

# The Rotary Club of Lincoln

## June 2025 Newsletter



### President Dennis' Final Report

*"AND NOW THE TIME HAS COME...."*

*I started the year by saying that I wanted to increase the "involvement" of all members. I provided a series of monthly collections which I believed members could make, from their armchairs or on their phones, by involving family and friends and neighbours. It's not too much to ask a friend to contribute a tin of beans or an old phone. I sent a note to neighbours, and was rewarded with a number of contributions, including 80 tins of food for the Lincoln Larder (almost doubling the Club's own effort).*



*My first "public" engagement came hot on the heels of Handover, namely FFN's Canapes In The Cloisters. Sadly, FFN doesn't yet have a venue for its 2025 event (the cloisters are undergoing refurbishment). For many years we have received a generous donation to our charity account.*

*I was very proud to represent the Club at the Remembrance Parade in Lincoln's High Street, and to lay a wreath. Both of my parents (now long dead) served in the armed forces during World War II so I find the event especially poignant.*

*Sadly, my Year as your President has been somewhat marred by the deaths of 3 of our long-serving and high-achieving members. Their contributions to the Club, in particular, and Rotary, in general, will not be forgotten. Their help and sage advice are sadly missed.*

*As “Santa’s Sleigh” is, now, our only active money raising event (and in the absence of anything new on the horizon) we really must consider expanding our efforts... I know that Patrick hopes that we will be collecting over 2 weekends in December. We do need (wo)manpower please. Obviously, some members simply can’t “rattle a can” for 2 hours at a stretch, but perhaps they could offer an hour, or even just 15 minutes to let someone else have a coffee break. Every little helps!*

*That one (active) fund-raising event produced over £500 for UNICEF and the same for a more local charity (Umbrella) which was introduced to us by a member of the Club. How impressed we all were by the talk which 2 of its organisers later gave, which confirmed the value and the importance of our donation.*

*We were asked to carry out our usual “taxi” services for those attending Age UK’s Christmas party on the first of our 2 Santa’s Sleigh dates. It is a valuable experience to spend time with people who recognise the efforts made for them and who share stories about Lincoln’s past (and their own) with their drivers. One such passenger told me how she had been a “very naughty girl” in her youth, but only with the man who had gone on to become her husband for some 65 years!*

*The big event of the Spring was the Disability Games. I had already volunteered to “look after” the Club’s arrangements this year, taking over from Peter. I was helped, greatly, by Simon Kalson who took much of the burden off my shoulders. Having had the benefit of this year’s experience I realized that some participants might need transport by car (rather than minibus) next year. I was accompanied, on the day, by David McKee and Malcolm (and Maggie) Miller, to whom I am very grateful. I may need to call upon help from more Rotarians next year so please put the date in your diary, now: 12 April 2026. You may not be required to go all the way to Ratcliffe College but may be asked to help transport participants from their homes to the shared pick-up point in Lincoln. May proved to be a busy month. Those stalwarts David and Malcolm joined me at District Assembly. We had a decent buffet lunch before wending our way home after doing our duty. I attended the sessions relating to recruitment. Sadly, some speakers just can’t see that “more words” simply does not equate to “more members”. Time was wasted.*

*We need to be active in recruitment. It is important to engage with friends and neighbours, as well as their children, and consider whether they might be interested in joining. We should then ask them directly. Rotary District does not have a magic wand and will not be providing us with the solution. Frankly, it is bereft of new ideas so come on... let us buck the trend... get new members in!!*

*The following week Alison and I attended a most enjoyable Charter Dinner with President Bob Alder and members of Lindum Colonia Rotary club. DG Chris entertained us with some stories of his life outside Rotary.*

*The following evening (inadvertently) we took the members of Bailgate very much by surprise and attended their Charter celebrations. Our acceptances apparently had not reached the organiser! The ubiquitous David and Malcolm also attended (as did P E Patrick). A former member of our Club Eddie Strengiel gave a talk about his experiences as a councillor, and a great devotion to public service (worthy of a Rotarian!). The following afternoon I attended Peter Morrison's Malt Whisky Tasting, and what a delight it was. (I have already reported this in last month's newsletter, so I won't repeat that here, although I do repeat my thanks to Peter. A 3-figure sum was raised for charity). By the way, Peter has offered to hold a similar event next year... do look out for the date, I'm sure you would enjoy it.*

*Early in June I represented the Club at RAF Waddington's annual event for its "friends and neighbours". The Pipe Band was excellent, although the fly-past by a lone stealth spy plane was a little disappointing... unless, perhaps there were rather more planes that I didn't spot. Stealthy, eh?*

*Unfortunately, I was unable to attend Kid's Out at Sundown Park, and Malcom very kindly represented the Club. We provided a fabulous day out to 70 children with learning difficulties, from St Christopher's School (and carers). It is difficult, sometimes, for us to fully appreciate how much pleasure these children get from this (rare) day out. Malcolm reported that many of the children were wearing Rotary hats, which obviously they have jealously guarded over the years.*

*This year, for the first time, I was able to offer my help to the joint efforts of the 4 Lincoln clubs at the Lincolnshire Show. Whilst the service we offer seems very low-key it is of great value in reuniting some people with lost belongings, and this year we reunited one very distraught woman with her lost husband. (I wasn't convinced that he wanted to be found so soon!).*

*It is often said that an outgoing officer shouldn't thank specific individuals at the end of his term because, to do so might offend those whom he doesn't mention by name. However, it would be remiss of me not to remind you all of the sterling work done throughout the year, by David (not just in his role of secretary, although surely that is enough) and Malcolm (so often supported by Maggie) and Nigel and Lochan (always willing to help out when help is urgently needed). We have a new, vibrant Facebook page, thanks to Martin, who collaborates with John to produce a monthly bulletin. Barry has helped raise over £150 for our charities, the same prize in Dennis' Diddle is waiting to be won! Buy more tickets!*

*I am truly grateful to them and to all the members of the Club: who have offered me great support and friendship during the last 12 months, not least amongst them the stalwart Patrick, whose enthusiasm and commitment fills me with every confidence for*

*the new Rotary Year, and I wish him well in that. I will try to support him next year, as he has supported me this.*

*Now, I can no longer claim to be “the new boy”, I feel very much at home with you all. Thank you.” Dennis*

## **JC Remembers: “My proudest Rotary moment.”**

*“Marcia and I went to an open-air concert presented by Andre Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in Maastricht. was a superb occasion on a warm, starlit evening.*



*It*

*There were 10,000 people seated in the large town square. On one side were 10 hospital beds with, clearly very ill, patients in each. There were drips and oxygen masks and 2 medics assigned to each bed. As the concert progressed the patients became animated clapping, conducting and smiling. Music is therapeutic. Music touches the soul.*

*At the end of each bed was a notice in Dutch which roughly translated said “ Last Wish Charity – sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Amsterdam and Maastricht.” The patients had days, perhaps hours to live.*

*It was moving to know that Rotary International had helped to bring so much happiness to these terminally ill people.”*

Rotary the world over, John Cawdell PHF PP(x3).

## **RAF Waddington Formal Reception; 4th June.**

President Dennis represented the Club .

I was lucky enough to be invited to R A F Waddington’s formal reception, in the Officers’ Mess, on 4 June 2025.

Various formalities of identification had to be attended to in advance but these proved not to be at all onerous on the night. All of the Officers to whom we spoke were well versed in making their guests feel welcome. I hadn’t been to the Officers’ Mess since I





was given lunch there when conducting a Court Martial (many years ago). This time there was alcohol!



R A F Waddington is the main U K base for airborne intelligence gathering, and for the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles for surveillance (the word “ drone” in not approved, we were told). It is home to 2 squadrons of intelligence gathering aircraft (the Rivet -Joint being the natural successor to the AWACS that we were all used to seeing) and to 2 squadrons of UAVs.

After an address by the Station Commander, we were entertained with music from the Waddington Pipe Band, and a fly-past by a lone stealth aircraft, a” Shadow” ( at least I think there was only one, perhaps the rest of the squadron was just too stealthy to be seen!).



## **Club meeting 9<sup>th</sup> June ; President Elect’s Address to the Club for 2025/2026**

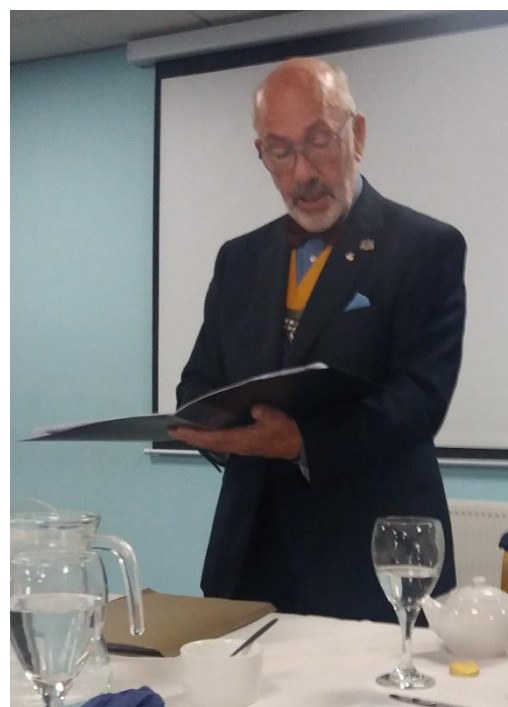
Club Assembly led by PF-R attended by our new ADG Glynes Robertson.

### **Introduction**

We must keep in mind that as a club we have an ageing membership and must limit our commitment to projects and activities that will not impose too heavy a call on our members time, strength and ability.

Our current commitments, aims and plans must be tailored to suit and involve as many members as possible so that we all enjoy our Rotary and the principle of Service Above Self and equally, enjoying our meetings and the fellowship we share.

We all must keep in mind our falling membership and consider projects and events that will keep us on a track as a club that is able to do more for our community and our organisation,



## **Current Projects & Events**

We will continue our support and involvement with:

### **Disability Games**

**Santa & His Sleigh** Subject to confirmation of available dates from Waitrose we will be there again. I am happy to report that some members and friends have already volunteered to play Santa, Helpers Elves. More information on this project very soon.

### **Kids Out**

### **The 4 Clubs together initiative**

**Monthly Collections** I will be following President Dennis' lead and continuing with this excellent assistance for local charities, removing some that we think were less effective and bringing in some new charities

**The Swindle Card Trick.** I like it and think it is something we should continue. Barry Dean has said he would continue this at least for this coming year.

## **Ideas, Plans and Projects and Aims**

I am pursuing my (currently) slow path toward putting together a small group of 'charitable' people who want to help the community in some way with the assistance of 'Rotary', not necessarily within our current membership but as a possible 'add-on' to our need to increase our membership

## **Council Meetings**

Covid is Over, at least for the time being.

I am proposing that we hold our Council Meetings immediately after lunch. We have been advised that there is no objection to the Club doing so as the Caterer is always in the building for some time after lunch. I still want to keep the option of Zoom Meetings if necessary or needed.

## **Safeguarding and other Associated Legislation**

### **Fire Regulations**

We are obliged to adhere to Fire Regulations which includes the 'announcement' of the location of the 'Fire Exits' and ensure that everyone at our meetings knows where the Exits are and the procedure, however brief, for leaving the building in the event of a fire.

### **Safeguarding**

We will do a complete review of the Club's commitment for Safeguarding ensuring that the policies we have in place meet the requirements of the Law and not just the instructions of RGB&I.

Read out the 'Handover Document' and the associated disclaimers contained in the 'Signing of the Clubs compliance. (The President is Liable for any failure in procedure in the event of a 'Claim' (for whatever reason or activity)

## **Fund Raising.**

We need to have some good fund-raising events for our club in this coming year.  
(Suggestion Box can be used.)

#### Canapes in the Cloisters

It is not possible to be held in the Cathedral as there are major works being undertaken there this year and we have been asked by Rtn Paul Brewer if we can assist in organising the of this excellent event at an alternative venue.

#### Suggestion Box

I will trial a 'Club Suggestion Box' for a few months as a reminder that the club thrives on new ideas from members and we can have a brief focus on suggestions at our 2 Weekly Meetings

#### Saleability.

We will look at the 'Saleability' project proposed by Rtn Bob Bellamy to see if it is an event we are able to assist with.

### **Social Events and other Ideas**

I would like to organise at least three 'social' events for local club attendance

I am aiming to increase our membership by six active members during the year.

We need to ensure continuity in our club leadership. (Mention New VP for 2025-6)

I would like to consider making at least two outside visits to organisations, business, civic or charity with the aim of promoting Rotary generally.

### **Conclusion**

To you Pres D, & our excellent Secretary, David M. Thank you your help and guidance in producing a workable plan.

Thank you to everyone who has taken on work and Roles and duties for the coming year.

I will do my best to see that we meet our objectives.

Without your support, guidance and advice It would be an impossible task

I understand that this Plan meet the approval of the meeting, and I ask you for your support.

Patrick F-R

7<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### **Kids Out 17th June.**

MM represented the Club and reported it a resounding success.



## District Council 17th June.

The club was represented by DM and reported back to members.

## Lincolnshire Show 17th and 18th June.

DM, NH, MM, LM and PF-R all assisted in the Rotary marquee.



## Club Meeting Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

On Monday last we were honoured by a visit from Simon Jones, the "new" Dean of Lincoln Cathedral. Simon told us how he had been born a polydactyl (no, I didn't know either) but was no longer !



After his ordination Simon had spent many years as chaplain at Merton College, Oxford. He had become aware of the mental strains that undergraduates suffer and had developed a new pastoral team devoted to assisting in this arena. So far, the results have been very encouraging.

Simon had been "head-hunted" for his new position by a Bishop, but, ultimately his appointment had been confirmed to him by the Prime Minister, in accordance with convention.

Simon's task at Lincoln extends far beyond divine devotion into the more prosaic duties of maintaining an historic building (albeit one of the finest in Europe) costing £25,000 per day ! With that duty in mind, the Dean plans to remind the people of Lincoln that the cathedral is *their* church, and to encourage them to use it more, not simply in devotional ways.



Simon fascinated us all with his talk, and Dick Denby proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.



# Council Draft Minutes 30th June 2025

1. Present; DB, DM, JAC, PF-R, BB, PH, MM, MC, MM, NC (joined later).

2. Apologies; BD

3. Missing in action; LM, JH.

4. Declarations of interest; None not previously notified.

5. Minutes of meeting 27/05/25; Agreed.

6. President's Report;

Lincolnshire Show - enjoyable and well worthwhile although not a recruiting event.

Acknowledgement of deceased members- one minute silence, funeral attendance, mention in weekly District Secretary's report, article in newsletter and of course plaque at National Memorial Arboretum for members of The Rotary Club of Lincoln "who have passed to a higher service" agreed to be enough.

Coats for Kids donation of £250 agreed with Lincoln Foundation donation reduced from £500 to £250.

7. Secretary's Report; DM asked for more suggestions for speakers particularly those who are not seeking finance. Many suggestions and reminders given.

8. Compliance; Council approved PF-R signing form to confirm that we will comply with relevant rules and regulations. Noted that guidance sparse.

9. Kids Out was a great success. MM was our representative. £600 funding ring fenced. Agreed to participate next year.

10. Treasurers' Report; A detailed written report distributed. BB will replace the deceased PM as a signatory. DB will allow his credit card for the website and liaise with David Drury. In future donations will be proposed at one Council meeting and be confirmed at the next to allow Treasurers time to consider proposal. Points to note;

A. £3000 transfer to Benevolent fund to be reduced because of banking difficulties  
General Fund has paid a number of Benevolent items.

B. Ring fenced items to be reduced as amounts are paid. e.g. Disability Games transport.

C. A deliberate policy to reduce amount in Benevolent funds has meant more paid out than has come in. Treasurers caution noted however.

11. Membership; PF-R has 3 potential new members identified as he pursues his aspirational target of 6 new members in the new Rotary Year.

12. PRO ; MC to talk about technology project and Facebook at next meeting.

13. Projects; PF-R to distribute hard copies and emails of rotas for upcoming events in plenty of time. Canapés in the Cloisters not going ahead this year because of Cathedral building work. Agreed Bomber Command Memorial site not suitable.

14. Next Meeting; 28/07/25 2p.m face to face.

15. AOB; DB graciously thanked members for their support during his year in office. PF-R congratulated DB on his presidential year.

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025: APPROVED**

- 1 Present: Dennis Bambridge, David McKee, John Cawdell, Patrick Forbes-Ritte, Bob Bellamy, Peter Hill, Malcolm Miller, Lochan Manandhar, Martin Curtis
- 2 Apologies: None
- 3 Declarations of interest: Peter Hill, Age. Concern
- 4 Minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025, agreed
- 5 Matters arising, Patrick to retrieve badge box from Assembly Rooms
- 6 Compliance, to be approved at next meeting . A succinct statement of where we may be in default will be made, President
- 7 President 's Report, A busy time at District Assembly, Bagilgate and Colonia Charters, Malt Whisky tastng at Peter Morrison's etc
- 8 Secretary 's Report, None
- 9 Treasurers' report, neither Treasurer able to attend but written report provided. Concerns expressed over difficulty of Internet payments. Cheque book and bacs could be used. £3k transfer reduced because some Benevolent Account payments made from General. Disability Games transport costs will come out of provision. Payee details can be easily found. Council did approve 100 Dollar contribution per member less any contribution already made. President to contact David Drury re website payments and credit card .
- 10 Membership, Patrick to actively pursue potential new member. President to invite 2 potential new members. Four Club initiative disappointing.
- 11 PRO, Martin updating Facebook and asked for 10 minutes slot at next meeting. He is interested in becoming a Peace Advocate
- 12 Projects, Kids Out 17<sup>th</sup> June. No child protection needed. Malcolm Miller attending. President to ask RAF Waddington if Sleigh required. Several members assisting at Lincolnshire Show.
- 13 Next Meeting, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025