

Past President Jim Clifton PHF 1923 - 2010

In the spring of 1974 I had a visit from Bill Preston a neighbour and business friend from the textile industry. He asked me if I had heard about a Rotary Club that was about to be formed in Bingham and might I be interested. I said yes and I would like further information. Over the next 12 months meetings took place and a "Mentor" from West Bridgford Rotary Club attended. It was at these meetings I met Jim Clifton. Jim at that time was Engineer and Surveyor at Bingham R.D.C. He later became Chief Technical Officer at Rushcliffe R.B.C. When it came to select our first president Jim was a natural and he presided over the Presentation of our Club Charter on 20th January 1975.

There are now four active members left – Tim Hadrill, Tommy Cheung, Jason Beeson and myself. There are two Honary Members – George Jamieson and Eric Dix. Jim worked very hard for the Club and in the District he was well respected. In 1989 he helped in the formation of a new Club the "Vale of Belvoir". In recognition of all the service he received a Paul Harris Fellowship. The first in our Club.

Over the years Jim and Norah became good friends with Veronica and I and they joined us in my first year as President in 1981 at the Scarborough Conference. There was a very amusing incident on the Sunday after the Church Service and before we left for home, Jim said we must have coffee at the Grand Hotel. He said, "I was there years ago and the service is fantastic. The coffee is served in beautiful china and silver coffee pots". We arrived there and were asked, "Have you come for the Bingo". Coffee is served in plastic cups. The Hotel had been taken over by Butlins.

Jim and I loved golf. We were members of Radcliffe-on-Trent Golf Club as was Alan Gaskell another founder member and we were to play early on Friday morning before work.

Jim was always proud of his new cars and one day after our game there was a note on the windscreen, which said "I have hit your bonnet with my drive. My name is X and my telephone number is Y". There was the mark of a golf ball on Jim's new bonnet. Jim telephoned the guy who said "Write to me and send a copy to the club secretary". Jim said why. He said if the Club had built the car park somewhere else, he would not have hit the car. The guy was in the Insurance business and do you know the claim was never settled.

The four of us went to various golf courses over the years including Gatehouse of Fleet, Skegness, York etc. The girls went shopping and Jim and I played golf. Jim was asked by the golf Club if he would look at the drainage of the course, which was giving problems. He did as the result is there now the course is seldom if ever closed except in really extreme conditions. He did a wonderful job and was recognized with a year's free subscription.

Jim's other interest was Roman History and he gave many talks over the years.

After retirement Jim joined the committee of the Cheshire Home in West Bridgford. He later became Chairman.

Sadly then he had a major stroke and about the same time Norah died. A terrible time.

Over the past few years he has been confined to his house supervised by 24-hour carers and backed up by his daughter Pamela who has been a real Saint. He was able to attend the Club about 2/3 times a year when I was pleased to bring him. He came for the Xmas lunch and 100 Club Draw.

He was admitted to hospital two weeks ago with suspected pneumonia and died last Friday 26th March. When I spoke to Pamela I said he was a wonderful man. She said "the best". You could no argue with that.

"Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen".

M.W.Grimshaw