



Club Assembly 2021

President's Overview – Malcolm Britton

Ingenuity and patience have marked the club's progress during the past year. Ingenuity in meeting on-line and undertaking projects under very adverse conditions and patience in the constant changes imposed on the country throughout the year. As we start the 2021-22 year, I believe these two qualities will definitely be needed in the year ahead. We may start off with plans but we still need to be flexible and responsive to change.

My principal objectives for the year will be to:

1. Value members and retain membership

- Arrange face-face-meetings and social occasions as soon as circumstances permit. Fund-raising is important but good personal relationships are imperative to make other aims achievable.
- Reassess the operation of the club in the light of the past year to discern the way ahead and ensure the Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray is fit for purpose in the few years leading up to its centenary.
- Listen to and honour the views of all members so that the operation and activities of the Club reflect the wishes of the membership and each member has the opportunity to use her/his skills and experience to enable the Club to progress.
- Give 100% support to all members who use their initiative for the benefit of the club and the advancement of Rotary ideals.
- Continue pastoral support to members and former members as appropriate.

2. Raise the profile of our club specifically and Rotary generally

- Publicity and marketing are essential to keep the Club in the public eye and assist in recruitment. I intend to appoint a task and finish group to present practical steps towards using our website, appropriate social media and other methods that can be implemented before the end of October.
- With the emergence of the new Enterprise Club, I propose to maintain strong links with Rotary in Melton so that all four clubs can work together productively and collaboratively.

3. Put environmental considerations in the forefront of our varied activities

- Climate change, conservation and protecting the environment are very much on the agenda, not least among young people.
- I intend that we include environmental considerations in the deliberations of every committee and in every decision made whether it be in communications between members, the continuing use of online meetings in certain circumstances, broadening our recycling initiatives, undertaking lower cost local community and environmental projects possibly in collaboration with other organisations and individuals.

4. Restore healthy finances and effective organisation of the Club

- Introduce at least one new major fund-raising event to recoup some of the income lost during the restrictions imposed by Covid-19.
- Engage with District 1070, Rotary GBI and Rotary Foundation

5. Have fun

- I will encourage and support all social opportunities encompassing members and their families and friends to maintain and create friendships and continue to promote a Club in which all members feel valued and to which others are attracted.

The Rotary Foundation – Alison Blythe

The Committee plans to organise several events with the aim of raising funds towards the club's donation to Foundation.

A dinner at the Rural Restaurant in Melton College is organised for Thursday 28 October, and a concert in the Baptist Church with Rutland Big Band is being planned and hopefully will take place early in 2022. Teas at Tresillian House will continue to raise funds for various Rotary projects. Orders are being taken for crocus corms and we look forward to continuing our support of the campaign to eradicate polio.

Onwards to the future!

Community and Environment – Adrienne Holland

We are working on the assumption that, from July 2021, the restrictions that have so affected our activities in 2020/2021 will have eased. However, the situation may change at any time and we will continue to plan with the understanding that plans may have to be altered, postponed or even cancelled.

Fund raising has been a real challenge for everyone this year and will in all likelihood continue in the near future. We have therefore concentrated on events or activities that will be of the greatest advantage to our community and environment, yet at the lowest cost.

- As we will all have had both vaccinations, it is hoped that more of our fellow Rotarians will consider working with voluntary organisations such as Voluntary Action Melton to help members of the local community as much as possible.
- The teas provided to the Re-engage group will continue, although it is hoped that they will take place in Burton Lazars village hall – rather than in boxes!
- If it is possible, we would like to do the Christmas parcels again this coming year but much depends on the co-operation of the supermarkets.
- KidsOut will be different as schools try extremely hard to catch up learning time the children have lost. However, we plan to work closely with schools that cater for disadvantaged children to provide experiences that would otherwise be unavailable to them.
- We would like to join with groups nationally to hold some Litter Picking events during the year. It is important that we choose a location that is not being covered by another group, yet has a litter problem that needs to be addressed. Our first Litter Picking is on Tuesday 22nd June 2021 on the Asfordby by-pass; the plan being to repair to The Grange afterwards for refreshment.
- A Treasure Hunt will take place on a Sunday afternoon in July convenient to Atul, as we plan to finish in SOI for a delicious meal. Gill will once again devise a fun quiz and there will be a reasonable charge for the quiz and meal, and probably a raffle, so we hope that this will prove to raise some much-needed funds.
- We remain keen to hold a Duck Race but have real concerns about its viability if there is no supporting event occurring which would draw in the crowds. The committee is therefore still exploring what other organisations have planned for the August Bank holiday and whether we could take advantage of the crowds they might attract.

- Quizzes are always popular, they involved many from the community and raise very helpful funds. We will liaise with Richard Angrave and hope to organise at least two quizzes during the year.
- Another fund-raising plan is to hold a bowls evening. Malcolm will look further into this.
- It is hoped that we can have the support of enough members and their friends and families to hold a cheese and wine tasting night to raise funds for further activities.
- We will invite more speakers who will, we hope, further inspire us to do more, raise awareness, increase knowledge and combat climate change; albeit in a small, individual way.
- Tree planting remains an attractive option; we need to ensure that we plant the right trees in the right place. The same goes for crocuses. These activities may present us with increasing opportunities to work closely with the other clubs in the town.
- Members will be encouraged to choose and nurture plants that attract a range of insect and Re-wilding will be high on our agenda.

Youth Service Report - Eric Hall

The Rotary Clubs in Melton operate a joint Youth Service Committee. It is encouraging to report that the newly chartered Enterprise Club have agreed to provide their support by joining the group.

To the extent that the programme for the coming year remains to be agreed by all the clubs, the following proposals should be viewed as a plan in progress.

Competitions and Events. Being large centres of young people, it is not surprising that schools have historically provided the largest number of entrants for competitions. This is unlikely to change but we shall endeavour to widen our intake by approaching youth organisations and even individuals.

Rotary Stars. This award is aimed at recognising good citizenship in local primary school children. The scheme is well supported and will be part of our programme.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (Senior RYLA). This leadership development programme is open to young adults in the 18 – 26 age group. Achieving the maximum benefit is largely dependent on sourcing a suitable candidate. Consideration will be given to approaching local businesses to discover their enthusiasm for supporting the scheme by identifying a candidate and funding assistance.

Rotary Young RYLA. The residential course promotes initiative, personal development, self-reliance, leadership, team working and is open to students 13 – 16 years of age. The course is shorter in duration than Senior RYLA and lower in cost.

Young Chef. This has been a very popular event over the years. It is very dependent on cooperation from schools that still have their own operating kitchens. Although these facilities have reduced in number, we intend to offer the competition and repeat past successes.

Youth Speaks: A debate. The design of this event has moved from being mainly about public speaking to one now encompassing a debate. It remains to be seen whether the new style will be attractive to schools that previously supported the original format.

Young Musician. Changes within schools has meant that interest in this event has been in decline for many years but we will continue to promote it within school and by contacting teachers.

Young Designer. Close contact with the organising staff should again enable this successful event to be run.

Young Artist. Rules set by the examination bodies means it is almost impossible for a student's academic portfolio to be entered for the competition. This means that interest from schools has waned over the years but not totally stopped it.

Young Writer. Participants can choose to write fiction, non-fiction or a poem. We hope to build on the success enjoyed in 2020-21 although we may not achieve another entrant from America.

All of the above schemes will be subject to finding participating students, membership support and available funding.

Membership – Julia Joseph Hind

With the continuation of lockdown and uncertainty we face a challenging year as we are aware networking is the strongest tool for recruitment of members; but we also need to look outside to attract members. As valued members of the Club and of Rotary worldwide, helping make up the 1.2 million members in 200 countries, we have a lot to offer individually and as an organisation - in experience, communication and fellowship - with each of us being key to recruitment, retention and participation.

The outline below suggests initial ways to achieve this, following up on last year's plans and new initiatives, with us all working together as a club, and which we can develop through the year.

1. A review of our types of memberships in order to make us more accessible, with the inclusion of Associate Membership for a taster year at £20, as an attractive option. We can also explore friends and family initiatives as recommended at District Assembly. As a welcoming club this would give us all the opportunity to nurture Associate Members in order to convert them into full members; whilst they could offer support at events and build relationships and strength in the club.
2. Information for Club members about Rotary aims and objectives should be available in a simple format; with contact details and website links. This would help when asked "What do you do?" as we would all be equipped to build on the important first impression when we're out and about.
3. Work with the other Melton Club Membership Chairs on joint recruitment events as well as our own Club Membership Events and share ideas for a workable joint strategy together.
4. On a corporate level and as we had hoped last year, get packs into organisations and companies for the "Retire into Rotary" group, offering a chance to meet and join in a discussion with any courses offered when possible.
5. Work within the club to encourage and support at meetings, to raise our club profile in the area and keep us in the public eye.

Our Membership meetings will be open for anyone to attend, just email Julia for details.