

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2019

President Peter:-

Christmas and the New Year are almost here ! The Club's intensive December activities supporting charities and the community are well under way- including Santa and Elves appearing at the Food and Gift Fair and touring RAF Waddington, carol singing at 3 Care Homes, supporting the Age UK Christmas party and 4 days fund raising outside Sainsbury and Tesco.

Apart from all this, many other important things have happened in recent months. Secretary Bill received his well-deserved Paul Harris Fellowship in December.



The Rotary Peace Seminar took place in Bradford in October , demonstrating again how well trained and sincere young people can have a major impact for good in tense situations around the world.

The joint activities and initiatives now being shared by the four Rotary Clubs in Lincoln have started to bear fruit in places like the new YMCA/Nomad centre where we have sponsored a room for homeless/destitute people in the city. (see photo above- Caroline Killeavy with the four presidents on a visit during construction.) Members of the four clubs have been visiting and supporting one another's activities , and exchanging useful information and ideas which should be of long-term benefit to all. Our increasingly close links with Inner Wheel too are proving fruitful and enjoyable.

Adding recently to the rich mix of Rotary in Lincoln was the visit in early November by my previous club Oswestry. Their intensive programme was too short to enable the clubs to meet, but they certainly enjoyed themselves- and repeat visits by one or two members are expected in the coming months.



On behalf of the club I was honoured to lay a wreath of remembrance inscribed " With Everlasting Gratitude" at the War Memorial on 9th November. (see photo left).

At the Humberside Club's 50th Anniversary Charter Dinner On 15th November I was presented with a rather fetching neck scarf, inscribed "Rotary Connects the World" by Manoj Joshi, District Governor of District 1040. Past President John Cawdell has returned after several weeks in Brazil and kindly presented us with a banner from the Rotary Club of Londrina .

7th OCTOBER---THE TWO MALCOLMS- WEBB AND MILLER—SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Malcolm Miller, as our Foundation officer, began by reminding us of our last overseas project when we raised £10,000 helping Anglian Water celebrate the centenary of Lincoln's water supply in 2011.

A grant from the Rotary Foundation made it possible to give water aid to thousands of people in Madagasca along with toilet facilities. This fulfilled our ideal that the Rotary Foundation funds the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty throughout the world.

The Rotary Foundation, (our Charity) is challenged to meet increasing demands on its foundation and to this end Malcolm suggests that this is not an issue that we should deny.

Malcolm Webb, wearing his Treasurers hat, said our club gives money to Foundation every year but our average contribution over the last five years has only been half of the district average. The proposal to ask members to become sustaining members was made at Projects Committee following the District Governor's plea that we should encourage members of the public to contribute to our foundation. We can hardly do that if we do not contribute ourselves. Before the plea was made, only 9 out of our 36 members were sustaining members.

A contribution of 100 dollars pa makes you a Sustaining Member. Proposal forms were handed out. To check their contributions, Sustaining Members have to be registered with RI on www.rotary.org . Name of club and password are required to log in.

Alan Nugent made the point that when he joined, the Club , the International committee were making a lively contribution to Rotary. He would like to see more support to Foundation in our club.

It is good to remember that through Alfred, Barry and others on the committees we are still active in promoting shoeboxes and collecting spectacles for Sight Savers. We have also contributed to Polio Plus many times since it's inception in 1985 and during the 2009/10 year we supported a country wide scheme to collect money at Tesco stores following Bill Gates' offer of match-funding.



14th OCTOBER JOHN CAMPBELL-THE DEAN'S VERGER

John began by reminding us that he knows most of us and is familiar with Rotary's quest to raise charity funds from every source possible. He declared that he does not carry money. He said he had been caught by Dick Denby in Waitrose and not allowed to check out until he had agreed to talk to the club.

He said he is aware of the "Four Way Test" and suggested that the talk he was about to give would not necessarily follow it !

John Campbell continued:-

John said he is in his 30th year as the Dean's verger and reminisced about his long career in the Church of England extending to 43 years. Prior to Lincoln he had worked in Bradford, Winchester and Carlisle. He applied to come to Lincoln in 1990.

There were four candidates who, with their wives were invited to what John called "trial by lunch" . Then each couple were interviewed , 15 minutes with the Dean, 15 with the Chancellor, 15 with the Precentor. When it was his turn John said one of them was asleep.

Apparently the jury decided it was between John and an Abbot and as the Chancellor liked Mrs Campbell, John got the job.

John then asked a question—The Cathedral- what is it ?

A centre for international pilgrimage.

Somewhere to use as a refuge for the distressed.

A springboard for the Gospel.

In short, a special place for everyone.

Next year the Mystery Plays will be performed again but this time in the improved area on the North side of the Cathedral.

This new attraction will make the visitor experience much improved—entry through the great West door on the original pilgrim's route (like through the mouth of a whale) , from there Eastwards towards the light—past the font-(a place of welcome and initiation). The nave, host to so many sacred and secular events. The current shop will become a chair store.

On into the choir, rich in mediaeval carvings , the "brains" of the cathedral. Our journey has been from the mystery to the lightest part of the building with the improved visitor area as our final destination.

John said he felt privileged to do his job, he is 65 years old and wears a blue dress every day- all for a special reason. It was at a farewell he attended at the bench of Bishops where a little girl declared that she had a dress like his.

John Hunt, giving the vote of thanks said it was good to be reminded what a great treasure we have in our Cathedral and how fortunate to have John Campbell to remind us. He has become a personification of the Cathedral himself. Thanks were given for an entertaining talk.



21st OCTOBER GRAHAM TAYLOR—A CHINESE TAKEAWAY

No, not the late footballer , this Graham Taylor is related to a member of our club. Graham said he was fascinated with China back in 1988 when their tourist industry was just developing. He was determined to visit but this took some time ! **Page 3**

Graham Taylor continued:- Graham's visit was delayed by 30 years and coincided with the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic. He found the Visa application to be "thorough" to say the least. His passport photograph was rejected four times before it became "Chinese approved" The 19 page application form showing income, career history, and details of family was presented at the Chinese embassy where he endured a 3 hour wait for a 40 minute interview. Finger prints and thumb prints were taken and more photographs. He then had to leave the passport with them and four days later received the visa !

Arriving in Hong Kong Graham was faced with tables of scanners- hands on – passport scanned and then you were in. Nationals also had to show their identity cards.

When he arrived in Beijing his first impression was how clean it all was, particularly the parks. He visited Tiananmen Square and saw the Mao museum with large queues of visitors. The "Forbidden Village" was 900 buildings and not as restricted as he had expected. He spent three days in Beijing , took a cable car up to the Great Wall, negotiated 18 inch steps and no handrails- the scale unimaginable. He was surprised to see CCTV cameras on the wall. He was advised not to photograph any soldier or policeman.

On the eve of the Grand Parade in Tiananmen Square, visitors were confined to their hotels while rehearsals took place. 110,000 performers had arrived in a fleet of buses. The general public were not allowed to view the parade, the audience were all invited.

Graham next took the bullet train from Beijing to Xian, a distance of 740 miles. He recalled that the station in Beijing had 15 platforms. The train took 4 hours, 10 minutes to get there. Our service from London to Edinburgh takes 4 hours 21 minutes for 370 miles !

Xian is famous for the site of the Terra Cotta Warriors, 8000 figures are believed to exist. At the time of Graham's visit only 2000 had been uncovered, and that has taken 46 years. No two faces are the same – the scale is unbelievable.

The museum quarter was buzzing with happy friendly people, not as we have often heard – no conflict was evident.

A highlight of the trip was the Giant Panda Breeding Centre where 50 or 60 animals are retained in a natural habitat of wet jungle. Contrary to appearance, they are big and nasty animals.

One of the most exciting sites Graham enthused about was the dam on the Yangtze river where the water depth can vary by 100 feet. Named the Three Gorges Dam , the weight of water behind it is said to affect the balance of the earth. 13 cities, 140 towns and 1350 villages were rehoused to build it. Another incredible sight was the Shanghai tower which is 2076 feet high, twice the height of the London Shard.

Have I seen the real China ? Graham said you are never more than 10 miles from a tourist attraction in China, they are selling themselves to the world.

The Club showed their appreciation for a good talk .

BUSINESS AND FELLOWSHIP 28th OCTOBER 2019

President Peter opened the proceedings by confirming the arrangements for the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial on Saturday 9th November at 11am. He thanked Bob Bennison for making arrangements to supply the wreath.

He reported that the Neustadt Civic Party will be visiting the County Show in June 2020 and we hope they will visit our stand.

The next Council Meeting will be combined with the Projects Committee and will be held on 4th November at 7pm at 5 Chapel Road Branston. These two committees have been combined due to the future Christmas events reducing available time.

Report from Project Committee coordinators:-

Santa's sleigh events have been arranged for the showground Food and Gift Fair , RAF Waddington and two supermarkets. The opportunity to attend the Christmas Market and to visit Waitrose this year have been lost. It is hoped that visiting Sainsbury's on Dec 20th and 21st and Tesco on Wragby Road on the two days before Christmas Eve will compensate.

Carol singing will take place over three evenings , 9th 10th and 11th December incorporating an extra home to visit this year.

The four Lincoln Rotary clubs will hold their Christmas Carol Service at St Nicholas' Church on 13th December accompanied by the Waddington Military Wives Choir .

A collection is being made for £5 to purchase sweets for Santa to hand out on the sleigh.

Maureen Garrett (Colonia) is working on a Rotaract connection and we are hopeful of reviving the Rotaract connection in our City.

Health Awareness day plans are ongoing and partly dependant on Lincoln BIG being reinstated by their members.

13 November is the opening of the Nomad Trust premises in the YMCA. The four Lincoln Club Presidents have been invited.

The arrangements for erecting the Frieze in front of the water tower are proceeding slowly. Steve Pope has volunteered to erect the monument when all the approvals are concluded. The club may consider organising another banquet with Anglian Water to celebrate the completion of the work.

It was noted that type 2 and 3 of Polio Myelitis have now been confirmed as eliminated. The completion of type 1 is still complicated by war zones.

Terry Coffey reported that the Fire and Rescue Band, (of which he is a member) are performing at the Remembrance Parade on 11th November at the Menin Gate .

Vocation officer:- Andrew Arden said that a trip to Southwell Minster and a toy soldier "factory" at East Stoke are under consideration.

LINCOLNSHIRE EMERGENCY BLOOD BIKES SERVICE FUND-RAISER JON WILKINS 2 NOV.



It was a surprise to the club when Jon Wilkins announced that he was going to raise money for the Emergency Blood Bikes by rowing for 60 kilometres on a rowing machine. Much relieved that the rest of us would not have to take part we happily supported his effort and were delighted when he announced that his total collection was £1000. He was supported by one of his friends on another machine. We held a presentation on 9th December when Wendy Hunsley, the fundraising co-ordinator of the Bikers was pleased to receive the cheque.

11th NOVEMBER CAROLINE KILLEAVY---THE NOMAD TRUST

Caroline's talk followed our recent visit to see work in progress in the Nomad Trust accommodation being created in the YMCA building off Croft Street. The original gymnasium has been replaced by new accommodation on Tritton Road, leaving space for conversion. The four Lincoln Rotary Presidents were invited to visit during construction and to attend the official opening, following our donation of £5000 towards one of the 22 rooms.

Caroline began by informing us that the YMCA is 150 years old this year. It's founder, George Williams was born in London in 1844.

The Lincoln and Stamford YMCA hostels merged in 2005. In 2013 YMCA took over the Lincoln Nomad Trust. The ideal of the YMCA is to develop the mind, body and spirit and create well being and health for all, a well rounded spirit in life.

In Lincolnshire the YMCA are active in Sleaford and Gainsborough supporting families and young people, they run two nurseries , one on Tritton Road in Lincoln and one in Gainsborough. In Sleaford they give ageing community support.

The "Showroom" on Tritton Road is part of a youth Programme and includes a music studio, climbing walls and space for many youth activities, but can also be let for weddings, conferences etc. The building helps replace youth clubs which are now almost non-existent. Outreach of Youth Services is also supported in Skegness and Boston.

The YMCA belief that everyone should have a safe place to stay respects personal dignity and to that end they have move-on accommodation in the City for 18 to 75 year olds. They are able to help with training people to cook and how to deal with addictions.

There has been a huge increase in rough sleepers in Lincoln in recent times. The expected life of such a person is only 44 years. The shelter on Monks Road supported 284 people per annum, but only dormitory sleeping was available.

Funding was received in 2019 towards building a new Nomad unit in the existing YMCA off Croft Street. 22 en-suite rooms and supporting accommodation have been created.

Caroline Killeavy continued:-



The photograph shows the central community space which is surrounded by the 22 individual rooms. Colour scheme and lighting specification is excellent.

Caroline emphasised that they will be on a learning curve when the new unit opens but the accommodation will be much more suitable and more comfortable for volunteers than in the former unit.

As a one-time resident of a YMCA in Nottingham and a Trustee of the original Lincoln Nomad Trust I am delighted to have seen the new accommodation taking shape and I wish them every success. **ED**

18 NOV. STEFFIE SHIELDS MBE-CAPABILITY BROWN-THE LINCOLNSHIRE CONNECTION

Steffie surprised some of us that Lancelot “ Capability” Brown has so many Lincolnshire connections.

Brown was born in 1716 in Northumbria and died in London in 1783. His first connection with Lincolnshire was the Grantham canal which runs through wonderful countryside to Woolsthorpe by Belvoir and beyond but his legacy is to the North of the county at Brocklesby which he visited periodically for ten years.

How did he do it ? His natural talent was recognised at Stowe in Buckinghamshire where he was paid more than the head gardener at age 23. He married a Lincolnshire lady from Boston in 1744. He was active at Blenheim for 10 years and at Burghley for 25 years.

His father in law became Mayor of Boston in 1755. Brown went to a one roomed school for his education, but such was his success that he was able to send his son to Eton.

Another local connection was his drainage of land at Revesby for Joseph Bank’s Grandfather. At Grimsthorpe Castle at age 22 he designed a drainage scheme to include a lake.

His work at Stowe included the design of a column at the Gibbs Memorial.

In the 1760s he became a celebrity . He designed a Brewhouse at Burghley (beer for workers). At Hainton he persuaded the parish to put a spire on the church.He returned to Grimsthorpe later and sorted out another lake. He designed a bridge but it was never built. His great plan for Belvoir never happened because the Duke lost a lot of money gambling.