



**Issue No: 188**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## October '20 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

**Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks**

### **October**

Monday 5th Normal Meeting David Toone Sally Parkinson

Thursday 8th Council 7-30 p.m.

Monday 12th Business Meeting

Monday 19th Normal Meeting Roger Rose John Wells

Monday 26th Normal Meeting Mark Thompson Elaine Turner

### **November**

Monday 2nd Normal Meeting David Walton John Roberson

Monday 9th **District Governor Peter Berry** Bernard Johnson

Thursday 12th Council 7-30 p.m.

Monday 16th Business Meeting

Monday 23rd Normal Meeting Sally Parkinson Steve Tallis

Monday 30th Normal Meeting Mike Toone Roger Rose

If you are unable to carry out your 'duty' please find a substitute and tell **John Howell** Tel: 01455 553209 email sheila.m.howell@hotmail.co.uk

[www.lutterworthrotary.org.uk](http://www.lutterworthrotary.org.uk)

## 100 Club August Winners

Sally Hollis (27)	£25-00
Mary Stannard (62)	£15-00
Emma Sutherland (52)	£10-00

## Talk on Burma by John Roberson on Zoom 24th August

Burma or Myanmar as it's called today is not a country many people know and it's only recently that it has opened its borders to tourists. John Roberson visited Burma with his wife Carol a few years ago gave us the benefit of hearing what they saw there – an experience many of us will not have the opportunity of experiencing. Here are a few notes from his talk on their trip.

Myanmar (formally Burma) is a South Eastern Asian Nation with a population of around 51 million people with 14 states and many different ethnic groups. It has borders with Bangladesh, India, China, Laos and Thailand and in days gone by was part of the Silk Road running east to west from China to India and the middle east. Their religion is mostly Buddhist, but it contains many ethnic minorities. The most disadvantaged are the Rohingya Muslims, who have no rights and are considered stateless.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> Century it was a Unified State with its capital Bagan changing to Awa in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and to Mandalay in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, which was designed on the grid principle following a visit by the Burmese royal family to New York. It now has a population of 1.2 million.

The first Burma war of 1824 started the British rule in Burma, which was finally consolidated by the conquest of Mandalay in 1885, when it became a British Colony and was ad-



ministered from India. In the second world war the Japanese took Burma and it was only taken back by the British towards the end of the war. It was granted independence in 1948.

In 1962 there was a military takeover and it was only nominally returned to civilian rule in 2011. However, the army was still effectively in full control and it is only following the election won by Aung San Suu Kyi in 2015 that a full transition to civilian rule is being attempted.



John told us that although they had had a turbulent past, they had a most relaxed attitude particularly to foreigners. The majority of the population are farmers, rice being their main crop. The Chinese are heavily involved

with mining for coal and other minerals, especially jade, also road building.

There are thousands of Buddhist Statues and Pagodas to be seen everywhere – the largest and most spectacular they



saw was in Rangoon (sorry Yangon) called the Shwedagon Pagoda which apart from being heavily gilded houses Buddhist relics dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> Century.

Their exchange rate is currently around 1700 Kyats to the £ (pound)

These notes are but a small amount of what John told us, but hopefully will give a flavour of what they saw of the country itself.

## Letter Boxes

I have seen Red and even Gold Pillar Boxes but has anyone seen a Blue one specially painted to celebrate a special occasion?

When everything has closed down the post continues to operate.

"Well deserved"



## Eradication of wild polio in Africa

What wonderful news we had at the beginning of September.

### Quote

*Today, the Africa Regional Certification Commission certified the WHO African Region as wild polio-free after four years without a case. With this historic milestone, five of the six WHO regions - representing over 90% of the world's population- are now free of the wild poliovirus, moving the world closer to achieving global polio eradication.*

*Only two countries worldwide continue to see wild poliovirus transmission : Pakistan and Afghanistan.*

*The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) congratulates the national governments of the 47 countries in the WHO African Region for today's achievement.*

*"Ending wild - polio virus in Africa is one of the greatest public health achievements of our time and provides powerful inspiration for all of us to finish the job of eradicating polio globally said Who Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. I thank and congratulate the governments, health workers, community volunteers, traditional and religious leaders and parents across the region who have worked together to kick wild polio out of Africa."*

## Water Aid

Did you know that largely to the efforts of Water Aid—nine out of ten people in the world have clean water but 800 children



each day under 5 will die from diseases caused by the drinking of dirty water and lack of toilets.

All around the world millions of people are



forced to drink dirty water because they have no other choice.

Young girls as young as 3 years old are walking miles to collect this water in order that the family have this water to drink and all this before they go to school which could be spent on their education. This water is full of bacteria which causes diarrhoea and other related illnesses.

Some 40 billion hours are wasted by women and young girls in sub - saharan areas every year. This time could be usefully spent in educating them in proper hand washing with clean water and soap which would prevent deadly illnesses like influenza and covid-19 ravaging the world.

## Thoughts for the Month

I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by!

You've reached middle age when all you exercise is caution.

Why do people without a watch look at their wrist when you ask them what time it is?

## Update on Little Faces School project

Sally Harrison from Little Faces has written an open letter to sponsors and supporters of Little Faces School in Mombasa in Kenya. She has sent several pictures of the Progress being made in the building of the new primary school. Just three weeks in and the central corridor and classrooms are beginning to be seen.

The ground floor is being built thanks to a Rotary grant and many generous donations. But we now need to raise a further £30,000 in order to be able to build the top two floors, thus completing the project. We would very much like to do this while the children are off school due to Coronavirus.

They return in January.

Please would you consider supporting this build by buying a brick (£10) for the new school. Without new funding we will not be in a position to be able to build while the men are on site.



It will get a further 250 children off the streets of Mombasa and into education.

Better facilities, like basic classrooms and a desk each will lead to better education and then in time, a better economy and community.

Plans are in place to provide secondary education in the future.

## **Sad News—John Ensor**

It is with sad regret I have to report that John Ensor (our ex President 2010/11) died peacefully on Monday morning 16th of September. Our condolences have been sent to his daughters Sue and Alison by the Club.

## **Knitted Teddies have reached 8.848 to date**

Even during this Covid 19 pandemic , teddies keep arriving by post from all over England, although I have lost several of my regular knitters .

It is incredible to think that I have received and distributed 8848 teddies to over 48 different countries through many charitable organisations.

It has been more difficult since lockdown with many charities having closed their doors but I have a contact who sends a lorry to Romania every November and the latest consignment has been sent to him.

A local residential care home was very grateful for teddies for some residents.

I am hoping that the Mayor of Leicester will be doing his Toys on the Table again this year as I have presented quite a lot to him in previous years.

It never ceases to amaze me how people keep knitting and I am sincerely thankful to them.

*Elaine Turner*

May I look forward to hearing where **Frank (our Polio Bear)** is having been restricted in his travels for the past six months brought about by the Gov't restrictions in travel and will report on his whereabouts in the November COG

## **Mission Aborted**

### **A Poem by Val Cooper**

Six months on into this virus  
Amid the doom and gloom  
We've all become experienced  
In using good old zoom

Sally hosted meetings  
From April until June  
Her final Presidential months  
Conducted over zoom

She became extremely good at it  
In fact, she was a hoot  
And if members butted in too much  
She simply pressed the mute

She silenced us immediately  
If we all spoke out of turn  
And as the weeks turned into months  
The more we got to learn

And then her year was over  
Just like that! No contact, 'Boom'  
But the queen of virtual meetings  
Became the mistress of good old zoom

So now the chains are handed on  
To two new empty chairs  
To me, your new Vice President,  
And Captain, David Ayers

And now some six months later  
We're back together in this room  
But some of us would still prefer  
To communicate by zoom

This includes Steve's lady speaker  
Who should be here today  
But because of lockdown measures  
Can't come to us – no way!

So we thought a hybrid meeting  
Would be the way to go  
A laptop, and a TV screen  
And someone in the know

But after several lengthy trials  
Sleepless nights and too much wine  
We decided to abort the zoom  
And simply chat and dine

So that is why I wrote this poem  
It's because of doom and gloom  
It's because of all our wasted hours  
It's because of 'bloody' zoom