



Issue No: 207

Driving the wheel of fellowship

May'22 Newsletter

Programme for the next two months.

Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

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		

June

Monday	6th	Normal Meeting	Graham Johnson	Richard Stannard	
Thursday	9th	Council Meeting	7-00 p.m.		
Monday	13th	Business Meeting			
Monday	20th	Normal Meeting	Mary Stannard	Mark Thompson	

Monday 27th President Change Over Day and Club Assembly

Val Cooper to Roger Rose

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

Smile

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu, when someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too. I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin, when he smiled I realised I'd passed it onto him. I thought about that smile then I realised its worth, a single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth. So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected. Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

Rotary Sports for the Disabled

Our speaker finder John Wells invited Mark Beeby to talk about the Clubs introduction and involvement in the Disabled Sports Championship over the past two decades,

Mark started his talk by giving a brief outline as to how the club got involved through our late President Bryan Cooper and his son Stephen a paralympian. Stephen won a bronze medal for the 800metres and a silver medal in 100metres relay at Sydney and came 4th in 800metres in Athens, he continues to help and will be at the Rotary Rugby Games on May 1st this year.

In 2006 Ron Gibbs, who was running the English Disabled Championships in Coventry, invited Bryan to enter a team from the club which he duly did. With a lot of help from the club and his wife Shirley a Leicester team was born.



Mark Beeby
Our Speaker



The Team Cup 2014

A valiant first effort but 12th of 12 so help was needed and in 2007 a reset with John Duggan who was invited to plan our strategy and now John Roberson assisting Bryan. With training and some practice sessions at Lutterworth College and a successful formula the Leicester team won 6 times and came 2nd three times in the next 9 years. The last games at Coventry was in 2015. The events were spread over 2 days with the regional teams staying over night while we travelled each day. The events were open to both Male - Female and Junior competitors and included

Boccia - Kurling - Darts - Weight Lifting - Archery - Shooting Swimming - Table Tennis and the final event in the main hall was Wheelchair racing Pitstop and Slalom. These last two events were watched by everyone, cheering their teams home over the tricky course. Leicester also won Best Team Spirit for some years. John continues to master mind the club's team.

To provide ongoing opportunities in 2009 an inclusive Table Tennis club was set up in Lutterworth and in 2010 an After School Club first with 2 teachers Mike Skubala and Zoe Tur Ribas, but it was recognised we needed professional help and Mark Beeby was invited to provide weekly coaching from

2010. The Rugby Games started where the competition was for individuals—not an event for teams so easier to organise. We continue to take part in these Games. Also in 2010 we went to the Stoke Mandeville Games with John Duggan.

There have been grants awarded for Disabled Sports, 2008 National Lottery £9,250 for the area roadshows "Have a Go" also equipment and coaching. Then in 2014 a Rotary grant of £1,000. Opportunities for Disabled Sports often have their funding cut. Now with fewer specialist schools providing their funds, as disabled pupils join mainstream schools, there are less funds and fewer opportunities available for sport.

Profile of John Cookson

From time to time I ask members for their profile but have never done one for our **web master** so I asked him and he has provided one which I find very interesting.

On 1st May, 1949, a young woman was on the top deck of a Preston Corporation bus. She went up there for a smoke on the way to hospital, and that's where the life of little Willy Cookson began. Fortunately, my Dad spotted the connotations and changed me to John William for which I've been for ever grateful. I had pretty ordinary schooling and left at 15 to start work.

After part of an apprenticeship as a panel beater at the British Aircraft Corporation near Preston I was made redundant due to the cancellation of the TSR2 fighter project. I'd no reason to stay in the area and, therefore, joined the RAF in 1967 as a Musician as I was in a brass band already. Following basic training, and a year in the RAF School of Music at Uxbridge learning how to play a euphonium to a high standard, I was posted to the Southern Band of the RAF based at Henlow in Bedfordshire. I moved on to Catterick and for a short time back to Uxbridge in the RAF Central Band. Great band, but I hated it (toxic atmosphere) and went back to Catterick. It was, for me, the dream job. I got to play music all day and, apart from a bit of 'bull' it was very enjoyable.

After six years, I had made the rank of Corporal – now stationed at RAF Catterick - when the ultimate disaster which can befall any musician happened. I had a motorbike accident and slid down the road on my mouth. By now, I had converted to playing trombone. Trombones and fat lips are mutually exclusive and I could

no longer play to the required standard. Therefore, I was given two choices: i) Medical discharge with no pension or ii) remuster to another trade. I chose ii).

I'd was always good at languages and I was sent to the Joint Services School of Languages at RAF North Luffenham in Rutland for new trade training. For the life of me, I was convinced that I was going to do German, but to my surprise, I discovered I'd been sent on a Russian course. From there, it led to postings in Berlin, Cyprus and detachments to places I'm still not sure I'm allowed to mention.

Nine years in the RAF and promotion to Sergeant coincided with a very messy divorce – she ran off with a Rock Ape (those who know will know what I mean) - and the inevitable loss of security clearance which was mandatory in those situations. Redundancy was available, so I took it.

Fate took a hand and I was offered a four year place at Hull University to study Russian and Linguistics which I gladly took. University? At 29 it was another dream 'job'. Foot loose and single amongst a campus of young women, what more did I need? I was off like a shot. However, it also coincided with the time I met my second wife – so much for all those young women. I married Vanessa after just a short-year and we spent the first three years of our married life living apart; me in East Yorkshire and her in Kent. She had a career and it was useful having one of us earning a living. The joy was, every third weekend visit home was a honeymoon!

Ten years working in the City of London in corporate insurance brought me to Lutterworth - following promotion in my firm - where I'd lived happily for thirty three years until we moved to Cheshire just two years ago.



Good financial planning and work related stress allowed retirement at 52.

Shortly after arriving in Lutterworth, I joined the Rotary Club of Lutterworth Wycliffe where I was a member for twenty two years getting involved in many aspects of Rotary.

Including building the club's first website, being president, and eventually becoming District 1070 webmaster with a website which grew to be 202 pages long. It was a post I held for nine years.

However, it had become almost a full time job and it was time to dump someone else in it. The District awarded me a PHF for my efforts which was, I believe, that 1070 as a district had ever awarded this. As an aside, I also took on the Lutterworth Rotary website too.

In my career I've helped build aeroplanes, played at state occasions and for royalty, sung on stage and TV with Vera Lynn (oh boy did I fall in love with her!), made many musical recordings (military and civilian), lived in Russia, France (I speak decent French too), Germany, Cyprus, Singapore and Hong Kong and been all over the world. I now live in Cheshire, but still play as a member of Lutterworth Town Band making the 200 miles round trip every two weeks or so, and I write and arrange music for the band. I'm also in a local band here in Cheshire, but my heart remains with Lutterworth.

Easter Hampers

Following the very generous donations from all of our members, we were able to offer SEVEN prizes for this year's Easter Raffle.

Thanks also goes to Caroline at "All Wrapped Up" for donating a pamper prize and Val for doing a wonderful job in making the hampers look so wonderful.



The draw took place on 11th April.

Derick Berridge won the first prize with other winners being Mark Thompson, Martin Iliffe's relative, Rae Flowerday (recent speaker from the Vet's Association), Jenny Taylor, Sue Sharp and Ted Wilson.

The total raised for Rotary Charities was £645.

Thanks to everyone.

April 100 Club results

First Prize	David Ayres	£25
Second Prize	David Woolliscroft	£15
Third Prize	Gary Smart	£10

New Members

Greetings to our new members

Jenny Taylor



Alison Allen



Update on Global Mercy



On 9th March the world's largest civilian hospital ship docked in Rotterdam.

Global Mercy was built from the ground up and has a length of 174 metres, a breadth of 28.6 metres and

a staggering gross tonnage of 37,000 tonnes.

The hospital itself is on the third and fourth decks and can accommodate 199 patients.

There are six theatres, including 102 acute care beds, 7 ICU/isolation beds and 90 self-care beds.

A Global Grant of \$1.125 million dollars from Rotary International funded a CT Scanner and other vital medical equipment to go on board the ship Global Mercy.

Future Events

Sunday 15th May Misterton Craft and Plant Sale at Misterton

Tuesday 17th May A walk and tea after at David Hayne's house

Friday 3rd June Charity Gala Dinner

Friday 24th June Musical Carousel at Kilworth Theatre

Friday 12th August Musical "Half a Sixpence" at Kilworth Theatre

Visit to Leicester Gas Museum
dates and time to be arranged in August/September

Visit to Parliament dates and time to be arranged

Tuesday 31st January '23
The Official "Queen Concert"
at De Montfort Hall Leicester.

Stop Press News

Results from the Area Disabled Sports Championship on 26th April at Lincoln and 1st May at Rugby will be reported in next month's edition. John Roberson continuing to organise team Leicester with help from wife Carol, our members and coaches John and Mark.