

ROTARY PROFILE

Find out why our volunteers give up their time to help transform communities.



NAME: JULIA METTLER

ROTARY CLUB: BAILGATE LINCOLN

OCCUPATION: PHD STUDENT IN ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU JOIN ROTARY?

I was invited to join Rotary in 2022 at the age of 23 after meeting the then president-elect at the Lincolnshire Show. I had been made aware of the existence of Rotary, thanks to a plaque at a hotel in the Netherlands. I became interested in joining Rotary at the tender age of 16, but failed to find a way to join the organisation when I lived in the Netherlands. My vast background of volunteering (bird sanctuary, Guide Dogs for the Blind, tennis lessons) and running a bi-annual guide dog charity event at the University of Lincoln, further increased my interest in joining Rotary and meeting like-minded people locally.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR ROTARY JOURNEY SO FAR?

My most recent highlight would be appointment as Vice-President of the Rotary Club of Bailgate Lincoln. Another highlight was helping out at the lost and found Rotary tent, as well as being a timekeeper for the judges, at the Lincolnshire Show. This has been a very positive and fulfilling experience for me.

WHAT COULD ROTARY DO TO GROW WITH A YOUNGER AUDIENCE?

We must be visible, and we must be more active in our local community by focusing on what we can do for our young people. For example, the Rotary club recently helped a 25-year-old, up-and-coming artist to afford materials so they could

attend their first exhibition - a pivotal moment in their future career. We need to have a stronger presence with more use of social media, especially in the use of TikTok as it is the preferred media for the younger demographic (30 and under). In addition, we need to visibly demonstrate value for money for that younger demographic. Bailgate Lincoln has implemented a policy allowing members to join our meetings later and so avoid the cost of the meal if we wish. This could be a crucial factor for attracting younger members. Meetings

should be timed and planned to enable them to fit comfortably, not only into the daily routine of working people, but also allowing those potential members with a family to join in as well. We need to show the younger audience not only that we are diverse and proud of it, but also that we can offer them the chance to develop important personal skills. I think we need to have far greater contact with local universities and colleges. We also need to have a presence at fairs tailored to the younger audience such as freshers' fairs or have a stall within a college or university.

WHICH THREE CELEBRITIES WOULD YOU INVITE FOR DINNER AND WHY?

That is a tough one! Jason Kingsley, CEO of the video game company Rebellion, Mary Temple Grandin, as I would love to hear about her research but mostly how she overcame the hardships in her field, and animal behaviour, and a Lincoln celebrity, Drag Queen Velma Vile. ●



CONTACT US ➔

If you have a story to tell and would like to be featured in *Rotary Profile*, email: editor@rotarygbi.org