's knitted Teddy Bears**

Elaine has just heard from her friend who took teddies to Derby that they are being used by Derby Rotary Club for their Ukrainian refugee project .

She has some left if our Rotary can find good homes for them .

## **Martin Iliffe -Life Story**

I left school in the summer of 1979, the year that Punk Rock started to fade from fashion and Margaret Thatcher's Britain began.

I was born and bred in Leicester; Dad came from Belgrave and Mum from Braunstone. They were married in 1949 and lived with my Dad's sister for a few years, which was common in those days, until they were eventually allocated a council house in Braunstone Frith in 1952, the house that my Mum & Dad lived in for the rest of their lives.

They already had my eldest sister Lynne by the time they moved into this house and 18 months later my other sister Shirley arrived, I didn't arrive until 1963, an afterthought or an accident I wonder?

My education was supplied courtesy of the "Secondary Modern" system and in particular New Parks Boys School, a large school with well over a 1000 pupils situated on the New Parks estate. I was an average student and managed to gain one "O" level in English and various CSE's as a reward for all my efforts.

Having served in the Royal Engineers during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, Dad had always worked with his hands, Lorry Driver, Milkman, Welder and finally Maintenance Engineer for a variety of employers in the Leicestershire area.

I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I left full time education at the age of sixteen, so Dad suggested, Engineering.

After applying to many firms in Leicester and attending selection tests followed by interviews, which even then, Dad had to attend as well, I was offered apprenticeships with six employers, Adcock & Shipley Textron, Wadkins, Jones & Shipmans, Marconi Radar, GEC Fisher Controls and Gent of Leicester.

The last three were offers of electrical engineering rather than mechanical engineering careers, and after my Dad had pointed out that I would get "dirty" being a mechanical engineer I decided to go into electrical engineering.

Gent of Leicester was the chosen firm.

A four year apprenticeship began in July 1979, It was a good apprenticeship; the first year was spent at either college or at a government run engineering training school learning how to be a good mechanical engineer, **getting dirty**. At the end of my first year, surprisingly to both me and my Dad, it turned out that I was quite good at it and received a prize for being the best apprentice for that particular year.

In the second and third year I returned to the Gent factory and the plan was that I spent 3 months in each department learning all aspects of the business, however at the end of my 3 month stay in the service department, which I loved, and despite having not completed my apprenticeship, they offered me a full time post.

So at the age of 19 I became a fire alarm & clock service engineer, although the company still allowed me return to college in Leicester once a week until I had completed my apprenticeship.

There was a condition and that was that I had to leave home and live in Buckinghamshire. So in the summer of 1982, I officially became the service engineer representing, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Northants.

It was in my role of service engineer that in the Winter of 1982 I met my future wife, Patricia.

I spent the next five years working in this territory but in early 1988 decided in partnership with my then boss to start our business, Complete Detection Systems Ltd and began trading on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1988.

1992 came along and Pat and I bought our first house together, in Milton Keynes, a house that we continued to own until we discovered Ullesthorpe.

Our business stumbled along for many years, but our big break came in the year 2000 when our former employers, Gent of Leicester, decided to set up a nationwide group of independent agents, who would be responsible for the marketing, sales, and servicing of their branded equipment.

They approached us and offered us the opportunity to become one of the first agents, and we have not looked back since.

In 2005, we decided to come to live in Ullesthorpe, just to see if Pat liked Leicestershire and of course the native population, her being an Oxfordshire woman and all, she liked it,

so we stayed.

Christmas 2008, after living together in one form or another since 1986 and being properly an item since 1984, I decide to finally ask her to marry me, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009, we got married at Kilworth House Hotel, well.....no point rushing into these things is there.

## **"Smile Train" Talk 4th April**

Our speaker Peter James (a much travelled individual), pictured being presented with a cheque by the club for the above charity which was created in 1998 by Brian Mullananey and Charles Wang. They had previously worked with Operation Smile, another charity focussing on the correcting of cleft lips and palates, who felt the most efficient way to provide this surgery was to train and support local doctors rather than to fly in Western doctors to provide the surgery in poor developing countries. Local doctors would also be able to provide care year-round rather than the limited engage-



ments. Our speaker told us he was in Laos when he met two doctors who were on their way to give specialised training to local hospitals.

So inspired he became more involved with the organisation. Nowadays, on his travels in foreign lands, he is likely to call at a hospital to assess their needs for treating cleft

patients; which may be staff training for advanced surgical techniques and or travel arrangements for patients living in remote areas where hospital facilities are few and far between .

The effects of the cleft abnormalities on the unfortunate children born with this condition are far reaching, impeding nutrition and speech development among other things.

Also in some cultures they are shunned from society. The specialised treatment and care that Smile Train encourages makes it possible for so many children to lead normal lives which would otherwise be impossible.



# The Rotary Club of Lutterworth



*invite you to -*

## The Misterton Plant, Craft & Food Fair Sunday 15th May 2022

10am - 4pm



- Over 40 Plant & Craft stalls •
- Vintage & Classic Cars welcome (£5 per car) •
- Musical entertainment throughout the day •
- Refreshments •
- Children's amusements •

**£5.00**  
per person  
(U16's FREE)



Enjoy the beautiful gardens  
of Misterton Hall by kind  
permission of Mrs Craven

*The event will be subject to any COVID Government  
restrictions which may apply at the time.*

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