



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



Annual General Meeting 2022

Reports from Council and Committees

President – Malcolm Britton

During this year one of our main aims has been to restore the social benefits of meeting together after the lockdowns in 2020/21 and in this we succeeded. One of the challenges was, of necessity, combining the roles of Club Council and Club Service and I hope sufficient members will come forward to restore the latter next year.

- It has been good to get back to Sysonby Knoll Hotel at the beginning of the year and I am grateful to Steve Jeal for managing the transition from obtaining speakers on line to engaging them to attend our meetings. A minority of our members have felt more vulnerable and unable to join in and David Ward has done a sterling job in keeping in touch with those members and former members who have been ill or feeling the effects of social isolation.
- The presidential handover from me to me took place at Tresillian House and thanks are due to Alison for so kindly putting her house and garden at our disposal throughout the year. We are extremely fortunate in that respect.
- The Santa Fun Run continued with a smaller number of entrants than previously.
- We enjoyed a Christmas Dinner at Sysonby Knoll
- The Burns Night Supper was again a very memorable occasion.
- Working with schools, we sponsored Cottesmore Academy for an educational visit and extended the successful Rabbit Run to the Grove School as well as St Mary's Primary School. This is one of the joint Rotary in Melton events and more are planned later this year particularly the Platinum Jubilee dance in St Mary's Church.
- We have been represented at a number of charter dinners including the Melton Belvoir one for Melton Rotarians only as a means of getting to know each other better.
- Our own 94th charter anniversary dinner was held at Brooksby Hall and was successful except for Covid keeping the president away.
- Other activities are included elsewhere in this report.

On a personal note, I am very grateful to all colleagues who have helped me and stood in for me during my treatment and after effects.

I also acknowledge all the good work that members are undertaking for other organisations in the town and borough. Having carefully navigated the choppy waters of 2020/22, we look forward to engaging with more projects in the year ahead.

Community and Environment – Adroienne Holland & Janet Shortland

This year has been another challenging one; although the situation with Covid eased as the year wore on, many of our members remained reluctant to return completely to Rotary activities. Fund raising has also been difficult as families are suffering the effect of rising prices and increased job insecurity. Nevertheless, the Community and Environment group has continued to meet and has been involved in various activities.

- A Town Quiz was enjoyed by many and we ended the walk with a meal at SOI.
- We litter picked as a club and on another occasion two of us joined with the Wombles and members of Enterprise to litter pick as a group.
- Re-Engage teas was able to re-establish their meetings and we provided an extremely well received afternoon tea to the group.
- Since November two of us have volunteered on a weekly basis to help with the provision of food and drink to the vulnerable and needy. Since January, Janet has been doing so without my help as my hip injury has temporarily prevented my involvement.
- Several of our members have been active in volunteering to work alongside the Lions and other groups to help at Covid vaccination centres.
- Our quiz was a great success; with members and friends relishing the challenge of trying to guess as many questions correctly as possible – and enjoying the fish and chip supper!
- We have been represented on the Environment Lead group whenever possible.
- On May 11th we shall enjoy an evening which pairs excellent wines with different courses of delicious Indian food. We are expecting that this will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and a little fund raising.

We are hoping that, as Covid restrictions continue to ease, the group will continue to offer activities that will support our local community. It will be good to plan and deliver new ideas that will engage a wide variety of people. We will continue to work with a range of groups and individuals to identify and meet their various needs and to enrich our involvement with and standing in our community.

International Service – John Redwood

- The committee have continued their collection of spectacles, cartridges, and foreign currency. Two boxes of cartridges has been sent, and money received
- The foreign currency has been collected and awaits being taken to the District Meeting in July. Proceeds from the sale of currency, will go towards polio eradication.
- The Philippines Project is still ongoing. Finalization, estimates and plans for new project are awaited.
- Further funds were used for a Shelter Box to assist with the provision for forthcoming disasters
- An interim contribution was contributed towards the eradication of Polio.
- Following the Invasion of Ukraine, monies from club and individuals were raised both for Rotary Central and on a localised basis to assist the Enterprise Club in their relief and rescue efforts around the Western Ukraine Border

The Rotary Foundation – Alison Blythe

The Club has continued to support Rotary Foundation through donations and annual giving, receiving acknowledgements from District. The Polio Campaign continues also to be supported and members of the Club joined the other Rotary Clubs, particularly Aurora, in planting a further stretch of the embankment by the Council offices with purple crocus corms. This year the display was magnificent.

Unfortunately the Foundation dinner had to be postponed from 2021 to this May, and again is now postponed to November 2022. It is hoped that it will take place as scheduled, with a full restaurant raising additional funds to support our Main Charity.

I am pleased to report that the recommended annual giving for 2021/22 will be made this year.

Membership – Julia Hinde

As my first year of Membership Chair following on from Ian, with the pandemic still proving to be a challenge a new team of Steve Jeal, David Ward, Ian Neale, Ash Vadera, Steve Robinson, Kate Theobald, my thanks to them all for their support and continuing into the next year.

David has been Almoner keeping us in touch with members unable to attend and with the slow return to meetings this has been invaluable for retention and keeping us all informed of absent friends.

Together we have revised the new members protocol to streamline membership to the Club and have Inducted Ash Vadera and Pam Wiggins. Introduced a range of membership options Full, Corporate, Associate, and friends of Rotary with prices in line with Rotary international. Revised publications of Club information for next year and we will also update information for membership on the front page of the website.

We have held our first Recruitment Lunch on the 4th April, a new initiative to support recruitment, where email invitations were sent to a list people active within the community which yielded 3 attendees on the day, my thanks to those who took part to give their talk of life within Rotary. This has resulted in one candidate attending again and the other two will return after the bank holidays 2 who wish to attend another time and those who wished to be approached in the future.

This is a format we wish to repeat and a date will be scheduled into the 22-23 Calendar with a retail focus. This has proved that we are the best ambassadors for recruitment and my thanks goes to you all for your support and making them welcome if you have any names, we could approach please let us know.