

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER PART 2

This is a continuation of the newsletter issued on 18th December

25 NOVEMBER BUSINESS and FELLOWSHIP

This was mostly concerned with the Christmas arrangements which are described in detail on the following pages. There were only 16 members present , 2 more than the last B & F meeting.

28th November:- Alfred and I took the sleigh to the showground for the Food and Gift Fair which would take place over the week end. On the way I took the sleigh to Jon Wilkin's workshop where he PAT Tested the electrical installation. Members may not all be aware that we have mains power electricity on the sleigh, provided by a car battery with an "inverter" which turns the 12 volts into mains level alternating current to power the decorative lights and the sound system. Many thanks to Jon for his professional help with this .

Nigel Harrison met us at the Epic Centre and helped unload and set up the equipment. The event ran through Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December. The first Santa was Alfred followed by yours truly and the last two slots by Patrick Forbes Ritte . Elves were Joy Schneider, Malcolm Webb. Nigel Harrison and myself. It has to be said that this event is not as busy for us as a supermarket visit but there is a good atmosphere and the fellow stallholders are good company and the children entertaining as always.

The Sunday event was similar with President Peter taking the first two slots as Santa followed by Yours Truly and then Alfred. Elves on that occasion were Michelle Bird (one of our recent joining members) Nigel again , Malcolm and Sheila Webb , Jackie Kalson, and for the last session Neil Curtis and Claire who had been otherwise engaged in food events earlier in the day.

We returned the sleigh home that evening and prepared it for the Waddington event starting the next evening on 2 December.

2 DECEMBER PETER MOTTRAM- FARMING IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Peter began with a historical assessment of conditions before the first world war. The repeal of the Corn Laws in the 1840s – imports without tariffs- allowed the Americans to supply us with grain and by 1914 18% of our grain was imported. The outbreak of WW1 and the U Boat development made imports to GB difficult and we soon faced food shortages, particularly sugar which was mainly cane sugar imported by Tate and Lyle .

This situation lead to the beginning of the growth of Sugar Beet in this country after the war.

100 years ago 1% of the population could not afford milk, sugar or meat. It was a sign of status to be overweight.

Peter Mottram continued:- The tractors which became popular between the wars led to more productivity. Steam engines proved to be slow and expensive.

The financial crash in the 1920s and WW2 caused farmers immense problems . 50% of exports were stopped and food rationing from 1940 to 1954. The 1957 Agricultural Act guaranteed some prices and help was also given to improve field drainage.

Milk supply was limited to local supplies for many years until refrigeration was developed in the 1950s. Milk cooled down to 3 or 4 degrees lasts much longer. Eventually refrigerated tanker lorries were developed which made supermarket supplies possible . Milk Marketing Board quotas controlled the production and price of milk and when they closed down in 1994 the situation began to change and all quotas were removed by 2015. This led to plans to develop huge dairies such as the one which was proposed (but never built) at Nocton.

The farm-gate price reduced to lower than production costs . Peter's farm went out of milk supply 3 years ago after 96 years ! It appears that Governments and Supermarkets do not communicate about this problem.

Today their farm produces wheat, rapeseed , peas, sugar beet and a 70 strong herd of Lincoln Red beef, all run by a smaller workforce in huge tractors guided by computers.



Wall of names Terry Coffey, of the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Concert Band, pauses for a moment of reflection at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, during yesterday's Remembrance parade - 100 years after the first memorial service.

TERRY COFFEY AT THE MENIN GATE

If you read page 5 of the first half of this newsletter you will recall that Terry said he was honoured to be going to the Menin Gate with the Fire and Rescue Band for the Nov 11 celebrations. If you had said then "you might appear in the national dailies" we would have all had a good laugh.... But here he is as depicted in the Daily Telegraph and it was a much larger picture than printed here. Well done Terry, what a fabulous memory !

2-3-4 DECEMBER SLEIGH TO RAF WADDINGTON

It has become a regular event to take the sleigh around the RAF accommodation at Waddington and their housing off Carholme Road. The team for our first night at Waddington was President Peter as Santa, me driving and Audrey as Elf (sporting a new illuminated collection tub).As Peter came to our house first we were able to access the camp security in one car with sleigh attached. John Ferguson met us at the changing rooms and we were soon following him to the pre-arranged stops.

As we were other wise engaged, the Tuesday tour was headed by Steve Pope pulling the sleigh with his Range Rover, David McKee as Santa and Malcolm Miller as a rather large elf. I am still not aware of who spilled the tin of sweets on the carriageway but am told that otherwise the event went well.

4 Dec off Carholme Road:- I was driving again when we visited the RAF housing off Carholme Road. Alfred was Santa and Audrey Elf again. Our guide met us at the entrance to the estate and suggested a different approach this year, by driving around the estate with Santa waving and music as loud as it will go (= very loud !) then stopping at one pre-arranged place where the fans would be waiting. This went very well and Santa was again buried under children including the twins who were presented to Santa the year before when they were only a few weeks old. One effect of the new itinerary was that the people who live in some of the houses who are not RAF personnel asked to be made aware of arrangements next year. Our guide agreed to include them in the notices.

9th DECEMBER REVERAND ROBERT GILLION (BISHOP BOB).

Bishop Bob began by telling us that he was serving the Church of Holy Trinity in Sloane Square in London when the offer of a change of diocese was offered. The post was in New South Wales in Australia, the diocese amounting to an area equal to Scotland, England and Wales. The population significantly smaller. He reckoned there were only about ten sets of traffic lights in the whole region. This was the outback and a normal journey could extend to 300 miles. A massive change from Sloane Square !

He was based in a district called Riverina and was their tenth Bishop, the first was Sydney Linton and Robert found his original ceremonial ring. He was surprised to discover that he had once lived in the same vicarage in Norwich as Sydney Linton who was also of British stock. Sydney was a man of independent means and built a Bishop's Lodge in Hay.

Robert and his wife enjoyed the radically different life in the Outback and visited every diocese . It involved hours of travel, avoiding kangaroos and cows along the way. He found a population who had endured fires, drought and plagues of flies and rodents.

Farmers had suffered great difficulties over the years with no subsidies and years without income were not unusual. Suicide was common.

Robert enjoyed the challenges of sheep farming, harvesting oranges and land work and had driven combine harvesters and quad bikes. He found faith was strong in the population , people would drive 2 hours to have dinner with a neighbour. He enjoyed experiencing "horse whispering" at an equestrian centre outside Broken Hill.

Robert was offered air transport to the remotest part of the diocese by a retired soldier (ex Vietnam) who owned a light plane and was happy to serve the Church by offering this service.

He recalled searching through the ashes of a burnt-out church and discovering an undamaged nativity figure which they now treasure. Robert informed us that he had been a Rotarian during his time in New South Wales. He concluded as follows:-

God does not call the equipped

He equips the called.



9 DECEMBER CAROL SINGING

That evening we lent the sleigh to a group in Branston who tour the village over three evenings. We then set off to our favourite funeral parlour for the first of three evenings singing carols in Care Homes. After refreshments kindly supplied by David and Kathryn McKee and some practice, we went to Altham Court. On Tuesday evening it was Bunkers Hill.

Our trip on Wednesday was to Beckside in North Hykeham, a new venture for us. Singers were Sheila and Malcolm Webb, Lydia and Peter Hill, David McKee, Jackie and Simon Kalson Steve Pope and Audrey and Peter Manton. We were well received and enjoyed our visits very much, particularly when residents and carers joined in the singing.

THE SLEIGH AGAIN.. Shortly after the sleigh was returned from Branston village David Drury, our webmaster, received a message from one of the villagers. They saw the Rotary emblem on the sleigh and assumed that it was a Rotary event. The message read as follows :-

[Thank you so much for your perfect timing on Santa visiting us in Memorial Gardens in Branston.](#)

[I say perfect timing as we had just been to see our son in a school performance. Sadly we missed the whole show as his little sister had a medical emergency and was rushed \(by ambulance\) to hospital moments before the show. Our son, aged 4 , was very upset and worried about his sister , aged 19 months, and cried all the way home...until he saw Santa and his sleigh.](#)

[Santa brightened up his otherwise devastating evening. Your team did a sterling job and I hope you keep up the good work for years to come.](#)

[Thank you so much, and have a very Merry Christmas. ...signed by the parents.](#)

I contacted the parents by telephone and explained that we simply lend the sleigh to the village on this occasion but were delighted to receive their message and good wishes. I passed the message on to the Branston team who were similarly pleased.

We later received a letter of thanks from the team reminding us that this was the fifth year we had lent the sleigh. They collected £550 over the three nights (mostly in the rain) and half went to the Salvation Army (Lincoln Corps) and the other to the Branston Primary Academies Food Voucher Scheme.

Fellow Rotarians- take a bow ! **Page 4**

FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER THE ROTARY CLUBS OF LINCOLN CAROL SERVICE

What a busy week we had and Friday evening was its crowning glory. This year we had invited the Waddington Military Wives Choir to take part. We had met the choir several times on our trips around the camp with the sleigh and on some occasions Santa has been invited to sing along with them. Consequently, when we asked them if they could take part in our Carol Service they said yes, and what a contribution they made !

We had made greater efforts to get the four Rotary Clubs to take part this year and that is reflected in the names of those who gave readings as follows:- **1** Genesis 3:8-14 DAG James Wood (Lincoln Colonia) **2** Genesis 22:15-18 Past President David Lee (Bailgate) **3** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7. **4** Micah 5 :2-4 President Peter Hill (Lincoln). **5** Luke 1:26-35,38 Rtn Chris Howick (Lindum). **6** Rtn Maureen Gariff (Colonia). **7** Luke 2:8-16 Past President Terry Coffey (Lincoln). **8** Matthew 2:1-11 President Allan Orient (Bailgate). **9** John 1:1-14 Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones (Honorary member, Lincoln).

The Choir sang selected verses in some of the Carols and then charmed us with their rendering of The Carol of the Bells which was truly brilliant. Following that they sang the first verse of Away in a Manger which again was very good.

We all enjoyed refreshments provided by Neil Curtis afterwards . Thanks are due to Bill Lee who was our link man with Hugh, to Simon Clarke for playing the organ and to those members who attended and brought guests.

Smacked wrist for Peter:- Some of you may have noticed that I spelt Maureen Gariff wrong in part one of this newsletter. I hope I can persuade her to forgive me.

15th DECEMBER THE RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST

Rotarians pop up as volunteers all over the City on non-Rotary events and no one has an idea of all the service we give. One such volunteer is Trevor Pacey a member of The Rotary Club of Lincoln who contacted me a couple of weeks before Christmas saying that he was helping organise a children's party at Sincil Bank and could they borrow the sleigh ? The date was free so I agreed. I delivered the sleigh to Sincil Bank on Sunday 15 December along with a Santa Suit and an Elf costume. I set the sleigh up in the chosen room and left them to it. I returned later that night to collect the sleigh in torrential rain. The party was nearly over but a small group were still dancing and the disco was so loud that it was painful ! Trevor told me that they had taken down the partition which had concealed the sleigh at the appropriate time with Santa sitting on it ,and the kids went "ballistic" when they saw him. It had proved a great success.

16th DECEMBER THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN CHRISTMAS LUNCH

About sixty persons sat down in the Trafalgar Suite to a delicious Christmas Lunch on 16th Dec. The entertainment was organised by Dick and Elisabeth Denby and we enjoyed Cello music prior to the meal by Honey Fox and afterwards we were entertained by singers Julie Fox and Jamie Krantz. It was good to sit back and enjoy the occasion knowing that events would kick off again big-time from Friday . **Page 5**

THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER SANTA TO ST CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL

It kicked off earlier for Alfred who was Santa at St Christopher's School assisted by Elves Jackie and Bill. The presents were funded once again by Kids Out and the children ecstatic as usual. (One of the pupils met Santa Alfred at one of the supermarkets later and had a second treat.)

20th and 21st DEC to SAINSBURYS, 22nd and 23rd to TESCO (WRAGBY ROAD).

We had the same pitch at Sainsburys as last year which meant all the customers passed the sleigh on their way in and out of the store. Changing facilities for Santa were in the staff changing rooms as before. The only down side to that is the long walk across the store. When dressed as Santa one feels obliged to speak to everyone and always to be in good spirits. Difficult when you have swallowed two fur balls from the beard and are intent on visiting the toilet as soon as possible.

On Friday Santas were President Peter, Barry Dean, Patrick Forbes Ritte and Alfred Schneider. Elves were Nigel Harrison Allan Orient (Bailgate president), Malcolm Webb, Joy Schneider (president Lincoln Inner Wheel) and Jackie Kalson and me.

On Saturday at Sainsbury Santas the same as Friday plus me. Elves were Nigel and Jackie again, Lydia Hill, Trevor and Maureen Pacey, Diane Genders, Audrey Manton and some Girl Guides and Malcolm Webb , our treasurer as well as chair of Community Service, who tried to be present at the end of each day to take the money away.

We went to Tesco on Sunday not sure if our placement was the best. This store has an entrance lobby which is accessed from both sides so we had to place one of our elves in the lobby which helped. The officer in charge, Keith, was very helpful but the basket pushers seemed to have the last word. On the Monday Keith suggested a position closer to the entrance which seemed to work better.

Sunday's team was Santas :- Alfred, Jim Kendall, Steve Pope . I was listed for the 4-5 slot but it being Sunday, the store closed promptly at 4 pm. Elves:- Nigel Harrison, Joy Schneider, Malcolm Miller, Diane Genders, Neil Curtis and Claire Whittaker , Malcolm and Sheila Webb.

Monday's team was Santas :- President Peter, Jim Kendall, David McKee, and yours truly. Elves :- Joan Fatchett (Lincoln Inner Wheel), Nigel Harrison, John and Marcia Cawdell, Allan Orient, Malcolm Miller, and Malcolm Webb.

Malcolm later reported that the total collected over the four days of supermarkets was £2011.85. A lot of hard work but many of the parents said how much they appreciated what we do and we Santas know a thing about lots of families now ! Like the young girl who I asked "and what would Mummy like for Christmas ?" " A baby "was the reply. Looking forward I could see Mummy already had two other children. For once I was lost for words.

Apologies to JAC, I have misplaced your Did You Know ? piece and no .1 son is going to dismantle this computer after lunch. Happy New Year everyone from your editor. **PM**