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THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN JANUARY BULLETIN 2021 PRESIDENT PETER MANTON

That has to be the weirdest Christmas I have had in the last 79 years. We saw our family but only by I phone on Facetime. We were expecting the lockdown to be relaxed after Christmas but here we are at the present time not knowing when it will end and when we will all be able to meet again. Meeting by zoom is great but has the big drawback that half of our members are either

not interested or not technically able to join us. I am trying to keep those who do not zoom in the picture and hope you are getting my fairly regular communications.

You may think that there is nothing we can do until the pandemic is over, but that is not strictly true. I did appeal for members to apply to Age UK to become Telephone Responders giving regular calls to lonely people , something we Rotarians should be particularly good at. I do not know how many of us have signed up for this but think it might not be many , I have to admit that the signing on procedure was a long process . I was recently advised that I was accepted and a gentleman who had applied would be my client. Sadly he died before the first call could be made and I am now waiting for a new applicant to be selected.

I have already reported that Peter Hill and Malcolm and Margaret Miller have helped AGE UK prepare parcels for the Veterans and Peter has delivered a load to Sleaford. I have also heard that John Cawdell and Marcia have helped the Rotary Club in Market Rasen to deliver food parcels over Christmas. I know that Mike Palethorpe drove Hazel Drew to see Len at Holbeach twice and that Terry Coffey took Hazel to the clinic for her inoculation recently.

I imagine there are lots of other good deeds which we have not heard about given the community spirit that is the essence of Rotary. Sadly many of us are vulnerable to the dreaded virus ourselves and our movements are limited.

JAN 18th ZOOM MEETING – OUR TWIN CLUB NEUSTADT AN DER WIENSTRASSE

Alfred had been in contact with Philipp Rosendorfer for some time to agree a date when we could “meet” Philipp to talk about our two clubs together. Members may recall that Peter Hill and Lydia, Alfred and my self were booked to visit Neustadt, leaving on 18TH March 2020 in Peter’s car to join the celebrations with the Lincoln Civic Party of the twinning anniversary.

Lockdown put a stop to that and it is not clear if the event will be celebrated when Covid restrictions are lifted.

When we began discussing the content of a meeting with Philipp I decided that it would be a good opportunity to ask the members of our club who had visited Neustadt, or hosted Neustadt Rotarians here, to say a few words about their experiences and give thanks for the memorable times we have had with our twin club. To that end I prepared a list from my notes and circulated it to you all for your corrections and further details. The list was updated and sent to Philipp in time for him to study it before the meeting.

I prepared an agenda and listed our contributors in alphabetical order. On the day, after the introductions, Philipp gave an interesting account of how Germany is coping with the pandemic and an update on their Rotary Club and recent events.

Our members then gave an account of their experiences , John Cawdell recounting the Jumbo Jet trip in October 1995 and Terry Coffey adding his experiences with the Fire and Rescue band and their relationship with the Neustadt band as well as normal visits. John Hunter was able to recount an earlier meeting than 1995 and Richard Long, Malcolm Miller, Alfred Schneider and Malcolm Webb all gave their reminiscences and thanks for their various visits. I have since apologised to Diane Genders for having missed her off the list !

Philipp and I exchanged greetings and he expressed his intention that the twinning will continue and Neustadt will visit us during our Centenary Year .



CLUB COUNCIL MEETING 19th JANUARY 2021

Members will receive a copy of the minutes so I will just summarise the main points.

Following the sudden passing of Rotarian David Briggs we agreed to send a donation of £250 to Parkinson's UK in David's memory.

I am waiting for details regarding tree planting at Waddington. Paul Brewer has been given a date of 13 August 2021 for Canapes in the Cloisters.

The Treasurer reported a detailed account of our finances as usual and that the HSBC Bank have run

a safeguarding revue and he awaits the results with interest. Questions included details of the Trustees of the Benevolent Account.

ENVIRONMENT ZOOM 20/01/21

I have said before that Rotarians are being urged to take the condition of our planet very seriously and the talk by John Clarkson which I listened to on 20th Jan was a dire warning of the consequences of neglecting Biodiversity. John made the point that we are destroying the natural world as we develop our towns and cities and convert marshes and other wild areas for cultivation or development. He quoted that the wilderness lost in the last 13 years is the size of Mexico ! There has been a reduction of Fenland by 99.7%.

I am happy that we may be able to help with the new Nature Reserve at Waddington by tree planting but am still waiting for more details.

In the years to come you can expect Rotary to take an increasing part in saving the planet, and we can start by living more sustainably ourselves.

PARKINSONISM

I emailed Helen Briggs to tell her that a cheque for £250 has been posted to her, payable to Parkinson's UK , in memory of her father. She is delighted and thanks us all.

I know how difficult it is to converse when ordinary words are forgotten and I often rely on Audrey to fill in the gaps . I was very impressed with the way David Briggs carried on visiting the club and did not let the condition stop him enjoying our company. As I recalled in the last bulletin, Diane helped fill in any gaps when he gave two talks to the club.

To give us all a better understanding about Parkinsonism we are trying to find a speaker who can explain how the condition affects us and how we can help anyone affected by it.

KIDS OUT

Bill and I were so impressed with a recent paper on Kids Out that we decided to ask for a speaker to talk to the Club on one of our zoom meetings. As a result the RGBI Coordinator Steve Cartwright is going to speak on our zoom meeting on Monday 1st Feb and we have invited members of the other Lincoln Rotary Clubs to join us. Our Assistant Governor, James Wood will be making it his official visit.

HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

You may be aware by now that this year's Health Awareness Day has been cancelled and we are now working towards April 2022. There will be a growing number of participants and as it falls in our Centenary Year it will be a good opportunity to have an exhibition publicising the four Rotary Clubs in Lincoln and I will be proposing that when we start planning the Centenary in detail.

Keep safe, President Peter