

DIARY DATES - SPEAKERS

DECEMBER

- 6th** Rtn Paul Bertenshaw 'My Career in Pay & Display Enforcement
Vote of thanks: David Brunton
- 13th** Salma Ravat, Manager at One Roof Leicester, - 'Homelessness in Leicester at Christmas'
Vote of thanks: David Howard
- 20th** Christmas Lunch
- 27th** Bank Holiday—No Meeting

JANUARY

- 3rd** Bank Holiday—No Meeting
- 10th** To be advised
- 17th** The Bishop of Leicester—New Year Message
- 24th** Rtn Nick Thomson—TBC
- 31st** Rtn Rodney Spokes—TBC

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please submit to Bulletin Editor, David Brunton, by 15th December 2021

SPEAKER & VISITOR WELCOME

ROTARY CLUB OF LEICESTER

Meetings at the Grand commencing at 12.25
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 - DECEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Becoming President of the Rotary Club of Leicester has been a great honour for me. I'm delighted that despite the challenges of the pandemic our club has retained its importance to our members and our community.

I'd like to thank Ibrahim for kindly volunteering to organise our Christmas lunch. And I hope you are able to bring your loved ones with you to celebrate with us. However, I understand not all of our members are able to attend meetings in person. I'm delighted that that many of you continued to attend via Zoom, and we all appreciate your continued support. I'd also like to thank you for bearing with us through the odd technical hitch.

As you may appreciate, it's sometimes difficult to engage with you via Zoom whilst also presiding over the weekly meetings. So, I want you to know that your online attendance is very important to me, and the club as a whole.

Christmas is a good time to think about those less fortunate. But more than that, it's a good time to actually make a difference to those people. This year, with the help of the Rotary Club of Melton Belvoir we have provided emergency bags for the homeless. These bags contain sleeping bags and other essentials to help survive a night on streets.

Cont/d ...

We're again running the Christmas Hamper appeal. Last year this resulted in over 60 hampers being donated to local people.

Our Books4Home appeal has collected, and distributed, over 400 books to local children via Caldecote Community Primary School. We are still collecting books and this appeal will continue run until the end of my Presidential year.

Sterling efforts by Richard Power and Tara Pankhania have helped us raise thousands for my President's charity and Richard's own Gondar Project.

Tara's curry evening, as well as being a great fundraising event, allowed many of us to forget about the worries of the virus for a moment. To be able enjoy a great meal, some drinks, and catch up with family, friends and fellow Rotarians, was wonderful. A great example of the joys of simple good fellowship. I hope we can have many more moments of fellowship moving forward.

Of course, Rotary isn't only about our local community. Rotary is an international organisation and on the international fellowship side, we have started building links with Bordeaux Ouest. Their introduction to their fine city, complete with comic acting was something you had to see, and if you missed this you should watch this on our YouTube channel. This was one of the most enjoyable and surprising Rotary meetings I have ever experienced.

For the rest of my year, I'm particularly looking forward to Music in the Park returning in June. Chris Saul, in his year as president started to work with Wigston RC on this event. Unfortunately, events outside our control meant this has been on hold for two years. Special thanks for Rob Bowman and Tim Alton, who recently joined our club from Wigston, for organising this.

I hope you will all be able to support and attend this great musical event, which will be another opportunity for fellowship.

Finally, I'd like to thank all our members for the fantastic support they have given me so far and wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Scott Gallacher
President

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

There is no question that our Club needs to recruit new members. And, while the traditional approach of members bringing in their acquaintances, colleagues and friends is a good and moderately successful one and we are now getting a level of interest through social media and new membership arrangements such as corporate membership, they are clearly not enough. We must do more.

That is why we are going to try an 'Open Day' lunch meeting with a view to making it a regular event, say, quarterly. A date is fixed for 24th January 2022, when people's New Year Resolutions have not yet faded away. Guests will be invited through publicity on social media as well as by rotarians directly.

It will be a semi-normal lunchtime meeting, perhaps slightly extended 12:30 to 2:00. We will be seated around tables of six with members interspersed with guests to ensure that all our guests feel welcome and have a chance to talk with rotarians. But there will be a few differences:

There will be no formal club business or closing talk by a speaker. Instead, at intervals through the event, there will be 3 or 4 very brief talks on key examples of what Rotary is and what our Club does. (I'm sure there will be interest there for members as well as guests.)

I will be talking to the hotel about providing the catering on a continuous buffet style, if possible. I would like us to be enthusiastic and present a more relaxed, informal image for this event, so smart casual dress, and we will not interrupt the day for a grace or loyal toast.

The one thing that needs to be more controlled than usual is the seating arrangements. I realise that some members usually like to sit with their particular friends, but for this event I would like all rotarians to be part of the 'host team'. To that end, I am thinking of a seating plan. If anyone has strong objection to this, please let me know.

I will be seeking out the 'bite-size' speakers over the next couple of weeks, but if anyone has an idea of something they would like to present, I am open to suggestions.

I hope you will support this. I have no idea whether it will be a successful approach, but I am keen that we make a real effort to bring new and enthusiastic blood into the Club.

Nick Thomson
Membership Committee Chair

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES ROTARY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A reminder about the annual Christmas Lunch on 20th December, which this year is being organised by Ibrahim Murad. Feel free to bring along family and friends to the Mercure. Further information to follow.

