

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**PRESIDENT JOHN CAWDELL**

**SAD NEWS:-** On 1<sup>st</sup> September our good friend and fellow Rotarian Alan Nugent passed away. Alan had suffered with Parkinson's Disease and we encouraged him to continue his membership of the Club and were pleased that he was able to do so for some time.

Alan was born on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1942 in Manchester and after a successful career in the Church and Education in Northern England, came to Lincoln with wife Wendy and a growing family to become Subdean at Lincoln Cathedral. Alan joined the Rotary Club of Lincoln in 2004 and was President in 2013.

There was a Requiem Eucharist in the Cathedral for Alan on 26<sup>th</sup> September and several of our members and partners were in attendance. He will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to Wendy and the Family.

**AGONA SWEDRU SCHOOL LAB**

A Concert to raise funds towards the construction of a science laboratory in Ghana was run by Bailgate Rotary Club on 1<sup>st</sup> September at Bishop Grosseteste University. (As advertised in our July Bulletin) It was a great evening event and I am sorry that only three members of our Club with partners were able to attend.

**4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER-BITAIN'S UNSAVOURY INVOLVMENT WITH THE SLAVE TRADE-NORMAN BRISTOW, PRESIDENT OF KETTERING HUXLOE ROTARY CLUB**

By coincidence, there was an article in the Telegraph on 2<sup>nd</sup> September by Catherine Pepinster, a well known Historian and Author, titled "Nobody should be damned for the sins of their ancestors". It was a measured account of the lives of many ancestors of people who were "owners" of slaves who were suffering from "Colonial Guilt". She cited some Historians who report on the history of slavery and identify the ancestors of the slave owners. Her final paragraph sums up her article saying "We cannot make good the awfulness of actions in the past by attacking those in the present". ED

Our speaker, Norman, started by reminding us of the "Woke" attitude by some over the singing of Land of Hope and Glory and Rule Britannia on the Last Night of the Proms. There has also been debate on the life of Cecil Rhodes and whether his statue should be kept at Oriel College Oxford.

Norman gave us a few facts about the slave trade , particularly the movement of slaves from America to Britain. 12 million are believed to have made the journey but 2 million died en-route. It was believed that there were 46000 slave owners in Britain.

There was an infamous incident where a Slave ship was delayed by storms and food was low so they threw slaves into the sea.

By the late 1700s there was a growing group of Politicians and Clerics in Britain who formed an Anti-Slavery society whose aim was to make slavery unlawful. William Wilberforce, an MP from Hull and John Newton were among the leaders. John Newton had been a master of a slave ship in his younger days before he converted to Christianity. (He wrote the popular hymn Amazing Grace)

The American War of Independence, 1775-1783, led to anti slavery movement in America in around 1782. The law in Britain was not changed until the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807 but slavery continued in America at that time. The final law change came in 1833 and compensation was given in Britain to the Slave Owners for their loss. The freed Slaves, however, received nothing but their freedom.

Giving the Vote of Thanks, Peter Hill reminded us of the novels of Joseph Conrad which included details of his life at sea in the late 1800s and his experience of life in the Belgium Congo. There are many instances of slavery today, including people who suffer abuse from their family or partner.

## **DISTRICT COUNCIL 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 at GREETHAM VALLEY**

The first District Council of the current Rotary Year was held at Greetham Valley on 6<sup>th</sup> September and no zoom was provided. Only 41 clubs were represented.

I was the only member of the Lincoln Club present and will note my recollections below but recommend that members read the full minutes which should be available on the District website.

There were several important issues on the agenda starting with the DGs introduction to the "New style Council Meeting" There were to be no reviewing of AGs and Team Leader's reports but six topics of broad interest were to be discussed. Finally, he reminded us of Project North Star which you may not be aware, is to improve membership!

### **Centenary Year Planning-Peter Berry**

Peter reported that the first project , Sand Sculpting at Skegness was washed out by a rainstorm. Next event will be Melton Mowbray's Youth Talent Show on 17<sup>th</sup> November. Peter reminded us of the Centenary Raffle, asking all clubs to take part. The funds raised are to go to "End Polio Now". A promotional leaflet for the raffle was requested. The year will end with a Conference at Scarborough which will include the District Hand-Over Ceremony.

### **Centenary Conference Chris Knight**

Details of the Conference were than presented by Chris Knight. It will be held on 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Scarborough. The main Hotel will be the Crown Spa. See more detail in the minutes.

## **Future District Conferences DGN Moira Penney and DGNN Dawn Denton**

Future Ideas will be considered on a survey to be sent to all members.

## **District Handbook David Hendrick on behalf of Chris Chew**

The proposal to produce the District Handbook on line only was discussed. There were many who voiced their opposition to the loss of the physical handbook. The fact that details of all members of a club are available on the District Website as a DMS file (Rotary View in future) was explained. There was a strong view to continue printing hand books as in the past.

## **Leadership Development and Training Nigel Aaron and Graham Martin**

The move to zoom meetings for much of the MDPEPS training is unpopular to some but those who have received recent training by zoom have expressed approval.

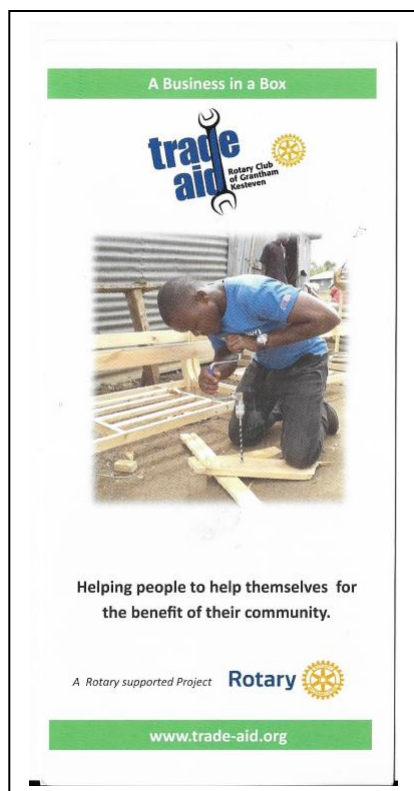
## **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Sue O'Grady**

Details were presented. The cost of £800 per candidate was considered good value.

## **E-Club of Organ Donation AG Richard Power on behalf of Kirit Mistry**

Cited as the best "Service Above Self" that we can do. Donations from the deceased and Living are considered. Kirit or Richard are available for talks to clubs.

The meeting closed after 1hour 40 minutes.



## **18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023, TALK BY JOHN ASHER ON TRADE AID**

Members may recall that John Asher has had an exhibition of Trade Aid in the Rotary Stand at the Lincolnshire Show over several years. John is a member of Grantham Kesteven Rotary Club and they set up Trade Aid 12 years ago. The Trade Aid website includes a world map showing all the locations that have received Aid spanning from Mexico to the Philippines. The map indicates the kind of aid supplied to each location.

This is a great example of how Rotary supports those less fortunate than ourselves. It gives the communities the opportunity to improve their own lives. The Aid is sent out in boxes at a cost of £425 each. No other finance is used. At least one of the Airlines transports Trade Aid Boxes free of charge.



### **VISIT OF ROTARIANS AND PARTNERS FROM NEUSTADT AN DER WEINSTRASSE**

In the last week end in March 2020 a party of three Rotarians and one wife were booked to visit Neustadt and were planning to go by car, through the Channel Tunnel , Peter Hill and Lydia along with Alfred and myself. Sadly Covid put a stop to that. We were delighted therefore, that circumstances allowed a large group of Rotarians and partners to visit us this year, arriving at Birmingham Airport on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and returning after our Rotary Lunch on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>.

A list of hosts was agreed along with a team of drivers to collect and return our visitors to the airport. The first event was to meet our guests at Diane Gender's house after which the hosts drove them home. ( one couple arrived in their own car and were hosted by our President).

On the Sunday morning we took our guests to Andrew Arden's farm to be shown the most hi tech arrangement of buildings and equipment that you can imagine. We toured the Potato storage area where thousands of tons of potatoes are stored by the farm, mostly for other farms in the area. Potatoes require frost protection during storage and there is a log burning facility on the farm, the logs are chipped, burnt and the heat used to generate electricity to supply the high demands of the storage buildings. Surplus electricity is sold back to the Electricity Board.

Andrew was also able to show us one of his Poultry units, but only from a distance due to the problem of Bird Flu. The sleigh is in storage at Andrew's farm, hence the photo above.

We then enjoyed a Sunday Lunch at the Cross Keys Inn at Stow. Some of the visitors were able to visit the historic Stow Minster which is almost next door to the pub before the return to Lincoln. The team collected at Dennis Bembridge's house and then enjoyed their first walk around the uphill area of Lincoln.

On the Monday morning , before the Rotary Lunch, the team met once again at Dennis' house and visited the Cathedral and the Castle area.

From your twin city, on the occasion of the meeting of the Rotary Club of Lincoln and the Rotary Club of Neustadt an der Weinstraße, I send my warmest greetings :

- Mister Mayor, Council member Biff Bean
- John Cawdell, President of the Lincoln Rotary Club
- Phillip Rosendorfer, President of the Rotary Club of Neustadt

as well as all present members of the two associations, and all other guests of this event.

It was 1969, when Mayor John Spence accompanied some Lincoln students on a class trip to the Rhine Valley. During a boat ride, he struck up a conversation with another passenger; Dr. Wolfgang Brix. Both immediately liked each other and as they extolled the respective virtues of their cities, it was clear that they had much in common. The first steps for a possible partnership had been taken. A short time later, Mayor Spence invited his colleague Dr. Brix to Lincoln. In 1970, the time had come. The councils of the two cities agreed to form an alliance and on April 1, 1970, the partnership was finally sealed.

Over the past five decades, many citizens from Neustadt an der Weinstraße and Lincoln have met in the course of exchange events and mutual visits. Students, youth groups, music, sports and cultural clubs and the Feucht Fröhlichen Neustadter have filled the partnership with life.

The two Rotary Clubs also cultivate this friendship and are an important building block of our town twinning. Thus, our two cities are today connected by a strong bond of friendship.

We wanted to celebrate this friendship at our 50th twinning anniversary in 2020 with all engaged persons in the town's twinning. But things turned out differently. Two weeks before the planned celebrations in Neustadt, the pandemic changed our lives.

I am grateful that this time has now passed and that personal meetings have been possible again for some time.

Especially in these politically turbulent times, events such as the present town twinning is of great importance for a united Europe. The relationship with Lincoln is very close to my heart, as it is to the citizens of Neustadt. Let us understand our partnership as a firm and weighty contribution to a common Europe.

As mayor of the „Democratic City of Neustadt an der Weinstraße“ at the foot of Hambach Castle, this is of particular concern to me.

I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Lincoln for inviting the friends from Neustadt.

The lunch which followed at The Nightingale, was memorable. The Mayor of Lincoln , Councillor Biff Bean gave greetings to our Club and to the Neustadt visitors, Then a surprise , Terry Coffey read a message from the Mayor of Neustadt, Marc Weigel (see left) which gave a brief explanation of the relationship between our two cities and our Rotary Clubs. The Mayor ended his message with greetings and said he looks forward to meeting us again in Neustadt. All too soon, our guests had to say their good byes, and our drivers took them back to the airport to catch an evening flight back home.

We should be grateful to our President John for his enthusiastic efforts to arrange this visit and to all

the hosts and drivers who were involved and Diane and Dennis who both entertained the whole team in their houses as noted above .

## **SAPPHIRE CELEBRATION AGE- UK 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

As Volunteers at AgeUK Peter Hill and Lydia and I were invited to the Celebration of Age Uk who were established over 60 years ago. I was allowed to take Audrey as a paying guest. The Celebration was in the Engine Shed at Lincoln University and included Prize Presentations, a dinner, and later dancing (for the younger ones!) It was a splendid evening celebrating a great organisation.

**PRESIDENT'S PAGE OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup> 2023**

**It was good to receive an email from RI President Gordon McNally thanking me (us) for sponsoring new members. We must ensure our new members continue to feel welcome and engaged in Rotary.**

**A couple of days after the email was received another new member was signed up. Simon Judge will, I am certain, make a valuable contribution to the club.**

**October is the Rotary month of Economic and Community Development. Who knew that?**

**It was sad to learn of Alan Nugent's passing to a higher service. He was a Past President and Paul Harris Fellow. He had many great qualities, I remember his love of English literature especially the works of Charles Dickens. In line with Club tradition he was an accomplished public speaker. I am still planning another Club visit to the National Memorial Arboretum where we can pay our respects to members who have passed to a higher service at our plaque on Rotary Ridge.**

**10 Rotarians from Neustadt an der Weinstrasse were our guests on 23/24/25 September. Thanks to Diane for the splendid welcome reception at her house in Balderton on the evening of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>, and to Andrew for the farm visit on Sunday morning 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by a pub lunch in Stow. On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> there was a Club meeting with the Mayor of Lincoln present. Terry Coffey helped arrange the exchange of messages from the Mayor of Neustadt, Particular thanks to the hosts and also the drivers from and to the airport.**

**President John Cawdell**

**October 2023**

**Peter Manton Editor**