

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN

Autumn Newsletter 2017



I hadn't realized how quickly the last three months had passed until I was reminded by Peter that another President's message was due.

We have sent two Shelterboxes recently to help with the hurricane damage in the Caribbean and we have teamed with the other three Rotary Clubs in Lincoln in a hedge planting project in the International Bomber Command Memorial (IBCM) on Canwick Hill.

We have paid our share towards the purchase of the whips and when they are delivered, the four clubs will congregate at the IBCM site for the planting. This is an environmental initiative promoted to clubs throughout District 1070 by District Governor Chris Davies; it is part of an international initiative promoted throughout the world by RI President Ian Risley. Lincoln is the first place in the District where all the local clubs have joined in this environmental project and found a place to plant the trees.

The Wildlife Trust are supporting the project and the idea was for them to provide the trees at no cost to Rotary. Unfortunately, once we got down to the way the WT worked, it was discovered that the WT would provide things free only if they could choose the what and when. The IBCM have a specific planting schedule which is part of the planning consent for the site, so the trees will be supplied by Crowders, following a competitive tendering exercise, at a cost of £506 plus the dreaded VAT to be shared between the four clubs (£151.80 each). Our share has already been paid. We shall need volunteers for the planting when a date has been decided.

In August we held our Annual President's BBQ and I would like to take this opportunity again offer thanks to Barry Dean and the International Committee for their organisation; to Steve Pope for the use of his garden; and to Neil Curtis for the splendid food. (see photograph above).

I have had the pleasure so far this year of inducting a second new member, Paul Horton, who has been allocated to the Membership Committee and I again welcome him to the Club. Members will recall that we inducted Richard Ellis on 10 July at our first meeting (see handover newsletter). I hope to have had the pleasure of inducting another new member by the time you read this – Peter Hill, a transferring Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Oswestry who has recently moved to Nocton and has been a regular visitor.

Our winter activities are in an advanced stage of planning; Santa collections at supermarkets and RAF Waddington; Carol Singing at residential homes; the Annual Carol Service at St Nicholas Church; and, of course, the Christmas Market. Most of these events will require a great level of volunteering from Club members. I know that some are physically unable to help on many of these events but I hope that those of you who are, will remember what you can do for your Rotary club.

*PDG Malcolm Webb
President 2017-18
The Rotary Club of Lincoln*

SPEAKER 17th JULY. Our speaker on 17th July was Toby Dennis, the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire who began by telling us how he was appointed.

In 2013/14 he was High Sherriff and at the end of that year was in Australia when he was asked by the powers that be to recommend some names for Lord Lieutenant. This he did and was surprised to receive a call on Christmas Eve asking if he himself would consider taking the job. He took over from Tony Worth at the beginning of 2015. This resulted in some exhilarating times.

Toby Dennis Continued:- As Lord Lieutenant he carries out about 300 engagements a year. The first “perk” was a week end at Windsor Castle with all the Lord Lieutenants from around the country, a great Royal Garden Party.

Toby then gave some details of his family history, his grandfather was a pioneer in the potato industry gaining the nickname of “Potato Dennis” in the South of the County. Toby was raised in Sleaford and later in Stamford. He married Sarah “a Yorkshire lass” and they have three children and still farm in South Lincolnshire.

The duties of the Lord Lieutenant , which began in 1585, are to act as His or Her Majesty’s Representative and he or she must uphold the dignity of the Crown at all times. They must encourage voluntary and benevolent service in the community , arrange Royal Visits, represent the King or Queen at medal award ceremonies . (to date Toby has already presented many medals on behalf of the Queen).

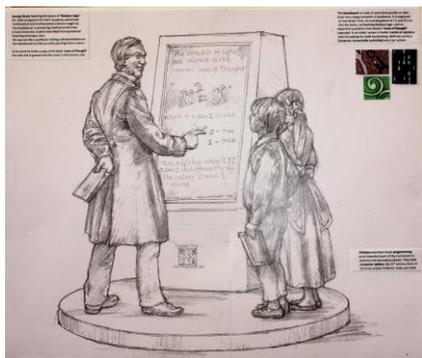
Duties also include leading the local Magistrates and J Ps , promotion of Voluntary Activities , liaison with the Police and engage with the local media. Toby is the 25th incumbent in the role and has to retire when he reaches the age of 75 (in 13 years time).

He then gave a resume about a recent royal visit when the Duke of Gloucester visited Lincoln to open the extension to the BG University, visited a school and opened an exhibition at the Collection in the evening. He voiced his admiration for the Duke who gave a heartfelt address at each event without notes.

As Lord Lieutenant Toby represents The Army Benevolent Fund, The Air Ambulance, The Merchant Navy, The English Speaking Union and Heckington Show. He is High Steward of Lincoln Cathedral, Patron of Lincolnshire Wild Life Park a vice chairman of Diplomatic Services in the County.

It was abundantly clear to all of us that he is the right man for the job and he received the appropriate thanks and applause.

24th July The George Boole Sculpture:- This was a talk given by your editor and I hope you will not find it too presumptive of me to give a brief report. The first thing I should say is that this is not a Rotary Project, it is being run by The Heslam Trust of which I am Chairman. (I have spoken about J R Heslam on a former occasion.) The fact is that this trust has been running for 54 years and there have only been two chairmen so far, Philip Race for the first 40 years and me for the rest. Philip was a Rotarian and we have tried to keep a Rotarian or two on the team over the years.(Peter Harrold and Henry Ruddock are current Trustees.)



The Trustees felt that George Boole who was born in Lincoln in 1815 has done work of global significance as his “Boolean Logic” eventually led to the development of the computer. We invited two sculptors to submit schemes and the City agreed that a site between the Railway Station and the new Bus Station would be the right place. Antony Dufort and Martin Jennings submitted schemes and after the public had voted (through the City web-site) Antony’s scheme opposite was selected. It pictures George Boole in his younger years teaching children . There is a 2 year programme for the work so watch this space.

JULY 31st VISIT OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR CHRIS DAVIES

On the last day of July we were privileged to host our District Governor Chris during the first month of her year. In her address to the club she began by reminding us that R I President Ian Risley’s theme for the year is “Rotary Making a Difference”. The President, an Australian, is concerned about Global Warming and one of his aims is to get one tree planted for every Rotarian during the year.

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DG Continued:- The District Governor has spoken to the team constructing the Bomber Command Memorial on Canwick Hill and their Landscape Architect has suggested that Rotary could plant hedges which are required as a wind break. The four Lincoln Clubs can be involved and Joe Polkey of Bailgate Rotary Club has agreed to be the coordinator.

The DG urged us all to get involved emphasising that we joined Rotary, not for the meal, but to make a difference ! She then enthused about Sailability on Grafton Water and here in North Hykeham and hopes that we are still keen to support Polio +.

Membership objectives were then raised , she was pleased to hear that we have a Rotakids Club . Alternative ways of developing , including Satellite Clubs , were mentioned and she was pleased to hear that Dick Parsley has already spoken to us on that subject.

Rotaract Clubs are few in numbers in District 1070 and they are keen to improve on this.

It was clear that our new District Governor has some great intensions and we should give her our full support.

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BLIND PEOPLE RNIB

On Monday 7th August, Jenny Perry, RNIB Area Fundraiser for the East Midlands District, spoke to the Club about the work of RNIB and its “talking books”.

First of all she got us to imagine what it would be like without our sight. Not able to drive, see our family and friends, or read a book or newsletter.

Currently there are some two million people with some form of sight loss in the UK, and this figure is expected to rise to four million by 2050. In Lincolnshire there are currently some 27,000 which could well rise to 38,000 over the next 10 years.

The RNIB will be 150 years old next year. Its mission is to be there to help everyone affected by sight loss. Whether a person is losing their sight or blind or partially sighted, the RNIB can provide practical and emotional support to help them face the future with confidence.

They support those working in education, and provide support to businesses who have staff with sight issues.

The “talking books” project began in 1935 and currently there are more than 25,000 fiction and non-fiction audio books available. Since 2015 this has been provided free of charge. The books are produced in different formats, including braille, giant print, CD,USB stick or download from their website, bringing choice and independence to thousands of people.

Jenny ended her presentation with an appeal to sponsor a “talking book” :£2500 for an adult book, £1500 for a children’s book. **Report by Simon Clarke**

MARCIA DOS SANTOS CAWDELL “ME AND MY JOB TALK” 14th AUGUST

We were treated to a double act as husband John helped Marcia by asking pre-arranged questions to which she replied in English. Marcia’s mother tongue is Portuguese and she can also speak in Spanish and Japanese.

She began by confirming that she was brought up in Londrina which has a population of 76,000. Brazil’s population is 300 million. The first settlers in Brazil were Portuguese, however Londrino was founded by English people 100 years ago.

MARCIA Continued :- Her father is a builder and still working at the age of 80. Marcia left school at the age of 12 to work in a shop but took further education at a college at 15 and went on to University. Marcia said she believes in God very seriously.

Marcia trained as an Air Hostess and gave a very amusing account of the training when a crash situation in the jungle was simulated and the “survivors” had to keep their passengers safe from poisonous snakes and spiders for four days. They were trained to find ways of making the wreckage more visible from the air as there is a history of wrecked planes being lost in the jungle in that part of the world.

Her first experience of England came when she visited her sister and brother in law in this country and she found employment here with Brazilian TV .

Marcia made good progress in the new language and when the Olympic Games were due, was employed by BT Sport in preparing shows in the Olympic Park. During her time there she met many British Celebrities including Claire Balding, Boris Johnson and even Prince Harry. After spending some time talking to the Prince one of her colleagues asked if she knew who he was- she said no, all of you English look alike !

Marcia returns to Brazil once a year to visit her family, but has settled here in Lincoln enjoying the quiet surroundings.

She was aware of Rotary before coming to our country and is enthusiastic about our principles and the work we do to serve our communities.

Marcia concluded with a message in Portuguese which, we understand was saying thank you for taking me into your club.

The President voiced our approval and congratulated Marcia on delivering her speech in very good English.

LEN DREW “THIS AND THAT” TALK ON 21st AUGUST

Len’s talk was really a nostalgic trip down memory lane for those of us who knew Lincoln just after WW2. His first job in 1944 was with Lincoln Land and Building Society which was allied to the Cooperative Society. He described the area around Broadgate which was very different to its current appearance with shops, cafes and even a blacksmith’s shop. He was paid £1 per week and had day release to further his education. Len did his National Service in the RAF and later worked for the Halifax Building Society which later became Leicester Permanent and eventually The Alliance and Leicester. When that became a PLC he continued for two years and was then offered a retirement package at the age of 56. This led to a comfortable retirement which has continued for 31 years !

In his vote of thanks David Cox said it was great to hear about Lincoln and how it has changed . His own address was originally Asylum Road and thankfully it has been re-named Carline Road.

DIANE GENDERS MONDAY MORNING MUSINGS SEPTEMBER 4th

Diane admitted that on her way to work that morning she was pondering on what to say as today’s speaker. Pressure of work had prevented her from preparing a script for the occasion. She quickly came to the conclusion that she should speak about something she knows well, and she called it Monday Morning musings.

She began by explaining how she had moved from being a partner in an established firm of solicitors to running her own practice and what may have driven her to take such a bold step. Particularly as in her earlier years she had no intention of becoming a career woman.

Clearly her family had influenced her development. Her father had set up a business with his father and his three brothers. After a research visit to Japan her father designed a machine to produce fertiliser by drying chicken droppings.

Diane Continued:- Diane had been promised a job as his secretary but the business ended before she left school. Her father then had a desire to emigrate to Guatemala but her mother refused to go without Diane so other plans were made. Her parents bought a small hotel in Blackpool and it was at that point that Diane decided to live with her grandparents.

Diane said she was proud of the achievements of the men in her family, her father had trained as a Spitfire pilot during WW2 but failed the sight test. He then moved on to Motor Torpedo Boats and then deep sea diving where an attack of "the bends" put him in hospital on one occasion. One of her uncles was seriously injured during the war but survived for 30 years afterwards. She has a brother who is a Dr of Philosophy and he is campaigning for University status for his college in Wakefield. One of Diane's uncles hand- builds racing cycles for professional riders in Canada and a nephew runs The Live Rehearsal Studios in Wakefield and one uncle was the front runner in the then new business of shop-fitting self service stores.

Diane is proud to have survived in a "mans world", she was the second female partner at Andrew & Co and was the second female President of the Lincolnshire Law Society and as we all know, was the first female President of the Rotary Club of Lincoln in its 92nd year.

Neil Curtis, proposing the vote of thanks complimented Diane on an interesting talk about her family background and that she had made it clear that genes do matter.

BARRY HACKETT POLIO ERADICATION OFFICER DISTRICT 1070

Barry visited our Club on 11th September to talk about the Polio + campaign. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Ashby de la Zouch and the Polio Eradication officer on the District Foundation Committee. He began by reminding us that the Polio+ campaign started in 1985. (11 members of our club were members in 1985 and we remember that Rotary had been assisting the World Health organisation prior to that, but it was the creation of an oral vaccine which made a global campaign possible.)

Barry's talk continued with a reminder of what Rotary is and what we stand for. A marriage of commerce, a business opportunity to join with other leaders and take action.

To keep the public informed about the Polio campaign it is necessary to remind them what Polio does to its victims, that "iron lungs" are still in use to control Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP). Polio can not be cured but it is preventable.

The status of the campaign on the day of Barry's visit was 4 cases in Pakistan, 39 in Syria, and 6 in Afghanistan. (all war zones, what a surprise !). The disease can not be declared eliminated until the end of a three year period with no new cases. Without the Polio campaign it is possible that 16 million people would have been victims since 1985 !

Poor hygiene conditions in developing countries makes eradication of the disease much more difficult. There is also a danger of people carrying the virus but without being affected themselves or aware that they can infect others. The high birth rate in some areas also adds to the problem of vaccination.

The world is being made more aware of the problem and the Polio campaign is on the agenda for the next G20 summit meeting.

Barry said our club contribution last year was 1136.85 dollars and he hopes we will continue to support it.

EDITOR'S NOTE:- Members who read the Daily Telegraph will have been annoyed when they recently read two articles proclaiming that Bill Gates had eradicated Polio almost single handed. Happily Rotary responded and a week later an apology was written putting the record a little straighter. Audrey and I were present in San Diego in January 2009 when he made the first offer of \$200 million, 24 years after Rotary began the campaign. The support of the Gates foundation is invaluable but the press should get their facts straight.



4th SEPTEMBER;-YUKO ISHIKAWA

Rotary sponsored student Yuko Ishikawa and her mother flew in from Japan to attend the graduation ceremony for Lincoln University which was held in the Cathedral. They were hosted by John and Marcia. President Malcolm allowed Yuko to say a few words expressing her gratitude for the support she received from The Rotary Club of Lincoln during her studies for her Masters degree

SEPTEMBER 18th GROUP CAPTAIN DAVID ROBERTSON (RETIRED)

On 18th September our speaker was Group Captain David Robertson (retired) who gave us some thought provoking and surprising facts about his life in the RAF. He began by giving us a quick resume of his career, starting with the B2 Vulcan Bomber at Waddington, the Tornado GR1 in Germany and two and a half years in America on the F1-11. There followed a return to the RAF Staff College, the MOD, and then 617 Squadron which he commanded during the time of the Iraq war. He took the squadron to Kuwait in 2002 to join the Americans in the war.

After that conflict he took European Command in Stuttgart then Africa, then Intelligence at Waddington and after a period at High Wycombe, retirement in 2012. It was his experience in the Iraq war which he wished to share with us.

He had been working on the development of a Smart Missile control system for the Tornado GR4 which would eventually take missile control to a new level. Before the development was complete the squadron was sent to Kuwait and the programme shortened with untested missiles being put into service. There were some failures but the end result was 27 out of 30 missiles found their targets.

One problem that David faced was the potential morale problem caused by the opinion of many in the Nation that this was an unjust war. Many believed that there were no weapons of mass destruction and the "media circus" was a problem for the combatants, often being asked for interviews as the crew were preparing to take off on missions. The media were initially anti-war until they saw an allied helicopter shot down and the enemy shooting at the medics as they attempted to rescue the crew and passengers. From that point the media were more supportive of our troops but compromised normal communications by contacting the families of the combatants often with incorrect information.

David's talk confirmed our fears that modern warfare is seriously affected by the media. The element of surprise which has won so many campaigns in the past is now compromised and often by people who believe they are on our side!

The club showed their appreciation of a fascinating account of a distinguished career.

DID YOU KNOW ?

1 Despite a rather misleading newsletter from RIBI Insurers Disclosure and Barring checks (DBS) are not mandatory for new members nor our current activity of Kids Out. They may be necessary for our Santa Sleigh collections however.

2 "Goodbye" is derived from the farewell "God be with ye".

DID YOU KNOW ? Continued:- **3** We are now in area 2 of District 1070 headed by Assistant Governor Peter Berry. The area broadly covers Bourne, Grantham and Lincoln. **4** Polio eradication remains tantalisingly close. Smallpox is the only disease so far eliminated. **5** The R I President for 2017-18 is Ian Risley, an Australian. His theme is “Rotary Making a Difference”. **6** The Rotary Foundation gives more than \$169 million every year to educational and humanitarian programmes which promote International Understanding **7** Next year The District Conference will be at Torquay and will then be discontinued due to its high cost. **8** Speakers and Stewards lists are published in advance. If you are not available on your allotted date please find a substitute. **9** Our new members are settling in well and making a positive contribution. **10.** Our Charter Night is on Friday March 2nd 2018 at The Assembly Rooms, please put a note in your diary and support President Malcolm. **J A C**

25 SEPTEMBER LAURA BRUCE MENCAP

Laura introduced MENCAP as the voice of Learning Difficulty. It was started in 1946 by Judy Fryd, a lady who had a child with Learning Difficulties. She started a club for children with similar problems and MENCAP was the result supporting sufferers of all ages.

It has become the leading voice of Learning Difficulty. Activities such as swimming and social interaction has improved the lives of Learning Difficulty sufferers.

There are 1.5 million people with Learning Difficulties in the UK. Their problems include reduced intellectual ability, learning or physical problems, often a mild form of Autism.

In adulthood they receive help with relationships and finding employment. Their problems include bullying, 40% live in poverty, many suffer from loneliness and life expectancy is much reduced.

Support is needed in Lincolnshire where there are 13471 sufferers with moderate or severe conditions. 1849 of these are situated in Lincoln itself.

Cash help is given by groups holding coffee mornings, golf tournaments, collections at supermarkets etc. A “Big Tea Party” is planned for 8th November. Go to www.mencap.org for information.

While proposing a vote of thanks, Alan Nugent said that he had officiated at many marriages during his long career and only once had the Wedding Banns raised an objection. The mother of a girl with Downs Syndrome had objected to her marrying a man with severe Learning Difficulties. Laura was thanked by the Club for her excellent presentation.

KEEP ON TRUCKING



Members will be aware that the Denby team have been campaigning to the Government to make their ECO-LINK project, an 8 axle 60 tonne truck legal. They claim that it is better for the environment than the two vehicles it replaces. Dick kindly offered members of the Club to a test drive and David Briggs and I eagerly took the opportunity. The pictures show the truck and David Briggs at the wheel. Diane was in the passenger seat enjoying the experience. The Club wish Denby Transport every success. **Page 7**

