

MARCH BULLETIN ----REPORT ON DISTRICT 1070 CONFERENCE AT HUNSTANTON 11-13TH MARCH 2022

There were only two Rotarians from Lincoln at the Conference, James Wood (Lincoln Colonia), Assistant Governor and myself, PDG Peter Manton President of The Rotary Club of Lincoln.

Audrey and I managed to arrive at our hotel at 3pm on the Friday and after settling in (on the third floor with no lift) we had a short walk to the House of Friendship and had a happy time talking to fellow Rotarians. Later, after a light meal in the hotel we walked the short distance to the Theatre for the opening of the Conference and evening entertainment.

After a welcome by the Mayor we were entertained by a couple of gents called Olly Day and Nigel "boy" Syer. They are a versatile couple who can entertain a crowd in many different ways, including magic and music. Nigel can make an accordion do things you would not expect . It was a most entertaining evening.

SATURDAY

The Conference began at 9 am on Saturday so there was no week end lay-in. The Compere was one of the liveliest Rotaractors you could imagine, a young man called Chris Wells who is District Rotaract Ambassador and a member of Market Harborough Rotaract Club and also a Rotarian. Chris was invited to speak at the International Rotary Convention in Hamburg to several thousands of people. Alfred may remember him ?

After the usual opening by the DG the representative of the RI President Shekhar , Past President of RI Holger Knaack addressed the meeting and as we expected Ukraine was his first concern. He explained that the Disaster Fund we are supporting will go to the Rotary Clubs around the borders of Ukraine . There are 60 Rotary Clubs in Ukraine, 11 of which are in Kiev, and many clubs in the surrounding countries. Holger then gave us the usual message about falling membership and what we should do about it.

The Centenary of Rotary in Lincoln was mentioned and good wishes offered.

The District Governor's work in setting up new clubs was mentioned.

Conference was welcomed by the District Governor of District 1080 , Hunstanton being in his district.

There followed a talk by a Military Veteran who had been appointed to head up the Queen Mother,s household after the death of her Husband George V1. It was clear from the outset that Her Majesty had been used to every luxury in life and saw no reason to change now that she was a widow.

Having enjoyed many holidays in Scotland Her Majesty had seen a romantic ruin close to John o Groats called the Castle of Mey. She purchased it, had it restored and it became her base in Scotland for one of her annual holidays. These outings involved an entourage who filled a large touring coach. Needless to say there were many details which amused us in the story.

The next item was a panel titled “New Generation 2 “ RI Director Nicky Scot, DG David , Heidi Eggleton, chair of Rotaract in RGBI, Lee Freer Rotary Enterprise Club, and Darren Iliffe.

The discussion followed closely what we have heard from the DG in the past. Clearly our generation’s reluctance to embrace social media is one of the causes of our decline.

Chris Wells added his thoughts and told us that he had launched a Facebook Stream Meeting on line, a great addition to communication.

There followed a dissertation from Rotarian, Reverend Ray Burman who is known to many of our older members .Ray was a trainee policeman many years ago and a local Rotary Club offered to send him to Brazil on a GSE. Ray assured us that the experience changed his life and a successful career in the police followed. He became a Rotarian and was once President of RIBI . In later life he was called to the church and took holy orders. This interesting talk was told with great humour

FOUNDATION

After a short break Holger Knaak and John Dehnel talked about Foundation Grants and emphasised the need to consider sustainability of the project and how that will be handled. Water Supply is still one of the most needed schemes. The polio campaign was talked about and reductions of the disease in the final areas continues to give hope of success.

We were reminded next by Steve Howe of future Rotary events. The RI Convention in Houston 4-8 June 2022, next year’s District Conference proposed for Drayton Manor 5th-7th May 2023 and the RI Convention in Melbourne Australia 27-31st May 2023. And don’t forget the Volunteer Expo at the NEC 6TH to 7TH May 2022.

SCOUTING

There followed a most impressive presentation about the scout movement when the stage was lined with scouts from all ages and presented by Matt Hyde OBE, the Chief Executive of the Scouts in the UK .

SATURDAY EVENING FORMAL DINNER AND BALL.

We had to travel about one mile to the Sundowner Searles Resort and District had arranged buses to collect members from various Hotels and the bus station. We could see the bus station from our bedroom window.

Dinner was interesting but when the band started up before we had finished eating it killed all conversation. As I am suffering from sciatica at the moment and could not dance a step, there was no point in staying to the end so we took the first bus back.

SUNDAY

We were allowed a lay in on Sunday until 9-15 am ! Thought for the day was a mix of sermon and Choir. I was not aware that there is a Rotary Choir in our district and have to say they were very impressive.

There followed a mad session while Chris Wells extolled the virtues of “Doogoodery” something that Rotaract has inserted to replace Service Above Self. It was delivered in an athletic style and highly amusing.

THE NEW GENERATION 2

More discussion about the future of Rotary followed and it became clear to me that if we older members are not part of the regeneration, we will decline much quicker. My personal thoughts are that we should try to recruit more retired people to join us and foster more younger Friends of Rotary to help us with our projects. Some of those “friends” are likely to join us if we treat them well.

One of the Rotaractors gave a chilling impression of what it is like for them to visit a traditional Rotary Club , with all it’s traditions and ritual. How could we have grown so far apart ?

The conference ended in a suitably light note with retired cricketer Geoff Miller giving one of his hilarious talks about his life .

CENTENARY CHARTER

Many thanks to Patrick and those who helped arrange our Centenary Charter dinner, it was a great event in spite of a last minute apology from the DG , the loss of our original MC John Cawdell and Susan Brewer , president of Inner Wheel , all to Covid.

Thanks to Peter Berry for standing in as IPDG, to Terry Coffey for taking over as MC and Margaret Miller standing in for IW President Susan.

We now have two major events to complete, the District Disability Games on 24th April and the Rotary Day of Service at the showground on 22nd/ 23rd June. Please help us run these events, there is much to do.

PRESIDENT PETER