

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN—JULY BULLETIN 2023. PRESIDENT JOHN CAWDELL

SAD NEWS Past President John Hunter, a member of this club from 1975 to 2022, has passed away. John was President of the Club in 1981 and a Paul Harris Fellow. John's funeral will take place at St Peter in Eastgate Church at 12noon on 4th August.



HANDOVER CEREMONY 3 JULY

The picture shows President John having just received the chain of office from past President Bob. He thanked Bob for agreeing to move forward from VP Elect to President elect at the critical time when we had no President Elect or Vice President as both officers had resigned due to family and business matters. The club is now complete with the three officers, President

John, President Elect Dennis Bambridge and Vice President Patrick Forbes-Ritte. See President John's page at the end of this bulletin.

14th JULY AGEUK 1940 CELEBRATION.

This was another driving event for some of the worthy motorists in our Club. Those who were available were Nigel Harrison, Dennis Bambridge, Malcolm Miller, Barry Dean and your editor. We had a few hiccups, particularly when AgeUK found us an extra passenger a day before the event. Thankfully Nigel was ok to take a third passenger.

Malcolm (with the help of his wife Margaret) had a crisis when one of their passengers had lost her house key and would not travel with them. On arrival with the other passenger, Malcolm informed AgeUK of the problem and they sent one of their volunteers to help the lady. Malcolm and Margaret then returned to the lady's house and although she had retrieved her keys she decided not to go to the event after all.

All the passengers who did go said they had a good time and were very grateful for the service we gave. I had two gentlemen and one lady in my car and they all said how much they value our service. We have since received a very nice letter of thanks from AgeUK.

17th JULY ROTARY LUNCH AND TALK BY JEMMA GOODWIN

Jemma's talk was on the subject of Morton Hall Volunteers Group who help those in the Immigration Removeable Centre. (Male only)

There appear to be two levels of aid, those who can advise the Immigrants on what services are available to them and a larger group who can just talk to those who are distressed, some having been there for a long time, and ages span from the 20s to the 70s. Those who do not speak much English can still benefit from meeting a friendly face. Anyone who would like to help can contact the Morton Hall Volunteer Group (MHVG) by telephone leaving a message on 07341 184 574. Emails can be sent to volunteers@mhdetentionvisitors.org

Giving the Vote of Thanks, Dick Denby said he could remember a group in Westwick Gardens who ran a Morton Hall Woodworking Department. (I could find no reference to that on their website, does anyone know if it still exists?)

AGONA SWEDRU SCHOOL LAB

Our meeting was also blessed with the President of Bailgate Club, Maureen Gariff, and four of their members. After our speaker had finished, Roger Papworth was allowed to introduce a project in which Bailgate are one of 18 Clubs supporting Kettering Huxloe Rotary Club in a project to build a Science laboratory at a school in Ghana. The total cost will be £25000 and this will be subject to a Multi Club District Grant Application. To help raise funds for this, Bailgate are organising a "Musical Extravaganza" with internationally acclaimed keyboard entertainer Chris Powell to be held at Bishop Grosseteste University Theatre on September 1st from 6pm. FFN will be there with their Wine Bar. Admission will be £15 per person. For more information and tickets, please contact Roger Papworth.



DAWBER GARDENS

Members will recall that the Club made a contribution to the cost of restoring the Dawber Gardens which were in need of attention. The photograph on the left shows how far the ivy had progressed and on the right after the clean up. The President refers to it in his page which follows.

In anticipation of Peter Morrisons talk on Monday 31st of July I prepared the chart of members of more than 30 years.

PETER MORRISON 31st JULY

Peter began by telling us how friendship with Len Curtis led to him joining the Rotary Club of Lincoln. He first got to know Len when he was working in Gainsborough, but then moved away to Chipping Sodbury. Later, wishing to return to the Lincoln area, he learned of an opportunity open in Len's office in Lincoln through the RHM office in London. He was invited to meet Len in Lincoln and was taken to the Rotary lunch as a guest, in the Grand Hotel. During the meal he sat next to Rotarian John Stirling who was very interested in his life and asked a lot of questions. Two months later he was asked to join Rotary. He replied by asking if he had to attend a committee which would assess his suitability to be a member. No need they said, John Stirling has already checked you out!

NAME	years
Len Curtis	55
Peter Morrison	52
Peter Manton	42
Bob Bennison	41
Paul Brewer	39
Barry Dean	39
Malcolm Miller	38
Nigel Harrison	34

Peter's first duty was in the Vocational Service Committee led by George Davis, a chief in the Gas Board. In an office nearby they enjoyed a glass of red wine before the meeting.

Later he was "persuaded" to take on the duty of Secretary and the handover for this took place in an office in the telephone exchange on Broadgate and refreshment was Strathconon malt whisky!

There was one occasion he remembers well; Dick Lucas informed him that his name had come before the Club Council on the subject of improper dress. His working suit was not a dark suit with white shirt and a suitable tie! That had to change.

The rule when attending was to pay the member of staff for the lunch, then sign in. After his first week the District Attendance Officer called him and asked for the week's attendance record. After that he was careful to send the figures off by 5pm.

At lunch the President took his seat at 12.15pm. The guest speaker was seated on his left and there were two stewards and their duties included signing in guests and hosting speakers. The attendance rule was strictly "miss three attendances and you were out!" The secretary would send out a warning after two missed attendances. The Club had 70 members and there was a waiting list. Many businesses encouraged staff to join Rotary.

Bailgate Rotary Club was set up in 1979. (Lindum Lincoln was set up in 1991 and Colonia , a Dual Gender Club was set up in 1997). The membership of ladies in the three original Clubs began in 1989 in Lincoln Club.

A special memory for Peter was when he presented a Paul Harris Fellowship to Len Curtis at his home as his wife Margaret was seriously ill and unable to travel .

Peter concluded by saying he enjoys being a Rotarian and has happy memories of trips to Scarborough and other venues for Rotary Conferences. He was particularly fond of the Carol Service when we were able to hold it in the Cathedral. Barry Dean, giving the vote of thanks agreed that being a Rotarian gives great enjoyment.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE AUGUST 1st 2023

**Positive news -
RGLB membership increased by a net 500 last year. We remain the largest club in Lincoln.**

Our Club has always favoured good public speakers and I am pleased to let you know that the recently appointed Bishop of Lincoln The Right Reverend Stephen Conway has been invited to address us. After a hiatus the King approved the Bishop's nomination on 23rd May 2023. By tradition the Bishop of Lincoln is invited to be an Honorary Member. Watch this space...

Foundation had an impressive year supporting the disaster relief efforts after the earthquake Turkey. Also the End Polio Now campaign is winning with no wild polio virus cases reported since September 2022. I pay tribute to our Foundation Officer Malcolm Miller who ploughs a lonely furrow in passing the "shrapnel" box around at our Club meetings raising a significant amount for Foundation. Foreign currency is also accepted for St Barnabas Hospice.

The International Presidential Theme for 2023/24 is to "Create Hope in the World". The theme I will always favour is "Service above Self".

During July the Dawber Garden restoration project was, with our help completed. Members are invited to walk around. It is near The Lawn on Union Road and is well worth a visit.

Thanks to Peter Manton who organised drivers for the Age UK event on 14th July.

Also in July was one of our fund raising events Canapés in the Cloisters in conjunction with FFN Lincoln Section. Thanks particularly to Paul Brewer. It is a German wine tasting evening. The Treaty of Versailles was a humiliation for Germany. One clause of the treaty is the reason that German sparkling white wine can no longer be called champagne and is now called Sekt.

It is now 7 weeks from the visit of our friends from the Rotary Club of Neustadt an der Weinstrasse over the weekend of 23rd September 2023.

August is Membership and Extension month. Our Vice President and Membership Officer Patrick has ambitious plans to grow the club.

President John Cawdell

Aug 2023.