



THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN PRESIDENT BOB BELLAMY - JANUARY 2023 BULLETIN

The first meeting of the new year was held on January 9th. It is customary for the Mayor to attend and we were expecting Councillor Jackie Kirk but at the last minute she was unavailable and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Biff Bean represented her. (see photograph) Biff is a Councillor in the Hartsholme Ward and began his talk by telling us about the many charities he supports in addition to his work with Young Offenders. One of Biff's duties is as a member of the Planning Committee and he expressed his delight on the work nearing completion on the Central Market. Biff is clearly a man of ambition but may have set his sights a little

high in trying to get a celebrity to open the refurbished market later in the year, we doubt whether His Majesty will be available.

DISABILITY GAMES UPDATE. I attended Simon Kalson's zoom meeting on 11th January and agreed to help with Health and Safety details for the Archery and that is now in hand. Simon reported that entry forms have been issued to the teams and I can confirm that I have invited our team as usual. Joanne Brennan has agreed to enquire if there are any likely members of club 87 who would like to join us. Sadly another former member of our team has died, Stuart Toyne, and Audrey and I, along with Joanne and Tony Brennan, will attend the funeral on 31st January.

The games are programmed to take place on Sunday 16th April at Lincoln Christ's Hospital School as before, and the Lincoln Club will again run the Boccia event along with our colleagues who joined us last year.

CLUB COUNCIL MEETING 16th JANUARY 2023 This was our usual zoom event which starts at 6-00 pm. It was noted that our joining member, Dennis Bambridge has now been installed. It was confirmed that a donation of £500 will be sent to the Nomad Trust, c/o The YMCA. This would have been part of a 4-club payment to fund a room for three years as we did when the new accommodation was built for the Nomad Trust at the YMCA three years ago. Sadly one or two of the clubs decided not to support the room rent this time.

The President will talk to the other three clubs about the Lincolnshire Show to agree which club will lead the event this year.

President Elect John reported that he is waiting for the Neustadt club to tell us when they would like to visit and how many will be coming. So far three members have agreed to host a couple and more volunteers are being sought, depending on the numbers and the date. Alfred Schneider is acting as go-between.

After ten years of running the sleigh I have asked the Club for a volunteer to store the sleigh and a team to run it next Christmas. I am not as strong as I was when I constructed it following a major operation.

23rd JANUARY MEETING

John Cawdell had entertained us with 53 talks, ever mindful that Tom Baker had spoken to the Club 60 times. On 23rd November he gave his 54th talk on the subject of Great Escapes during World War 11.

He began by reminding us of the famous escapes which eventually were immortalised by the film industry. He then told us about a Russian soldier called Michael Daviotoft, who had a senior rank in the Russian army, was eventually captured by the Germans and was committed to slave labour in a factory manufacturing V1 and V2 rockets. There was an airfield attached to the factory and one day he and a colleague were unloading a Heinkel Bomber and seeing an opportunity, killed their guard and Daviotoft took the controls and set about hijacking the aircraft. They survived a small arms attack and headed East. Sadly they were shot down before escaping from the German zone and were again imprisoned. When the war ended the Russians transported some of the prisoners to a camp in Russia without realising that Daviotoft was one of their own. Remarkably he remained there for 12 years before his true identity was realised and he was released and recognised as a hero!

Giving the vote of thanks, Terry Coffey referred to John's many talks and how he had captured our interest and taught us such a lot.

10 Sat 31 December 2022 Daily Telegraph Saturday

Charity appeal

A phone call can help beat loneliness

Telephone friendships are helping to transform the lives of thousands of lonely people across the UK, as Fiona Cowood discovers

Christmas Charity Appeal 2022

Last year, one million older people in the UK said they would be eating dinner alone on Christmas Day. By 2026, it's predicted that about two million older people will feel persistently lonely, starved of the conversation, company and companionship that many of us take for granted.

And with loneliness comes a raft of other problems; studies have shown that loneliness and isolation is as bad for you as obesity and smoking, and puts you at a greater risk of dementia. To help combat all of this, Age UK, which is one of the *Telegraph's* chosen charities for this year's Christmas appeal, runs a telephone friendship service, matching over-60s with a friendly volunteer for a weekly chat over the phone. The aim is simple – to help alleviate the epidemic of loneliness that is particularly rampant among our older people.

"We've probably all had moments where we've felt lonely, but it's hard to imagine feeling like that day after day, month after month, even year after year," says Caroline Abrahams, charity director at Age UK.

"But sadly that's the reality for so many older people who through no fault of their own, find themselves alone and isolated. Knowing a friendly voice will be at the end of the phone can really feel like a lifeline, and make a huge difference to an older person's mental health and sense of wellbeing."

CHARITY APPEAL 2022

Age UK is one of four charities supported by this year's Telegraph Christmas Charity Appeal. The others are Action for Children, Macmillan Cancer Support and RBL. To make a donation, please visit telegraph.co.uk/2022appeal or call 0151 284 1927

GETTY IMAGES

▲ A weekly phone call may not seem like much, but it can provide an invaluable lifeline to a lonely older person

TELEPHONE RESPONDERS Members may recall that when the Pandemic started I suggested we Rotarians could help Age UK. Peter Hill and I are, as far as I know, still the only members who partake. Believe me it is much appreciated by the recipients and AgeUK.



Thank You from Father Christmas

Father Christmas would like to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to everyone who came out to meet him in Branston on 13th, 14th and 15th December despite the freezing conditions. Father Christmas was so pleased he had his flying thermals on! He had a lovely time and met so many fantastic Branston people including many children new to the village. The people of Branston raised a total of **£1,110** for charity which is simply amazing! Thank you so much.

A cheque for **£555** each has been presented to *The Salvation Army* and the *Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance*, charities who do fantastic work throughout the year.

Father Christmas was helped by members of Mr Murderie's Players who walked 18.6 miles helping him. Graham Smith drove the sleigh with Rudolph, George Tinsley loaned the tractor, local people did a brilliant job as stewards and Peter Manton and The Rotary Club of Lincoln supplied an excellent sleigh for Father Christmas. Thank you to all.

Father Christmas has said he will come back to Branston this year too and will make an extra special effort to visit the children on Park View Avenue and D'Aincourt Park where sadly he couldn't visit last year due to an injury to one of his Elves caused by the icy conditions underfoot. Father Christmas is delighted to announce that his Elf is fully recovered and is back making toys in the workshop. Elf and safety is so important to Father Christmas.

Have a happy and safe 2023.

Thank you again from Father Christmas...Ho ho ho!

.EXCERPT FROM THE SHEEPWASH TIMES ISSUE NO 168

We have already received a letter of thanks from the Branston Santa team which was in the last newsletter but this excerpt from the Sheepwash times adds more details.

The sleigh went past our house on one of the nights and I have to say I felt rather proud having created such a vision. They have added more lights to illuminate Santa and have the music louder than we do.

When we were on one of the circuits of the staff houses at Waddington I met an American visitor who was very complementary about what he saw.

I hope the Club can continue to use the sleigh.

BENCHES AT ST MARY LE WIGFORD

The last time I was in Lincoln I walked past St Mary le Wigford church and inspected the two Rotary benches as I often do. Rev Jeremy Cullimore just happened to be passing and we had a long conversation about the future of the churchyard. Apparently the City are going to recreate the area at the West end of the church into a landscaped garden and the two Rotary benches will be re-sited within it.

The varnish is urgently in need of refurbishment, otherwise the benches are in good condition. Older members will be aware that these benches were donated to the Church but we have kept them in good order over many years. They both have an inscription which makes clear that they were presented by Rotarians.

ROTARIAN LEN CURTIS We are sorry to report that Len collapsed just after the end of the last meeting and with Dr Lochan's help, members called for an ambulance and he was admitted to Hospital. The Secretary will keep us informed of Len's progress.

FUNERAL OF STUART TOYNE 31st JANUARY Stuart only took part in the Disability Games for a short time but was a well liked and interesting character. Audrey and I attended the funeral as noted and were pleased to hear Rotary Disability Games mentioned in the Eulogy along with many other events which Stuart enjoyed. As a person with only one living relative he kept himself occupied and was well liked by all who knew him.

PETER MANTON—BULLETIN EDITOR