



DECEMBER 2022 BULLETIN—THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN PRESIDENT BOB BELLAMY

I am sure that members of our Club will agree that the Christmas meeting on December 19th was one of the best since 2019. There were 33 people there by my reckoning, the atmosphere was great, the President delivered a heartfelt welcome speech and thanks to John Cawdell, there was a potential joining member with us, Dennis Bambridge, a past member of Boston Rotary Club. The picture shows President Bob and his wife Julia and Dennis Bambridge on the top table. Older members may remember the Rotary

Wheel which dates back to the 1920s. It fell to pieces in 2005 when the late John Rose was President, and John asked me to repair it. 17 years later I finally made it roadworthy again but it is still very fragile. As our regular equipment is still at the Assembly Rooms I brought the Wheel to mark the President's position.

After a splendid meal we were entertained by Terry Coffey with his saxophone. We only had time to sing two carols. We made a presentation to Sue and her staff and ran a raffle with prizes donated by members.

2nd/3rd DECEMBER SLEIGH TO WAITROSE. Thanks go to Peter Hill for managing to get two days for the sleigh at Waitrose, the other supermarkets being reluctant or unable to give us time this year. Santas were David McKee, Peter Hill, Patrick Forbes Ritte, Jim Kendall (friend of Rotary) and myself. Elves were Lydia Hill, Andrew Arden, Malcom Miller, Alfred and Joy Schneider and Nigel Harrison. John and Marcia Cawdell made a short visit on their way to London. The collection was better than at the Food and Gift Fair and together they raised over £1000 for the Nomad Trust and local children's charities.

5th and 6th DECEMBER STAFF ACCOMMODATION AT WADDINGTON. I was surprised to realise that this was our 9th year of visiting Waddington (with a gap in 2020 due to Covid.) Our visit was really appreciated by the families and apparently some praise was recorded on Facebook after the event. Peter Hill had volunteered to be Santa on the first night but had to call off due to Lydia requiring medical attention. Steve Pope stood in for him. On the second evening David McKee was to be Santa but he and Kathryn were both smitten with Covid and I managed to recruit Jim Kendall to replace him. As last year the elves were Claire Whittaker and Nigel Harrison. The third night was abandoned because the RAF in town could not arrange a visit to their area. I drove the sleigh both nights and we all enjoyed the occasion.

DISTRICT COUNCIL 8 DECEMBER 2022- ZOOM As far as I could see there was only John Cawdell and myself in attendance from our club and I later reminded John that we need to make him a voting member and will raise it at the next Council. As there were only 40 clubs represented we were not quorate so the voting had to be repeated on line afterwards.

9th DECEMBER CAROL SERVICE AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH As our Honorary Member Revd. Canon Dr Hugh Jones is no longer the Vicar of St Nicholas and a replacement is not yet appointed the organisation of our Carol Service took a little longer than previously. A member of the church, a lady called Sue, was the main mover in setting up the event and updated and printed the programme as well. As usual the numbers were less than we had hoped. There were a few members from the other three clubs and some did readings but there was room for more. Nevertheless, a happy evening was held and the organ was much appreciated. Refreshments afterwards were prepared and served by Joyce Lee and Neil Curtis and other members of the church.

13 DECEMBER CAROLS AT BURTON WATER This was a new location for us and I was distressed to find it difficult to locate. We had picked up our new member Lochan on the way but were not late according to the times we were given. Sadly the times were changed nearer to the event and I missed that! However we quickly joined the gathering and handed out the booklets and we were soon singing along with the residents. Steve Pope was elected as “conductor”. There were about 11 of us, half Rotary and half Inner Wheel and one of their friends.

14 DECEMBER GAMES ZOOM This was one of Simon Kalson’s regular meetings to plan the District Disability Games for April 2023. Plans for a new layout to allow more competitors are well advanced.

15 DECEMBER ST CHRISTOPHER’S SCHOOL Members may remember my e-mail asking for volunteers for a Santa and elves to assist Santa to hand out presents to pupils of the school. There was no response and I have to say it was your loss. Audrey and I enjoyed the event with the help of elves selected from the school (so we did not need a second elf). We have always had great respect for the staff at this school for the specialist care and teaching they do, and that was very evident as we toured the various classrooms. We went away feeling that we had contributed to an important part of Christmas for the pupils, something our Club should maintain.

15 DECEMBER BECKSIDE CARE HOME CAROL SINGING. There were smaller numbers at Beckside, we only managed 7 singers, four were members of Inner Wheel and three Rotary. Fortunately many of the staff and residents joined in.

21st DECEMBER BOB BENNISON 90TH

BIRTHDAY Bob has reached a significant birthday and has served Rotary for 40 years. He was President of The Rotary Club of Lincoln in 1995. Bob was good with young people and ran the District RYLA event for a long time. He took part in our BHF cycle ride for many years and contributed to the £20,000 which we raised. As a keen gardener Bob was always keen to help with landscaping projects. As with many of us, he now has difficulty walking, but still attends.



16 DECEMBER AGEUK DRIVERS. We have provided transport many times to Age UK events. For this Christmas they originally asked for drivers for 12 passengers. A day or two before the event the list went up to 14 and at the last minute to 16. On top of that, one of our drivers had to call off with Covid! I managed to sort that out by asking some drivers to take three passengers (including myself).

I reminded all drivers by email to telephone their clients the day before to confirm that they were going to pick them up.

On the day, I managed to pick up my three passengers and get them to Park Street on time and saw some friends when I was unloading. I drove home and was about to eat lunch when Age UK called to say two passengers had not been picked up! I tried in vain to get a taxi and they were also trying themselves but with no luck. The Rotarian I had selected to take them had not received any of my e-mails. He had changed his e-mail address and I had corrected it in my i-phone and in the computer. Somehow the Bcc selector had used his former address and for some reason I was not told that the message had not been received and this happened three times.

Needless to say I had to eat humble pie and apologise most sincerely, which I did with a letter which I delivered the next day to both addresses. With a postal strike on the go I thought it better to respond immediately.

Clearly if I had telephoned all drivers the night before to see if they had contacted their passengers I would have discovered the problem. A thought for the future for whoever takes over this duty from me.

I don't know how every one else faired but my journey back in the afternoon took 2 hours!

The attached letter was received from Graham Smith who drives our sleigh around Branston when the village borrow it.

It is good to read that we have indirectly helped two other charities over the Christmas period.

A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL . BULLETIN EDITOR PETER

