

MAY BULLETIN 2024 , THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN

PRESIDENT JOHN CAWDELL

INNER WHEEL CHARTER LUNCH, HEMSWELL 2nd MAY

As usual, those members of our Club who are partners of members of Lincoln Inner Wheel were invited to attend, and four of us did, plus our President John Cawdell and his wife Marcia who were official guests.

The gathering is special for us for another reason, as the Inner Wheel district did not change when we moved to 1070, there are many partners of Inner Wheel members from clubs North of the river who are known to us from those days. On this occasion it was good to meet PDG Robin Mason and Jane who were in attendance.

After the meal there were the usual speeches, including greetings from the Rotary Club of Lincoln, and cake cutting ceremony followed by entertainment by a local singer.

CLUB AGM, 13th MAY

The minutes of last year's meeting were agreed. The treasurer's report by Barry Dean suggested that fundraising may need to be enhanced. The membership fee was agreed to remain at £140. Emma Murray has agreed to be our external examiner for the coming year.

The President confirmed that he is still trying to get the Bishop to attend a meeting and hopes he will become an Honorary Member.

The six Council Members will be Bob Bellamy, Peter Manton, Martin Curtis, Malcolm Miller, Diane Genders and Lochan Manandhar. The two Club representatives on District Council will be Dennis Bambridge and David McKee (Substitutes, Patrick Forbes-Ritte and Peter Manton).

In his report, the President suggested it has been a successful year, it was good that the four Lincoln Clubs are now meeting regularly and considering projects which they can do together, Ryla being one, Lincolnshire show the next one. Members of our club attend District meetings and the District Assembly. We are now settled in our new accommodation which is good and we have enjoyed some good speakers during the year.

Reporting on Membership, Patrick Forbes-Ritte reported that we have inducted three new members this year but sadly have lost two, one through the passing of Ian Hindle, and the resignation of Jon Wilkins.

14th MAY, COLONIA CHARTER

President Marilyn Tompkins had chosen the Bomber Command Centre as the location for this year's Charter Anniversary Dinner. The location is special to her, her father is one of the names on the Wall of Names in the Peace Garden. Audrey and I were the only representatives of our Club.

In addition to the usual greetings and toasts, there was a speaker to entertain us, the District Governor of district 1220, a member of Epworth Rotary Club, Richard Vergette. (photograph). Richard is well known for cycling from Lands End to John-O-Groats when he raised £2500 for the Polio campaign. He gave an interesting talk, not all about Rotary, but finished with some inspirational thoughts which one would expect from a District Governor.



18th MAY, DISTRICT ASSEMBLY, LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY.

Four members of The Rotary Club of Lincoln agreed to attend. President Elect Dennis Bambridge, Secretary David McKee, Foundation Representative Malcolm Miller and myself. Dennis and Malcolm both made their own way to Loughborough as they had other engagements to fulfil later. David McKee kindly picked me up and we would have been on time, save for a problem finding the University and then the right entrance.

We were just in time to hear DG David Kendrick open the proceedings. He then handed over to DGE Chris Knight who explained the District Priorities followed by PDG Ken Billington, our Compliance Officer who reminded us of our Safeguarding and Health and Safety Rules, Equality and Inclusion. Serious requirements which seem to become more serious each year. After a short break we each set off to our particular break-out sessions. As your Bulletin Editor I had opted for Public Image.

PUBLIC IMAGE BREAK-OUT

The District Public Image Lead, Chris Lambert, opened the proceedings suggesting that the main purpose of the meeting was to help us improve our Public Image. Bob Penney, the District Webmaster, said he was engaged on improving the District Website and having examined all the club websites in the District said that only 15 of them are up to date!

He said that what we should achieve is a website which is vibrant, interesting, easy to navigate and attractive to potential new members.

We should be proud of what we do and show it. Old material makes us look old and dated.

Bob emphasised the importance of using the latest logos and branding. One of the members present stood up to show his new sweater which features the all-yellow logo and some writing on the upper arms, quite striking compared with the blue sweater with an old Rotary Logo on the chest which is hanging in my wardrobe!

One surprise from Norman Bristow was the new idea originally from America where a club starts an "Impact Group". This is members who work together on projects but do not attend their Club if they do not wish to.

Although there was some good advice on presentation at the break-out session I could not help remembering the big problem that we face. The cartoon is one I drew 15 years ago. It says it all.



It's your old friend Bill on the phone
He wants to know if you'd like to join Rotary

CLUB COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 21st MAY

President John reported that the Club is in good shape. (see President's Page which follows). He welcomed Lochan back to the Club after her long trip to Nepal. Lochan promised a talk about her trip and the possibility of a project.

Dennis was unable to attend. He will meet Patrick shortly to discuss projects for the coming year.

Public Relations depends to some extent on our website which is being updated by Martin Curtis. Peter Manton will ask him to consult the District Webmaster, Bob Penney who can advise him.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE June 1st 2024

Fellow Rotarians,

June is the The Rotary Fellowship Month. Who knew that?

This is my ultimate President's Page for the Newsletter.

After taking over when the Club was in some difficulty (through no fault of the previous Presidents) we have achieved much. Membership has been strengthened. A continuity of Officers has been agreed. We have settled in our new meeting venue (with the Club plaque on the wall).

We hosted a very successful visit from Rotarians of our twinning club Neustadt an der Weinstrasse. This involved complex logistical and last minute challenges. We again had very fruitful Santa Sleigh outings. We took a team to the District Disability Games in Leicestershire. We supported Kids Out trip in the summer and Christmas gifts for the children in December. We helped restore the Dawber Gardens.

We have had a succession of quality speakers at our meetings. We supported the Canapés in the Cloisters wine tasting event. We made significant donations to charities such as Safe Families UK and the Air Ambulance Trust.

We have regularly attended the 4 Lincoln Club liaison group to encourage working together on projects such as the Lincolnshire Show involvement.

In the background our Secretary, Treasurers and Club luncheon organisers have worked tirelessly to ensure the \club functions efficiently.

I represented the Club at the Lincoln Inner Wheel Charter at Hemswell Court. This was splendid. In June I have been invited by the Station Commander ("Dutch" Holland) at RAF Waddington to the Annual Formal Reception with a flypast promised. It is a tough job being President but someone has to do it!

There are now 2 Club meetings before I pass the Presidential chain to Dennis. I wish the incoming Officers every success.

Rotary the world over,

President John Cawdell June 2024.

Editor Peter Manton