

DIARY DATES - SPEAKERS

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

OCTOBER

- 5th** **Richard Bird**—'Queen Victoria's Letters' - an insight into the mind of a monarch through her written correspondence
- 12th** **Debbie Hodge** (Chair of Rotary Olympic and Paralympic Committee)—'Transforming lives through sport'
- 19th** **Marcus Ash** (Director, Pragnell) - 'The impact of Covid19 on retail in 2020 and beyond'
- 26th** **Peter Berry, District Governor** official visit (No other speaker)

NOVEMBER

- 2nd** **Moira Penny** (District Safeguarding Officer) - 'Safeguarding in current times'
- 9th** **Patrick Boylan**—'turning just three 500 year old facts into a full biography of Leicester's greatest composer, Hugh Aston'
- 16th** **1st Business Meeting—no speaker**
- 23rd** **TBC**
- 30th** **TBC**

SPEAKER & VISITOR WELCOME

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: Chris Saul
 President Elect: Scott Gallacher
 Junior Vice-President: Diana Esho
 Honorary Treasurer: David Brunton
 Honorary Secretary: Barry Davies
 Honorary Assistant Secretary: Vacant

Elected Council Members

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

Other Contacts:

District Council Representatives: Moira Bartlett,
 John Saunders and Richard Power
 Bulletin Editor: David Brunton
 Club Protection Officer: Mick Marvell

LEAD COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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



PRESIDENT - PARMDEEP VADESHA

BULLETIN - OCTOBER 2020

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AT BRADGATE PARK VISITOR CENTRE

As you will all know, the Rotary Club of Leicester has a long association with Bradgate Park. This goes back as far as the 1930s when they club purchased Swithland Wood and gave it to the Trust.

More recently, to celebrate our Centenary in 2016, the Club raised over £150,000 to fund the development of a new visitor centre at the Tea Barn in the centre of the park. At that time we agreed with the Park that the visitor centre would be free to all visitors and that it would be open almost every day.

Not surprisingly, due to the current pandemic, the Park is struggling with finances and staffing and they have made a number of cost cutting changes. One of these has been to close the Visitor Centre.

You may have read about many changes to the management structure at the Park during the last year, the headline being the departure of Peter Tyldesley and the greater involvement of the two Councils.

Back in 2016 Peter was the Park Director and was very supportive and enthusiastic about the Visitor Centre. There is now an interim Director in place who works three days a week. This person, Steve Palethorpe, used to work at the City Council running the city parks.

Steve lives in Newtown Linford and I met him two weeks ago to review and discuss the plans the Trust have in place for the Park and especially the Visitor Centre.

Steve explained that given the confined nature of the Visitor Centre, and the maximum number of people who could safely be in there at any one time during the pandemic, the Park had had no option but to close the Visitor Centre. In addition, the staff responsible for running the Visitor Centre are currently on furlough and many volunteers were reluctant to work in the confined space of the centre. I accepted this was a problem at the moment, but made the case for a full reopening of the Centre as soon as possible.

As part of the overview of the Park's activities it seems that they have analysed visitor trends and numbers and concluded that it only makes sense to open the visitor centre to the public at weekends and Bank Holidays, with the weekdays reserved for school parties. I expressed concern that this was not what we agreed back in 2016. Although I was sure the Club would be enthusiastic about attracting more school parties during the week I suggested that it would be sensible to open during school holidays and during summer when there are more visitors.

Steve agreed to reference our thoughts and his paper to the Trust Board and to recommend a regular review of the visitor centre opening hours. He promised to keep us informed of progress. I asked if he would be available one Monday to address the Club so hopefully we will hear directly from him before Christmas.

If you have any thoughts on this, please let me know and I will pass them on to the Trust.

David Brunton

COMMITTEE REPORTS

At the Zoom meeting on 28 September the Committee Chairmen presented reports from their groups. Sadly Covid is having an adverse effect on all our activities;

Foundation

David Howard reported 2 successful grant applications of £1,000 each for Age UK and Charity Link. A further £1,000 application is in hand for Rotary 4 Foodbanks.

Service Projects

Moira Bartlett reported difficulties in getting schools to commit to the various Youth competitions because of the uncertainty and the need to catch up lost curriculum time. She hoped that at least Young Writer and Young Photographer would go ahead.

Membership

Nick Thomson report on numbers. Unfortunately we have had 2 members resign due to ill health taking us to 52 members. A new member, Louise Jones, will be inducted on 5 October. A link with De Montfort University was proving fruitful and a Rotaract Club is planned. If we can identify community projects which need hands on input then we should see many of the students volunteering to help. Nick is drafting a membership strategy for the club to consider. Corporate membership will be an option.

Communication

Ed Cufflin updated us on Speakers. Ed is trying to get a good mix of speakers to our Zoom meetings and has filled the diary for the next 2 months. As usual he would welcome suggestions from members. It was noted that our social media presence was improving thanks to Scott Gallacher and Diane Esho.

David Brunton

ROTARY4FOODBANKS PROJECT

Scott Gallacher has set up a Just Giving campaign for the new Rotary4foodbanks Leicester project, as below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rotary4foodbanksleicester>

AMAZON SMILE – A REMIINDER

The Rotary Club of Leicester has been registered with **AmazonSmile** for a few months. AmazonSmile is operated by Amazon. When customers shop through the web address **smile.amazon.co.uk** (which offers all the same goods as the Amazon site), AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisations selected by customers. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to **smile.amazon.co.uk** from the web browser. If you already have an Amazon account, sign in (link at top right hand corner of page). If you do not have an Amazon account click 'Get started' and at the foot of the following page and click on the link 'Create an Amazon account'. On your first visit to **smile.amazon.co.uk** you need to select a charitable organisation to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. In the 'search' box enter 'Rotary Club of Leicester Trust Fund' and then from the list select it as your charity. You only need to do this once. AmazonSmile remembers your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at **smile.amazon.co.uk** will result in a donation. When you want to shop at Amazon you will need to sign in at **smile.amazon.co.uk** to secure the charitable donations. If you wish to change your charity, sign in to **smile.amazon.co.uk** and select "Change your Charity" in "Your Account."

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please submit to Bulletin Editor, David Brunton,
by 23rd October 2020