

Community

Club Reports

Beeston Probus Club

IN 1904 Henry Royce, an electrical and mechanical engineer, met a certain Charles Rolls, a London motorcar dealer, and they decided to join forces and form a company.

And so in 1906 Rolls Royce was born; the rest, as they say, is history.

On a recent Monday, the members of Beeston Probus Club visited the Rolls Royce Heritage Centre in Derby to find out details of the company's history. Members learnt how the company came to be the manufacturer of the best-known car in the world, and how the organisation grew and expanded through its diverse activities throughout the world.

The Derby Heritage Centre is in two locations.

In the morning, club members visited the Heritage workshops based in the city centre. This is manned by a team of dedicated volunteers

who lovingly restore the old aero engines and cars, many of which are on display there, including those which once belonged to such well-known people as Sir Malcolm Campbell and Lord Baden-Powell. The Centre also has pride of place for the last motorcar ever produced by the company.

There is a vast selection of famous engines dating back to 1914, when the company also designed and produced the engine known as the Eagle. The 'Eagle' engine was to provide the power for more than half of the early planes used by the allies during World War One, and was subsequently installed in the aeroplane that carried out the first direct transatlantic flight as well as the first flight from England to Australia.

Famous engines continued to be developed throughout the '30s and '40s, culminating in the Merlin, which powered the Hawker Hurricane and

Supermarine Spitfire planes during the Battle of Britain.

During the war, Rolls-Royce helped develop the first British jet engine in partnership with Sir Frank Whittle, thus enabling production of the Gloster Meteor jet fighter plane, another world first. From the 1950s until the present day, the company has continued to provide the military and civil aviation industries with a succession of world-beating aero engines.

After lunch in Derby, the members visited the Learning and Development Centre, which has a selection of Rolls Royce engines on display as well as motor cars dating from the formation of the company to the present day.

All in all, the club members had a very interesting day going back over yesteryear and reminiscing on engineering matters of their youth.

Long Eaton Probus Club

PRESIDENT George Fearn welcomed nearly 50 members to the June meeting and, after refreshments, he "called them to order" and the meeting began with a summary of recent activities by committee members, followed by an outline of plans for the summer.

Speaker David Langley of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) was then introduced. He gave an account of the RNLI's activities and a history of its founding in the early

19th century, and explained how the RNLI receives no government funding but continues to survive and grow thanks to donations, gifts, and huge public support in fund-raising. They also receive, and are very thankful for, the support of a number of celebrities.

Mr Langley told club members how, apart from the fantastic sea rescues, they also deal with natural disasters such as inland flooding, where they cooperate with other emergency services.

He finished: "The RNLI is always on the look-out for volunteers. We have formal training facilities for the young – and for the not-so-young!"

Mr David Howley proposed a well-supported vote of thanks.

The July 1 monthly club meeting welcomed a visit by St John's Ambulance.

The club's annual barbecue will be held at the meeting of August 5.

Toton Methodist Church Women's Meeting

GUEST speakers at the June 22 meeting at Toton were Noel and Derry Matthews from Eastwood, who had come along to speak about the work of the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

The Fellowship works in all African countries as well as Canada and North Australia, particularly in areas that have suffered from natural disasters – earthquakes,

floods, etc – ferrying doctors and medical supplies to, and patients from, places far off the beaten track.

Mr Matthews illustrated his talk with DVDs of many countries, but in particular Madagascar. Here, the scenery was wonderful but out in the wilds, the poverty was widespread and there had been no medical support until the MAF arrived.

A collection at the meeting raised £52 for the Fellowship.

All ladies are invited to the next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, July 6 at 2.15pm. The previously advertised speaker is unable to attend and Rev Chris Gray has agreed to come along and give the second part of his talk about his Trek along the Great Wall of China.

Two O'clock Club

MEMBERS of the Two O'clock Club were divided into teams of four as they arrived ready to take part in June's quiz.

The competition was divided into three parts. In the first two, photographs of firstly sports stars and secondly famous personalities had to be identified. A third section on general knowledge followed, and prizes were awarded for the highest and lowest scores in each category.

The following week, bright sunshine added to the enjoyment of an excursion to Oxford. Everyone with no previous experience of the city found it to be a place with many areas of interest.

The next club meeting welcomed Gordon Asher, who had come along to give an amusing account of his life as a 'Nosey Parker Surveyor'. Mr Asher worked as an articulated surveyor who, after his studies, initially

joined his father's surveying practice.

Anecdotes included a time when he was out collecting rents in Arnold. He knocked on the door of a house that he had been warned not to enter. He found out why when it was opened by a woman who invited him in and told him she couldn't pay – but offered an alternative to cash!

On another occasion, he called at a house where the customer, now deceased, was in the process of being laid out, and Gordon found himself persuaded by the family to give the homily at the funeral.

Mr Asher eventually bought his father's business but lost money and so joined another partnership. He recalled the time one of his colleagues went to survey a convent where the nuns were gathered around the bed of the Mother Superior as she received the last rites. After the priest had slipped a drop

of whisky into her milk, she told the nuns "never to sell the cow it had come from."

After another survey, the manageress of the building society he was working on behalf of had to be persuaded to reimburse the 9s 4d he had been charged by the City Hospital for delousing carried out after the survey.

Other tales told of a four day survey of a castle in Ireland which, it transpired, the lord had no intention of selling, and a distress warrant eventually paid in pennies, each one sealed in an individual envelope. And as he was once sued for failing to report five woodworm holes, he stressed the need for surveyors to be extremely nose through every inspection.

Mr Asher's talk certainly illustrated the attention to detail required when dealing with property transactions!

Inner Wheel Club of Beeston

AT its AGM held on June 21, members of the Inner Wheel Club of Beeston heard reports given by the club officers, including President Gabrielle Arandhara, who thanked all club members for their support during the year.

She said that, although the club had seen a steady decline in membership over recent years and now had

just 22 members, its tradition of service to the local community and overseas had been maintained. In the current year, the club had supported Beeston Shopmobility, the local Autistic Society organisation, the Myasthenia Gravis Charity and the President's own choice of charity for the year, which was Marie Curie.

Overseas charities supported included LEPRRA, Riders for Health, Wateraid, and The Haiti Disaster Appeal.

In all, £1727.84 had been raised and distributed, and members present at the AGM were delighted to present a cheque for £610 to a representative of Marie Curie that same evening.

Rotary Club of Beeston

THE ever popular 'Me and My Job' talk was given by George Dimitrakis at the Rotary Club of Beeston's June 21 meeting, held at Beeston Fields Golf Club.

Mr Dimitrakis spoke of his early life in Grevena in West Macedonia on its borders with Epirus, North West Greece, and of how he came to The University Nottingham in 2002 to complete his PHD – and then returned to work in the Electrical Engineering Department at the University.

He is involved in the research and development of microwave processing in industry including mineral

extraction from other substances, much of which is sponsored by industrial companies.

As is usual, and following many questions, President Jack Walton gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the members.

Last Monday, June 28, was 'President's Evening', which saw invited guests join members for the climax of Jack Walton's year as President.

After dinner, the President spoke of the club's achievements before concluding with a presentation of awards to the following:

Committee of the Year Community and Vocational

Service Vocational Cup SVP Nick Doughty

Rotarian of the Year John Sellers

The Paul Harris Fellowship Brian Pilgrim and Trevor Martin

The Walter Hayes Photography Trophy Gabrielle Arandhara for her image of Lake Moke, near Queenstown, New Zealand.

To complete the evening 'All that Jazz' entertained with songs from the shows.