

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

It doesn't seem like 3 months since I did my last piece for the Newsletter but here's the latest.

We have just held our very successful 96th Charter at the Assembly Rooms and I would like to express my personal thanks to PE John Cawdell for the excellent hard work he did in organising (and re-organising due to severe weather) the Charter. We had 98 booked in for the original date on 2nd March but this fell to 85 for the revised date on 16th March as some people were unable to make the re-arranged date. We were entertained magnificently by the Ministry of Ukes and I have heard nothing but praise so far for the whole event.

My thanks go also to Patrick Forbes-Ritte and his team at the Assembly Rooms for the way they accommodated the short-notice postponement and for their service and attention to detail on the evening. Our 97th Charter will be held at the Assembly Rooms on Friday 1st March 2019; further details will follow during the year.

On Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th April we are delighted to welcome the President Elect of the Rotary Club of Neustadt a.d.w., Philip Rosendorfer, to Lincoln. He is being collected from Birmingham Airport by Dick Denby and Richard Ellis on the Saturday; he is being hosted by Richard Ellis at his home on Westgate and will return to Birmingham Airport on the Sunday, again with the assistance of Dick Denby.

There will be a meeting at Richard Ellis' home on the Saturday afternoon to meet Philip, and a meal in the evening at a venue still to be decided – that will depend on availability and how many members would like to attend. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend the meeting or the meal or both. The meal will be at your own cost but Philip Rosendorfer's meal and expenses will be defrayed by the club from our Neustadt Fund.

We have a busy schedule of events for April commencing with the Know Your Blood Pressure day on Saturday 14th April. This will be the same format as last year in a marquee in City Square. This is a joint-club event and Lindum, via President Sheila Webb, is taking the lead. We shall require a few volunteers on a rota during the day to talk to the public and invite them to have the blood pressure taken.

On the following day, Sunday 15th April, we have the District Disability Games at Stamford. Peter Manton has entered our usual Disability Team. This is the first year it has been organised by our new District 1070 from an initiative by members of our old District 1270; they couldn't get the new District organised to arrange one last year, so we took our team back to the old District at their event in Scunthorpe. A few volunteers are required during the day at Stamford – I expect the usual volunteers will be there as it is such an enjoyable day, but if anyone would like to attend please let Peter Manton know.

On Friday 20th April we have our annual quiz night at Cherry Willingham & Reepham Village Hall. Arrangements are well in-hand, but we need more teams to enter to make the evening worthwhile. Ian Smith is the lead so if you want an entry form for your team Ian will send one on request or, alternatively, ask Bill Lee the secretary. Even if you are not much good at quizzes, this is an excellent opportunity for an evening of **Fun** and **Fellowship**, with the opportunity to raise funds to continue our work of providing **Caring Service** to the community.

Finally, I would like to thank all club members for their support of me as President and of the Club generally. We have a chain of Presidents in place to follow me – John Cawdell (2018-19); Peter Hill (2019-20); and Peter Manton (2020-21). That leaves a vacancy for 2021-22 which happens to be the year in which we will celebrate our 100th Charter on Friday 4th March 2022. Any volunteers?

***“Ask not what your Rotary club can do for you;
ask what you can do for your Rotary Club”***

Malcolm Webb

President, The Rotary Club of Lincoln, 2017-18.

When anyone asks me what Rotary is all about, I tell them it's all about Fun, Fellowship and Caring Service.



RECENT NEW MEMBERS

The picture shows the last two members to be inducted in our Club with President Malcolm. On the left is Paul Norton who has the distinction of having an office just across the road from the entrance to the Assembly Rooms and on the right Peter Hill who came as a joining member, having been a Rotarian since 1994. Peter was President of Oswestry Rotary Club in 2004-5 and has been elected as our Vice President and will be President in 2019-20.

SMACKED WRIST FOR PETER

When your last newsletter ran into 8 pages I was concerned about its length and missed reporting on two important events. One was John Cawdell's 36th talk and the other was our Christmas Lunch.

John's talk was a change of direction for him, reporting on well known or famous people that he has met during his career, so he called it "Name Dropping".

His first Celebrity was Levi Roots the British-Jamaican reggae musician and chef who gave an engaging talk at Gainsborough. John later met him at the Olympic Park where Levi recommended a local restaurant which was very good. John summed up his acquaintance by "don't judge a book by its cover".

His next "celebrity" was the Queen herself who gave John an engaging smile when he was at one of her garden parties. This clearly set him up for the rest of the day and beyond. The Queen's cousin, Prince Richard of Gloucester came to open the school at Gainsborough along with the late Tony Worth, who was Lord Lieutenant at the time.

The next encounter was with England's best known goal keeper Gordon Banks who John had enjoyed watching at a match 40 years ago. He sat next to Gordon at a dinner in Lincoln in more recent times and learned that he and Trevor Booking are both engaged in supporting disadvantaged children. John then cited Roger Black as one of his heroes who won a silver medal with a personal best time commenting that it is not the winning that matters but "do the best you can".

He next voiced his admiration for John Peters, the RAF Tornado pilot who was shot down in Iraq and resisted torture during 7 weeks of captivity. He later said "I just got on with it".

The most bizarre encounter must have been when John was walking through a crowd of people waiting to receive Margaret Thatcher. The police, earnestly removing a scruffy gentleman from the barrier allowed the better dressed JC to walk past unchallenged. He was accidentally mixed with the reception party and was fourth in line to shake hands with the Prime Minister and welcome her to Harrogate!

Continued:- John summed up this final encounter with “seize the day”.

Those of us who attended the Christmas Lunch on 18 December certainly seized the day. The arrangements by Terry Coffey worked like clockwork as usual and a splendid lunch was enjoyed by members and guests. The Vicar of St Nicholas, Rev Dr Hugh Jones gave a short but thought provoking message. Our own “Choir” lead the singing and finished with a rousing delivery of “We wish you a Merry Christmas”.

8th JANUARY THE MAYOR’S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Councillor Chris Burke MBE impressed us with his knowledge of Rotary and knew that our founder President was Councillor Clement H Newsum. He said that he was honoured to be in the company of Rotarians who have the interests of the City and it’s Citizens at heart. He said he shares these ideals and had discussed with Dean Christine how our City could best be served. Volunteering to help those in need and food banks were priorities.

He said the rebirth of the City is well under way with the continuing development of the University and now the Transport Hub and Cornhill improvements. These have made a massive change to our City.

He particularly enjoyed the special moment on 11th November when he laid a wreath on the war memorial as part of the Remembrance Ceremony.

The Mayor has continued the City’s links with Neustadt where he attended the retirement of the last Mayor (after 16 years) and the induction of the new Mayor. He also noted that new Church links are under consideration. He also reminded us that Lincoln has links with towns in Australia , and Lincoln Ontario since 1976.

The Mayor’s Charity this year is Food Banks. He reminded us that strict rules are in place to control the distribution of aid and that there are serious pockets of need within the City.

He was proud to have delivered the keynote speech at The Charter of the Forest, celebrating 2000 years of government in our city and the beginning of a society with rights.

The Mayor concluded that he had enjoyed an interesting and varied year so far and finished with a toast to Rotary International and the good work that we do. The President then voiced our thanks to the Mayor for his hard work and dedication.



AND NOW FOR A RARE COMMERCIAL BREAK

Just think how smart and dedicated you would look wearing one of these garments, both in new condition. Please contact Malcolm Miller with your best price offer, proceeds to go to The Rotary Foundation. He regrets that foreign coins will not be accepted. Thanks to Vic Kinnin for donating them.

CHIEF CONSTABLE BILL SKELLY 15 JANUARY



Remember that classic edition of “Minder” when Arthur Daley addressed the Rotary Club and the President, a Magistrate, thought Arthur seemed familiar? I hope the reverse was not true when Bill Skelly came to visit our Rotary Club. I could not be there myself and thank Barry Dean and John Cawdell for making some notes for me. There is an official resume of Bill’s life and career so I will start with that.

Bill was appointed Chief Constable in November 2016, commencing his role in February 2017

Born in Scotland, Bill joined Lothian and Borders Police in 1990 and completed the command course at Bramshill in 2004. He has also held senior posts with the Immigration Crime Team at New Scotland Yard and in 2008 was HM Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland.

Bill joined Devon and Cornwall Police in 2013 as Deputy Chief Constable. He has been a serving police officer for 27 years and worked on the safety and security of the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

While working for Lothian and Borders Police Bill worked with the Scottish Government and Edinburgh University to develop policing prevention methods to help both the police and the public. He and his team secured funding which helped more than 100 projects involved in active crime prevention in eastern parts of Scotland. A particular achievement was securing £1 million of Government and Lottery funding to support victims of domestic abuse and the development of alternative pathways for offenders as part of a three year project.

When not on duty Bill, who is married with two daughters, likes to spend his time outdoors, enjoying walking and cycling. He is also an avid volleyball player and the chair of the Police Sport UK Volleyball Section reaching the personal milestone of playing as a member of the Great Britain Police Team.

Bill gave much of the above information in his talk and then went on to enlarge on his main aim as Chief Constable of Lincolnshire, quality of service being his first priority as well as maintaining the well being of his workforce which enables them to give the best performance. Preventing Rural crime is another priority including hare coursing and theft. (seizing the dogs involved in hare coursing is becoming an effective deterrent due to their high value to the perpetrators). Improvements in Road Safety in our County is also a high priority.

The talk was followed by several questions from a very attentive audience.

THE BLITZ KID FROM LIVERPOOL:- PETER WRIGHT TALK ON 22nd JANUARY

Peter began by introducing his Grandmother Fanny Jane Clawsdale who came from a family who had lived in Ambleside in the Lake District for 300 years. There was a cobbler in the village, a man of great character called Richard Billington, who played the fiddle . They were married and moved to Chester.

Peters mother Ella was born to them in Chester and grew up in the years leading to the first world war. Ella became friends with a young man called Edwin Wright but before any plans were made for their future, Edwin volunteered for military service. Letters were received for two years as the war progressed, but then stopped. Eventually a message was received to say that Edwin was missing, assumed dead, but no body had been found.

Two more years passed when a message came from Germany saying that he had been wounded and captured. The German doctors had kept him alive and he was repatriated at the end of the war. Edwin and Ella were married and Edwin got a job in Birkenhead serving petrol at a garage. They started a family.

In his spare time Edwin founded a swimming club and promoted national water sports and eventually took the British team to the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956.

During his time at the garage Edwin graduated from petrol pump attendant to owner of the business ! His interest in sport led him to be Chairman of Tranmere Rovers football club at one point.

Peter was ten years old when World War 2 was declared and Birkenhead was recognised as a target for the Luftwaffe . The Government offered to evacuate all children to safer areas. Peter's mother was emphatic that he would be kept at home and an air-raid shelter was constructed in one of the rooms. He said he was sure his mother showed no fear. With only one break of 3 months at his grand- parents, Peter lived in Birkenhead for the duration of the war and earned the nickname at the head of this article.

He attended a grammar school in Birkenhead and then was sent to do his National Service in the RAF. He set up a Rugby Club in his unit and when he was later transferred to London he continued his love of Rugby by organising another club where he was eventually recruited to join the Wasps, a famous London Rugby Club which was founded in 1867(and in later years moved to Coventry).

He attended a night school to study Art but eventually gave that up and went to a PE College instead. He married Kari in Norway "over 50 years ago" and eventually came to Lincoln to work as a PE Examiner for Lincolnshire County Council. Peter concluded by saying how honoured he was to join Rotary in 1970.

Len Drew, giving the vote of thanks, said he had been listed to be evacuated to Canada during the war, but when the first ship was sunk with no survivors, his family opted to keep him here. He also recalled that many children were evacuated from Coventry to Lincoln.

PETER HILL "ME AND MY JOB" 29th JANUARY

The most disappointing aspect of meeting at lunch time is that when we have a speaker there is often not enough time for them to tell the whole story.

On 29th January, Peter Hill modestly reported on a very distinguished career and we were all left wishing there had been time for more. He began with his birth in 1942 in Southgate, N London and the tragedy of his father being killed in the war when Peter was only 6 weeks old. Consequently he was brought up by his mother and grandmother. He described life in wartime London and his prep school. After the war he won a scholarship to the historic Mercer's School in 1953 which was situated in Holborn and when he was 15 he joined the Scots Guards Cadets for extra curricular activity.

The Mercer's school closed in 1958 just as he completed his O levels so he moved on to the City of London School for the 6th form and became Chairman of the North London Schools Christian Fellowship and continued his membership of the Scots Guards where he became Chief Cadet. He was also a prefect at the school and became House Captain following Mike Brearley. Peter then won an open scholarship in English Literature to Magdalene College Cambridge.

University from 61 to 64 was working and playing hard with many friends. He had a room on the same staircase as two of the Queen's cousins, Prince William and Prince Richard (currently the Duke of Gloucester).

First job 64-74 was a short service commission in the Royal Army Education Corps, training soldiers and young officers during the Cold War. At this time he took a postgrad certificate of education course by correspondence.

A change in direction in 67, he became National Training Manager for The Federation of Builders and Plumbers Merchants based in London at the young age of 25! His duty was to set up courses for staff and management at all levels across the UK. He had a seat on the Merchants Committee of the Construction Industry Training Board. In his spare time he was a Sunday school secretary. In 68 Peter moved over to become training manager for Costain Civil Engineering.

In 1971 Peter changed his allegiance to the Health Service and there followed 23 years of Management, Staff Development and Property Assessment, the last 7 years as a Chief Executive of a Primary Care Authority covering three boroughs in SW London.

In 1994 Peter and Lydia decided to leave the big city and moved to Caterham where they purchased a Residential Care Home and Domiciliary Care business. He joined Rotary in Caterham in the same year. His previous achievements caught up with him in 1995 when he was made a Warden of Livery & Yeomanry in the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers.

In 2000 they retired to Shropshire to a farmhouse over the Welsh Border 6 miles West of Oswestry. In 2003 Peter was awarded an MA in Military Studies at Liverpool University.

Peter Hill continued:- Peter transferred to Oswestry Rotary Club and was their President in 2004/5. He then started a PhD in Theology at Bangor, this developed into a practical project working with the Bishops of Shrewsbury and Lichfield on mission action planning in the Church of England. Peter then served as Lay Chairman of Oswestry Deanery Synod (18 Parishes) for 6 years and 3 years as a member of Lichfield Diocesan Synod.

In 2017 they moved to Lincolnshire to live closer to children and grandchildren, to downsize and be near the City of Culture, with better transport facilities.



THOSE BLOOMING CROCUSES

We were pleased to record the team effort of planting 5000 crocus corms at the Usher Gallery in the last newsletter. We have anxiously watched the site for weeks and have now planted our signs explaining “Why Purple Crocuses ? ” as the flowers appear after the snow which slowed us down.

MY DAD-AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN...TALK BY IAN SMITH, 5 FEBRUARY

Ian began by telling us that he had discovered a lot of memorabilia of his father during their recent move to Branston. What he discovered was that his father’s childhood had been very difficult following the early death of his mother . Ian described the difficulties his father had faced as a child in some detail but when it came to his father’s military career the technology failed. His father had joined the forces at a young age and at some point was posted to Aden and then shipped to Singapore, where he remained until 1938. The story ended there leaving us wanting more. Most of us wish we had gained more information about our parents before they passed on , and we wish Ian good luck with his researches.



12 FEBRUARY JON WILKINS-THE NURBURGRING

Like our previous speaker, Jon was having trouble with the powerpoint and managed quite well without it. He began by saying that the Nurburgring Race Track in Germany has had an effect on his life. The countryside around adds to its appeal

Historically the track was set up in 1921 as a proving ground for the German car industry. 13 miles long, the road has 72 corners, passes through 4 villages and there is a castle in the centre. The long distance was necessary for proving vehicles and was dangerous when used for racing which took place between the wars and up to 1976 . Nicky Lauda led the campaign to cease racing having experienced crashing miles away from any marshalls. A new shorter circuit was constructed for modern formula 1 racing but did not open until 1984. While formula 1 was away another use was sought for the original circuit so now it can now be used by other industries for vehicle testing and there are race schools and “Tourist Days” where “ordinary” motorists can test their skills and try out their cars and bikes at race speed for a fee of £26.

NURBURGRING CONTINUED:- Rules are simple, you can only overtake on the left hand side of a slower vehicle. The mixture of vehicles adds to the danger as some of the faster vehicles can brake later on corners. There can be as many as 12 deaths a year on these Tourist Days !

Jon realised his dream by riding his BMW 1200 RS sports touring bike to the Nurburgring and entering a tourist day ride. A good time to complete a lap is 10 minutes. Jon's first lap was 15 minutes and the next, 12 minutes. The main problem is the need to know the circuit well, it is not possible to see more than 300 yards of the track ahead in most places. The start/finish straight is 2-1/2 miles long and he enjoyed a top speed of 165 mph on that. He saw that his road tyres were taking a lot of wear and had to calm down when he realised what was happening.

Jon knows Mallory Park, Goodwood and Cadwell race tracks and said they do not compare with the Nurburgring. This had been the most exciting thing he had ever done.

Peter Howard gave the vote of thanks and congratulated Jon on his presentation.

19th FEBRUARY JOHN CAWDELL TALK NUMBER 37- BUTTERFLIES

John began by saying that several of the orators in our club 20 years ago, including Dick Wingad, had told him that to become an accomplished speaker you had to speak at every opportunity.

Today he was speaking about butterflies, an insect which has lived on our planet for 60 million years. There are 18500 species of butterflies occupying every country except the arctic circles. Moths have been alive on the earth for 150 million years. The difference between the two species are as follows:- Butterflies are coloured while Moths are mostly camouflaged. Butterflies have thin antennae, Moths do not. Moths are nocturnal, Butterflies fly in daytime. The Butterfly folds its wings vertically, the Moth horizontally.

The butterfly got its name from an old German phrase as it was noted for flying over meadows during the butter making season. The life cycle of the butterfly is well known, starting with the egg, then caterpillar, then chrysalis, before emerging as a butterfly. 100 years ago there were 80 species of butterfly in the UK now there are 59. (Johns' grandfather had a collection of butterflies in a glass case.) The decline started in WW1 when changes to agriculture reduced their habitat. Following that the changes to agriculture in the UK further reduced the habitat while continental Europe continued its tradition of small farms which suited butterflies. In more recent times farmers in the UK have been encouraged to improve habitat for wildlife.

John then told us about a "Painted Lady" he had discovered in Brazil, a butterfly the size of a dinner plate. He was also in awe of the Monarch and other species which can migrate in large numbers over a vast distance. He closed by remarking that growing buddleia is a good way of supporting butterflies and their presence is a good indicator of the quality of our environment.

John Hunt thanked John for another exemplary address.

26 FEBRUARY DR BAJAN BALI – JOHN HUNTER 1728-1793



Bajan began his talk with a brief outline of his own career starting with his studies at The Royal College of Surgeons in London and his move to Lincoln in 1972. There were only three surgical units in Lincoln Hospital at that time and all operations were carried out there. When Bajan became a GP he campaigned for minor surgery to be carried out at GPs surgeries thus releasing the hospital to concentrate on major surgery.

His hero is the surgeon John Hunter who was the youngest of five siblings born in 1728. His father was a farmer. His sister married a cabinet maker and John tried his hand at that but when his brother in law died of TB at the age of 20 he then went to London and joined his elder brother who was established in medicine.

At that time there was much research being done and much dissecting of bodies for teaching. John became good at cutting, better than his colleagues.

John Hunter joined the army in 1760 and became an Army Surgeon in the Anglo-French war and pioneered work on gunshot wounds and venereal disease. In 1763 he returned to London and became a Dentist and actually became proficient at re-planting teeth. He was honoured by membership of the Royal Society in 1767 and then worked in St Georges Hospital as a surgeon. In 1776 he was surgeon to King George 111.

In 1783 he bought a large house in Leicester Square and opened a residency for students. He was appointed surgeon to the British Army and recognised as the leading surgeon in the country. His portrait was painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

During John Hunters' career he became interested in the problem of Giantism. Charles Byne was born in Northern Ireland in 1761 with the genetic mutation and became well known as a magnificent Irish giant. He moved to Edinburgh and was known to carry all his wealth with him. He did not enjoy being the centre of attention and became an alcoholic. He was aware that John Hunter was interested in his body when he passed away and took steps to be buried at sea. When the time came his body was intercepted on its journey to the sea and kept in secret for several years. The skeleton was eventually displayed in the museum at the Royal College of Surgeons (see photograph). There are still people who would like him to receive a proper burial.

I was honoured to propose the vote of thanks on this occasion and thanked Bajan for a fascinating talk.

There are reports of more talks and news to follow but we decided to publish this as it stands now and continue with another issue before handover, so watch this space ! **PM**