

The Rotary Club of Lincoln

February 2026 Newsletter



Rotary Club Meeting 23rd February 2026

News: Paul B was delighted to announce that all the tickets for the Canapés in the Cloisters event at the Lincoln Cathedral have been sold, including extra tickets sales made possible by reviewing catering options. Our thanks goes to the all our Rotarians involved in this event, including those who have bought tickets and will be representing the Club at the event.



Speaker: Rotarian John C. His Subject was "Forensic Accounting"

Rotarian John C. delivered a fascinating and wide-ranging talk on his career as a **forensic accountant**, outlining how financial expertise can play a vital role in legal disputes, insurance claims, and even major criminal investigations.

Early Work in Forensic Accounting

John began his career in forensic accounting with Royal Insurance, where he assessed claims for loss of earnings—particularly those made by taxi drivers following accidents. His role required analysing financial records and reconstructing income patterns to ensure fairness and accuracy in claims.

He later worked on several high-profile cases, including:

- Humber Bridge Authority claims for loss of earnings when overturned lorries forced bridge closures.
-



- A significant medical negligence case involving a baby who suffered brain damage, where John helped quantify long-term costs for care, education, and lost future earnings.
- Divorce cases, where contentious financial disputes led spiralling legal fees and dwindling capital assets.

The Ingoldmells Glass Pyramid Case

One of John’s most memorable assignments involved the construction of a glass pyramid at Ingoldmells near Skegness. The structure developed serious leaks, leading to a major dispute between the owner and the contractors.

Key issues included:

- Claims that repairs would require cranes and extensive scaffolding.
- Substantial *loss of earnings* for the restaurants and arcades located beneath the pyramid.
- A no-nonsense owner—self-made through caravan park ventures—who told John that excellent work would be well rewarded, but poor work would risk non-payment.

The case involved several million pounds and was eventually settled out of court. John reported, with some relief, that he *did indeed get paid*.

Forensic Science and the Joe Rylatt Murder Case

Although not a case John was involved in, he also recounted the intriguing case of local bookmaker Joe Rylatt, who was killed with an axe. Forensic science proved critical in solving the crime.

Investigators discovered:

- Numerous records of people who owed the victim money, including a man named Dennis from North Hykeham.
- Fingerprints on the murder weapon, although initially unmatched.
- A unique grey paint, manufactured exclusively in Holland, found on the axe.



Police traced this paint to a single local company in Lincoln—and narrowed access to the paint store to just six individuals. One of them was Dennis, whose fingerprints *did* match those on the axe. Further evidence was uncovered when police found a pot of the distinctive grey paint in his shed.

This forensic trail secured a conviction, and Dennis received a life sentence.

A Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dennis B., who shared his own professional experiences with forensic accounting during his time as a solicitor. He noted that this was John's 57th appearance as a Rotary speaker—a remarkable contribution—and confirmed that he would be warmly welcomed back again.

Rotary Club Meeting 9th February 2026

Speaker: David M. His subject: Funereal Reflections: An Insight into the Changing Landscape of Funeral Administration

Former funeral director David offered a thoughtful and informative look at how the processes surrounding death, certification, and funeral arrangements have changed over time. His reflections highlighted both the practical challenges and the gradual modernisation of systems that affect families at difficult moments.

The Earlier System: Multiple Medical Signatures

Before 2010, cremation paperwork required the involvement of three doctors:

- The first doctor maintained the patient's medical records up to the time of death.
- The second doctor, who sometimes had not previously met the deceased, determined the cause of death, provided they had at least five years of medical experience.
- The third doctor authorised the documentation by reviewing the first two doctors' statements. No visit or additional assessment was required.

While the intention was thoroughness, the process was costly, slow, and administratively heavy. Following the Shipman case, the system was revised, requiring the second doctor to speak with the family and view the deceased, increasing accountability but also adding further delays.

Reforms Introduced in 2024

In November 2024, the process was modernised significantly. Cremation paperwork is now handled by a single medical examiner, who may take up to 10 days to review medical records and confirm the cause of death.

After this examination, the registrar has up to five days to contact relatives and complete the registration of death.

Where funerals could once often be arranged within a week, the new system means the earliest feasible timeframe is around 15 days. Although longer, the updated process aims to increase accuracy and consistency.

Funeral Costs and Industry Pressures

David also discussed the rise of non-attendance funerals, currently costing around £1,500, designed for families seeking a simpler and more affordable option.



He highlighted issues within the industry, including a case in Hull where a funeral director delayed scheduling cremations due to financial pressures, resulting in an unacceptable accumulation of deceased individuals until authorities intervened.



Bodies and ashes were removed from Legacy Independent Funeral Directors

Pritti Mistry
BBC News

Detectives believe they have identified all 35 bodies recovered at a funeral directors in Hull, which is at the centre of a police investigation.

Humberside Police said it has had more than 1,500 calls from people concerned about their loved ones' remains.

Technological Developments in Coroners' Work

In recent years, coroners have gained access to **MRI scanners**, allowing them to establish causes of death without needing a doctor's signature. This provides a more efficient and often more precise method, reducing delays and enabling families to progress more smoothly through the administrative steps.

Its not all serious

David recalls the time a wheel fell off a hearse en route to a funeral. Upon inspection, the other wheels were discovered to have **loose nuts as well**. Nothing says "iconic professional moment" like nearly having a traffic accident while driving a hearse.



Vote of thanks given Peter H. David's experiences provided an insightful perspective on a sector that is often unseen but vitally important. The funeral industry has faced challenges, embraced modernisation, and adapted its practices to better serve families during periods of loss.

Draw the Joker Competition

Our lottery draw started in 2022 was won this month by Rotarian Martin. The initiative raised £180 in charitable funds, which will be donated to good causes in due course. A big thank you to all who participated.



Minutes of Council Meeting 09/02/2026

Present: Patrick FR David M, John H Neil C Dennis B Malcom M, Peter H, Lochan M

Apologies: Barry D

Declarations of Interest – none

Minutes of Last Meeting: (08/12/2025) Approved

President's Report:

The President has finished the review of the safeguarding rules linked to – Santas Sleigh at Waitrose. The President intends to send our safeguarding document, after it is internally agreed, the District officers to seek their approval. He also intends to invite a safeguarding office from District to come and talk to the club

Secretary Report: Nothing to report

Treasurer's report

24/25 Accounts now with accountant

Waitrose charities money discussed, proposed donations to St Andrews and Age Uk approved by committee

Room hire fees – payment pending awaiting invoices. Funding for Disability games and Kidsout ring fenced, Whiskey Tasking Funds –also ring fenced

Council agreed fixed amount per member donation to Foundation

Projects:

- 1) **Disability games** – Dennis B organising - 12th April 2026 - invitations out. Held at Ratcliffe College. Dennis might need member support to help taxi attendees to the coach
- 2) **Kids out** – Sundown Pet Corner - Provisional date 10th June (subject to confirmation). Malcom to attend
- 3) **Park bench** – location of bench discussed, options consider Lincoln Hospital Stroke Unit, Canwick Churchyard. No final decision made.

Public Relations Officer and Membership: It was agreed that should we get any inquiries through the Rotary Facebook page the interested parties ought to be invited to a free lunch at one of our meetings

Next Meeting: 23rd March