

## DIARY DATES - SPEAKERS

### DECEMBER 2022

- 5th** **Tabitha Outram and Gemma Vissani** (RYLA Candidates) - Experiences from the RYLA Course  
*(Vote of Thanks—Chris Saul)*
- 12th** **Gary Dixon**, Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council, University of Leicester Development On Freemans Common  
*(Vote of Thanks—Babs Marson)*
- 19th** **Christmas Lunch**—Rtn Richard Power will Share experiences and anecdotes from his Recent cycling adventure

**26th** **Bank Holiday**

### JANUARY 2023

- 2nd** **Bank Holiday**
- 9th** **To be advised**
- 16th** **Rtn Diana Esho**—Lodz Memoir
- 23rd** **Liga Orlovska**—Beekeeping and the apiary at Bradgate Park
- 30th** **To be advised**

### ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please submit to Bulletin Editor, David Brunton, by 22nd December 2022

## VISIT TO JOHN DEERE WORKS

In November we joined up with Leicestershire golf club to visit the John Deere works in Langar. We learnt about the history of John Deere right through to a detailed explanation of the technology that goes into all their tractors and mowers. Using Satnav the position of the golf course mower is known to 2cm accuracy.



Thanks go to Paul Donaghy for organising the visit.

### 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:	Scott Gallacher
President Elect:	Tara Pankhania
Junior Vice-President:	Ed Cufflin
Honorary Treasurer:	David Brunton
Honorary Secretary:	Barry Davies
Honorary Assistant Secretary:	Babs Marson

#### Elected Council Members

Mark Simpson, Babs Marson, Richard Power, Clive Smith, Patrick Boylan, Diana Esho

#### Other Contacts:

District Council Representatives: Moira Bartlett, John Saunders and Rodney Spokes  
Bulletin Editor: David Brunton  
Club Protection Officer: Mick Marvell  
Website: [www.rotary-leicester.org.uk](http://www.rotary-leicester.org.uk)

### LEAD COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<b>Club Service</b>	Gordon Arthur
<b>Membership</b>	Parmdeeo Vadesha
<b>Service Projects</b>	Moira Bartlett
<b>Rotary Foundation/Benevolent</b>	David Howard
<b>Communications</b>	Diana Esho

**PRESIDENT - NICK THOMSON**

## BULLETIN - DECEMBER 2022

### PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

At the start of July, I approached the role of being your President with a sense of awe and responsibility and a recognition that I only have a year and the mantle moves on. That year is fast slipping away! I have discovered that the role is multi-layered and that supporting my chosen charity is only one of those layers.

Looking towards Christmas, I want to thank Paul Donaghy for taking on the task of organising our Christmas lunch. I am looking forward to that event. Paul has also been active setting up visits for us to join. During the year so far, a group of us had a tour around the new Everard's brewery at Fosse Park and, more recently, a trip to the John Deere facility at Langar in Nottinghamshire.

There is no doubt that the great challenge for Rotary Clubs today is to build their membership amongst the age group that formed so many clubs in the past, that is the 30s and 40s. It is, of course, a different world now and the traditional club is appealing to some but not all. That is why our development of an alternative to sit alongside and to compliment the club that many of us know and love is so important. It started with the idea of a 'satellite' group but we soon realised that the intended purpose of a 'satellite' group, to separate off and become a new club, was not what we wanted. Rather that this group should remain intimately linked with the 'main' club, being a part of its story and drawing from its history and seeking cross-linking with its members. Little did we know at the time that there was a grassroots movement developing in US Rotary with a similar idea. They call it an Impact group and its drive is to focus on delivering

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volunteering projects in the community. We are talking with them to see if we can learn anything from their experience, but with the intention of remaining a uniquely Leicester Club 'Impact' group. The power behind all of this has been Diana Esho and I am grateful to her as well as the support of the DG.

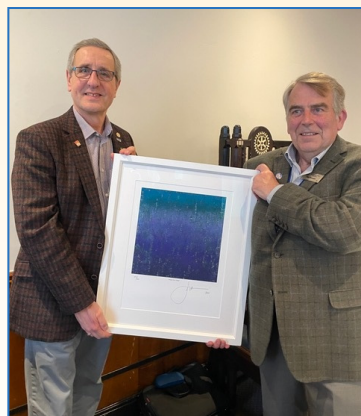
So, what have we, Leicester Club Rotarians, done so far this year? Here are just some of our activities:

- ◇ *In support of the End Polio Now campaign we have planted crocuses across sites in the city and made a donation of £600 to the campaign.*
- ◇ *We have supported the charity Vista in harvesting their collection boxes around the city and David Howard has managed the Leicestershire clubs to do the same across the county.*
- ◇ *Richard Power has done his epic cycle ride to raise money for Sappers Support and my president's charity, FOCUS.*
- ◇ *The Impact Group held a very successful quiz and a curry night, raising funds for food poverty and building links into the community.*
- ◇ *The £16,000+ funds raised by Grace Drane for Ukrainian refugees has been despatched to Poland following finalising the background process development.*
- ◇ *At the moment we are raising funds (thanks for all your donations) for the Christmas hampers and preparing to buy food and pack the hampers for distribution. Rotaractors will be helping there.*
- ◇ *And we are all set to support Age UK with their Christmas lunch, as we have done for many years.*

I realise that I have selectively named names, but it is all the members of the Club that go to making it successful and I thank you all for your support. On that note, I look forward to what we will be doing in the rest of my term. I wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2023 and a successful year for the Club.

*Nick Thomson  
President*

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISIT



At our last Monday meeting of October, the District Governor joined us and was asked to pass on his thoughts on the Rotary year so far. He also took the opportunity to extract a few quid from the President in exchange for a photo opportunity with a print of a painting by the RI president's husband! All donations to EndPolio. He had a great deal to say but the key points for me were his encouragement to 'Imagine Rotary' (how can we make it better) and noted the advances we are making as a Club, the environmental focus and the reminder to all of us of the core Rotary values of Truthfulness, Fairness, Goodwill and Benefit to all concerned.

*Nick Thomson  
President*

## ARE YOU GOING TO AUSTRALIA IN 2023?

At the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne from 21-27 June 2023 you will meet Rotarians from all around the world, hear world class speakers and attend breakout sessions about Rotary activities and projects. As well as being able to participate in great Rotary fellowship opportunities including playing on the tennis courts used by the Australian Open or touring in a light aircraft.

Further details at <https://convention.rotary.org/en/melbourne> or contact Rodney Spokes, who has attended nine RI Conventions, on 07785 343833. Book by 16 December to save \$100.

## FROM WORLD POLIO DAY ON 24 OCTOBER 2022

In 1986 when Rotary International gave a commitment to rid the world of this terrible disease it was endemic in all but a handful of countries worldwide.

Rotary's campaign was joined by The World Health Organization, the Centre for Disease Control and UNICEF amongst others.

We have done well in clearing the world except the area of the Afghanistan/Pakistan Border but we have always feared that the disease is only a flight away. Following COVID, these fears have been realised as the wild Polio Virus has been found in the London sewers and we know of an actual case recently occurring in New York.

To support the eradication Programme, all Rotarians are asked to donate and for members the best way to do this is a contribution to our Club charity account (30-94-97 02722147) including "Polio" as the reference.

This is a good time to donate because it has just been reconfirmed that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will add two pounds for every pound donated by Rotarians. So if you are able to donate £25, with Gift Aid this will provide £62.50 to fund the vaccination programme.

To promote the End Polio Now campaign our President Nick arranged the planting of purple crocuses in three locations this year. The purple crocus is used because the little finger of children given the vaccine are painted purple in order to prevent them receiving a second dose.

Rotary can be proud of the leading role it has played in one of the greatest public health success stories of all time as polio will become only the second human disease to be eradicated from the world, after smallpox.

*Rodney B Spokes*

