

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN, MARCH BULLETIN 2025

PRESIDENT JOHN CAWDELL

MEETING 4TH MARCH :- SPEAKER- ROTARIAN TERRY COFFEY “A COLLECTION OF LIFE STORIES”

Terry's subject was one which is relevant to most of our members who are enjoying old age. Our grand-children sent us a writing pad headed "Tell me your life story Grandad". Terry's is more sophisticated, being professionally printed in a book. (For family, not resale.) It will be a great measure of what life was like 70 or 80 years ago. ED

EXPERIENCE AS A CHILD:- As Terry was born in 1937 his childhood was affected by the second world war. He remembers time spent with family in Waterloo Street in Lincoln and hiding under the stairs when there was danger. His favourite toy in those days was a teddy bear which Grandad referred to as "That mucky old thing". Grandad had an allotment and fed the family with fruit and vegetables and they kept two pigs. One was for the family and the other for the government. Terry remembers cleaning intestines (for sausage skins) and the hams hanging from the ceiling as they cured.

Grandma had suffered an industrial accident and Terry recalled helping her to put her prosthesis arm on when necessary.

Terry was 14 the first time he met his Paternal Grandfather who had been working as a plater in the shipbuilding industry in the North East during the war and not returned home until 1941. Terry took to his "new" grandfather, particularly as he had a motor cycle which he left to Terry in his will.

Memories of wartime included how it affected home life, homemade toys, a wooden lorry and a flying fortress. Children were encouraged to learn to identify aircraft. Listening to a "doodlebug" knowing that when the engine stopped it would dive to the ground and explode.

With surplus army lifebelts, children learned to swim in the Catchwater Drain or Burton Lane End. One boy contracted Polio and later died.

Comics of the day included The Dandy, Beano, Eagle etc. Most households had one per week and shared with friends. The catapult was a popular homemade weapon!

At 11 Terry went to Grammar School, the curriculum including Latin, French and Maths.

Terry's first "boss" was Don Teasdale of Jointine Products. As a 16 year old Terry worked as Don's assistant and they became lifelong friends. Don was an exceptional man, an old Lincolnian (which he declared was superior to Lincoln City School!) He was internationally known as an expert in the paper industry and as an investor in people.

Terry said his own life was enriched by his companionship.

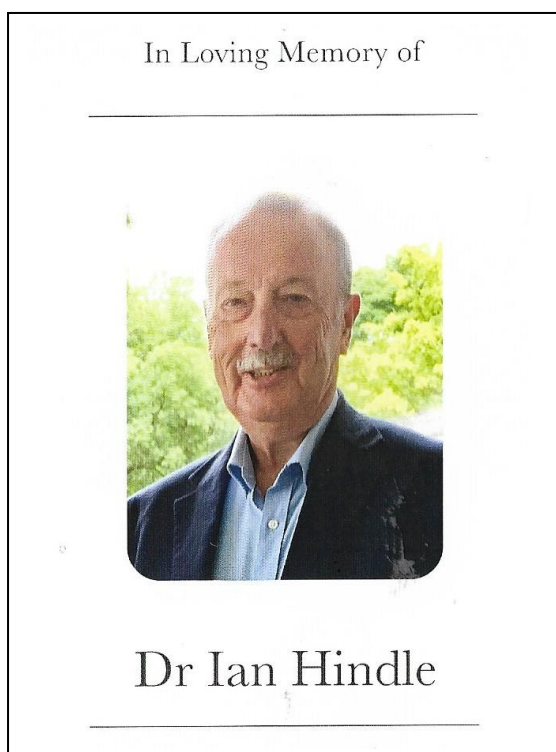
He was honoured to present the Eulogy at Don's funeral in the Cathedral years later.

Terry also had vivid memories of his two years in the Air Force, training as a medic at Scampton. One of his duties was to decontaminate the interior of Vulcan Bombers when they returned from flying abroad. He attempted to get a ride in a Vulcan Bomber and was told to get a decompression test first. Unfortunately, the testing apparatus at Scampton failed and he was allowed to go to Upward (Cambridge) for the test, as a passenger in a Chipmunk. Sadly, when they were airborne they lost communications and the weather was appalling. The pilot was not able to find the correct route and it was Terry's keen eye which spotted Boston Stump which gave them bearings and saved the day.

Sadly, he never achieved a ride in a Vulcan Bomber.

In conclusion Terry said the three great influences in his life were his work with Don Teasdale, his time in the RAF and his wife Maureen who persuaded him to move Jointine Products back to Lincoln after a few years in the wilderness.

Proposing the vote of thanks, Diane Genders said she too had a teddy bear and enjoyed her days at Grammar School. She agrees it is great to record details of our lives to be enjoyed by later generations.



FUNERAL OF IAN HINDLE 8th MARCH

Several members of our Club and wives attended Ian's funeral at Scopwick Church and later at the Village hall. The Rotary Club of Lincoln and Inner Wheel were well represented.

During the service the family and the Vicar gave talks about Ian's personal and professional life. It was good to meet Pat and the family along with some of Ian's RAF colleagues.

There was a collection for the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance and St Barnabas Hospice.

18th MARCH CLUB MEETING AND TALK BY MAUREEN SYDNEY “SAFE FAMILIES”

There was a brief meeting before the talk, to agree the year- end accounts for 2023.

Maureen began by trying to start her video on the overhead projector and in spite of earlier success could not make it work, so she had to make do with the video on her laptop which was placed in view to all.

She began by saying that the charity really started 25 years ago in America. Lives were often destroyed by drug taking by one or both partners and the resulting neglect of the children. Temporary care of the children was recognised as a necessity and suitable volunteers were sought.

Safe Families for Children, UK was founded by Sir Peter Vardy in 2013. It cost 5 million pounds to set up and soon afterwards gained Government Involvement. Funds were distributed to local groups to work with families.

They are particularly concerned about the safety of children where families are in difficulty.

Maureen showed pictures of families which they have helped, typically, a single Mother with 3 children who had been helped by four volunteers.

There are 60 Local Authorities in Central England, 10,000 families have already been helped by 5000 volunteers. In our area many Lincolnshire Schools have identified children affected by trauma and have informed the Local Authority who have called in Safe Families to help.

550 families with 1200 children have been helped in Lincolnshire already this year. The charity is always looking for extra volunteers to help. Volunteers are all Christians and emphasise the power of prayers in their meetings.



Their help for disadvantaged families saves the families money as well as Community Service in the Local Authority.

Maureen illustrated several families who had been helped by Safe Families. Instances of children having to be taken into permanent care have been significantly reduced.

Patrick Forbes-Ritte, giving the vote of thanks, thanked Maureen for “singing for her supper” and then explained that she was also an Opera Singer!

The President then presented a cheque for £1000 to the charity to Maureen. (Half of our collection at Christmas). **Page 3**

18th MARCH DISTRICT COUNCIL AT GREETHAM VALLEY AND ALSO ON ZOOM

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have had the chance to hold meetings on ZOOM which is brilliant when you consider the time taken to get to the destination and the amount of fuel burnt in our cars. In the early days we had a few laughs when things went wrong. My record for the longest time taken to log on was 36 minutes!

Sadly the zoom at the last District Council was ok but the sound was very poor for a lot of the meeting.

Members can get a copy of the minutes if they have not already received one so I will not report on everything. The interesting bits are that Moira will not hold a Conference during her year as Governor 2025/6.

DG David and Moira have plans to increase Rotary Membership in many interesting ways. Moira presented her ideas for a roadshow to a meeting of the four Lincoln Clubs on Thursday last.

Whatever methods we finally agree I am sorry to say that I am too old to be of much help and I am not the oldest member by a few years. ED

CLUB COUNCIL 25th MARCH ON ZOOM

The only victim of zoom at this meeting was Secretary David who had to give apologies. President John suggested we get a representative of the Air Ambulance to join us for lunch and to receive a cheque from our Christmas collection.

It was noted that there would be a four clubs meeting on Thursday 28th.

On Membership, Patrick reported that John Herrick will be inducted as a new member on 8th April.

Regarding Public Relations, Martin Curtis reported that they are aiming to have the new Website on line by 1st July.

I reported that plans are complete for the Disability Games on 7th April and drivers will be informed shortly. The bus is booked and paid for. ED

THANK-YOU LETTERS

Dear Peter

Thank you so much for your warm welcome and the delicious lunch when I visited Lincoln Rotary Club on Monday March 18th.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many members of your Rotary Club.

Please also find attached a personal thankyou letter from our CEO Kat Osborn.

Love, peace and blessings

Maureen

Maureen Sydney

Community Volunteer Manager Team Leader



Safe Families

Unit 4 Diamond Court
Kingston Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 2EN

March 27th 2024

To: The Rotary Club Lincoln

RE: Donation to Safe Families for Children (Charity Number 1150405)

Dear Peter

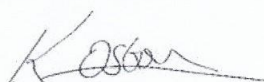
We want to say a huge thank you for your generous support of Safe Families. Please accept this letter as confirmation of receipt of your donation of £1,000. We are extremely grateful for your support of our work. We know that your generous gift is going to make a huge difference and I am so grateful that you are partnering with us to support families.

We have seen hope restored every day as families are connected into their communities. We have seen the difference that just one person who will walk and listen to a Mum or Dad who is struggling can make. We have also seen the difference that having practical support can make to families and we love the story below, from a Mum who wanted her teenage son to be taken into care, due to the problems he presented:

"Before, we felt vulnerable and weak but you guys have made us see it is ok to ask for help. Now we don't feel scared any more when problems are thrown at us because we know that we can ask for help. We have a brighter future and are working together as a team".

This is only possible because of your financial support. Our heart is to see the church in the UK making the very most of every opportunity to offer belonging, to see a church that understands and responds to the call to love the vulnerable, offer hospitality and build community. Thank you for partnering with us on this.

Yours sincerely,



Kat Osborn
Chief Executive Officer

PRESIDENT'S PAGE April 1st 2024

Fellow Rotarians,

April is the The Rotary Environment Month. Who knew that?

This is my antepenultimate President's Page for the Newsletter. I am sure that even as you read this Dennis is sharpening his pencil and crafting his words for the July 1st edition!

A special welcome to John Herrick who I will induct as a new (returning) member in a few days time. His 7 day letter received the resounding support of the Club. One of my key targets when I became President was to recruit more members and strengthen the Club. We have certainly achieved more than I had hoped for.

Our club meetings continue to involve interesting and excellent speakers some of who have driven miles to be with us. Congratulations to Secretary David for continuing to attract high quality public speakers.

District membership has a net increase of 37 in the first 8 months of the current Rotary year. With 79 clubs in our District it is clear we are doing more than our share of heavy lifting!

We are trying to agree a convenient date for the new Bishop of Lincoln to address the Club. You will then have to decide whether we invite him to become an honorary member,

There are now 5 Club meetings before I pass the Presidential chain to Dennis.

Rotary the world over,

President John Cawdell April 2024.