

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN -HANDOVER BULLETIN- JUNE/JULY 2023.

RETIRING PRESIDENT BOB BELLAMY, INCOMING PRESIDENT JOHN CAWDELL

SAD NEWS:- The passing of Frank Connell was announced on the midday news when we were on our way to our 19th June meeting. Frank , a Lincoln Hairdresser, worked with past Mayor's Officer Joe Cooke on many charity projects over many years. Much respected by the Rotary Club of Lincoln , both were made Paul Harris Fellows, Frank received his when Diane Genders was President in 2014. He will be greatly missed.

1st JUNE. Fellow Rotarians will remember the talk given by Peace Fellow Angela Betancur to our Club on 17th April. This was repeated to the Inner Wheel Club of Lincoln at a coffee morning at your Editor's house on 1st June. The members of IW expressed an interest in attending the Bradford event in October.

5th JUNE ROTARY MEETING. The Guest Speaker at our 5 June meeting was Martin Curtis, son of one of our longest serving members, Len Curtis.

Martin began by telling us that his Teaching Experience in Kongsberg, Norway, was the best experience in his life. He spent 8 years teaching in England before moving to Norway for a 12 year stint. He was not able to speak their language, but most Norwegians speak good English. They love English Humour. They live in a much bigger Country than England but with a smaller population. Their climate is much different to ours; their mountains have snow on top most of the year and winters are long and hard.

Kongsberg is about 50 kilometres from Oslo. Much of the forest has been cut down, every house has a log burner!

Martin then described the typical Norwegian School and the learning profile where they encourage teachers to concentrate on improving pupils in Knowledge, Caring, Thinking and Enquiring. Projects were Fun. Mathematics were applied to real World situations.

His Family home was an end of terrace apartment with a riverside walk nearby. Cross Country Skiing was very popular. Sadly, climate variations have affected conditions of snow and ice on the slopes.

It is not uncommon for wealthy Norwegians to have three dwellings, a Town House, a Cabin in the woods and a property on the coast!

Happiest memories were hiking on the Valdres 1800 metres above the tree line, 4 hours up and 2 hours down!

Proposing the vote of thanks, PE John commented that “Britain’s Got Talent” was recently won by a Norwegian. He thanked Martin for a great talk.

GLOBAL ZOOM MEETING THURSDAY 15TH JUNE.

When I learned that there was to be a Global Zoom on 15th June with RI President Elect Gordon McNally as the main speaker, I decided to join them. Logging on had it’s problems, particularly with the time zones but eventually 452 Rotarians were present.

The meeting began with one minute silence for the 300 who died in the train crash, only a few days before, in India.

There followed the singing of the Rotary Anthem to which we were instructed to stand up.

Several speakers came on before Gordon, all giving serious messages about what Rotary stands for, how we all have faith in Humanity and what a miracle world we have and why are we messing it up? They all spoke highly of Gordon. There was a speaker from Nigeria who failed to log on in time for his slot, but when he appeared towards the end he only had time to tell us that he has worked several years trying to get the world to ban nuclear weapons. (The recent attempt to assassinate Putin caused a lot of speculation about the safety of the Russian Nuclear weapons, before or after the event!)

Eventually it was Gordon’s time to address the meeting. He thanked those who had spoken so kindly about him and his Rotary principles. He said they had supported “Create Hope in the World” at every level. Peace building is a major part of his ideals.

Sadly he is aware that currently the world is suffering its greatest time of turmoil since the second world war, presenting the greatest challenge for Rotary. “Peace is the soil where hope takes root”.

He reminded us of a recent atrocity in Ukraine where bodies were found with their hands tied behind their backs. How broken is our world?

Peace is freedom, clean water, food, human rights. Peace is love, it can heal where nothing else can.

He asked us to imagine a world where no child would go hungry, Justice would flow, there would be room for everyone. What greater aspirations could we have?

Gordon said that Mental Health is also a problem we might help with, there are 2000 suicides every day in the world. Why? What could Rotary do to help? Rotary can help to isolate loneliness. We can guide our fellow members to help. We can erase emotional well-being problems, access mental health services.

Rotary could make Mental Health awareness a project, unite and take action to make lasting change.

There was a short Question and Answer period before Gordon had to leave.

1 When will Polio Eradication end? 2026 is a likely date but we must continue to work on it.

2 What comes next? Climate Change and improvement to the Environment must be dealt with. Problems come from poor health.

3 Growth of Membership? We will only attract more if we tell the world what we do. We must recognise that younger members need more flexible ways of meeting and working.

I only realised that our own District Council was also on zoom that evening. I thank John Cawdell and David McKee for attending and their minutes which follow.

District Council Meeting 15th June 2023.

David Mckee and I attended, Main items to note;

- 1. RGBI membership has increased by a net 500 in the last year.**
- 2. A District Conference is no longer mandatory, Next year it will be in Scarborough but after that it may not happen.**
- 3. District Governors no longer have to visit every club in their area,**
- 4. District capitation has been held at £35 and RGBI capitation has increased by £8 to £78 for the 2023/24 year,**
- 5. Handbooks will not be produced in hard copy for 2024/25 and ongoing but will be available online. This is to save cost and a lot of effort in replicating information which is already on the My Rotary website. Also the online information is almost real time whereas the handbooks are 3 months out of date when published. Hard copies may be printed off if you wish.**
- 6. Next District Council meeting is on 6th September 2023. Our voting members are Dennis Bambridge and me. Past District Governr Peter Manton has a vote. Our alternative voting delegates are David Mckee and Malcolm Miller. Any Rotarian may join the meeting in person or by Zoom.**

John Cawdell President

July 2023

JUNE 19th CLUB ASSEMBLY

President Bob opened the meeting and after the meal, handed over to PE John.

John set out his plans for the coming Rotary Year, some items included in the "President's Page" at the end of this bulletin.

A comprehensive list of projects (many are regular events which we have enjoyed over many years) was approved by the members.

As the incoming President Elect, Dennis Bambridge is to be Projects Committee Chair and will take over from Peter Manton who took the duty on when the Club did not have a President elect. Dennis will be briefed on the details of each event by Peter Hill and Peter Manton at the handover meeting.

Recent projects were noted – David McKee and Malcolm Miller had attended Kids Out on 14th June along with our friendly Peace Scholar Angela Betancur and a good day was had by all.

The Rotary Benches which belong to St Mary le Wigford Church are ready for returning after two coats of yacht varnish. Another driving event for AgeUK is being arranged for 14th July. A list of drivers and customers is being prepared.

Our Membership Officer, Patrick Forbes Ritte outlined his plans emphasising that we need to use social media more than we do. We should discuss this with David Drury.

ADG Colin Scott addressed the meeting , urging us to seek new members. He is sure there are many people who wish to serve. It is up to Rotary to sell ourselves. He informed us that Gordon McNally is talking to companies seeking corporate membership- another way of extending our service. Colin also suggested that we should publicise the Visit of our German Rotarians and the Disability Games could attract people who wish to serve.

LINCOLNSHIRE SHOW JUNE 21st and 22nd

The Lincoln Club did not have a large turn-out for the show this year, Sadly I had to apologise as I have difficulty walking these days. I was pleased to read an e-mail from Martin Dickie (Bailgate) saying that it all went well The time keepers in the Schools area were fine and they will want the same service next year, Martin and Allan Orient have volunteered to run the event again next year, with the other Clubs help as usual.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE JULY 1st 2023 NEWSLETTER.

I am delighted to become your new president with immediate effect. The “coronation” in the form of Handover comes later. This will be the third time that I have been elected as President. I have attended the Midlands President Elects Training Session and the My Rotary online Presidents basic and intermediate training courses.

May I pay tribute to Peter Manton who has consistently produced an information packed monthly newsletter.

May I also thank Past President Bob who took on the role of President at a time of ill health and when the club had no succession planned, a dearth of new members and when our meeting venue was uncertain.

However I now look forward to the future as we have recruited two new members with another imminent and other prospects being actively canvassed. We have a President Elect and a Vice President in place. Club attendance is now strong and members who do not attend regularly make a valuable contribution at extra mural activities. There will be no negativity allowed in my year in office.

The Blue Riband event in my year will be the visit of Rotarians and partners from our twinned club Neustadt an der Weinstrasse. The hosts are collecting the visitors from Birmingham airport. Diane Genders is kindly hosting the reception at her home near Newark on the evening of 23rd. On Sunday 24th Andrew Arden is hosting a visit to his modern technology farm. There will be a lunch at a local restaurant. On Monday there will be a traditional Club meeting at the Nightingale. Then at 2.00 p.m. the visitors will be taken back to Birmingham airport by hosts or reserve drivers. It is really important to let me know if you are attending the reception or Sunday lunch. All are welcome, not just hosts.

Other unsung heroes of our club are David Mckee who as Secretary handles a blizzard of emails and Zoom meeting challenges, Terry Coffey who handles the cash (yes cash only please) at our lunch meetings and our Treasury double act of Neil Curtis and Barry Dean.

I feel a speech coming on...(my 56th)

President John Cawdell

July 2023.