



**Issue 229**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

# March '24 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

## **Speaker Finder G & T**

### **March**

- Monday 4th Normal Meeting Philip Duncan Sue Postlethwaite
- Monday 11th Normal Meeting Willy Bach John Howell
- Thursday 14th Council Meeting 7-00 p.m.
- Monday 18th Business Meeting
- Monday 25th Normal Meeting Brenda Parcell Sally Parkinson

### **April**

**Monday 1st Easter Monday 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  
at Chequers Inn, Ullesthorpe
- Monday 29th Normal Meeting Ted Wilson Martin Iliffe

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

**19th ANNIVERSARY MARCH 2024**

## **The Origins of the COG**

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

However I am still in the chair until the end of April 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 software engineer” who corrects my errors when I make mistakes, which are too frequent to mention.

**Thank you family.**

Thanks also to **John Cookson** for putting the COG on the Website each month over many, many years—which I have very much appreciated.

## **Future Events**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Friday 8th March</b>  | The Lady in the Van<br>Concordia Theatre - Hinckley |
| <b>Friday 12th April</b> | Fashion Show at Wycliffe Rooms<br>7 p.m.            |
| <b>Sunday 26th May</b>   | Misterton—Craft, Food and Plant<br>Fair             |
| <b>Friday 21st June</b>  | Singing in the Rain - Kilworth House<br>Kilworth    |

### **The Origin of a common days saying**

A common idiom is "a wolf in sheep's clothing," which refers to someone or something that seems friendly, but might be out to harm you. This idiom comes from a fable (a story with a lesson hidden within) by Aesop, whose moral (or what you can learn from the story) is "seek to do harm and harm will come to you".

### **GRAND DESIGNS -John Wilson**

Worthy of an episode on Channel 4's "Grand Designs" John Wilson treated us to a presentation on Monday 29th January. This intrepid individual designed and managed a building project to create a dream home, when we all thought he had retired!

John the third of four children, two elder sisters and a younger brother, was born at Spencer House, Welford. The son of small farmers Walter and Connie, who had moved from Blakesley near Towcester in March 1937. It was an ideal place for a carefree childhood, and consequently he concentrated on the important things in life, (getting into mischief, learning to whistle and swear, making trucks from old prams. Like Mark Twain he hated the idea of school getting in the way of his education.)

He joined Welford Young Farmers Club at an early age and excelled in all the practical crafts and skills e.g. hedge laying, hedge topping, ditching, ploughing, sheep shearing, machinery maintenance, stock judging and of course public speaking and debating competitions.

To his surprise at 14  $\frac{3}{4}$  instead of going to work at home his parents found him a job on an arable, beef, sheep and pig farm at Husbands Bosworth. Working there for the next three years. Being put in charge of the pigs he saw their potential and soon

bought his own stock and owned his own pigs in his own right for the next 60 years.

When his father's health deteriorated and the family farm was sold, John decided he should gain new skills and worked in engineering for the next 5 years soon becoming a senior Auto - setter in charge of 4 other setters. Over this period of time he continued to build up his small pig business on 1½ acres, buying store pigs and then selling them as porkers in Rugby Market.

Before John and Sue were to be married in 1968, they had bought the bungalow and an acre and a half from his parents at Court Lane Farm. John's only house move to date. The farm and business developed and expanded very successfully over the following years.

However, following a successful heart bypass operation John, *who was supposed to be in semi-retired*, seized the opportunity to buy and develop the redundant farm buildings in Hemplow View and build 4 houses. One house was to become their dream home. Demolition of the farm buildings commenced in May 2016 with John and his staff driving forward their ambitious project. Amazingly the main house (see photo) had its finishing touches completed by September 2017.

The impressive house had been lovingly designed to incorporate all of John and Sue's possible requirements and the plans were to sell the bungalow and move from Court Lane. *However, was it right, in their retirement years to move from the bungalow?* Following careful consideration, and in spite of all the hard work, both John and Sue have chosen to stay in the bungalow which has



been their home for 56 years.

*Thank you Sally for the write up on John Wilson's talk*

## **Madalyn Morgan's life as an actress and writer from her notes**

It's lovely to be here. I feel I know most of you from spending time with my Uncle Bob, Bob Derrick. He loved being part of Rotary. Thank you for making it possible for him to keep coming to the lunches which gave him a sense of purpose.

I was brought up at the Fox Inn, Lutterworth and being a busy pub I spent a lot of time on my own but had nice holidays. One holiday was very special. When I was eleven I flew to America on my own to visit my aunt who was married to a Native American. I spent six weeks with them on the Dakota Sioux Reservation in Minnesota. I was adopted in to the Dakota Sioux Tribe during a pow-wow in the summer of 1961 and in 1991 given my native American name, Waccantkiya Win, which means Charitable Girl.

From an early age I had always wanted to be an actress so Mum sent me to piano lessons with Mrs Cheney, Reg Cheney the chemist's wife. Mrs Cheney was a wonderful pianist, I wasn't. Nor was I a very good singer, but as an actress I was good enough to play leading roles in the school plays.

At 24 I went to Drama College. Being brought up in a pub had given me a head start into understanding characters, accents and expressions. My first job after leaving Drama College was in Theatre in Education. The owner of the company was black-listed for giving too many Equity cards, but not before I got mine! So I needed an equity name with help from the pub Madeliene – Bell – Blue Mink – Schmernoff they didn't sound right but Morgan from Captain Morgan's rum had a ring to it. Madalyn Morgan

Then a time acting in Rep Theatres, first the University Theatre at Newcastle followed by the Citizen's Theatre in Glasgow. I played in a lot of similar Rep theatres but I wanted to get into the West End. So I did several Fringe plays and on the last night of a 'Clockwork Orange' I was asked to take the lead in 'Down and Out' in Paris and London. Just 36 hours to learn all of it!

I am not a fan of agents and one for commercials looked me up and down, turned to her assistant and said "Shampoo hair! Stocking legs! Colgate ring of Confidence!" but I never heard from her again!

For my West End debut I played Iras in 'Antony and Cleopatra' understudying Vanessa Redgrave who played Cleopatra. One night I went on for Vanessa and my old director from the Lutterworth Drama Group was in the audience, her comment "Only you could adlib Shakespeare". I worked with some lovely – and not so lovely people including 2 James Bonds and 1 Dr Who, Peirce Brosnan, Tim Dalton and Sylvester McCoy.

While not acting there were the 'out of work jobs'. First in the late 70s I did the wigs for Michelle Dotrice and Edward Woodward (of Callen fame) in the tour of the 'Beggars Opera'. A reflection of my salon experience in Rugby when I created what became known as the 'actor's hair cut' on David Suchet in the early 70s - it was fun but it wasn't acting.

Then I gave up acting for love but ten years later love gave me up for someone half my age. That's when I started writing. My mum had been given a brass plane made by a Polish airmen and she wanted to return to him which led to more of her stories about WW2. Her stories influenced me to write a wartime saga, my first novel.

I have written 10 novels, 4 set in WW2 with backgrounds in West End theatre, SOE, French Resistance and Bletchley Park. Three stand alone WW2 sequels and 3 spy/detective stories set in the 1960s Cold War. All published and I am currently writing my autobiography and putting together an anthology of short stories, articles and poems.



An eventful life

## **Skittles Evening - Saturday 10th February**

Another Annual Skittles Evening run by Ted Wilson and Jenny Taylor this year with David Toone making valued reminders. There were 61 members and guests attending (5 tables of 10 and one of 11). Fish and chips were provided by a Nuneaton fish and chip shop which was the only time when silence reigned—briefly. The weather was kind to us contrary to the forecast which had predicted possible snow.

£650 was made on the raffle with some amazing prizes which was in Aid of the Eradication of Polio.

The skittles consisted of long alley skittles, table skittles with the devil among the tailors completing the three. All games were played with gusto in a friendly yet competitive manner. Table 3 being the eventual winners - with each member winning an early Easter Egg.



## **Bernard Johnson's Speaker on Monday 12th February**

was Gerry Carrington from Silvertime Legal which was both interesting and informative.

He spoke about the high cost of care which can be £1,000 to £1,500 per week and how this will be taken from assets to a point where only £23,250 remains.

There are ways to avoid some loss including a family trust for property. Another option is to have the family home with each spouse owning 50% each rather than owning the property jointly. This means that in the event of one going in to care the half of the property value owned by the other spouse cannot be claimed against care costs.

Death duty allowance of a deceased spouse can be added to both of current spouses'.

He stressed the benefit of making a will and where it is held. The original can be held by a District Probate Registry. Making a Power of Attorney is not just for the elderly to consider but should include those who are younger as an accident can happen at any time which could leave them unable to make decisions.

Gerry answered many questions and was thanked by the Club.

*This report was kindly sent to me by Bernard Johnson as I was not able to attend*



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