



Issue No:230

Driving the wheel of fellowship

April '24 Newsletter

Programme for the next two months.

Speaker Finder

Grace & Thanks

April

Monday	1st	Easter Bank Holiday		No Meeting
Monday	8th	Normal Meeting	Roger Rose	Rose Chapman
Thursday	11th	Council Meeting	7-00 p.m.	
Monday	15th	Business Meeting		
Monday	22nd	Joint Meeting	7- p.m. with Wycliffe Club	Chequers Inn, Ullesthorpe
Monday	29th	Normal Meeting	Ted Wilson	Martin Iliffe

May

Monday	6th	Early Bank Holiday		No Meeting
Monday	13th	Normal Meeting	Martin Iliffe	Martin Iliffe
Thursday	16th	Council Meeting	7-00 p.m.	
Monday	20th	Business Meeting & AGM		
Monday	27nd	Spring 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

The COG

The time has come, after being Editor of the COG for just on 19 years I will be passing on the production and editorship to Bernard Johnson who has agreed to pick up the reigns.

So from **May** onwards he will be producing & sending out the COG which was a suggestion made by the late Bryan Cooper to have a Club Newspaper back in 2005. The idea was to inform members not able to attend a meeting with details of our activities and dates of events to come. A benefit to all members.

April's edition N° 230 will therefore be the last COG produced by me.

May I wish Bernard all the best in continuing the COG on into the future.

Monday 26th February, Energy Conservation

Our speaker was David Weatherall, son of ex member Robin and nephew of David Woolliscroft.

David gave his talk about the future of energy conservation and the need to slow climate change.

Just changing light bulbs by replacing the old filament type to LED will save a substantial amount of power used.

Heat pumps run on electricity and convert the air or ground temperature into heat to warm the home via existing radiators. Their action is the reverse of the system used in a fridge.

Heat pumps or other electric heating will be fitted to all new houses when the new building regulations come into force.

A typical installation costs about £13,000 but the government currently gives £7,500 towards the cost. The cost to run will be less than oil or gas.

Flats will generally be heated by storage heaters and there will be heating networks in towns using pipes to pump heat from a central heating system.

There will be no more gas or oil boilers available after 2035.

Currently only 5% of homes have solar panels but this will increase as modern systems have battery storage meaning that power generated from the sun can be used in the evening.

Running in parallel is insulating homes and it is proposed that the cost of insulation could be added to electricity bills. As more or our electricity is generated by wind and solar power global warming will be slowed and the cost will reduce.

Monday 4th March - Lutterworth Home Guard

Our speaker was Tony Bailey who is a member of the evening club, his topic was the WW11 Home Guard in Lutterworth. Tony has written a book on WW11 in Lutterworth.

In the early days of the war 16,000 German paratroopers landed in Rotterdam and by 20th May 1940 reached the English Channel. By 14th May the Government formed the Local Defence Volunteers with 3,000 men signing on the first day. Initially it was shambolic with no structure, weapons or uniforms. By July the LDV was renamed was the Home Guard (HG) with retired military and TA members to give it experience .

More structure followed as Market Harborough HG became the 7th Battalion headed by Brigadier General Cope from Market Bosworth who brought his WW1 experience.

More experience followed with Brigadier General Jack from Kibworth Beauchamp who did nightly rounds on horseback, Colonel Belgrave from North Kilworth and 2nd Lieut. Gordon Readman, Headmaster of Lutterworth Grammar School.

The volunteers were men who worked 12 hour shifts at Lutterworth factories like Verdonis making shell cases and at Alfred Herbert making machine tools. Each night two HG privates would spend each night on St. Mary's Church tower spotting paratroopers and others manned a checkpoint at the junction of Ashby Magna/Gilmorton Road. Training in weaponry was at the Kibworth Rifle Range.

Weapons included Ross and Lee Enfield .303 rifles, an anti-tank gun at the Church Lane/Gilmorton Road A426 junction and a Flame Fougasse weapon installed along the A426.

Tony thanked the late Wendy Warren who gave much material gained from her husband John Warren, a Lieutenant in the HG who farmed at Dunton Bassett. There they had the ammo store and were responsible for security at the prisoner of war camp in Dunton Bassett.

The Knowledge

Do Taxi Drivers have better than average memories? To become a registered taxi driver in London, hopeful applicants must undergo three years of intensive training and are required to learn the labyrinth of streets in a six-mile radius of Charing Cross, London. The course is very strict and three-quarters of those who enrol drop out before completion. To learn the layout of the hundreds of streets (known colloquially as **"the knowledge"**) taxi drivers are thought to possess memories that are far greater than the average person. Scans found that taxi drivers had a larger hippocampus – area of the brain associated with memory and navigational abilities – than non-taxi drivers due to the more time they spend on the road.

Origin of the Term Rule of Thumb

It was recorded in use as early as 1692 A.D. the term 'rule of thumb' is an expression that describes using the thumb as a rough means for testing or measurement.

One school of thought has it that, across the ages, people such as carpenters and seamstresses have used the thumb as a measuring guide.

The expression has also been linked to brewers, who allegedly used their thumb as a temperature gauge before the advent of the thermometer.

Using body parts was an ancient means of calculating measurement – e.g. the height of a horse was measured in hands and the modern unit of feet and yards were originally determined by length of an adult pace.

Similarly, it has been suggested that the measurement of an inch was derived from the distance between the thumb's first joint and its tip. However, there is another, more controversial etymology of the saying. Some claim that the expression is derived from the maximum size of the stick with which a husband was permitted to beat his wife – as long as the stick was no thicker than the man's thumb, it was lawful practice.

The exact origin of the phrase is a matter of conjecture and likely never to be certain.

Rotary Speaker Mike Toone 11th March 24

Mike talked about being bored with his job at a Hinckley textile firm, this was 1967 and he was just 23.

He considered his options and decided to go overseas probably to Australia, New Zealand or Canada.

A friend showed him an advertisement for a job in Port Elizabeth, South Africa and even though he had not given South Africa a thought he answered the advertisement, had an interview in Leicester and within three months had emigrated.

He said that it was the year after the assassination of Verwoerd and Sharpeville was still a recent memory. Apartheid was at its most draconian which was horrible to live with as it was deeply offensive to anyone from Europe. Nevertheless he enjoyed life in Port Elizabeth and for the next two years had the time of his life. He travelled at every opportunity including a three week stay in Rhodesia after UDI had been declared, when the Governor General was effectively a prisoner in his official residence.

After two years in South Africa he had an unexpected offer of a job back in England working for his former employer. By then, although he was quite settled, to return to the UK without having to find a job seemed a chance not to be missed so he took the plunge.

He never returned to South Africa until Mandela was out of prison which is the next chapter.

Future Events

- Wednesday 10th April** Hook Norton Brewery Visit
- Friday 12th April** Fashion Show at Wycliffe Rooms
7 p.m.
- Sunday 26th May** Misterton—Craft, Food and Plant
Fair
- Friday 21st June** "Singing in the Rain"
Kilworth Theatre, Kilworth

Forging Futures talk 25th March

Andy and Ben are both volunteers at Forging Futures Ltd where they provide a service to young adults with learning disabilities.

Aged up to 24 they have a problem finding employment as they do not have specific skills and often need a carer to accompany them at an interview which is not ideal and this is where Forging Futures steps in.

They have a unit in High Street, Lutterworth next to the Shambles pub. It includes a workshop and cafe in which the students work to achieve catering skills. The main benefit is employers can call and see potential employees at work, see their ability and talk to them which is preferable to a typical office interview. This builds their confidence, independence and communication skills.

Other life skills are taught including social activities, crafts, animal husbandry and keeping an allotment.

In addition they have a stall in the museum next door and hope to gain a stall on the market which together gives a

wide opportunity to choose a way forward which suits their individual ability and interest. They attract students from as wide as Coventry and are currently open 9-3pm each Friday and plan to add two additional days.

Thank you Bernard for producing this report

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*

*The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:*

*For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.*



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