

DIARY DATES - SPEAKERS

We currently have the following arrangements in place (via Zoom until further notice):

JULY

- 6th** **PRESIDENT HANDOVER** and **Swasti Sarogi** from the Robin Hood Army will be joining us live from Delhi and sharing how the RHA has served over 32m meals to the poor and underprivileged without raising any donations or other outside funding
- 13th** **Chris Saul**—update
- 20th** **Mukhtar Mohamed** will be speaking to us about his innovative Leicester based technology focused on the events industry
- 27th** **Riaz Ravat** will be talking to us about the St Philip's Centre—past, present and future

AUGUST

- 3rd** **Sarah Luscombe** will be sharing how she used technology to build and manage a Newport based Property Management Agency managing over 500 properties from her home in the Winelands of South Africa
- 10th** TBC
- 17th** **District Governor, Peter Berry**, will be joining The meeting (not as speaker)
- 24th** TBC
- 31st** TBC

SPEAKER & VISITOR WELCOME

MAY		JUNE	

ROTARY CLUB OF LEICESTER

Meetings currently held on Mondays, 1.00pm via Zoom
 Apologies: Telephone 0116 2233950 or e-mail :
johannedraycott@pickeverard.co.uk

Immediate Past President: Colin Derrick
 President Elect: Parmdeep Vadesha
 Junior Vice-President: Scott Gallacher
 Honorary Treasurer: David Brunton
 Honorary Secretary: Barry Davies
 Honorary Assistant Secretary: Vacant

Elected Council Members

Diana Esho, David Howard, Tim Lee, Mark Simpson,
 David Brunton, Babs Marson

Other Contacts:

District Council Representatives: Moira Bartlett, Rodney Spokes,
 John Saunders and Paul Bonnett
 Bulletin Editor: David Brunton
 Club Protection Officer: Mick Marvell

LEAD COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Club Service Mark Sandall
Membership Nick Thomson
Service Projects Moira Bartlett
Rotary Foundation/Benevolent David Howard
Communications Diana Esho



PRESIDENT - CHRIS SAUL

BULLETIN - JULY 2020

MY YEAR AS PRESIDENT 2019-20

My year as President of the Rotary Club of Leicester has come to an end and whilst it has been a challenging year it has been rewarding in equal measure.

I am pleased that several of my objectives have been met in spite of the impact of the Coronavirus crisis. One particular objective was the support of local charities where we can make a difference.

Very early in my Presidency we were able to support a local Riding for the Disabled Group – Kimberley House – with our members providing a BBQ at a Gala 50th anniversary celebration. A grant from Rotary Foundation enabled us to provide much needed equipment to the Group to the value of £2000.

My marathon runs in London and Chester whilst ending up with me being 18 seconds over my personal target, raised over £4000 for Age UK Leicester Shire and Rutland locally and nationally. Further fundraising involving a Christmas collection and more recently donations made to support the work of Age UKLSR in helping vulnerable older people during the Coronavirus crisis has enabled us to provide shelves and racking in their foodbank facility.

Cont/d

In addition during the crisis we have also helped Charity Link purchase 14 beds to help the most vulnerable in our City and grants from Rotary Foundation have helped maximise our efforts for both charities.

Another important objective was working with other Rotary Clubs to help provide extra skills and support for projects. A good example of this was World Polio Day where we not only worked with the Rotary Club of Leicester Novus but joined forces with another charity, GoodGym, to enable a relay of runners to connect Leicester Cathedral with a mosque and two temples. The day was a great success and attend by our Lord Mayor and Lord Lieutenant.

Another example was our joining up with the Rotary Club of Wigston to organise a major fundraising event – Music in the Park at Wistow. This event was due to be ended as the Rotarians at Wigston could no longer provide sufficient numbers to organise the event; our involvement allowed it to continue but sadly due to Covid -19 it has been cancelled this year. We still managed to raise through donations £2500 which is to be shared with local charities Loros and Rainbows. I am pleased to say the event will be back next year!

Fortunately just before lockdown we were able to enjoy “Medics Murdering Mozart” with our own Richard Power showing what transpired to be considerable musical talent. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all and funds raised, supplemented yet again by a Rotary Foundation grant, are going to Health Action Leicester to support our project in Ethiopia and part to assist in a project with our twin club the Rotary Club of Guimaraes.

I would just like to thank everyone who has helped and supported me during my Presidency year – it has been greatly appreciated and made my year that much more enjoyable.

However, as a Club, we cannot underestimate the impact the Covid-19 crisis has had on us– the ending of our weekly meal together, cancellation of important fundraising events and social shielding for many of our members. On the other hand I am pleased with the response we have had to online meetings and pleasantly surprised that so many members have joined in those meetings.

I suspect it will be some time before we get back to “normal” and I am sure there will be changes for the future with ongoing use of technology which we can use to our advantage to both retain and attract new members.

Over the last year we have lost too many long serving and valuable members who will sadly be missed by us all. Nevertheless I am confident our Club will remain strong and I wish Parmdeep every success in the forthcoming year as our new President.

Chris Saul

SUCCESS FOR SUE

Sue McEniff Was delighted to win the “Women Who” Award for her work as a Director of Charity Link. We all know Sue puts her heart and soul into all that Charity Link does and it the Award is very much deserved. Congratulations Sue for all at Rotary.



CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME (AND NEEDED)

We may be less active than normal but I am sure some have you have news you would like to share with our members. Please send any articles or notices to me and/or Kerry so we include them in the Newsletter. Thanks

David Brunton

davidbrunton@tiscali.co.uk

kerryfox@pickeverard.co.uk

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please submit to Bulletin Editor, David Brunton,
by 21st July 2020

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON COVID-19/LOCKDOWN

Chris Saul

Life has changed beyond his wildest dreams/ nightmares. Having retired as a solicitor he had planned a fairly leisurely life but now finds himself working as a stable boy looking after almost 40 horses. Staff at the stables have been furloughed and some may not return. Chris believes it will be some time before the new normal arrives and is not sure exactly what that will look like. On the personal side of the crisis he saw his new grand daughter in early March and not done since. Very much missing the contact with the family.

John Aldridge

Whilst it might have been fake news, John told us about getting his valet to dust off his bike so he could don his lilac lycra and cycle round he estate. A lady stopped him and questioned his age – not sure whether she thought him too old to cycle or was just making conversation whilst she eyed up the lycra. He has an even finer crop of grey hair and the large cycle helmet the shop recommended for him would not fit over his mop.

Clive Smith

Was relieved to be no longer involved in the hospitality business as he cannot see this recovering for a very long time, if ever. His roles on various boards and charities, including Charity Link, have continued but moved to being online meetings- about 40 since lockdown started. On a personal level he has enjoyed his time in the garden and the surrounding countryside. He has been walking, cooking and now playing a bit of golf. He is missing seeing his family and grand children but using Zoom etc to keep in touch. He believes the future will see more working from home, less travel (both business and leisure), a better environment with less pollution but fewer restaurants, visitor attractions and public events.

Paul Bonnet

Work has continued as near to normal as possible with Zoom meetings every day and even more emails. His house move to be near family in Liverpool is going ahead and he will complete on the purchase of his new house in the next few weeks. He is still looking for a buyer in Bushby if anyone is looking to move. His first grandchild, Ben, was born in April and he and Sue are yet to meet him in the flesh having had to make do with video calls up to now. A distant relative died and Paul has been sorting out the funeral and death certification. Much more difficult over by phone and email.

Martin Traynor

Having signed up to work 2 days a week at the Cabinet Office promoting business links to government for small businesses in the region he found himself having a full time role from 23rd March managing the supply of PPE. Working from home was inevitable given the layout of the open plan offices and the travel restrictions. Again using Zoom he has been able to work effectively. He believes business will be different at all levels as we move forward, but hopes to be back in his original job by September.

Diana Esho

Diana amused us with a poetical summary of life in lockdown, the removal of the need to dress smartly each day and the omission of make-up from the daily routine. She realised that she missed seeing people that she never before felt she needed. Lockdown has given her a new outlook and helped her to grow.

Tim Lee

Tim will always remember 24th March. He was swamped with calls from his clients to see if their insurance covered them for the effects of the pandemic. Whilst Covid 19 is defined by the Government as a notifiable disease it is generally excluded from insurance companies policies. A couple cover it and they are struggling now to manage their way round it. General broking work continues, as it must. Working from home is the norm so travelling time is down allowing more time actually working and allows breakfast with his wife. She is not currently working but has taken on a few DIY projects at home. Commented that a couple of years ago many people would have not had a good enough broadband connection so that investment is currently proving itself. Tim feels there is much optimism across the country and flexibility is the key.

Patrick Boylan

At 11.00 on Thursday 11 March Patrick was at Glenfield hospital in a group rehab session when a couple of medics came into the room, updated them all on Covid 19 and told them all to go home and isolate. That is where he has been ever since. He does have his son staying with him as he was visiting Patrick when flights were suspended and as he normally works overseas he could not return. The pandemic has meant Patrick has had to work with colleagues at the Yorkshire Geological Society to cancel over 40 events. It has however given him time to complete several chapters of books he has been writing and editing. He says when he is allowed out he is taking Pam to Barnard Castle to test his eyesight!

For those who want to hear the stories direct from the horses mouth the video can be found by following the link <https://youtu.be/Sokl6s6P8tM>