

CENTENARY PRESENTATION TO THE CLUB — Centenary on 9th February 2022

1st October 2019

Firstly the Club should thank Harry Cragg who held the initial Centenary meetings and shared all the minutes etc. with our committee. Also Brian Dobinson for the helping hand that he gave me.

On your behalf I must thank Martin Ward who originally got things underway and who, together with Tim Brett, Roger Bickerton and Julie Reza have formed the Centenary Committee

The Committee has met regularly over the last year.

We started with blank sheet and have developed what we hope that you will find to be an exciting programme for this unique occasion.

We set ourselves four key objectives:

- a) A significant and visible project/gift for the benefit of the Canterbury community and visitors
- b) An event to mark the centenary
- c) An internal Rotary historical record
- d) Maximum publicity of Rotary in Canterbury

Consideration was given to joining the Centenary onto our Pentangular which is in May 2022 the same year (50 years). This was not followed because of the timing of the Pentnglr and the complexity of running the two different occasions together. It was also felt that the personal spirit of our Centenary would be “hijacked” by the demands of the Pentnglr.

So, our proposals are:

Project

From the minutes of Harry Cragg’s meetings we discussed each of the suggestions in detail and compared them against our criteria of cost, visibility and impact. We selected the drinking water fountain as it was without doubt the best fit.

Tim Brett and I visited Colin Carmicheal and Richard Moore at Cant City Council where we were given a very favourable reception. At the meeting it was confirmed that not only would the Council support the idea but that they would maintain the fountain on a daily basis in future, without Rotary’s involvement.

Since then discussions have taken place with the Council about the style of fountain and its possible location.

The Council are currently considering a position in the centre of the Longmarket (in front of the compass rose) close to St George’s Street/The Parade junction. A very prominent high profile location.

The Council have confirmed that all of their interested parties are content with the idea and that both water and drainage is on hand.

Andrew Clague has very kindly agreed to help us with this project and is in the process of preparing some outline drawings etc. for discussion with the Canterbury Council.

It is intended that there should be a stone or plaque/feature to mark the Club’s Centenary and to recognise the sponsors of the project

Funding: It is very difficult to estimate what this project may cost but a complete wild guess would be c. £25k.

The committee has agreed that the project should be cost neutral to Rotary and therefore the Club would have to commit to finding a sponsor/s.

At this point it should be recorded that we have received a generous offer of £5,000, plus Gift Aid, from an anonymous source towards this project.

Also, Andrew is very kindly giving his time FOC up until we settle on a design to submit for planning and after that he has agreed a fixed “much reduced” fee to navigate us right through planning and up until project completion.

Summary: In summary to this section it can be seen that this would be a high profile gift to the Canterbury community and its visitors, fulfilling the current environmental drive for providing water filling stations and giving the Club a strong and on going publicity platform.

An Event to Mark the Centenary – Our Party

This would be Rotary's 100th Birthday Party

It would be held close to the actual Centenary itself – Wednesday 9th February 2022

It is proposed that the event would take the style of a drinks and canape/buffet reception followed by a seated light popular concert.

Bob Anderson has very kindly agreed to make approaches to suitable people to try to organise the concert on our behalf.

It is envisaged that the invitees would be members with their partners, key VIPs, centenary sponsors with their partners, Rotary widows, certain past members and their partners.

Funding: A Centenary fund is being saved up to support this event but it is anticipated that that will be insufficient to cover the full cost. It is proposed that the party will be chargeable, but of course this would take the place of the weekly meeting and not an additional event.

Guest Evening – A 1922 Dinner Evening

A black tie dinner evening with a difference

This would be planned for 29th March 2022, the fifth Tuesday in the month and the evening would be for members and their partners, guests, friends of Rotary etc.

In addition to the dinner there would be a stage show depicting life in Canterbury in 1922. Peter Hermitage has kindly agreed to organise and direct the show.

Funding: The evening would be fully self-funding as with a normal guest night.

Historical Record

The committee felt that the production of a brochure to mark the Centenary would be expensive and of little interest to anyone other than members who would read it once.

It is proposed that on this occasion recollections of certain senior Rotarians are collected and made available in a pamphlet for members to enjoy in both written form and also on the website electronically.

The cost of this would be minimal and would capture a period of Rotary that is part of the Centenary.

Summary

In summary I am today asking the Club for their agreement to these proposals. If there are areas that you are not content with, the committee can take these back and work on them.

We consider that we have satisfactorily has addressed the four key objectives:

The drinking water fountain will be a suitable gift to the Canterbury community and visitors and provide us with a strong publicity opportunity.

The Centenary Event, our party will mark the occasion on or near to the day when this Club was formed 100 years ago. Another strong publicity opportunity but a time for us to enjoy the moment with guests and friends.

The 1922 Dinner Evening, a look back to the time when the Club was conceived. An opportunity for entertainment and again more publicity.

Lastly the historical record of Rotary past, compiled from recollections of some of our senior members.

If you confirm today that you are content with the plans then the preparations will proceed and we will need to co-opt more members of the committee and work will start tomorrow.

Thank you.