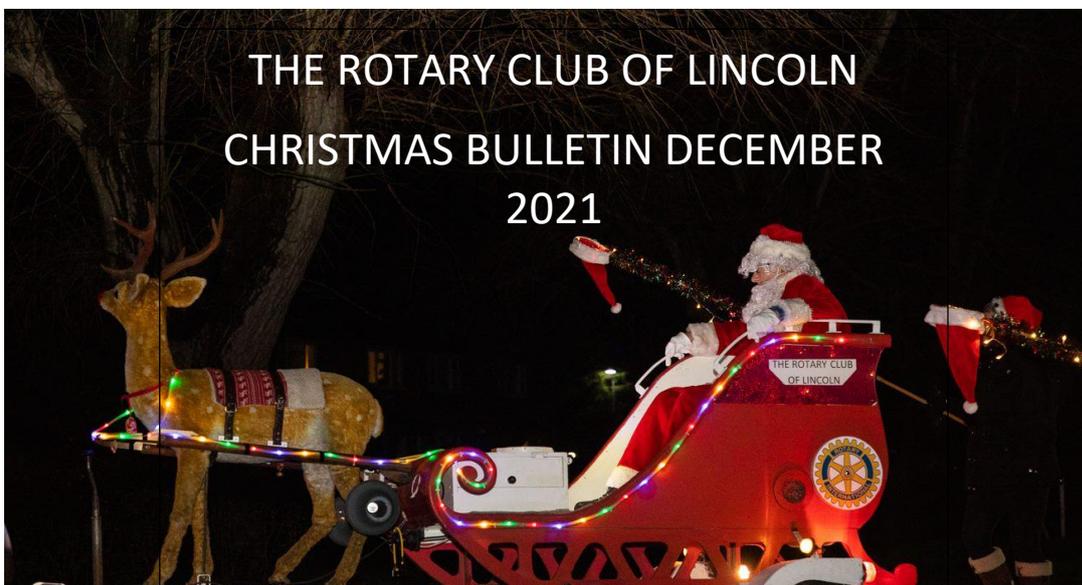


THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN
CHRISTMAS BULLETIN DECEMBER
2021



1st DECEMBER TALK WITH MELVYN PRIOR . I was invited by Melvyn Prior to talk to him on Radio Lincolnshire about the latest Rotary Centenary events and was able to tell him that the Frieze was successfully opened by the Mayor on 1st October (Lincolnshire Day). I also told the listeners that we had taken the sleigh to the Showground on 27/28th November for a splendid week end at the Food and Gift Fair and then talked about the coming Christmas Concert in the Cathedral.

2nd to 5th DECEMBER LINCOLN CHRISTMAS MARKET. With a free space in the Assembly Rooms kindly provided by Patrick we had an opportunity to publicise Rotary and particularly our Centenary. It has to be said that we managed to put up some interesting facts about Rotary in Lincoln but did not man the stall and failed to run the DVD which Richard Long has supplied. Given the fact that most of the visitors were not from Lincoln or even Lincolnshire it would not have interested many of them anyway, but given more prep time I would have liked to have developed it more than we did.

6th DECEMBER SLEIGH TO WADDINGTON . With David McKee in the red suit and Claire Whittaker and Nigel Harrison wielding the Covid length cash collectors I drove the sleigh at walking pace behind our RAF guide around the staff quarters. (See above) It was a different experience for all of us but the children still greeted us from their doorsteps. We enjoyed the visit even though rain came on for the last few minutes. Sadly a second visit on the 7th December had to be cancelled because a storm was promised and the wind and rain forecast would have made the visit impossible. The weather forecast kept its promise.

7th DECEMBER Another 2 hour meeting with the team for the Christmas Concert, all aspects under discussion. Advertising becoming a problem. I have sent information to The Lincolnite and Lincolnshire Live, and handed out posters on the Bail and Eastgate, and a big one for Michelle Bird to put in her shop window on the Strait.

8th 9th 10th DEC, On the 8th a zoom with Simon Kalson and the Disability Games team, on the 9th two hours of District Council zoom and some argument about voting when the system broke down. The DGE Steve Howe talked about the scheme to reduce AGs workload and we know that our next year's ADG Jim Murray will have less clubs to visit than current AG James. The vote for that was agreed to be by email as some voting members had left before the system was working. Denis Spiller then spoke about the Volunteer Expo which has become an annual event at the N E C urging us to visit. It is all about connecting communities with their

volunteers. Try hello@volunteerexpo.co.uk for information. The DG reminded us about the District Conference. On 10th December I took the sleigh to the Branston team as they were to tour Branston village the following week.

13th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCH. Canon Hugh Jones was our guest and gave the Grace and after the excellent lunch gave a Christmas Message. There were 23 people there and great fellowship. We presented the staff with a gratuity to thank them for their service.

13th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS CONCERT. Installing all the equipment during the afternoon went like clockwork and I must admit that when Audrey and I set off home after helping the set up I felt more at ease with the plans. When we returned half an hour before doors open it was raining. There was a great buzz around the choirs and band as they set up for the evening and the band began playing softly as we began ushering the audience into the building. I met the Civic Party at exactly 7-15 as arranged ,and with the help of one of the student volunteers, ushered them to their seats and then District Governor David and his wife Margaret. We had invested in a contactless card reader to receive money from those who prefer not to carry cash and Malcolm Webb managed to get it working just in time with help from Allan Orient, President of Bailgate Rotary. There were several Rotarians stewarding along with the Cathedral's own stewards.

There was a welcome to the Cathedral from the Resident Canon and then I was allowed to say a few words of welcome and a brief word about the Centenary of Rotary in Lincoln. As the Songs of Praise programme on TV had focused on Lincoln Cathedral on the day before our event I could not resist one story about one of our founder members, Bishop William Shuckburgh Swayne . On 12th February 1928 he ran a service in the Cathedral which was relayed to the nation on the fledgling Radio system. The Bishop's address that night was to his fellow Rotarians and left the listeners in no doubt of what Rotary was about. I believe it was the first broadcast from the Cathedral and a great lift to Rotary in those early days.

After wishing them all a splendid evening and a happy Christmas I handed over to James Wood the assistant director of the Fire and Rescue Band and the entertainment began.

The three groups of performers worked well together and separately and the whole performance was an absolute joy. There were some opportunities for the audience to sing and they did so with enthusiasm even with the masks on. The band ended with a special arrangement which was not listed on the programme and reinforced the feel good factor in everyone as we headed to the refreshments.

Audrey was one of the helpers in the food section and there was more food available than required. Clearly the Covid situation had not only affected our numbers (about 400) but also the numbers who attended the refreshments afterwards. I was particularly disappointed by the numbers who attended from the Rotary Club of Lincoln to celebrate the Centenary of our Cub . I know that several members are vulnerable and could not risk going. The good news is that the band recorded the performance and we can watch that on You Tube titled "Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Concert Band Christmas Concert." I have already watched some of it and the music comes over very well. The Military Wives Choir sound is great. Sadly they had a delay starting because their backing would not work. The pause is on the recording so you could make a Coffee or pour something stronger at that point. The singing is well worth waiting for ! You are spared my short talk which is not included. We must record our thanks to all the Rotarians who helped at the Cathedral from all the four Clubs.

The following morning three of the Lincoln Presidents and wives met DG David and Margaret for coffee at the White Hart and discussed his proposals to increase the membership of Rotary . The DG congratulated us all on our Concert the previous evening

ST CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL 16 DECEMBER. Sadly due to Covid so many teachers were unavailable that the school had to decline the usual Santa event. I had managed to get my village Santa , Graham King, to agree to visit the school as Alfred has done in the past but we had to cancel that. As we had agreed to pay £500 for presents for the children I was delegated to deliver the cheque in person. This I did on 16th December and handed it to the headmistress in the company of her deputy and was photographed in the act. We talked about Kids Out and future hopes and they thanked the Rotary Clubs for all their support and wished us all a happy Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

20th DECEMBER SLEIGH TO TESCO, WRAGBY ROAD LINCOLN. As the new variant of Covid spread rapidly it became increasingly obvious that the risk of infection was escalating. By Saturday 18th we only had two elves promised and then one decided to back out due to the situation and it became clear that we had a problem. I emailed all the members of Club Council for guidance and the majority agreed that we should cancel the visit to Tesco. I was sorry we had to do this because we have a good relationship with Tesco and ended my message to them with the hope that we can meet next year in better circumstances. I received a reply from Keith, our contact at Tesco, saying that they fully understood our reasoning and looked forward to our presence next year.

A BIG THANK YOU To all those who risked themselves, helping us to celebrate Christmas in Rotary style. Santas David McKee and Jim Kendall and Steve Pope. Nigel Harrison to set up at the Showground and Elf there and at Waddington. Neil Curtis for elf at the Showground, Claire Whittaker elf at the Showground and Waddington. Peter Hill for standing in as Health and Safety Officer on all the events. Audrey Manton for helping. We also thank Allan Orient for being the best dressed Elf at the showground and Graham King ,the Branston Santa ,for agreeing to be Santa at St Christopher's school and Tesco and for understanding when we had to cancel both events. Finally thanks to Patrick for his tolerance and service.



**ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO THANK
YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND
WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A SAFE AND MORE NORMAL
NEW YEAR. PRESIDENT PETER**