

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN OCTOBER BULLETIN 2024

### 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER ROBERT WILLIAM BENNISON (BOB) FUNERAL AT OUR LADY OF LINCOLN RC CHURCH

Bob had reached the age of 91 years before he passed away. Members will remember that he was in his 42<sup>nd</sup> year as a Rotarian and in spite of failing health, he still attended Rotary meetings. When he became restricted to using a wheelchair, members of his family drove him to and from our meetings. His wife Joyce had passed away in November last year and the family helped Bob to stay in their Branston home.

Bob joined Rotary in 1982, one year after me, and I was privileged to install him as President following my first year as President in 1994. Bob was a keen Rotarian and took part in most events, particularly those involving young people. The Club ran RYLA for several years and Bob led that. He was always ready for a cycle ride and was a regular in our British Heart Foundation (BHF) rides which we supported for 20 years. The first few rides with BHF started at Baytree Nurseries, Weston, near Spalding, 300 yards from the house in which I was born! They later changed to a ride which started at a Pub in Swineshead . That only occurred twice, on the second year Bob prepared himself for the ride by applying the vilest smelling embrocation to his legs. When he walked into the bar, everyone made for the exit! That night the pub burned down. Thankfully no one was injured. We wondered if the fumes given off by Bob's embrocation had caused the conflagration!

BHF stopped running a Lincolnshire ride after that, so we ran our own ride until we had completed 20 years and had contributed £20,000 to British Heart Foundation. Sometime during that twenty years a Rotary Club in another district contacted us and said they were on a tour of various cities on a circular bicycle propelled by 6 riders! Part of their itinerary took them to Lincoln, and they offered us two places to help pedal the machine from Torksey to Lincoln. I volunteered, and you can guess who joined me- Bob Bennison! There followed a unique experience. Thankfully Bob had left the embrocation at home on that occasion.

Eight members of our Club, along with partners, attended the funeral and Bob's long life of service was recognised. A member of the Royal British Legion was there to salute Bob who had served four years as a Royal Airforce Physical Training Officer followed by years of membership of the RAF PTI Association and RAFA. Bob's career followed as an officer in Local Authorities starting in Yorkshire and moving to Lincolnshire when he moved to Branston in 1981. Locally Bob was well known as a gardener and loved to talk about growing gooseberries. He was, at one time, the World Champion Gooseberry Grower To say he will be missed is an understatement.

PM

*Figure 1 The photograph on page 3 was taken at the 1994 District Conference at Scarborough. On the left Malcolm Miller with Margeret below, then Bob Bennison with Joyce, Yours Truly with Audrey and on the right, our rejoining member, Richard Long with Jo.*



## **3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER, DR DAVID BEER FUNERAL AT LINCOLN CREMATORIUM.**

Dr David joined our Rotary Club in 2000 and was a member until we changed District in 2016. As a busy GP we knew his spare time was restricted, but David still managed to support those events which interested him such as Stroke Awareness, the annual event where we recorded blood pressures to be passed on to the Stroke Association. David attracted many of his regular patients when he was on duty! He was a keen singer and joined our Carol Services over the Christmas period. David suffered some health problems and had to leave Rotary in 2016. 3 Rotarians and one past Rotarian and partners were present at the funeral.

## **14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER ROTARY LUNCH , SPEAKER LESLEY HUTTON, LANGWORTH WARD, LINCOLN HOSPITAL**

During Lesley's time helping to run the Acute Ward at Lincoln Hospital, she realised that most of the carers who visited their dying relatives were suffering from depression and anxiety as a result. Time spent with the carers is well spent and the need for a private space to meet was recognised. An outdoor space has now been allocated and Lesley is keen to develop this private area, possibly with a water feature, where carers can be spoken to in a private relaxing garden.

Resources are short so any help the public can give would be welcome.

Peter Hill, giving the vote of thanks, suggested that the Rotary Club should be able to help.

## 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER, CLUB COUNCIL BY ZOOM

Seven members were present. President Dennis was unable to attend and had asked Patrick to act as chairman. The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> September Council were circulated.

- Malcolm Miller asked the Treasurer if the payment of £500 to foundation referred to had been made. The answer was not yet so Malcolm Miller proposed that it should be allocated to Polio Plus. A vote was taken and was favourable.
- President Dennis had sent a report. He was pleased that we had collected 100 items of food, plus £100 cash for the Community Larder
- It was decided that Santa and Sleigh will not attend The Showground Food and Gift Fair this year.
- Plans are advancing for Santa and Sleigh to visit Waitrose on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.
- Following Lesley Hutton's appeal for help made on 14<sup>th</sup> October, a donation of £250 is recommended and we will apply for a District Grant to add to it.
- The monthly meeting of the 4 Lincoln Club leaders appears to have lost its appeal. Dennis will discuss this with the chairman.
- Finally, the collection suggested by Inner Wheel went well. We look forward to future support. ( The November collection will be Bric a Brac for St Barnabas Hospice.)
- The Secretary reported that the decision has been made that we are not going to Care Homes to sing carols this year.
- The Treasurer confirmed that the £500 donation will be sent to Foundation next week and it will be allocated to Polio Plus.
- John Cawdell proposed that we donate £500 to Disabled Women in Nepal. A vote was held and was unanimous in favour.
- MEMBERSHIP:- There is concern that, given our increasing average age, we are now less able to run events which we have enjoyed over many years. We are not alone in failing to find younger people to join us and the lunch Meeting Time arrangement reduces the chances of busy working people joining our Club.

## 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER:- POLIO DAY

Every Rotarian will be aware of Polio Plus and hope that one day we will be able to declare complete eradication. On Polio Day I thought about my experience of the campaign over my 40 years as a Rotarian. Rotary joined the campaign to eradicate Polio around 1985 when oral vaccination became possible. We heard that a Rotarian from the South was passing through Lincolnshire to the North on a fund-raising cycle ride. We agreed to join him as he passed through Lincoln. A group of us did so and when we got to the A631 one of Barry Jackson's trucks was waiting to take us back to Lincoln. I continued with our friend as far as Scunthorpe and then returned to Lincoln along the river. I completed 109 Miles and raised £100 for Polio Plus.

Several years later, in 2009, Audrey and I were in San Diego and I was training to be a District Governor. There were about 1000 of us seated in a hall listening to words of wisdom from the RI Directors. An unannounced person wearing a baseball cap arrived on stage and was introduced as Bill Gates. He spoke passionately about the Polio campaign which he had already given some support. He then offered us 200 million dollars if we could match it within three years. We accepted the challenge and actually raised our share in two years!

## 28<sup>th</sup> OCT ROTARY LUNCH AND GUEST SPEAKER

There were 23 members and friends including our speaker Alisson Ernane (Nephew of John Cawdell). Sadly, President Dennis was unable to attend and had asked Patrick to run the meeting. There were two members of the e-club and their partners. Patrick opened the meeting, welcomed the guests and then welcomed Richard Long as a Joining Member. Richard responded, telling us that he was in his 31<sup>st</sup> year as a Rotarian. He had been invited to join Rotary by Terry Herrick in 1993. Richard had a busy time in Lincoln Club and eventually became a DG. He joined the e-club in 2022 but found their live events were often a long way from Lincoln. Louise Willis, President of the E-club, then said complementary words about Richard.

### Speaker Alisson Ernane.

Alisson, a relative of a club member, currently lives and works in Brazil. He has both a law degree and a Masters Degree from Cornell University Business Strategy, Allison is Head of Sales, Retail and Cash and Carry in Brazil for McCain Foods Limited, the Canadian multinational frozen food company established in 1957

Alisson manages and supplies distributors and retailers nationwide in Brazil and one of the main clients of McCain is McDonald's. He described one of the company's latest business strategies of moving towards healthier frozen products which can be cooked in the new Air Fryers.

