

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN, DECEMBER BULLETIN 2023

PRESIDENT JOHN CAWDELL

4th DECEMBER, TALK BY PAUL KILLINGWORTH “HYDROGEN POWERED VEHICLES”

Paul began his talk by reminding us about problems with the Environment mostly brought about by the Human Race. He emphasised that our Towns and Cities have changed radically in recent times as shopping has moved from the high street to on-line sales. There are now many empty shops and other redundant buildings which could be converted into dwellings for families before new housing is extended into green field sites.

The CO2 Problem is partly being addressed by creating Electric Powered Vehicles with batteries which are charged by the National Grid. Hydrogen is being investigated as a more efficient generator of electricity, resulting greater economy of the vehicles it will power.

Electric vehicles are still under development and further development is expected. Hydrogen power is still in its infancy but will result in a cheaper way of charging the batteries in vehicles if it proved satisfactory.

Terry Coffey, giving the vote of thanks, applauded Paul's knowledge of his subject. He also reminded us that getting your Electric Car battery charged, is much cheaper at home than at Filling Stations or other commercial sources.

DECEMBER 4TH AND 5TH SANTA AND SLEIGH AROUND WADDINGTON RAF HOUSING

This event is the only time when we run Santa and his sleigh around the houses. It is unusual given that it is an area managed by the RAF and not the County Police.

There is a barrier access to the area and it is rather daunting when we enter, to see guards checking out Santa, with machine guns strapped to their uniforms.

We chose to do this service some years ago when some of the families were split up over Christmas when one of the parents was working overseas.

We managed to comply with most of the recent insurance regulations and I am pleased to report that there were no accidents. I was Santa on 4th December and Peter Hill on the 5th. Elves on 4th were Lochan Manandhar and Patrick Forbes- Ritte and on 5th Claire Whittaker and Dennis Bambridge. David McKee was our 4mph driver on both occasions.

As usual, the staff who accompanied us were very helpful and one lady handed out sweets to the children which released us from one of our new regulations, not to feed the children!

INNER WHEEL CHRISTMAS LUNCH, 7TH DECEMBER

All members of our Club were invited, whether married to an Inner Wheel member or not. 7 members attended and enjoyed the meeting and Terry Coffey's musical interlude.

8th AND 9th DECEMBER -SANTA'S SLEIGH AT WAITROSE

We had a splendid time at Waitrose, situated in our usual place in front of the main entrance. The shoppers were very generous on both days, the changing room for Santas was convenient and the staff were very obliging.

On Friday 8th, I was the first Santa followed by Patrick Forbes-Ritte, Peter Hill and David McKee. Elves were Lochan Manandhar (2), Malcolm Miller, Lydia Hill, Nigel Harrison, Dennis Bambridge (2) and Jim Murray. (Jim was a former member of our Club).

On Saturday 9th, Santas were Patrick Forbes-Ritte, myself, Jim Kendall and David McKee. (Jim is a Friend of Rotary and has helped in previous years.) Elves were Dennis Bambridge , Lochan Manandhar, Malcolm Miller, Nigel Harrison and Allan Orient (4). Members may recall that Allan, a member of Bailgate Club, did two full days at the Food and Gift Fair in November. This time he was away on Friday 8th but managed a full day on the Saturday!

David McKee did all the towing of the sleigh from Paul Killingsworth's workshop to and from Waitrose.

Picture of the sleigh at Waitrose with Elf Lochan and Yours Truly as Santa. Rudolf is much improved by Paul Killingsworth and the sleigh treated with additional lighting and new paintwork and a new battery. The mechanical items were checked and a new jockey wheel fitted.



CAROL SINGING 11th 12th and 13th DECEMBER

We began this year with a practice at the Funeral Parlour of Priestley and Cockett followed by a trip to Becksid Care Home in North Hykeham. Tuesday 12th was a visit to Tennyson Wharf at Burton Waters and the third event on the Wednesday was at Altham Court Care Home on Altham Terrace. Attendance varied, led by Joy Hansard on Monday and Tuesday and Brenda Price on Wednesday. The photograph below shows our group at Altham Terrace where we toured the corridors.



FUNERAL OF PDG ARTHUR PLATTS, HELD AT ALFORD CREMATORIUM 13 DECEMBER

Audrey and I attended Arthur's funeral. Arthur was an Architect so I knew him outside Rotary. He was a Rotarian in Louth and served as District Governor of 127 in 1986/87.

15th DECEMBER DRIVERS TO AND FROM AGE-UK CHRISTMAS PARTY

The plan prepared by Dennis Bambridge was for 6 drivers to take 12 passengers to the event. Close to the date, two of our drivers had to drop out and AgeUK found an extra passenger. Dennis made alternative arrangements for the missing drivers with taxis and Nigel Harrison agreed to take a third passenger. I was able to include Audrey on the return journey and the total age of the four people in our car was 358 years! Dennis had another problem to face when AgeUK reported one passenger missing. She was later discovered in the toilet! Drivers were Dennis Bambridge, Nigel Harrison, Myself and Martin Curtis's wife Sarah. (Sadly Len was ill and Martin stayed home with him.) Our passengers said they had a great time and much appreciated being taken and returned home by Rotary.

LOAN OF SLEIGH TO MR MURDERIES PLAYERS, BRANSTON 9TH TO 16TH DECEMBER

The Branston team made 4 journeys around the village this year. Their achievement and thanks is recorded in the following letter:-



David McKee and I collected the sleigh on 16 December and David returned it to Paul's garage.

ROTARY CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE NIGHTINAGALE, 18TH DECEMBER

33 had signed to come but sadly at the last minute Len Curtis had a fall and broke an arm. Martin took him to hospital so they both missed the lunch. Our Assistant Governor, Colin, was there and several member's partners. After the meal Terry Coffey demonstrated a musical instrument which could imitate several kinds of wind instruments as well as the violin. There was a raffle with prizes which were gifted by the members and the proceeds added to our collections made in the earlier weeks.

19TH DECEMBER- SANTA AND HELPER TO ST CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL

Audrey and I agreed to do this duty again and this year it was divided into two. In the morning we were at the Senior School on Hykeham Road and after lunch to the new Junior School on Skellingthorpe Road. Once again we were amazed at the patience and skills of the staff teaching children with such a variety of disabilities. We handed a Christmas Present to each child and some were able to say thank you but all put a finger to the mouth which said "thank you" in sign language.



We were presented with two Christmas cards during our stay at St Christophers.

THE FUTURE OF ROTARY

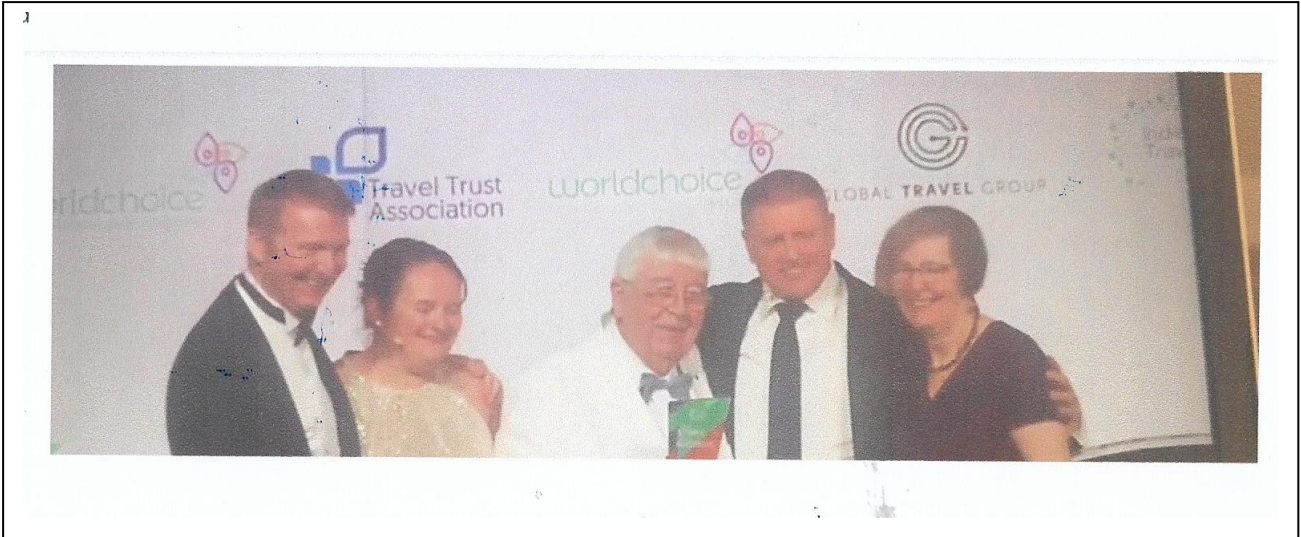
How many times have we discussed this? It was very much the subject which was referred to the most during the District Council on 5th December. President John and I were the only members from our club who attended and he was in Brazil! You will see from his report which follows, that John is in favour of finishing District Conferences due to cost and lack of interest. I have happy memories of Conferences long ago and most of our older members will tell you we all had great times at Scarborough and Harrogate. The Conference we ran when I was DG in 2009/10 was at Bridlington and we seated 500 on two nights. Personally, I have reached an age when I can not enjoy a dance and many of our members are of similar age or older!

DG David Kendrick began his address to Council on the same subject. He spoke of some radical changes, indicating that a "New Governance Plan" is investigating new types of membership, even the possibility of a person joining Rotary without joining a particular club in the beginning.

Another route would be a Corporate introduction through a local business. Investigations on this procedure are in hand.

Another consideration suggested was "Enterprise Partnerships" across GB/Ireland taking corporate membership to another level. Working on Corporate Social Responsibility, managed by an Enterprise team at Alcester. This is currently on a learning curve.

Our DAG Colin's report is very much on the same theme. He emphasises that Clubs should consider seeking new areas of activity. What worked many years ago may not be popular today.



PAUL BREWER WINS LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Paul, Mark and Sue attended a dinner with the Travel Trust Association in Munich on 5th December. Paul was the only one who did not know what was coming at the end! When the speaker began describing the recipient of a Life Time Achievement Award, Paul suddenly realised he was talking about him!

The picture shows left to right, Mark Brewer, Stephanie Stark (Membership Services Director,) Paul Brewer, Gary Lewis (CEO of The Travel Trust) and Sue Brewer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAUL

PRESIDENT'S PAGES JANUARY 2024

January is Rotary Vocation Service Month. Who knew that? We are now halfway through the Rotary Year;

We have recruited quality new members. We have a succession plan with Dennis and Patrick in line for Presidential responsibilities. We hosted a very successful exchange visit from Rotarians in Neustadt an der Weinstrasse. Attendance at club meetings is again very respectable. We have a venue which is convenient with free parking and excellent catering.

Despite onerous insurance and health and Safety rules the Santa sleigh again made much appreciated appearances. Thanks to the Projects Committee of Dennis Bambridge, Peter Manton, Paul Killingsworth and Peter Hill for their good leadership. David McKee deserves special praise as our new sleighmaster with the correct towing insurance.

We have helped to restore the Dawber Gardens and have continued to support AgeUK through the two Peters involvement and transport at functions.

We again supported the Seafood and Sect evening as a fundraiser in the Cathedral.

We continue to hold positive Club meetings with good public speakers (a key selling point in our Club over many years.)

Our half term report might say “much progress has been made but could do better”. I am sure these words have a familiar school-days ring to them for many.

An impressive 25% of our Club members are working Rotarians. Others are busy with extra mural activities. We must continue to exercise good time management and not allow meetings to drift on after 2pm.

I chaired the last Club Council Zoom meeting 6000 miles away in Southern Brazil. Connectivity was much better for me than for our hard working Secretary in Lincoln from where the meeting was hosted.

I also addressed the District Council Meeting via the Zoom Global Network and Data centres in the Netherlands. Membership recruitment is improving but continues to exercise minds. The future of District Conferences is also under review. With only 10% of District membership attending heavily subsidised conferences they are not sustainable. Better news is progress in large corporate organisations joining and nominating 100 plus staff to get involved in Rotary Projects. I was pleased to see Peter Manton (aka Santa) on the screen.

Some of you may recall meeting Marcia’s nephew Rafael a few years ago when he visited the Club. With my encouragement he is joining a Rotary Club in Brasilia. I do hope that while I have been in Brazil you have all continued to lobby family and friends to become members.

The next meeting on Monday 8th January is when the Right Worshipful Mayor of Lincoln Councillor Biff Bean is giving the traditional New Year Message. He has been most supportive of Rotary during his year of office.

May I wish you all a very happy New Year

President John January 2024

With the best wishes for a happy New Year, Editor Peter Manton