

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN JULY  
BULLETIN 2021. PRESIDENT PETER MANTON**



It is hard to accept that having endured a whole year in Lockdown I have started my second year with the same restraint. We had to manage with zoom for our handover on 28<sup>th</sup> June together with our Club Assembly and on 12<sup>th</sup> July we had a discussion zoom about my suggestion to start a Satellite Group in our club. This was my way of attracting younger people to our club without asking them to attend Monday lunches and all that goes with it.

As we get less than half of the club at our zoom meetings I sent my proposals to all members for comment before the meeting. Sadly no replies were received from non attenders and we are still undecided on how we would like to regenerate the club.

**19<sup>th</sup> JULY DG OFFICIAL VISIT.** We planned to make this our first live meeting for more than a year. To ensure numbers for the caterers our secretary emailed all members asking for confirmation of intended attendance or apology. The returns were 13 diners and one member who would attend but not have a meal. The numbers included the DG and his wife Margaret , and Patrick . The day before we had four apologies( 3 due to illness). Then three failed to turn up on the day so we had 8 persons at lunch.

When we had realised the original numbers would be low, Malcolm Webb and I discussed how to run a zoom meeting at the same time and I was able to set up my I Phone on the table and at least transmit the DGs speech and other business, thus creating our first hybrid meeting. As Malcolm recorded the zoom he was able to send all members a record of the meeting.

The DG presented our club with a banner from RI President Shekhar Mehta and I promised to return the gesture by presenting our Club Banner to DG David. (I did this the following Wednesday}. In case anyone missed the speech I have to tell you that it included plans for a fifth club in Lincoln run on a different basis to the existing clubs. The fact that RGBI has fallen from 41,504 members in 2020 to 38,785 three weeks ago we should realise the urgency. The four Presidents of Lincoln Clubs were called to meet the DG and team on the Wednesday morning. (see later report).

**20 JULY FRIEZE MEETING.** Trevor Pacey and I met two members of Siddons Team on site to discuss the design, supply and fixing of a stainless steel flashing over the top of the sculpture to prevent water ingress behind it. There is still some work to do. When the

information boards are completed by Anglian Water we still have planting to perform and now the provision of a fence to protect small children from the thorn bushes which we wish to plant to stop anyone getting close to the sculpture to deface it.

## **20 JULY CLUB COUNCIL**

The problem of getting a project lined up for Water Aid with Foundation support was discussed. If we fail to identify one which would be eligible for a Grant we agreed to simply continue collecting for Water Aid and send funds raised direct to Water Aid.

Peter Hill reported that covid regulations are still likely to affect Christmas activities, with only one supermarket being positive. Singing Carols in Care Homes is also in some doubt.

Richard Long's Centenary slides have been distributed to Club members. Details of the Founder President's Knighthood not known, Malcolm Webb will investigate.

**DECISIONS MADE:-** Fund Raising for Water Aid as above. We should continue with our plans for a Satellite Group in conjunction with another club if necessary. Our next Club meeting will be a zoom meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and we will review the details of future meetings at each Council meeting.

**21 JULY: RE DAY OF SERVICE.** This meeting was called by the DG to educate the four Presidents on what District have in mind following the "Road Map" which was presented on zoom on 1st July. The Road Map meeting was presented by several speakers who lost no time in reminding us of our shortcomings in rejuvenating our clubs. The term "This isn't your Grandads Rotary" summed up the general feeling.

I have to acknowledge the problem but it is difficult to reconcile that with our desire to celebrate our Centenary. When you consider the service Rotary has given to our community and our world wide projects we surely have something to celebrate as well as trying to encourage younger members to join us and run the club more like a business. District have already decided that we are incapable of rejuvenating ourselves but if we do not, and they are successful in establishing a new super club in Lincoln our demise will be accelerated.

Patrick, our Membership officer, was planning an open evening to recruit new members before the Pandemic closed him down. Now that things are easing it will not be long before he gives a date when that can take place. Before the details are considered we must agree on what sort of membership we are offering. If the "Satellite" idea does not attract, why should we not accept new members as a "Project Group" or some other title, who do not need to attend Monday Lunchtime (unless they wish to), but who can decide on new projects and discuss them at a location or on line and at a time to suit themselves. They can still be members of The Rotary Club of Lincoln and keep the "Monday club" informed and involved where they can help. Please give this some thought, we have reached a crossroads and I am sure we have the potential to do something great at a very significant moment in our history.

Apologies for the Indian Runners in the picture, they have been looking at that egg for weeks and can not agree who laid it. **WITH BEST WISHES, PRESIDENT PETER**