



THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN

AUGUST BULLETIN: PRESIDENT JOHN CAWDELL

The picture shows President John welcoming Martin Curtis as a new member. Martin is the son of Len Curtis, our longest serving member, and gave us a talk about his career at our 5th June meeting. (The talk was reported in our June bulletin).

THE FUNERAL OF PAST ROTARIAN JOHN HUNTER

The funeral took place on 4th August at St Peter in East Gate Church after a service at the Crematorium attended by the family.

The church was almost full and the service was led by Rev Peter Faulkner and included a tribute to John's wife June who died during the Covid "lock down". In addition to his 47 years as a Rotarian it was clear that

John had served the community in other ways including many years helping run the Schools Army Cadet Force after he was promoted during his National Service.

RETURN OF THE BIG BENCH 7th AUGUST

The bench which is situated at the West end of St Mary le Wigford Church is well known to our Club. It was presented to the church 49 years ago and we have repaired and re-varnished it many times on a voluntary basis. You can just see the tip of the fifth leg which I added after vandals had broken the bench in two and Stephen Pope rebuilt some of it in his workshop. The latest refurbishment was carried out by President Elect Dennis Bambridge and myself and was returned and bolted down by my good friend Paul Booth of Booth Stone Masonry who has built the stone walls around the recent landscaping of the site for the City. The smaller seat is ready for returning after David McKee helped me to revarnish it.



ageUK REQUEST FOR DBS CHECKS FOR DRIVERS AND BEFRIENDERS

Members back in 2010 may remember those who were to play Santa at the Epic Centre were asked by the organisers to get CRB tested. This year we are being asked by AGEuk to get "DBS" tested if we are Befrienders or Drivers . The new test, DBS ,is short for Disclosure and Barring Service. It involves proving who you are, where you live and whether you have been prosecuted for breaking the law in any way. Peter Hill and I have taken the test but I am not aware if any other members have taken it so far.

We may consider it a bit "over the top" for what we do, but I am sure our District Safeguarding Officer, Kate Haythornwaite, would recommend it for any event where we are in contact with children or vulnerable adults.

Now that I am approved by the DBS I was able to make my first visit to see my Responder along with one of the officers from AGEuk. Having spoken to Rod once a week almost for a complete year it was great to meet him at last . The officer stayed with us for some time and we discussed the rules which we must follow, and the situation that Rod finds himself in following a recent spell in hospital. I was then left with him for a chat and agreed to take him out for a ride in the car at the end of the month.

14th AUGUST INDUCTION OF MARTIN CURTIS AND PETER MANTON TALK ABOUT HESLAM

We all welcomed Martin to the Club before I made my speech about James Reginald Heslam. It would be improper for me to repeat my talk here except to say James Reginald Heslam was an exceptional man and would have made a great Rotarian.

My 21 years as Chairman of the Heslam Trust reminds me that many Rotarians carry out Voluntary Service to the community through other organisations, in addition to their duties as Rotarians.

21st AUGUST CLUB COUNCIL MEETING ON ZOOM

Congratulations to Lochan for agreeing to be the host for the zoom meetings. I was only three minutes late signing on this time. Sadly the President, the chairman of the meeting, was having trouble with his sound system and a lot of time was spent repeating what was said. I jokingly said we could hear him better when he was in Brazil. That turned out to be a prophetic statement because near the end of the meeting John changed from computer to i-phone and we could hear him clearly!

President's report:- President John thanked Lochan for hosting the zoom meeting. With regard to Honorary Members, he had spoken to Rev Dr Hugh Jones who had said since his move he is unable to attend any Monday meetings so we should not re-appoint him. The Rt Revd Stephen Conway , our Bishop, has been invited to speak to us and we will need to decide whether to make him an Honorary Member. (It has been a tradition for the Bishop of Lincoln to be an Honorary Member since Bishop W S Swayne was a founder member of our Club in 1922)

President John then reminded us that the coming District Council on 6th September will not be a zoom. He will not be able to attend due to the distance. The agenda has been amended and reports sent to the Council will no longer be presented at the meeting. They will be available on the District Website for members to read before the meeting. (The report from our Assistant Governor Colin Scott, about our club, makes interesting reading. President John sent me a copy and asked for it to be featured in this Bulletin, see later.)

The plaque which has adorned several locations in the City over the years has been fixed to the façade of the Nightingale. Numbers attending our meetings have increased and the £3 charge per person to cover the room charge has been adequate. Due to the German visitors attending our meeting on 25th September and being ferried back to the airport afterwards, our next Council date has been amended and we will meet on zoom at 6pm on Tuesday 26th September.

The meeting discussed the District proposal for each club to sell 500 raffle tickets for the Polio campaign and we voted against it. (Details of the coming visit of the Neustadt Rotarians was noted, see President's report which follows.)

PROJECTS:- Peter Hill reported , following a meeting at Age UK , that they explained that their plans for the future are expanding but some of their work eg:- Telephone Befriending, can't expand because of shortage of volunteers. Peter agreed to pass this message on to the other three Clubs and Lydia will raise it with Inner Wheel.



SAFEGUARDING THE SLEIGH:- The latest communication from our District Safeguarding Officer, Kate Haythornwaite, on the running of a Santa and Sleigh, may have destroyed its future. The Road Traffic Act demands MOT standard inspection of the sleigh, Santa should wear a seat belt! The Drivers insurance should be extended to cover Santa. The driver must have a licence to tow and insurance to cover the sleigh. High viz jackets must be worn by the

volunteers, but the most damaging of all, no body must be on the sleigh except Santa at any time. No food should be offered to the children. Route plans must be indicated to the Police before the event. As Sleighmaster I can confirm that many of these conditions have been covered in the past, but the fact that children should not be allowed on the sleigh under any circumstances, that is a real problem. We had made that a rule at the Food and Gift Fair, but it did not stop the occasional parent who put their child on the sleigh for a photograph alongside Santa.

Another item raised at the Council meeting was how to raise money in the future and that needs further consideration.

COLIN SCOTT ASSISTANT GOVERNOR REPORT TO DISTRICT COUNCIL 6 SEP

Colin began his report by congratulating RC of Sleaford (a lunchtime Club) for their organisation of a picnic to celebrate the Centenary of our district which included the induction of a new member. He then proceeded to comment about our Club as follows:-

That thought led me to my other lunchtime Club, Lincoln, which currently seems to be going through something of a renewal. In a few months they have turned around from an air of despondency to a more confident and optimistic outlook. They spent nearly half of last year without a President Elect, yet now have a full succession team (President, PE and President Nominee), meaning that the next 3 years of leadership is mapped out, significantly raising their confidence in the future. They recruited members last year (both new and transferring Rotarians), and last week inducted the first of a new generation – the son of one of their senior members. All this has led to a new and noticeable buzz at their lunches which wasn't there a year ago!

It is, perhaps, self-evident that a Club not having a full succession team in this way will lack confidence in its future, and that in turn will inevitably detract from its primary purpose of serving its communities. A Club of 20 or 30 members ought to have no trouble finding members willing and able to take their turn at leadership, yet I am baffled by how depressingly common it is for Clubs to find themselves apparently unable to fill the succession team - or in some cases even appoint a President Elect! – until, in some cases, the last moment when the Club's very existence may be imperilled!

Being President is an opportunity for personal development and learning whilst serving your Club. If you have not previously been President you can bring a fresh attitude and thinking to the rôle. If you have already been President you have a wealth of knowledge and experience from which your Club can benefit. "I don't want to do it", and "I've already done it", do not, to me, hack it as reasons not to serve – whether you have done it or not you still have much to contribute, and you cannot always rely on someone else to take up the slack. In any case, both "reasons" seem to be something of a negation of our motto, "Service Above Self"! We are Rotarians: our Club is there to serve our communities in whatever way we can. As Rotarians we should similarly be there to serve our Club, in whatever way we can!

Colin Scott
22 August 2023



SECRETARIAL SATISFACTION

PRESIDENT'S PAGE SEPTEMBER 1st 2023

I am delighted that Martin Curtis has accepted our invitation to become a new member as we continue to strengthen the Club. Please do all consider if there is anyone that you know who would be a good Rotarian and might be interested in joining the Club. A visit to one of our bi-weekly meetings without any commitment would be a good start.

I am most grateful that the Club plaque has been moved and installed near the Nightingale entrance. Thanks to David McKee for his tenacity in retrieving it and getting permission to install it at our new home. Thanks to Terry Coffey for his engineering skills in the project.

September is the Rotary month of Basic Education and Literacy. Who knew that? In August we were lucky to receive presentations from senior members Peter Morrison and Peter Manton which were both very educational.

Zoom Council meetings have suffered from connectivity problems in recent months. I would like to thank Lochan for volunteering to host on Zoom in the future hopefully almost seamless meetings.

A reminder that 10 Rotarians from Neustadt an der Weinstrasse will be our guests on 23/24/25 September. The itinerary includes a welcome reception at Diane's house in Balderton on the evening of Saturday 23rd, Then a visit to Andrew's farm on Sunday morning 24th, followed by a pub lunch in Stow. On Monday 25th there will be a Club meeting with the Mayor of Lincoln present. Hosts and drivers from and to the airport are all arranged.

President John Cawdell

September 2023

That's all folks! Editor Peter