



Issue No: 211

Driving the wheel of fellowship

September '22 Newsletter

Programme for the next two months.

September

Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

Thursday	1st	Council Meeting	7 p.m.		
Monday	5th	Joint Meeting at Greyhound	Steve Tallis	Ted Wilson	
Monday	12th	Business Meeting			
Monday	19th	Normal Meeting	Colin Derrick	Derick Berridge	
Monday	26th	Normal Meeting	Anne Baker	Philip Duncan	

October

Monday	3rd	Normal Meeting	Mark Thompson	Martin Iliffe	
Thursday	6th	Council	7 p.m.		
Monday	10th	Business Meeting			
Monday	17th	Normal Meeting	Sally Parkinson	Peter Osborn	
Monday	24th	Normal Meeting	David Walton	Sally Hollis	

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

Alison Allen A Life Story

Alison our new member was invited to give us a precis of her life which she did very eloquently.

Her parents followed their parents into the greengrocery business that dated back in the family to the 18th century. Born into the Baby Boomer generation she was one of four girls with a tomboy attitude although their mother enjoyed fashionable clothes. Alison said having failed her 11+ went to Stoney Gate College in Leicester. Her main interest at school was in Drama and Dance at which she excelled, so going into the family Greengrocer business was not an option when she left school at 17.

She had met her husband to be while still at school aged 16 while Glynn was 18 and training to be an engineer. They often went to Pallie Dances and had a good social life. Married in 1970 with a home in Wigston and have two sons. She went on to tell us she had always wanted to run her own business. So after purchasing some 'people weighing scales' and proof that diets could work, she had lost 5 stone on a low fat/carbohydrate diet she set out to find a loan. It was Nat West who eventually gave the loan to start her Slimming Business, which became very successful. At this point she backtracked recounting an incident when her parents went on holiday during the school holidays and she was left in charge of their shop. But guess what on the second day a car ran into the front of the shop - but never daunted she moved onto the pavement and traded from trestle tables that she erected there. Alison said how amazed she was at the loyalty of their regular customers. The business made more profit during that time while the shop was closed for repairs than her parents had made in previous months. She was a born business woman that manifested itself when she herself went into business herself.

Since losing her husband Glynn at the age of 62, who sadly died on her birthday. She has found new friends, a new home in Frolesworth and new interests, playing Bowls amongst other sports.

Alison looks forward to being an active part of the club. With her Motto "Be Brave" – "Be Bold" and "Be Confident".
(Alison's story from her notes given to the editor)

My Joy of Cycling

My bike to me is a thing of joy
More than just an expensive toy
It carries me here and there and back
On a road, lane or cycle track

I push the pedals and the wheels whizz along
My heart soars with a joyous song
Cares pass me by, my mind is clear
My bike takes me where I choose to steer

Moving as one in the fresh open air
A physical exercise without compare
Cycling keeps me healthy happy and fit
Perfect reason for doing it

So cycling to me is a wonderful thing
In summer, autumn, winter and spring
The hills may be hard with wind in my face
But cycling is something that I will never replace
By David Lewis

Walk round Ash Tree Farm



On Monday August 1st instead of a talk Rotarians were invited to have a walk round Mike and Pat Coates 7 acre wild flower meadow situated at the top of Ashby Lane in Bitteswell. After the walk returning to the Greyhound Inn for lunch. Mike told us he had developed the meadow over many years and they were justifiably very proud of the result. We were blessed with good weather which made it a very pleasant occasion for those of us who took advantage of their invitation. We were told as we went round that some six thousand trees had been planted over a number of years around the couple of lakes Mike had also constructed while they had lived in Bitteswell.

Some of us had seen his property before his development had taken place and we were very impressed at what had been achieved. A very special place something for future generations to enjoy as you as you can see from the photos taken during our walk. *(once again some of us were lucky enough to have a buggy ride, Thank you Mike)*



Mike Toone's talk on Amateur Dramatics

On Monday 18th August Mike gave us a very interesting talk on Amateur Dramatics

"When we moved to Broughton Astley in 1982, Jenny joined the local drama society, and was in their village hall productions for a few years. I was occasionally recruited to help with backstage jobs, particularly when they had to move all their kit to Hinckley for their annual Concordia Theatre production. On winter evening in 1992, Jenny was about to go down to the drama club's hut to do a first read through of their next play, and asked if I felt like going along. As there was nothing I wanted to watch on TV, I did. There were fewer members there than parts to fill, so the director asked me if I would like to read a part, which I did. I thought no more about it until, a couple of days later, the director phoned, asked if I had enjoyed the reading and would I like to do the part.

That was the start of it. The nearer it got to the first night, the more terrifying the whole process seemed – but the buzz at the end was absolutely incredible. I was told by other members that when it was all over, you feel quite deflated. I didn't believe this, but they were right. I really missed it, and cured the flat feeling by signing up for another play a few months later.

So began a hobby I have found completely absorbing. I even resorted to doing parts in the Machynlleth pantomime during the eight years we lived in Wales, mainly to keep up with the habit of learning lines as the years advanced.

Over the last 25 plus years, I have taken part in productions of six different drama societies, and have even got used to the absence of a prompt! I know I'm lucky that my memory is still good, and intend to keep at it as long as daft directors are prepared to trust me!"

Water, water every where
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, every where
Nor any drop to drink.

With the lack of rain and our gardens looking very dry, we are all looking forward to the predicated rain next week! To mark the **National Allotment Week**, there are over 330,00 allotments within the UK with 90% of local authorities reporting an increase in demand. The average cost of a 250 square metre plot would cost £247 annually. Those who own allotments report having so much joy from attending them, with growing new plants and making new friends and having an outside space to escape to.

As summer is drawing to a close and pinks and pastel blues begin to disappear making way for the stronger colours of yellow and reds for autumn. A first, those who attended the **Chelsea Flower Show** in September last year noticed this difference of colours in the show gardens. (but Spring 2022)

Bees find locating red flowers difficult, as their light receptors cannot detect red, which means pollination doesn't happen, but luckily butterflies and some beetles are able to do this task instead.

It is birds who enjoy red berries and flowers the most and so re-pollenate these species.

Peonies—Kew Gardens are having a major revamp of their peony gardens before next year, which will take a year. Looking at the healing properties of this flower, which is a herb, where the roots are used in Chinese medicine to relieve symptoms in conditions such as gout, arthritis, nerve pain and migraines.



It is said to represent wealth and honour and is traditionally used as the flower to celebrate a 12th wedding anniversary.

Facts and Figures on The Euro Tunnel

1802—First Design for Cross Channel Tunnel to be lit by oil lamps for horse drawn carts

1987—boring of the service tunnel starts in the UK

1994—6th May – Official opening by Queen Elizabeth II and President Francois Mitterrand

2000—Start of the Travel scheme for dogs, cats and ferrets

2012—The Olympic Torch travelled through the tunnel on its way to the Olympic Games in London

2018—More than 80 million vehicles have travelled through the tunnel since opening in 1994

Since completion in 1994 the equivalent of six times the population of the UK has crossed through the tunnel

Since the year 2000 over 2 million dogs and cats have travelled through the Euro Tunnel

4.9 Million Cubic Metres of chalk and slate were excavated during the construction and used to create **Samphire Hoe** a 30 hectare Nature reserve located at the foot of the white cliffs of Dover on Kent and a hill Le Fond Pignon in France which offers panoramic views over the coastal plain of the Calais Region.

If you put all the vehicles that been brought through the tunnel bumper to bumper the line would be more than that to reach the moon and back from earth some 477,710 miles

8,500 years ago people were walking between what is now the UK and continental Europe.

The original shaft in Coquelles, Calais had an internal diameter of 55 metres and a depth of 68 meters. It was large enough to contain the Arc de Triomphe.

The idea of a fixed link between Britain and European mainland was first seriously considered in Napoleonic times.

The passenger service Eurostar is one of Euro trains biggest customer transporting some 185 million passengers since 1994

In France over 12 million sq. metres of earth was moved to construct the terminal -that's over 5 times the volume of the Great Pyramid of Cheops Egypt's largest pyramid.

Over 380,000 tonnes of freight have been transported via the tunnel on board truck shuttles and on rail freight train, since it opened

Did you know one of the boring machines is buried under the sea as it was too big to back out, so it turned left and got concreted in.

37.9 km (25 miles) the longest undersea tunnel in the world

1 million Express delivery parcels travel through the tunnel each day

13,000 engineers technicians and workers helped construct the tunnel

80 million vehicles have boarded the shuttle since it opened (cars, motor cycles, camper vans , trucks etc.

26 million roses for Valentines day are transported each year