

# SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN

### PRESIDENTS NOTES

Since the last Newsletter, major changes affecting us all have taken place, around the world, most Rotary activities involving close contact between people have been curtailed until the Coronavirus threat diminishes. This includes, of course, our normal Club meetings.



Wherever possible , Rotary at all levels is adjusting methods of operation to maintain support to those most in need. One key element is the greater use of electronic systems to replace face to face communication. Our own Club Council is meeting online and we will be developing this approach further for committee work and contact with club members.

While our Monday meetings are suspended , we will be making use of the weekly bulletins I am sending out as one regular means of contact. I hope these prove useful. Meanwhile, President Elect Peter has done a great job preparing this Newsletter which gives us a welcome opportunity to look back in the pre-Coronavirus period.

**Peter A Hill**

### **98th MARCH CHARTER CELEBRATION AT THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY ROOMS**

As President Elect it was my turn to head up the team making arrangements for the 98<sup>th</sup> Charter . As I was the one receiving the applications I noted that many came in at the last minute. In the end we had 72 but I have to say that I was concerned that only 19 members of our own club were included.

This suggests to me that that there may be adjustments that we need to consider and when I take office I will be happy to have a frank discussion about how we run our Charter. If you prefer it I will always be ready to hear your private view on it. I appreciate that many of us, including myself, are no longer in the full flush of youth and some of us are carers.

As it was, this year's event went very well. The District Governor , the District Governor Elect, our Assistant Governor, and the President of Lincoln Inner Wheel Joy Schneider, along with many visitors, and our two singers Julie and Jamie Marcus were there. The president had invited one of his Rotary colleagues from Oswestry Club, Michael Jones, to respond to the toast to the visitors. The speeches were not too long and the singing which followed was much enjoyed. I apologise for the furry quality of the picture above, of our singers Julie and Jamie.

**Peter Manton**



## **6 JANUARY 2020 COUNCILLOR SUE BURKE THE MAYOR OF LINCOLN**

It has become a custom for the Mayor of Lincoln to give the Rotary Club of Lincoln a New Year Message at our first meeting in the New Year. The photograph shows the Civic Party at the opening ceremony which takes place in May each year.

Sue began her talk by explaining that Lincoln appoints its Mayor on a seniority rule which she believes to be a fair method, giving everyone an opportunity.

For her there was no political guidance from her father who insisted his family should make their own minds up on how to vote.

In 1982 Sue's husband was a Councillor in Stamford and then a County Councillor for 8 years before becoming a City Councillor in Lincoln. He became Mayor of Lincoln in 2017. Sue was a Councillor from 2012 and has now become the 813<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Lincoln, the 14<sup>th</sup> lady to take the office. She found the tradition to call Lady Mayors "Mr Mayor" to be out of date and not respectful of the fact that equal opportunities now exist and there should be no discrimination of the sexes.

Sue reminded us that the first woman priests were appointed 25 years ago. She cited several women in Lincoln who have "top jobs", eg Carol Leadbetter (CEO of the COOP), Mary Stuart, Vice Chancellor of the University of Lincoln, Caroline Killeavy, the head of the YMCA and all during the reign of Queen Elisabeth !

As a Councillor, Sue has enjoyed serving the community and addressing the problem of poverty. She was particularly proud to have backed the motion to reduce the amount of the highest stake in gambling machines.

Last year she was Sustainability Councillor working on such issues as reducing housing energy use and making vehicles more efficient . She was proud to say there are electricity charging points in the new car park to the Transport Hub with scope for more as the need arises.

The Mayor's Charity this year is to raise funds for the homeless starting with a whisky tasting on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Sue Hodge will be entertaining at the Mayor's Ball on 14<sup>th</sup> March and she invited the club to book a table . The Mayor concluded by congratulating us for the wonderful service we give to the Community.

### **13 JANUARY BARONESS SARAH HOGG...KATHERINE'S HOUSE**

We had no idea what Baroness Sarah was going to talk about. No doubt her distinguished career to date would have been a most interesting talk in itself. Her purpose became clear when she arrived with a large box of books !

Her "novel" , "Katherine's House" , has recently been published. I put the word Novel in inverted commas because it is the result of historical research and surrounds the lives of nine people over 1100 years. The house at Kettlethorpe is, of course, the central figure.

The story revolves around many families and historic events but Katherine Swynford , the self styled "Lady of Swynford" plays a major role at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century , hence the book title, "Katherine's House".

The house itself changed over the centuries , with a downsizing in the 1890s to its present form.

The effects of many wars in our area are well covered in the book including the Lincolnshire Rising and right up to the American Eagle Squadron who appeared before the USA entered WW2 !

The many characters in the book are described in some detail, and Sarah admitted that those from the earlier times are described with a little "artist's licence" , historical records being rather thin.

The story revolving around such momentous events is told as a series of wonderfully evocative and moving tales , all centred on the house at Kettlethorpe which Sarah and her family are proud to call their home.

### **20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY PAUL KILLINGWORTH---ME AND MY JOB**



As a schoolboy Paul joined the Army Cadets which he enjoyed, attaining the rank of Sergeant at the age of 16. He would have gone straight into the Army but would have had to wait until he was 17 so he started to look for a job related to his interest in cars.

As letter applications produced no interest he began visiting garages and eventually got his first job as an apprentice technician. He obviously did well during his training and by the age of 21 was "head hunted" by the AA and was given a van with the call sign Romeo 40 . In 1991 Paul was the fourth person on the scene of the Keyworth Air Disaster on the M1 which he described as a life – changing experience.

**Paul Killingsworth continued:-** In 1991 Paul visited Romania with the BBC “That’s Life” team including Dame Esther Rantzen. This proved to be another life changing experience as they visited orphanages and saw poverty and all that entails.

During his continuing career in the AA he won awards for life saving and distinguished service. He met Elaine in 1993 and they have a son and a daughter. He eventually qualified as a teacher and became a Technical Trainer in the Automobile Association.

Later he was asked to help test and evaluate 1000 Audi technicians and with colleagues wrote a programme called the Training Needs Analysis (TNA), now used all over the world. This led to him working for Audi UK and Renault France on their training courses and Bosch and Delphi in Germany.

In 2006 he went freelance and continued training in the car industry, including Bentley ,all over the world, as well as RAC Patrollers and Customer Care.

The business has changed to “PK Automotive Solutions” which he now runs with his wife.

Paul gave a list of his achievements in the Automotive Industry which is most impressive with many awards to his credit.

We were pleased to induct Paul as a member of the Rotary Club of Lincoln the following Monday, as shown on the photograph on the previous page.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY TONY FLINN ... THE FLYING ROTARIANS**

Rotarian Tony Flinn, a former member of Richmond and now Doncaster Rotary club, broke his spine in an accident in 2003. Having been confined to the use of a wheelchair he decided to be as physical as his condition would allow and took up triathlete games and sailing.

4 years ago he decided on an even more adventurous pursuit and had flying lessons at an airfield in North Lincolnshire. Having gained his private licence he joined the Flying Rotarians. There are 1700 members in the USA and 114 in the UK.

His group use a Piper aircraft G1FFR. This has a 180HP engine and was built in 1977 in America. Tony explained how the disabled person-controls work. His first trip abroad was to Le Touquet where he quickly learned that if you fly over the channel at 6000 feet and have an engine failure, you can glide to either side !

The club had a Swiss week end in 2019 which had a few refuelling problems at the clubs along the way. At Zurich they saw the Swiss aerobatic display team performing. They flew back over Lyon and Toulouse, not exactly a straight line !

Tony concluded by inviting us to join them in a Lincoln Weekend in June, but we all now know that thanks to the Corona Virus along with so many events we have planned, that will not take place.

## **10 FEBRUARY PATRICK FORBES RITTE “POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES”**

Patrick began by reminding us of the last Projects meeting where we discussed falling membership and the need for more and new projects. While Rotary began as a networking organisation it quickly moved on to the worldwide charitable group which we all enjoy today. There is a tendency for new members to leave after a few months which is a clear indication that we are not getting them involved in our projects and not encouraging them.

As a possible boost to membership Patrick suggested that he runs a buffet supper at the Assembly Rooms , at no cost to the club, where we could bring guests and explain what Rotary does for our community. (This idea was extended by the suggestion that we might consider asking leaders of other charitable organisations to join us on that occasion,)

Terry Coffey suggested that new members should have a mentor (not necessarily their proposer) to guide them during their first year. Patrick’s proposal has met with some encouragement but like everything else at the moment it will have to wait for the Coronavirus to move on.

## **17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY DAVID BRIGGS----EVERYBODY OUT !**

David began by reminding us of the way “working class” labourers were used in industry and agriculture during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century .The education of children was not compulsory in the early days and there was a tradition in rural areas for farmers to take children out of school to labour in the harvest. Factory workers were subjected to boring repetitive jobs , long hours and low wages.

The story which follows is centred around a small village called Burston, about three miles North of Diss in Norfolk. In 1902 a teacher , Anne Kathleen Higdon, took over the school and she and her husband Tom were mindful of the inequality of society at that time and objected to the practice of children being taken out of school to work on the harvest. Tom toured the local farms and factories trying to get the workers to join a trade union . He quickly earned a reputation as a trouble maker among the ruling classes.

In 1911 the school refused to allow children to be withdrawn to work on the farms. The school governors were mostly farm owners so there was a confrontation . Tom stood for council at a local election. The result was replacement of the teachers at the school. This caused a Children and Parents revolt which led to an impromptu schoolroom being set up in a temporary building on the Crown Green in the village, and with the support of a trade union a new school was eventually built . 66 of the previous 72 pupils attended.

Parents were fined by the authorities for not sending their children to the state school which was, by then, the law. Some of the landowners sacked labourers who had sent their children to the “strike” school.

Nevertheless , the strike school lasted 25 years, considered to be the longest strike ever!

David was resident in that area in the 70s and 80s and said that there were still overtones of resentment between those who represented the two sides.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH JOHN CAWDELL BIBLICAL MATTERS

John began his 45<sup>th</sup> talk and made it clear that this was not going to be a talk about a specific religion, but an appreciation of the Bible which has had 5 billion copies printed to date.

Other books in large numbers include the Koran and Mao Tse Tung's Little Red Book. Numbers not quantified but probably substantially less than the Bible.

The word Bible comes from the Greek "Biblia" meaning books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Original languages were Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.. Written by Kings, Prophets and a tent maker, between 650 BC and 65 AD. Most books are in time order but The Prophets are in perceived importance order.

John then pointed out a local connection in Stephan Langton 1150-1228 born at Langton by Wragby. He was a signatory of the Magna Carta , establishing rights of English people particularly about Habeas Corpus or wrongful arrests. He was a prolific reader and writer . The Bible was originally written in continuous text but Langton divided the books of the Bible into chapters. Other clerics attempted the same but Langton's divisions seemed to have been accepted by most.

The first printed copies of the Bible arrived in 1455 by Johann Gutenberg (the inventor of the moveable type printing press ) in Mainz Germany.

In the printing of such a large book inevitably errors have been made. In 1613 a typo of Judas instead of Jesus appeared in the book of Matthew and it became known as the Judas Bible. (A paper patch was stuck over the error and 11 copies still exist today.

In 1631 an error resulted in "not" being omitted from the commandment "Thou shalt not commit Adultery" . The printer, Robert Barker, died in prison 15 years later and was fined £300, a huge amount of money in those days. Most copies of the book were recalled immediately.

There are 100 million copies produced annually in 88 thousand variations.

John recalled the division between Roman Catholics and Anglicans following the King James version of the Bible.

Having tried to read the entire Bible as a teenager, John said he gave up because he could not contextualise many of the words. Now, with the help of the internet, it is so much easier.

He concluded by saying that whatever your belief , the Bible has influenced our language, our history and acted as a moral compass.

The members showed their appreciation in the usual way. ( John had comprehensive notes of this talk but I did not see him refer to them once ! ED )

## **DID YOU KNOW ? FROM JOHN CAWDELL**

1. Rotary Foundation has been accredited by Charity Navigator (an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S.) with a perfect score for demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. The Rotary Foundation has been accredited by Charity Navigator (an independent four star rating is achieved by only 4% of charities).
2. In the recently published 2019 Rotary (GBI) Demographic survey 86% of members are over 61 and 3% were previously in Rotaract clubs. Female members comprise 17% up from 12% in the last survey in 2013.
3. R.I. gave 47 million hours of voluntary community effort in 2019.
4. The Rotary Shoebox Scheme is 25 years old and now sends 50,000 shoeboxes full of gifts per annum to central Europe.
5. RGBI was sued last year for copyright breach because 2 club websites had uploaded images without consent. It doesn't matter if you are in the photo, you don't own the copyright which belongs to the photographer.
6. Volunteer Expo organised by RGBI takes place on 1-3 May 2020 at the NEC Birmingham and is intended to connect volunteers, organisations and the charity sector to harness the power of volunteering.
7. Rotary Radio UK was launched last October to raise awareness of Rotary and to boost membership. Visit [www.rotaryradiouk.org](http://www.rotaryradiouk.org)
8. We are perhaps all familiar with terms such as “a bench of bishops” or “a gaggle of geese” but what is the collective noun for a group of Rotarians? Suggestions to me please. A winner will be announced in due course.
9. District Area 2 meetings are held at Threekingham (pronounced Threk-ing-ham). It was here that in a battle in 870 A.D. 3 Danish Kings were killed by Saxons.
10. Additional radiators have been installed in the Trafalgar Suite (formerly known as the Tennyson Suite) at the County Assembly Rooms. Members and guests appreciated the investment this winter.

**JAC April 2020**



Diane said she has been a Rotarian for 16 years and did a “Me and My Job” talk soon after being introduced to the club by Tim Kelsey, but there are more recent members now and today she was going back to where it all began before she spent 25 years as a solicitor.

She was brought up in New Mills, Derbyshire. There was a cotton mill there which used to be called Bowden which was also the name of a house in the New Mills Grammar School.

Her grandfather and mother worked in a calico printing works. Grandmother had her first child at age 18 and there was a tradition for girls to go straight into marriage rather than go to University or further education in those days.

Diane preferred the latter and took A Levels and applied to take a law degree at Hull University. Hull later declined her application because one of the A Levels was General Studies which was not on their list.

Diane later applied to Kingston on Thames and Ealing . It was Ealing which first accepted her application followed by Kingston. She was admitted to Ealing to do a BA in Law.

It was at Ealing where she met Alan- he was reading Business Studies. He had money and a car ! Sadly Diane failed her first examination, having been to a party the previous night. She was asked to re-sit but thought she had lost her commitment to study law and decided to marry Alan.

She worked in a shoe shop for a time, then the “Yellow Pages” office for a short time. In those days everyone smoked and women were not allowed to wear trousers at work. Diane’s next appointment was with the Civil Service in the Lord Chancellor’s office in the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand. She enjoyed the atmosphere and working with Barristers.

Parents then asked them to go to Blackpool and share the running of an Hotel- so they did a season at that but Alan hated it, did not like being “up North” at all.

So on their return to London Diane went to work for a firm of Solicitors and enjoyed working in the courts. She was head hunted by another firm but re-applied to go back into the Civil Service to be a Clerk’s Assistant in the courts.

There followed various appointments in the court system which led to promotion and return to Somerset House, then she became Court Associate to Lord Denning. Then she decided, at the age of 30 to take the Law Degree again. This time she studied externally through the University of London. This was complicated when their son Greg was born.

They moved to Newark. There was no local court so Diane commuted to Nightsbridge for a time but knew she was overstretched when she fell asleep in court.

**Diane continued:-** Looking for work nearer to Newark she was given a job by Andrew & Co in Lincoln under the watchful eye of Cammy Prichard and Richard Marshall. Eventually she applied to the Law Society to take a Law Practice course and this led to two years at Nottingham Trent. She found the court work section of the work easy because she had experienced it in London. At the end of the two years Diane applied to the Law Society for membership and was told that she needed to do a training contract before she could be registered.

With the help of her colleagues she threatened to take the Law Society to a judicial review and eventually was reconsidered and told if she paid her fee before Christmas she would be admitted. Consequently Diane Genders became a Solicitor on 2 January 1995 and became a partner at Andrew & Co .

### **AND NOW : YOUR EDITOR'S FINAL COMMENTS**

As we all know too well, due to the Corona Virus threat our meeting and talk on 16 March was cancelled . Tim Tucker and Sally Harrison were going to talk to us about their fund raising cycle ride to Paris and Back and knowing Tim, it would have been a hoot !

We were also sorry to be told that the funeral of our dear friend and Fellow Rotarian Peter Wright , to be held at the Cathedral on Monday 23 March was cancelled and only family were allowed to attend the cremation . A memorial service is promised.

So here we are, under house arrest! Most of our members (including Audrey and myself) are considered to be more vulnerable to the virus given our advancing years and it is frustrating not being able to physically help our friends in the community. Now it is their turn to help some of us. It is good to see that the four Rotary Clubs are getting together to see what we can do for the community, particularly with cash donations to the charities .

We now find ourselves depending on our technology. I never thought that someone as useless as me on the computer could take part in a District Council meeting and our Club Council meeting on line !

Having experienced these two events I can see that we need to consider how we present ourselves. There are several do's and don'ts I wish to raise. The first has to be don't eat while you are facing the camera – it's not pretty ! Clearly removing your false teeth or hearing aid should only be done out of view.

Finding the right height to sit in front of your computer or tablet is important. The sight of those who enjoy less hair than some of us, sitting too low, can be distracting to view , particularly when there is a reflection from a fluorescent light adding to the shine. Lighting is important and I have a particular problem, as Environment Officer I am saving the planet by having low energy lights but the sexy pink glow they present is more reminiscent of a house of ill repute than an Architect's study. (so I am informed).

Bless you all and please stay safe. **PDG Peter**                      **Page 9**

