



## THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN MARCH BULLETIN 2021 PRESIDENT PETER MANTON

Lockdown has knocked us all about in different ways, but it has not stopped Rotary from occupying our time. I believe we have spent more time in meetings than we did before the pandemic. The difference now is that at a zoom meeting, participants can be from anywhere in the world. I recall one of our meetings where a scammer shut me down but John Cawdell was able to take part and he was in Brazil at the time.

The crocuses which we planted in front of the Usher Gallery have now died back and I have reclaimed our two notice boards which explain to passers by the significance of the colour purple and Rotary's epic struggle over the last

thirty five years to help WHO to eradicate Polio. I can remember when Audrey and I were in San Diego for the convention in 2009 when I was being trained to be a DG and Bill Gates arrived. He was not on the agenda but addressed the assembly with an offer of \$200m towards the Polio campaign if Rotary could match it within three years. We did it in two which gives you an idea of the sort of money involved. We Rotarians were all frustrated by the last three countries which were holding up the end of the campaign. Now Africa has been declared free there is just Pakistan and Afghanistan which are hanging on. As I experienced **PEPS** for the third time last week end I was one of the delegates who experienced a brilliant talk by Ravi Ravindran, a Past President of RI and currently Chairman of Rotary Foundation. Ravi told us that he has recently talked to the President of Pakistan about the way they have delayed Polio Vaccinations and has been assured that things will change now and the work will be continued.

Another event which Ravi announced was that a rich American has sponsored another Peace Centre in the Middle East, a move which we all welcome. Needless to say Ravi finished his talk by reminding us to continue to support Foundation as club contributions are reducing each year.

The week end before PEPS I was engrossed in studying for my examination on District and Global Grant management. I was informed that a Rotary Club can not apply for a Foundation Grant unless there is a qualified Foundation Officer and the President is also qualified. I have to say that I found it very difficult and time consuming, particularly as due to my advancing years I suffer from short memory loss. However, having completed the study of the various Grants Information manuals and terms and conditions I managed to complete the final examination and have passed it.

I waited to hear how many President Elects had passed the exam when I attended PEPS the following week end and was disappointed to hear that only 20 out of the 84 PEs had so far achieved it.



**PEPS CONTINUED.** Ravi Ravindran was not the only inspirational speaker at PEPS, Nicki Scott RI Director set the ball rolling on the Friday night and one of my fellow PDGs Dick Parsley gave us the information on Rotary Club Central and My Rotary. The break out session with our AG James Wood was interesting and David Morris our incoming District Governor had some important suggestions to make including the thinking around the 21/22 motto Serve to Change Lives. We have been challenged every year to reverse the downward trend of membership numbers and I can see our Club having difficulty in achieving the world target of an extra 2 members per club, if you consider that we will have lost several members this

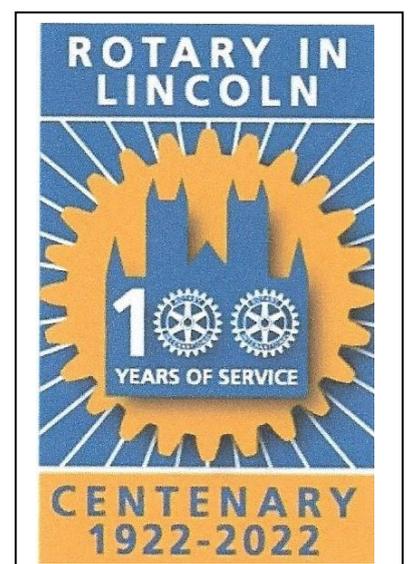
year and our target is now for 38 plus 2. We are going to have to work hard to achieve 40.

**CLUB COUNCIL 23 MARCH** This time I had added Project meeting to our Council agenda, indicating that we would be discussing the Centenary plans for next year. Malcolm Webb will be distributing the minutes to all so I will not write at great length. One suggestion on Centenary matters was who should write up the last 25 years of our history and how it should relate to the 75 year history which was issued in 1996. One suggestion was to contact the University and ask if there is an opportunity for a student in the Journalism Department to research it and make it part of his or her dissertation

We voted to send £250 St Barnabas Hospice in memory of Len Drew.

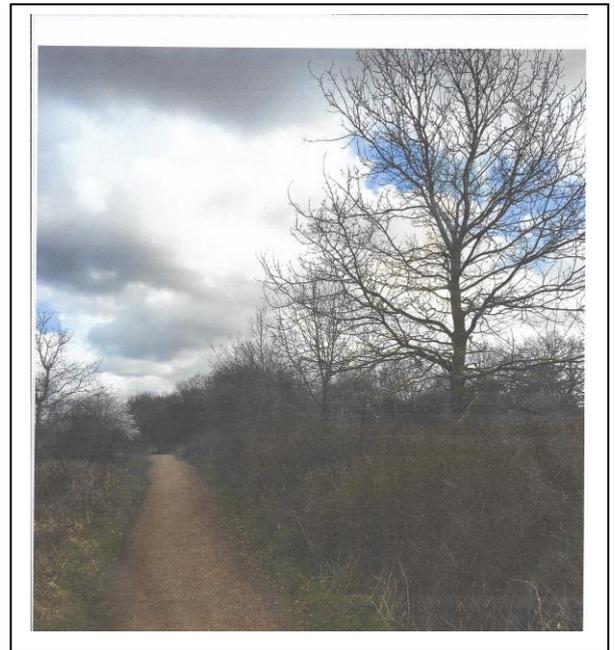
I had obtained three suggested logos for the Centenary from a friend and neighbour who is a graphic artist among other things. Of the three logos he suggested we voted for the one illustrated.

**AGE UK** You may recall that some months ago I suggested that members might like to offer their services to Age UK as telephone responders to lonely people who are suffering more than usual during lockdown. It seemed a great thing that we older members could do as we would not put ourselves and others at risk, working from home. I can only speak for myself in that I have been given a client who lives alone, having lost his wife last year. He has little contact with his family who live in the South of the country. I have only had two conversations with him but we got on very



well. Sadly he has been taken into respite care and had no idea where they were taking him. Age UK are trying to establish where he is so that I can continue my regular calls. I am sorry the idea was not very popular with the Club as I find it a very rewarding experience.

**ENVIRONMENT** On our way back from purchasing some essential supplies, I had a quick look at the Oak trees which we planted in Whisby Nature Park in 2005 to mark the Centenary of Rotary. Those who took part in removing brambles a couple of years ago will notice that they are enjoying lockdown and are up to the lower branches of the trees. I will talk to the staff at the park and find out what we can do to make good. The oak in the foreground has done very well in spite of the competition.



### **RECENT TALKS:-**

On 1<sup>st</sup> March Aimee Silvery gave us a brilliant talk about Parkinson's. Our two members known to be affected by the condition found it very useful and those of us who previously knew little about it also found it useful. The idea of getting a talk followed the recent death of Rotarian David Briggs who suffered from it.

At the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting Malcolm Webb gave a talk with the intriguing title "Mr Purple". It turned out to be about the colour purple which, as Malcolm explained was the most expensive coloured dye available in Roman times as it was made from the mucus secreted by the Spiny Dye-murex snail, and thousands of the creatures were required to colour one garment. Fast forward to 1856 and a chemist called William Henry Perkin was busy trying to create a medicine to treat malaria. When cleaning out one of the vessels he was using he found the cloth turned purple. When he tried to wash it clean he found it impossible to remove the dye. He realised that he had made a discovery which would make him rich.

On March 29<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed another talk by one of our members, Patrick Forbes Ritte. This was on the subject of mental health and reflected what Patrick had learned as a care assistant in a mental home. The origin of the word Lunatic was noted and the historic belief that the course of the moon has an effect on our mental condition, but modern research seems to have proved this to be fallacy. The talk encouraged a lot of discussion.

In the days before lockdown we were enjoying some hospitality at our neighbour's house across the road and I heard that in his spare time my neighbour helps maintain the historic Rover BRM which petrolheads will know was a car powered by a gas turbine engine. My neighbour, Neil, has worked in the gas turbine industry in Lincoln for most of his working life but has recently transferred to work in Canada, travelling there for short periods but mostly working from home. I recently asked Neil if he gave talks about his work on the Rover BRM and he said yes so I have booked him to talk to our club on Monday 12 April at our lunch time zoom meeting. I will invite members of the other Rotary Clubs to join us if they are interested.

**HAVE A HAPPY EASTER- KEEP SAFE- PRESIDENT PETER**