



## THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN FEBRUARY BULLETIN 2021 PRESIDENT PETER MANTON

We are all going to miss our Fellow Rotarian and friend Len Drew who passed away last week after an illness which began in November 2020. Len was about to enjoy his 40<sup>th</sup> year in Rotary. He was President of the club in 1987/8 and we presented him with a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1999. Len and Hazel went on one of the early trips to Neustadt and also enjoyed GSE student visits. Len was a keen supporter of the Arthritic Care transport which he instigated. He suffered mobility problems in his later years but he was always a popular cheerful attender at our club.

Len's funeral will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at the Crematorium in Gainsborough. The service will be shown on the Web and Malcolm Webb will give details nearer the time. Three Rotarians from our Club and our three wives who are all members of Inner Wheel have been invited to be there in person. If anyone wishes to send a gift in lieu of flowers Hazel has said she was so impressed with the care Len received at St Barnabas and the way they looked after her, that she would be delighted if we sent a gift to them in memory of Len.

**POLIO PLUS**. That is what we called the Polio eradication campaign when it began in 1985. We all read updates of its current situation in anticipation of final eradication and I was pleased to hear that the infrastructure set up in some areas for the Polio vaccinations is also being used in the current pandemic to vaccinate against covid 19. The Club planted crocuses in front of the Usher Gallery 3 years ago and put up signs telling the story of the campaign and the significance of the colour purple. Our signs are there again this year. Thanks to Alfred for his help. (see photograph above).

**WATER DAY**. March 22<sup>nd</sup> is world Water Day, acknowledged as such by the UN since 1993. The "WASH" Rotary action group is our link and keeps us informed. Our Peace Fellows acknowledge that safe water and sanitation is essential in developing countries, not just for health but also is a vital part of the peace process. I have made Water Aid my preferred charity for our Centenary Year and am keen for us to organise a project as part of our celebration.

**TREE PLANTING** I had to explain to Council that my plans for tree planting had come to nothing when I discovered that the site we had been offered was subject to a planning dispute and may take a little time to be resolved. I had a conversation with the planning officer and he said he will ask his colleagues to consider what other sites around Lincoln would benefit from tree planting. If any member has other ideas please share them with me.

They've stacked the water up. How did they do that ?



The Indian Runners learn something new every day !

**RECENT TALKS** There have only been two talks since my last bulletin, the 1<sup>st</sup> February was on the subject of Kids Out. Bill and I were so impressed with their newsletter which came out a few weeks ago that we asked for a speaker and were pleased to welcome Rotarian Steve Cartwright , the Rotary GB&I Kids Out Coordinator. We had invited local Clubs to join us and I was pleased to welcome six visitors.

Our experience with Kids Out so far has been to take school children from St Christopher's to Sundown park in partnership with Lindum Lincoln Rotary Club and to organise

a Santa and elves visit to the school to distribute presents at Christmas, and support their gift box scheme. Steve told us about many other projects which they have organised, particularly because of the covid situation. Sufferers of domestic violence in refuge who have no access to food banks have been given food and presents for children . Some have been given access to TV and computers.

If the Kids Out Day planned for June 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 can not be held this year, plan B would be to pay for Cinema tickets . Our District Ambassador for Kids Out is Bill Hill of Melton Mowbray club.

**JOHN CAWDELL'S 49<sup>th</sup> TALK 15th FEBRUARY.** At short notice, John prepared his 49<sup>th</sup> talk and delivered a massive chunk of our history in a short time, the story of King John who reigned from 1199 to 1216 . The story started with John's failure to retain lands in France and then focused on his battles with the Barons in and around Lincoln and led to the signing of the first Magna Carta.

He touched on the romantic story of the Eleanor Crosses which mark the progress of John's grandson ,Edward 1<sup>st</sup>'s wife, Eleanor of Castile; whose body was taken from Lincoln to London after her death in November 1290.

John left the question we were all waiting for to the end, what happened to King John's treasure ? Was it lost in the Wash as we had all been told during our schooldays ? Not according to JAC – it was stolen by the residents of downtown Lincoln !

John's talk deservedly received the usual accolades from the members and from PDG Richard Long who proposed the vote of thanks.

**CENTENARY PROGRESS.** I have been called to a Zoom meeting with the District Governor Elect, David Morris and the President Elect of Northampton Rotary Club Brian May on Monday morning before our own zoom meeting. Northampton's Centenary is only a few months before ours and I have already had a conversation with Brian to compare notes.

The District are keen to make sure that we celebrate the centenary of "Rotary in Lincoln" rather than just our club. The same applies to Northampton.

We have been told that if we can include a "Rotary Day of Service" in our programme, District will contribute £3000 towards the cost and RI will be asked to match it.

My first thoughts on this are that we already have plans for a day of service with Health Awareness Day planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 and I have already suggested to Peter Hill that I would like a display tent showing what the four clubs have achieved in the City and what their current projects and future plans are.

I will put this to the DGE and if he thinks it is not enough will have to talk to the other three clubs about an alternative joint event which we could arrange. The Lincolnshire Show might present opportunities. The proposal has to go the District Council on 29<sup>th</sup> March. No pressure there then.

#### **MEMBERS ON THE MOVE**

Brian Cardy is moving a short distance to his daughter's house. A new address and phone number will be issued shortly.

John Hunter has sold his house in Lincoln and is moving South to be nearer his daughter. He regrets that he has to resign from the Club at the end of June. A new address and phone number will be available.

We wish them both well.

That's all I have for now, President Peter