



Annual General Meeting 2020

Reports from Council and Committees

President – Adrienne Holland

This year has been highly unusual, with face to face meetings “paused” due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Cancelled activities and lunchtime meetings have impacted fellowship and fundraising. Nevertheless we have adapted, and online meetings are reasonably well attended. Although these meetings are not ideal - we cannot talk over a lovely lunch at SKH or round Alison's table with coffee and biscuits – but they are a productive mixture of Rotary business and chat. And much better than nothing. It is good to catch up and check that everyone is well during self-isolation.

Prior to this strange situation, my year has had ups and downs but has been good. We have held events that have been successful and enjoyable. We have made a difference to children's lives through our ongoing Philippines project and, working with local primary schools, providing Shoeboxes. We have worked in our local community, providing afternoon tea for isolated people and Christmas parcels to people in need. Planting trees and crocuses has improved our environment and raised the profile of Rotary and Polio eradication.

A priority was for Melton clubs to work closer together. The incoming Presidents agreed the principle at PEPs, met in July and worked to establish a sustainable group. Rotary in Melton comprises senior members from each club and the chair of Satellite, meeting frequently - until lockdown. I am hopeful that working together will continue, enriching our work and raising our profile. An exciting initiative to support disadvantaged children's learning has the potential to involve all three clubs.

Coronavirus has called a temporary halt to many activities and prevented the introduction of new ones. Officers of the club and leaders of committees have worked incredibly hard to establish a varied calendar of events. That it has been paused is regrettable but we have kept in touch. I thank all members of RCMM for their continued support and good humour. Despite challenges I am confident that we will continue to be a strong and successful club.

Club Service – Malcolm Britton

The 2020 Charter marked the transition between activity and social isolation necessitated by the covid-19 virus. Sadly, many of our events were planned for the latter period of the year when they had to be cancelled or postponed, as did all our face-to-face meetings. Digital technology did manage key meetings to go ahead.

What did happen?

- CPR training on behalf of the club and Heartwize has continued by a group of members.
- An enjoyable treasure hunt around Melton culminating at the Soi Restaurant
- Classic Vehicle Festival in the centre of Melton
- Successful Quiz in the British Legion Club
- Progressed well in the District Minor Sports until coronavirus beat us in the quarter finals
- Participated in the District Quiz at Beedles Lake Restaurant with limited success.

- A much-enjoyed safari lunch
- Rotary in Melton planting crocus corms on station approach as part of End Polio Now campaign with St Mary's Church spectacularly floodlit in purple.
- Tree planting in the Play Close
- Involved in St Mary's Church for Christmas Tree Festival.
- Christmas parcels organized for those in need.
- The Santa Fun Run, adversely affected by competition from similar events locally, but enjoyed by those who took part.
- Tried out a Christmas Carol Service at Brooksby Church
- Another much enjoyed Christmas Party with excellent food, fellowship and inspirational limericks.
- Burns Night once again organized by Ben and Bob and a highlight of the year, much enjoyed by members and guests.
- Our 92nd Charter was a great success with excellent food, a beautiful setting and an inspirational speaker, Prof Anu Ojha OBE.

What could have happened had it not been for covid-19?

- An "Evening with Charles Hanson" postponed to 26 March 2021
- Blood pressure testing in Melton
- More CPR training.
- Another in the popular series of quizzes.
- A weekend in Chester
- A Foundation Supper at the Rural Catering Centre.
- The Duck Race

Community and Environmental Service – Gill Kendall

Community has had another busy and successful year thanks to everyone who supported our activities.

£50 was raised by selling jars of chutney and jam from apples and plums kindly donated by Gill and Helen.

The senior citizens contact tea party was again held at Burton Lazars village hall in October and was very well attended by approximately 40 elderly people and their drivers. They enjoyed a wonderful tea provided by the committee and Ladies in Rotary. It was a lovely event which was enjoyed by everyone.

"Rotary connects the world" was the theme of this year's Christmas tree at the Christmas Tree Festival and a beautiful tree was decorated with new decorations based on this year's theme. It was a great advert for the club.

Kate made a Christmas cake which we raffled at our Christmas Party and pupils at Great Dalby School made a delightful card for us all to sign.

This year the Lions Club decided not to participate in the Christmas food collection so we went ahead on our own. This necessitated a lot of work and planning with social workers from Leicestershire County Council and Melton Borough Council as well as Sainsbury's. It was a huge success and we handed over 106 bags of Christmas food which was then distributed to needy families. Thank you to all who helped and to Belvoir Club who joined in with the collection and the bagging up.

International Service – John Redwood

- The committee have continued their collection of spectacles, cartridges, and foreign currency. Two boxes of cartridges has been sent, money received £95.00.
- The foreign currency was taken to the District Meeting in July. Proceeds from the sale of currency, will go towards polio eradication.
- The Philippines Project is still ongoing. Estimates and plans for the toilet block have been received and the block completed.
- Two fund raisers were run for the above project. A Fashion Show at Asfordby Parish Hall by Colours, and the second a concert in the autumn at St Marys Church. These plus other funds raised and a grant, covered the cost.
- Further fund-raising projects by way of a Safari Lunch and a Quiz Night added to the funds that were used for a Shelter Box to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian
- An interim contribution of £1000 was contributed towards the eradication of Polio.

Youth Service – Alan Odom

The Youth committee has not, for various reasons, met as often as normal since July. However, the two clubs who form the joint committee have managed to create learning opportunities for the young people of Melton and its surrounding villages.

“Melton Stars” is based on the primary schools. Staff nominate a child who has shown exceptional community spirit. Rotarians who have been fortunate enough to attend the award assemblies have reported on the joy and pride of the chosen children, their families and teachers.

Young Chef showed that we have some very creative and able cooks in our area - which bodes well for wonderful local eating places in the future!

Judges of the Young Designer competition were awestruck by the talent and inventiveness of the students. They have such potential and it is a privilege to be involved - even on the periphery!

We are constantly impressed by the quality of assurance and oratory displayed by our Youth Speaks teams, who did well at District level. There are discussions about changes in the format of Youth Speaks so watch this space.....

Some competitions have inevitably been affected by the Coronavirus restrictions. The committee will reconvene as soon as possible to provide encouragement, support and incentives to students and their schools to develop good community spirit and creativity.

The Rotary Foundation – Alison Blythe

During the first half of this Rotary year, we successfully finalised the District Grant Reporting for Leicestershire Life Education project, and the building of Toilets & Washstands at Guadalupe Heights School, Tacloban. Alison visited Tacloban in January for the official handover and was given documentation for two new projects: replacing the roof of two classrooms in Sagkahan Secondary School damaged by the typhoon on 24 December 2019, and upgrading the facility to be the centre for arts and music in the area and secondly the construction of toilets and washstand at the adjoining village to Guadalupe similar to those already completed.

Fund raising for the End Polio Now campaign was in full swing until curtailed by the current coronavirus pandemic. Public buildings in Melton Mowbray were lit in purple for Polio Day in October 2019 followed by the Rotary Clubs joining together to plant crocus bulbs on the Station Approach in the Autumn. They made a good show this Spring and will continue to do so for many years to come.

A decision regarding the annual contribution paid to Foundation by the Club is currently under review. The Foundation Meal in May will not take place. The Big Band concert in November and the proposed concert in February 2021 with Uppingham School in St Mary's Church are still planned to go ahead at the time of writing.

Membership – Ian Neale

The club has 45 members, 10 of whom are in the Satellite Group; this means we have missed our target of an additional 5 members.

Retention has been mixed, one member from the Satellite leaving following non-attendance and two joining and leaving after a short period due to changes in circumstances. The lunchtime has lost three members, one moving abroad for business, one transferring to another club which meets a more convenient time, and one leaving due to internal tensions.