



**Issue 217**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

# March '23 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

**Speaker Finder / Grace and Thanks**

## March

Monday 6th Joint Meeting 7 for 7-30p.m. Wycliffe Rooms.  
Talk on Chocolate making £20

Thursday 9th Council Meeting 7-00 p.m.

Monday 13th Business Meeting

Monday 20th Normal Meeting Peter Osborn John Howell

Monday 27th Normal Meeting Martin Iliffe Sally Parkinson

## April

Monday 3rd Normal Meeting Philip Duncan Val Cooper

**Monday 10th Easter Bank Holiday No Meeting**

Thursday 13th Council Meeting 7-00 p.m.

Monday 17th Business Meeting.

Monday 24th Normal Meeting John Roberson Rose Chapman

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

**18th ANNIVERSARY MARCH 2023**

A Little Poem For Seniors, so true it hurts!  
Another year has passed  
And we're all a little older.  
Last summer felt hotter  
And winter seems much colder.  
There was a time not long ago  
When life was quite a blast.  
Now I fully understand  
About 'Living in the Past'  
We used to go to weddings,  
Football games and lunches..  
Now we go to funeral homes  
And after-funeral brunches.  
We used to go out dining,  
And couldn't get our fill.  
Now we ask for doggie bags,  
Come home and take a pill.  
We used to often travel  
To places near and far.  
Now we get sore asses  
From riding in the car.  
We used to go to nightclubs  
And drink a little booze.  
Now we stay home at night  
And watch the evening news.  
That, my friend is how life is,  
And now my tale is told.  
So, enjoy each day and live it up...  
Before you're too damned old!

## **Sally Parkinson Life Story**

Sally Parkinson was born in a small village near Dover and was one of 6 children and went to Dover Grammar School. Leaving at the age of 16 joining the Midland Bank in Dover where she started by handwriting Deposit Ledgers. There were no computers in those days. Sally became 1st cashier responsible for counter and the flow of cash and currency for the Branch.

Also at the age of 16 she met her future husband who came from Scotland. He was a medical student at the time studying at Edinburgh University and they got married when she was 19. He having qualified and had a job as Houseman at Dover Hospital where they had a flat.

After a year he decided to go into General Practice and they moved to Dunfermline in Scotland where he was taken on as a junior doctor. The work was hard and the hours long involving "on call" work.

After a period of time he looked for another practice which he found in Blaby, here he worked with two other doctors in a more modern surgery, so they moved to Willoughby Waterleys. Sadly their marriage fell apart and they got divorced.

Later Sally married a local farmer who was running an arable and livestock farm of some 300 acres, this included a Suckler and Limousin herd and 250 ewes. She told us she enjoyed her life on the farm and helped as much as possible with the calves, driving tractors and lambing. Sally cited an incident where she was on nightshift and encountered a difficult lambing. In the morning she found she had lost her wedding ring which was never found—so probably in a ewe. Sally also mentioned a donkey with a ripped hoof raising a lot of noise which they had to put down. She retired at 60 as they had sold the farm and just before the BSE outbreak. They moved to Leire. In 2013 her husband was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour and given just a month to live. He passed away five months later.

It was a difficult year. Joining a local Art Club as a therapeutic exercise she had met Rose and Graham at an exhibition. They suggested she joined them at Rotary and on google that night she found Rotary did good work both locally and internationally. She attended some meetings and was delighted to be invited to join. Sally said thank you for the warm welcome and friendship and looks forward to partaking in more activities.

## Turkish Earthquake

Just 5 days after the devastating Earthquake in Turkey and Syria, members of the Lutterworth Rotary club walked the streets of Lutterworth town, requesting donations.

Local shoppers were as generous as always and within 2 hours we had collected over £560. As promised, the club not only matched the monies raised, but increased the donation to DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee) to £2,500.



## A Firefighter's Poem

*When I am called to duty, God,  
Wherever flames may rage  
Give me strength to save some life,  
Whatever be its age.*

*Help me embrace a little child,  
Before it is too late;  
Or save an older person,  
From the horrors of that fate.*

*Enable me to be alert,  
And hear the weakest shout,  
And quickly and efficiently  
Put the fire out.*

*I want to fill my calling,  
And give the best in me;  
To guard my every neighbour,  
And protect his property.*

*And if, according to your will,  
I am to give my life,  
Please bless with your protecting hand,  
My children and my wife.*

*The Fireman's Prayer*

*Author unknown*

## **Annual Skittles at Wolvey 10th February**

David Toone and Ted Wilson ran the Annual Skittles in aid of Polio at Wolvey on Friday 10th February raising £599 on the evening some £229 being raised on the raffle. The traditional games of Long Alley Skittles, Bar Skittles and Devil among the Tailors were played. Afterwards a choice of meal from Fish and Chips or Chicken and Chips or Veg Burger and Chips which were consumed with gusto as usual!!

## **Creating a New Business 20th February**

*A summary taken from the notes Angela used for her talk*

Our speaker Angela Woolliscroft started by saying she and Ian lost a large British Waterways contract in 2011 so life became a struggle with small water projects and their limited farming income. Then in 2015 and a chance to move to Devon buying a small holding on the coast with 11 holiday cottages—their offer was accepted and everything here sold. Moving day June 15th and they were gazumped by an extra £200k new offer so we had to back out, a really traumatic experience.

Now homeless it was campervan living on Council farmland for a few weeks. Then our offer for a farm at West Hadden was accepted but this was buying without a survey.

September 2015 we moved in but the West Hadden farmhouse needed work, the farm buildings, garden all run down but the views were fabulous! Six weeks later the house was habitual and the cottage renovated for a permanent let by January. Granted permission for 7 holiday cottages we applied for a Leader Grant as a change of farmland from farming to tourism use. Now joined by builder Lyndon we spent the next 8 months knocking down tin sheds and the grain barn/dairy/stables creating 750 tonnes of rubble. Meanwhile digging out a small lake in front of the house to take the roof rainwater. A day laying waterpipes together but 5 days later Ian died, life changed the project came to a standstill. A few weeks later and I wanted to continue and complete our dream so driving the digger I filled in my 1st trench.

Lyndon was joined by electricians, carpenters, plumbers so moving on I found 2,500 reclaimed Welsh tiles on Ebay, they were collected by father-in-law David then they had to be restacked by us and the roofers finished the job.

Our 700 trees were delivered in November, so into the measured and pre-marked field and with the help of 40 friends and family they were planted by lunchtime, a day to be remembered.

Ian and my idea of using a straw burner for heating 'bad idea said Andy' and I listened. So instead a ground source heat pump needing 2km of pipe 1.1m underground for all hot water and heating for the cottages.

No Leaders Grant so reluctantly cashing in Ian's pension so we could complete the project. I bought the Celotex insulation needed enough for both the walls and floors, a job I could do. Outside and lucky with the weather, more brown pipe laying for me while others completed work on the cottages. All the floor tiles bought from Ebay and 7 kitchens for a bargain price from Howdens. Plenty of storage on the site and my mantra 'always everything tidied'.

Now a finish needed as our 1st booking July 2017.

The curtains made by mother-in-law Anne and a cousin and when quoted £25,000 for new furnishings instead they were all 'preloved' from Ebay, some not quite as shown in the photos, often a much smaller version! Sofas and mattresses were all new but the final total about £5,000, a huge saving. The last few weeks outside with David again ferrying, this time sand/gravel and stone work from Welford quarry. Landscaping with footpaths, patios and a courtyard including the removal of a 6 foot tree root now kept as a monument.

The final need an internet connection and BT, who had been paid and with promises made, but in 6 months nothing.

A company offered a connection via radio waves which was successful so our guests would be satisfied.

Achievements to remember.

Good budgeting, finishing projects and essentially mapping all

services and drains. The builder muttered but he took photos as we developed the site at my insistence!

### **White House Farm**

We arrived 28-08-2015 & opened for business on 21-07-2017. For me a steep learning curve as at first I did all the laundering and cleaning, I now use a local firm for laundry. Learning to have changeover days throughout the week so no longer with the 15 beds to change at the same time.

In spite of covid occupancy has been pretty good, mostly over 80%. I use Bookin.com (expensive) Airbnb and my own website. A surprise was the time guests like to spend talking to me but a necessity to get good reviews. It can also be very interesting - a Russian diplomat got stuck with us for three months during covid and left as a lover of sloe gin!

A young couple, who had left their door open one day in the summer, returned to find a resident frog in the shower tray.

A lot of screaming revealed they were not country lovers!

Our stunning view is why I love this place so much and why people come back.



## The Indoor Bike Ride Sunday February 26th



The indoor Bike ride was run successfully again by Richard Stannard where 78 riding sessions took place making £982 for Cystic Fibrosis, the raffle held on the day being won by Rose Chapman, Mr Tingle and Derick Berridge.

### 100 Club Draw

The First draw of the new year were won by;-

1st Steve Tallis £25

2nd Val Cooper £15

3rd Elaine Derrick £10

### The Origins of the COG

When Bernard told members 18 years ago that I would be publishing a hard copy of the COG to be published each month for members not able to attend meetings I had no idea I would still be doing so 18 years later.

However eighteen years on I am still in the chair ably assisted by my wife Diana as "proof reader and mentor" during the years and pacifier when the computer will not do what I want it to do. Also aided by my son Richard "my engineer" who corrects my errors when I make mistakes which are too frequent to mention.

**Thank you family.**

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