



The Rotary Club of Lincoln New year Newsletter 2017

PRESIDENT BILL :- The past three months have been challenging for me health wise, but I am now confident that I am making progress and returning to good health, and looking forward to the next 6 months of my Presidency. I am most grateful to President Elect Malcolm for stepping in at short notice and covering my duties. I also include my thanks to all the other members who assisted in my absence to ensure the smooth running of the club.

In the past calendar year we have recruited 5 new members (3 during Past President Steve's office and 2 in mine). Jackie is settling in very well and becoming involved in a good range of projects, while Patrick is well placed to make a significant contribution to the Club. However, we should not be resting on our laurels, but all continue to identify potential new members as it is difficult to keep pace with the shrinkage in numbers which has challenged most Rotary Clubs in recent years.

Christmas time provided excellent opportunities for the public to see Rotary in action as members carried out their service activities. The fun started with the Club supporting the live Reindeer Parade around the City, Santa and sleigh then attended the Christmas Food and Gift Fare at the showground, the Lincoln Christmas Market, three supermarkets and RAF Waddington staff quarters. Members also assisted with the Ice Rink set up, transport to the Age Concern Christmas Lunch and carol singing in local care homes.

PRESIDENT BILL- CONTINUED:- Well over £4000 was collected for St Andrew's Hospice and other local Children's Charities, along with promoting good will and cheer to the local community. Special thanks to Peter Manton in preparing the sleigh to such a high standard, transporting the sleigh with Rudolf to all events and then taking his turn at playing Santa.

The Christmas Market again proved to be a success and enjoyed by many children and their parents. Although no food or drinks were sold this time, we actually made more profit than in previous years. Thanks to Barry Dean and Trevor Pacey for organising not only the event, but also the preparation and dismantling the site. Also "well done" to all members and in some cases their partners for being Santa or Elves, and I understand as usual they all enjoyed themselves as much as the children. Finally on Christmas, special thanks to Terry Coffey for arranging almost single handed the Club Christmas Lunch. An excellent job with the whole event running like clockwork, the food was good, as was the fun and fellowship. Also enjoyed was Peter Howard's choir, accompanied by Betty Cardy on the piano, singing a few carols with everyone being able to join in, a good start to our Christmas celebrations.

Over the past few months we have enjoyed a number of good speakers. To name but a few :- Air Vice Marshall Paul Robinson, the Bomber Command Memorial, Andy Blow on the history of the Lincoln Tank, and from our Club, John Cawdell with "The Spanish Ninth". The quality of our speakers remains consistently high. Looking forward, this year we are returning to the system of each Club member either finding a speaker, or addressing the Club themselves (the system we operated a while ago). IPP Stephen is drawing up a new list indicating when each Member will be responsible for the speaker and this will be issued to give us all good notice, and will appear on the Club Calendar.

Please remember IPP Stephen's wise words, "I know it is not possible for members to contribute to all activities, but please support as many as you are able".

And to close, VP John Cawdell has announced his engagement to Marcia. I am sure all members will join me in wishing them both much good health and happiness in the future. Let us hope the cake is large enough for us all to share.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

PRESIDENT BILL

THE CHOIR

Here we are at Bunkers Hill on the second night of our tour. Apologies to Jenny Birch who is hidden behind Peter Howard (who was standing in for Gareth Malone who failed to turn up yet again.) We have done this for several years now and are grateful to Peter Howard for suggesting it in the first place and for Babs who always helps.



TALES FROM THE SLEIGH by "SLEIGHMASTER"

You can see from the photograph on the first page that we have been flying high this year and the sleigh has been entertaining the children for no less than 83 hours. (It has also been loaned to the playgroup in Branston and has done three nightly tours around the village towed by a tractor).

Our events started on November 26/27th with a stall at the Showground Christmas Food and Gift Fare which went well and we had one Elf from the University, Stella, from Vietnam, helping us. The following week we were at the Christmas Market and the preparation for this took two days and was a test for our ageing bodies. We hired a large tent from Tiger Hire at a Rotary rate (thanks James) and Barry had begged some Christmas trees to add to the atmosphere, and the now famous snow machine was fuelled by a donation from one of our members. Jon Wilkins again spent much of the time up the tree fixing floodlights. There were several Elves from the University as well as our own happy volunteers.

Our next Sleigh adventure was at Waitrose where we are well known and used to their rules and accommodation. We were surprised to find on the Saturday that the Fire and Rescue band were performing right next to us, and they had two young ladies collecting and they seemed to be doing quite well. We were concerned that two collections in the same place might be "overkill" but need not have worried. We all did quite well and the live music created a great atmosphere.

On 17 Dec we visited Lidl Supermarket for the first time and were pleasantly surprised at the great welcome we had from the staff and their generosity with bags of sweets for the children. We had to work outside so were grateful for a fine sunny day and a prominent situation.



WADDINGTON RAF STAFF QUARTERS

Our first night was at the camp where Vic Kinnin was Santa and his tour lasted a record 4 hours, with only one brief toilet stop. The following night we were at the site off Carline Road which was less demanding with Steve Pope in the chair. We were collecting for the RAF Benevolent fund on these two nights.

SAINSBURY'S 21st Dec : Another first for us and after a very shaky start we settled down under the canopy next to the store entrance and had a very successful day. At one point we were congratulated by a parent who had visited the sleigh at Waddington on the Monday night. I was Santa for the first slot and was impressed by a lady who had four children and made each one put a coin in the box after they had climbed on the sleigh and spoken to Santa individually. At the end of my shift I spotted a group of disabled adults in wheelchairs. I alighted from the sleigh and greeted each one and their carers. A lady coming out of the store said how impressed she was to see this and put £10 in the collection. On my way to the changing room through the store the four children saw me and they all ran up to me and put their arms around me. I cannot think of a better way to end an exhausting month.

BE A FRIEND

Many of our members were not Rotarians in 1994/5 when the President gave us the motto "Be a Friend". Those who were will recognise it as the year a member of our District was President of Rotary International. The late Bill Huntley MBE was a member of The Rotary Club of Alford and Mablethorpe. Bill was a leader in the development of Rotary's flagship peace project, the Rotary Peace Centres and announced its commencement when he was Chair of Trustees of the Rotary Foundation at the 2000 RI Convention in Buenos Aires.

Masters Degree courses were set up in 6 Universities around the world and it is a principal that a student cannot study in his or her own country. We are fortunate that one of the six is at Bradford and they hold a Peace Seminar every year where we can meet the students and learn about their backgrounds, experience and future aspirations.

The scheme has so far produced a thousand graduates and their achievements are beginning to count. (Three of the Alumni gave talks about their achievements at this year's Peace Seminar on 28/29 October).

Peace Scholar students are preferred to have been involved in an environment where there is great human suffering or need. Many of our candidates have already experienced the effects of war or prejudice against a section of the community, many having worked with Aid Agencies or Government Departments in sensitive areas.

This year Audrey and I decided to go to the pre-seminar dinner and were seated next to Christina Khoury, one of the graduates who was born in Jordan. (At the seminar the following day Christina was given the last spot and it became apparent that she was one of the stars of the show.) The guest speaker at the dinner was Pauline Hegney, not one of the students, but a lady who had suffered living in Northern Ireland at the time of the troubles. Her husband had been shot leaving her to bring up four young children. In the years which followed she met with many bereaved families and widows who had suffered similar traumas and formed a support group called Widows against Violence Empower, (WAVE). It was clear from what she said that the hearts and minds of the affected people are vital ingredients of any conflict resolution. This principle was referred to by most of the speakers at the seminar the following day.

The format for the seminar on Saturday was talks by class XIV who have just graduated, interspersed with the Introduction of class XV, and talks by three alumni from three other universities around the world.

The class XIV talks were all remarkable. One was born in Afghanistan in 1989 and lost his father during the war when he was 6 months old. Virtual starvation followed, then new regimes took over and after that international intervention again. He got a job as an interpreter at the age of 12 and found good friends among the Americans. An American Rotarian invited him to go to America and 100 Rotarians clubbed together to keep him through his school years. He eventually graduated at the University of Nevada in Political Science. He was later persuaded to apply for a Peace Fellowship and came to Bradford. It is clear his background will be very useful in future negotiations in Afghanistan and he was very optimistic about the future of that country. Other graduates described similar backgrounds and remarkable achievements along the way.

At mid point the class of XV introduced themselves and it is clear that they too have already experienced difficult times and some have worked in war zones and areas destroyed by conflict. One of the students is ex- American Army and has worked in Afghanistan helping local leaders to increase security and stability. His experience will be invaluable.

After more presentations and lunch the Alumni panel took the stage. Dr Erinma Bell spoke of her work in Moss Side in Manchester where she co-founded the Charity CARISMA in 2003. She studied Peace and Conflict Resolution at the University in Bangkok in class 9 and has worked around the world since then. Her work in Manchester with the gangs lead to the production of a bust of Erinma made out of gunmetal from confiscated weapons which is on display in a the museum. Is this the first bust of a black woman who is still alive ?

Mara Duer is from Argentina and studied Peace and Conflict Resolution at Tokyo University. She has worked in New York with the Muslim community in the area close to the 9/11 disaster and is now studying for a PHD at Warwick University in the rights of minorities in established communities.

The third Alumni, Dr Sellah Nasimiyu King'oro is currently working in her native Kenya defending and improving the rights of women. Her childhood was from a very poor background in one of the 43 ethnic groups . Against such adversity she advanced to higher education and studied Peace and Conflict resolution at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and further study at Bradford in 2010. She is a Board Member of Open Learning Exchange in Kenya which ensures that girls in rural Kenya have access to quality education.

Finally we heard our new friend Christina Khoury from Jordan talk about her work which began after she passed her Law degree, working in the Cyprus Embassy in Amman. She expanded her interests in the surrounding countries with conflict problems and the effects on young people. While studying Peace and Conflict Resolution here in Bradford she spent her "AFE" time helping the refugees on the Greek islands and was instrumental in some re-organisation which has become general practice around the camps. Her final submission was a video made with one of the refugees in Greece , it featured a young man on the sea shore explaining in monologue, his situation and that he was a human being, not an alien or a refugee. It was a fitting end to the whole event and received tumultuous applause from the delegates. Sadly Christina said she could not release the video due to its sensitive nature as it might compromise the future of the man it featured.

OTHER EVENTS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

We held a successful Race Night on 7th October, ably compered by Paul Brewer once again, great fun and fellowship and Pie and Peas by our in- house caterer Neal Curtis.

On 10th October Bill Lee, Alfred Schneider and I attended the Centenary Charter of Leicester Rotary Club who still meet in the same hotel as they did 100 years ago. We have a special interest as Leicester guided our fledgling club in the 1920s and while they do not claim to have been our mother club they made a big contribution to its formation .Needless to say it was a special night and the free wine provided by one of the members helped things along . The club has 70 members and reported on some impressive projects.

On 14th December some of us drove old people (about our age) to and from the Age Concern Christmas party and were pleased that they had a good time. Some of our members who could not be available to drive paid for Taxis.

The President modestly did not mention the Carol Service on 16 December. It was a splendid occasion and refreshments afterwards well received.

DID YOU KNOW ?

- 1 We recruited 5 new members in the last Calendar year.
- 2 Our 95th Charter Night Dinner is on Friday 3rd March. Last year we had 94 people attending . Can we get 95 this year?
- 3 Our Protection Officer now has additional duties of ensuring cash collections are carefully controlled and Performing Rights Licence conditions are adhered to.
- 4 Every member is to be allocated a date to either speak or find a speaker to assist Steve Pope, our speaker co-ordinator.
- 5 Succession planning continues to exercise our minds for the lead into our Centenary year.
- 6 The Club inventory is nearly complete.
- 7 Mock interviews are to be given for BGU students again in March.
- 8 This is the Centenary year for Rotary Foundation.
- 9 New Club banners have been sourced.
10. New Club badges will soon follow. **VP John**

EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

17 February THE LINCOLN TANK, a talk by Andy Blow and Richard Pullen. This is an evening meeting and Members are requested to bring as many guests as they can . Details will be issued nearer the date.

3rd March CHARTER NIGHT at the Charlotte House Hotel, 7 for 7-30pm. The invitation was e-mailed to our Members on 03-01-17 so if you have not received it, have a word with Malcolm Webb.

24th March, Bowling Evening at Washingborough Bowl. Details to follow.

2nd April, DISABILITY GAMES at Scunthorpe. Please make an effort to join us at this all day event, the very essence of Rotary.

21st April QUIZ NIGHT. Our ever popular evening of fun and fellowship at Cherry Willingham and Reepham village hall, with supper provided by our in-house caterer. Make a note and please get your team organised !

Early May, KNOW YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE event with Lincoln Lindum Rotary Club. We may have to find a new venue this year as the footfall on the COOP site is much reduced during the building works. Watch this space.