

DIARY DATES - SPEAKERS
(Via Zoom until further notice)

JULY

- 5th** Handover Day—no speaker
- 12th** Joanna Burrows, Fundraiser at TwentyTwenty
'Update from TwentyTwenty'
- 19th** Oliver Cufflin, Chairman of Leicestershire & Rutland Blood Bikes—'Blood Bikes—not your normal bunch of bikers'
- 26th** TBC

AUGUST

- 2nd** To be advised
- 9th** To be advised
- 16th** To be advised
- 23rd** To be advised
- 30th** Bank Holiday—no meeting

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please submit to Bulletin Editor, David Brunton,
by 23rd July 2021

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: Parmdeep Vadesha
President Elect: Nick Thomson
Junior Vice-President: Tara Pankhania
Honorary Treasurer: David Brunton
Honorary Secretary: Barry Davies
Honorary Assistant Secretary: Serge Mozota

Elected Council Members

Mark Simpson, Babs Marson, Nick Thomson, Rodney Spokes,
Clive Smith, Patrick Boylan

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 - SCOTT GALLACHER

BULLETIN - JULY 2021

MY YEAR AS PRESIDENT—PARMDEEP VADESHA

Tolstoy, the author and great pacifist, was once lecturing on the need to be non-resistant and non-violent towards all creatures. Someone in the audience responded by asking what should be done if one was attacked in the woods by a tiger.

Tolstoy responded, "Do the best you can. It doesn't happen very often."

This amusing anecdote came to my mind as I sat down to sum up my year as President of the Rotary Club of Leicester. I vividly remember the UK's first local lockdown which came into force in Leicester on the 4th of July 2020, reflecting the severity of cases in our City. Having just become President, my urgent priority became ensuring the safety of our members. We supported members as best we could, but it bothered me that loneliness and boredom would adversely affect our members and I was not able to do much about it.

It soon transpired that we were the lucky ones. Individuals and families from all walks of life in our City suffered terribly due to the effects of continued lockdown. Foodbank usage, in particular, soared. I am grateful to Rodney Spokes and John Saunders for pointing me towards, what was at the time, a new initiative from District 1220 called 'Rotary4FoodBanks'. The scheme allowed our club to

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immediately make a difference in our community, whilst leveraging the infrastructure of other quality organisations. We subsequently raised over £13,000 for five local foodbanks - an achievement we should all be proud of given that we could not do any traditional fundraising nor plan very far ahead.

Other notable achievements this year include:

- Transitioning to an online meeting model allowing us to entertain guests and speakers from far flung corners of the world including South Africa, Ivory Coast, Bordeaux and Delhi.
- Scott and Diana conceived and led our Christmas hampers and Easter eggs appeals which were very successful.
- Membership remained steady with an increase expected in the next 12 months - my thanks go to Nick Thomson for his excellent work in this respect.
- We created the Universities of Leicester Rotaract club with 22 members.
- Diana Esho has initiated an exciting sensory garden project at Netherhall school which will progress through next year.
- We donated mobile phones and tablets which went to local as well as Indian school children.
- We took steps towards twinning our club with the Rotary Club of Bordeaux Ouest in France.
- Several Rotarians helped at Covid centres at not inconsiderable risk to themselves.
- Simon Gravett set up a popular new online bridge evening as well as running the popular annual golf AMAM.
- Chris Saul secured a talented young RYLA candidate.
- Moira Bartlett did a great job with young writer.
- Tarratt Pin, awarded by the President to the person who has helped him the most in the year, went to Babs Marsden—will done Babs.

- The Hon Secretary awarded the bottle of port to the member giving the best (in the Secretary's opinion) vote of thanks to Tim Lee. Tim gave the VoT when our speaker was Steve Howe who told us all about raising, training and grooming a show dog.

Of course, I would have failed miserably were it not for the support of my fellow Rotarians. Richard Power did a fabulous job keeping our spirits up with his regular Covid related updates. I had lots of laughs with Clive Smith as Santa Claus, raising money for our foodbanks. Barry Davies kept the administrative side running very smoothly so that I could focus on my role. David Howard successfully raised funds through Rotary foundation. Ed Cufflin secured many excellent speakers. Bob Collins regularly helped me out with arcane technical aspects of Rotary. David Brunton somehow made sense of the veritable spaghetti of bank accounts and information forming our accounts. I also offer thanks to past presidents Brian Groves, Paul Bonnett, Patrick Boylan and Rodney Spokes for meeting with me and offering their invaluable guidance. And last but not least, I thank all of the members for your generous donations and support.

As life begins returning to normal, I wish Scott Gallacher all the best in his year as President, and with Nick Thomson and then Tara Pankhania to follow, I feel confident that the club is in excellent hands for the foreseeable future.

Parmdeep Vadesha

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2021/2

Subscriptions fall due on 1 July. If you do not pay by Direct Debit please can you pay by bank transfer. Individual and corporate membership rate is £150. Account: Rotary Club Leicester, Sort Code: 30 94 97, Account No: 02721817

ROTARY AMAM

The sun shone on the fund-raising golf AMAM at The Leicestershire Golf Club. Coming out on top was the ORTHODOCS SWING team comprised of retired orthopedic surgeons, led by past Rotary Club President Richard Power.

The event raised a total of £4,141, which will be shared equally between Rotary 4Foodbanks and Leicester Gondar Orthopaedic Partnership. The former is the choice of Parmdeep Vadesha, the current President of the Rotary Club, and the latter charity being the choice of the winning team.

Thanks go to all the players in the twenty-three teams, The Leicestershire Golf Club, and Simon Gravett and his team for organising what was a very enjoyable day.

Parmdeep Vadesha presenting winning prize vouchers to Tim Green and Philip Sell.

