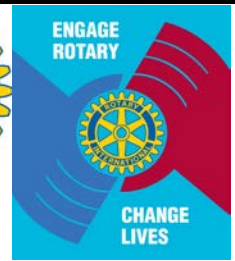




# The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury



District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

President John Hansford

JULY 2013



## Past President Ian Rodrick's Valedictory presentation.

I have had the privilege of sitting at this top table for some years now, as secretary and in the Presidential chair for the last year. The position offers an unrivalled panoramic view of the room and the **personalities** in it, and it is with this in mind that I choose my text for this talk.

A biblical text which I remember from childhood came to mind and can be found in the Old Testament – in Genesis Chapter 27: v 11  
**“Behold Esau my brother is a hairy man and I am a smooth man”**

I was going to go through the Rotary card at this stage, starting with Anthistle and Bennett – smooth – down to Wolstencroft and Wiltshire – It speaks for itself

It can often be useful to classify, categorise and put people in pigeon-holes.

When I was working we did it all the time –

Those who attended for health screening and those who didn't

Those families whose children had not been vaccinated and those who had been.

There were those patients who you enjoyed seeing (the vast majority) and those who gave you a sinking feeling when their names appeared on the appointment list

In retirement we must all have our own lists:-

Rotarians and non Rotarians

Those who get their daily culture by listening to the Archers and those who don't.

I'm sure you remember from the story in Genesis that Jacob and Esau were the twin sons of Isaac and Rebecca. Esau the firstborn was red and body was like a hairy garment - he became a man of the fields, of open country – a hunter gatherer Jacob the second born was born grasping Esau's heel – in fact Jacob in Hebrew means “heel catcher” – he was a plain man, dwelling in the tents – quiet, introspective – a thinker and planner Hairy men and smooth men!

In the Biblical story these differences led to problems, rivalry and in-fighting. In fact Jacob cheated Esau out of his birthright and had to flee the country when his brother threatened to kill him. Nothing changes, does it?

We are a large club, with different personalities, peculiarities and preferences – some of us are gung ho and always “up for it” whereas others like to take their time, look at the alternatives and the possible consequences of anything proposed.

Unlike the famous story however this is not a divisive thing but a major strength in the club. It is good to be able to approach issues from different sides and consider options. We have heard different views expressed in Council this year, but we have had sensible discussions and the majority consensus view has always prevailed, and been accepted by everybody.

This, of course, is because that unlike the biblical twins we are not rivals but share common aims:- We all want to do our bit to make a difference in the community and the wider world and to have fellowship in doing it.

And in this we are bound together by the ethos of Rotary Foundation – the glue that holds us together. That’s what Rotary is about.

I would like to thank council for their hard work, for the good humoured banter during meetings and the business like way in which our discussions have taken place. We could not have had a successful year without you – thank you all. I have visited most committees several times during the year and have been impressed by the hard work they have put in and by the atmosphere at the meetings.

Judith, the DG, Emailed me a few weeks ago to say that she was preparing her handover speech and could I tell her how successful we had been during the year and how much we had raised. I think I may have blotted my copy-book by replying that I didn’t measure success in terms of money. Never-the-less as a result of some super events I am told by the treasurer that **we** have raised £31,500.

I can’t mention all of our activities but some of the highlights for me have been:-

Children singing from children – I have attended these concerts every year and thoroughly enjoyed them – but being President and sitting at the front gave a totally new perspective. Liz and I felt that we were right there among the youngsters and could feel the huge enjoyment they had in taking part. On occasions we got so involved that we both almost forgot that there was an audience behind us, until the explosion of applause that blasted over us at the end of each song. Just as satisfying was talking to the teachers who said how grateful they were to Rotary for staging the event.

The street organ collection – Michael Banks and his committee really challenged us this year with 5 collecting days but we coped with it, even enjoyed it in a mildly masochistic way, and raised a terrific record sum of £6965, half of which went to Katherine House. Perhaps it’s wrong to mention individuals, but every time I was there Andrew Fairbairn seemed to be winding away on the organ – his effort was truly of marathon proportions, and I would like to record my thanks to him.

Young Musician seems to go from strength to strength and has been a model for other clubs to follow – I know that the DG was most impressed and the feedback from the contestants, parents and music teachers and the headmaster of Sibford School, was very positive. How sad that the wheels seem to have come off this event at regional level.

Young musician is, of course a community event – not designed as a fund raiser, but it was terrific.

Others include Young Chef – we had a successful evening there, enjoying the hospitality at the college and our candidate succeeded at district level –

Mock interviews at both BGN and the Warriner – I had letters of appreciation from both schools – we also had Party for the Blind and Stroke Awareness day.

Also in the community we have been involved in the successful relaunch of the **Tour de Trigs**, which for a variety of reasons had not taken place for 2 years. I think we helped to give the event some credibility and I hope it can now go from strength to strength. All of these helped to keep the Rotary name in the public eye.

Another landmark this year was the chartering of our **Interact Club**. The youngsters from BGN are a super lot and the Clubs birth largely resulted from the persistence of Ian Anthistle who has worked tirelessly and continues to attend their meetings which take place before school at 8.30 in the morning!! I’d like to thank him and also my predecessor John Bennett for their hard work.

There have been civic events During the year I represented the Club at the Battle of Britain day, and Remembrance day parades - I was most impressed by the number of schools and youth organisations present at both of these. The youngsters behaved impeccably and were a great credit to their parents.

Liz and I attended contact in Olten a few weeks ago with the Banbury contingent. It was truly a super weekend and the spirit of cooperation and friendship was obvious. We enjoyed a few days in a lakeside Hotel near Zurich before coming

home and John Hansford's organisation management of the trip was faultless. I would encourage anyone who hasn't been to a contact weekend to give it a try

We will be hosting our continental friends next year – I know that plans are well advanced and I hope that we give John our full support and make it a success.

Again, on a social front I would like to thank all these who came along to my **Lunch at Tudor Hall School** in March. Liz and I thoroughly enjoyed the day and I hope that you did too.

It would be wrong to have a resume of the year without mentioning Alan Wolstencroft's achievement in gaining a "Service Above Self Award". It's a fantastic achievement, unprecedented in this club, and I congratulate him and wish him well with his work in Africa.

There have been sadness's this year with death of Roy Watkins – after a titanic struggle – and most recently the passing of Fred Timms. We also remember Lynn Woodruff who sadly died last Autumn, and Pauline Crump whose funeral was last July. They are all missed and we are the richer for having known them.

I think our Club is in good health but must mention 2 things that I'm sure will be addressed next year.

The first is membership. Our numbers are still on the right side of 70 but the average age of our members has increased again. The average was 58 in 1985, 62 in 1995, was 66 when I was secretary and now is 70.5. This may be because of increasing longevity or the fact that we now have an evening club which may attract the younger, working members.

We had a first class presentation on membership a few weeks ago and the message was that, as individuals it is up to us to do something about it by just asking and talking about Rotary to friends and contacts.

The second is our 5th Friday evening meetings the last of which was attended by just 15 members. We had a super evening, but the numbers attending evening meetings have been falling for years to the extent that I wonder if they should be official meetings counting for attendance, rather than social evenings. I am pleased to leave that to my successor to sort out.

Any good organisation is run by the secretary – I was secretary for 3 years but it wasn't until I saw David Sullivan perform that I realised how bad I had been at the job. The man seems to have the memory of an elephant combined with a gentle touch with one hand and an iron fist on the other side, that has to be felt to be believed.

He has kept me on the straight and narrow all year – David, thank you for everything.

We were desperate to find a treasurer last summer and Bernard stepped forward for the second time to manage our accounts – Bernard thank you

There are others that I should mention individually – forgive me if I don't because I'm bound to miss someone out! Suffice to say that I have been amazed at how members have appeared, often without prompting, and volunteered when jobs have to be done – that's what Rotary is all about - thank you all.

At the beginning of the year I reminded you about the RI President's theme for the year – it was "Peace through Service"

His meaning of Peace was not the absence of conflict, but the peace that results from meeting the needs of others. The need for clean water, adequate sanitation, health care and education.

This is what Foundation and our movement is about – I am delighted that once again we have achieved our Foundation target of \$100 per member and in addition have contributed an extra £1000 to Polio eradication.

We have to carry on this campaign which is so close to success, and as I said at the beginning of the year, I'm sure you agree that it would be dreadful if we were remembered by future generations as the movement who **nearly** got rid of Polio.

Thank you Foundation committee and members who have contributed.

Hairy men and smooth men – and ladies – thank you for allowing me the privilege of being President of this Club – thank you for the fun and fellowship, and I ask you to regroup for 2013/14 and give John Hansford the same support next year.



## Supported by Rotary Clubs in the UK and Africa

Registered Charity 1092028

### **“making a real difference in Sierra Leone” Alan Wolstencroft.**

#### **Shepherd & Woodward, Oxford**

The donation from Shepherd & Woodward is in fact a bit like winning the jackpot as far as donations go. There are literally box loads of skirts, pullovers, cardigans, blazers, sweatshirts, fleeces, polo shirts, rugby shirts, sports shirts, sports singlets & shorts, training tops and skorts!!

Once again Adrian, **MANY, MANY THANKS**

For the last 4 years Storage Base has given me a free storage unit to store goods that have been waiting to be shipped to Sierra Leone. The Shepherd & Woodward donation meant that the current room was not large enough for me to store and re-sort the consignment. Storage Base have very kindly given me another unit for 4 weeks FOC to enable me to sort and re-box everything.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to Ben, Keith, Sarah & Ali for their continued support and the hot chocolate!!

Encase packaging in Banbury, the UK's premier independent corrugated manufacturer, has been donating boxes to me for transportation of goods to Freetown. I would like to thank Kevin Bowyer and Encase for their valuable support of my work.

I've spent another 5 hours today at **Storage Base** sorting/re-boxing the **Shepherd & Woodward** donation and so far have filled 40 **Encase** boxes.

#### **Christian Hope School – latest news**

Progress with the staff toilets is good, I hope to hear news about the completion in a few days time

### **You can take the man out of Africa BUT you can't take Africa out of the man.**

#### **Bishop Loveday School, Banbury**

The school recently took part in “Book Week” when the children can go dressed as their favourite book character and the children were asked to make a donation towards Christian Hope School in Sierra Leone. The event raised a grand total of **£150**. The money will be used to help create a library area in one of the classrooms at Christian Hope - it is really so appropriate that funds from “Book Week” are supporting this project.

This academic year the school have so far raised **£553** in support of projects at Christian Hope School. On behalf of everyone at Christian Hope School I would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all the pupils, parents and staff for their donations and for their continued support in helping me to **“make a real difference”**. I'm looking forward to giving everyone an update in assembly tomorrow.

#### **The container has arrived at the airport**

This week Westminster transported the container from the docks to the airport and under the supervision of Mick Oxlade the goods were unloaded and my 100 boxes of donated goods will now be distributed. The **REALLY** good news is that the empty 20 foot container was taken to Calvary Community School for them to use as a secure storage facility freeing up a classroom that is currently being used for that purpose. I spoke to a very excited and grateful Pastor Mark on Thursday evening who was over the moon with the news about the donation of the container.

I would like to express my **HUGE** sincere thanks to **Westminster Group PLC** for this fantastic donation and for all their continued support.

More news and photos in the next issue.....

Today I have received an e-mail from Pastor Mark

“Alan, many thanks for all the goods AND the container, we are **SO** happy. I will assist Fayah in transporting his items to Waterloo & Christian Hope School. May the good Lord reward you and all your supporters for remembering us in Lungi”.

Blessings, Mark.

## **Membership - 7th June 2013** John Smith - Phil Cavill

### **John - Background**

For as long as some of us can remember our Club has vied with High Wycombe to be the largest in Rotary District 1090. During all of that time membership has stayed around the 70 to 75 mark. With the recent sad loss of Roy Watkins and Fred Timms, and the induction of Gilbert Csecs, our current membership is 71.

In Rotary we all enjoy supporting our local community and helping others less fortunate than ourselves internationally, it's why we are Rotarians. As you know, our club has a very busy annual calendar of events, it needs to maintain a large membership to manage our programme of projects and support the social calendar. So the objective we have agreed is to try to retain membership at between 70 to 75 so that the workload can be shared amongst a good number of **active** Rotarians.

The purpose of today's presentation is to talk about how we propose to achieve our membership goals, and communicate the processes that are in place for recruiting new members.

Firstly, let's talk about the process,

**Membership is by invitation only** and the underlying basic principle, is that all new members must be adults of any race, colour or gender. People of good character, with a good business, professional or community reputation.

**They should have their place of work or residence located within the Banbury locality or surrounding area.**

**Any member, or former club may propose a prospective member**, who should be invited to several meetings as a guest, to experience Rotary fellowship. It is normal for the host member to pay for their guests lunch on the first visit but for the guest to pay themselves thereafter.

**If an interest in membership is shown, the host should inform the secretary who will instruct the information sub committee**, Chaired by Tony Brace, to meet the candidate and the proposer.

This meeting is to inform the candidate about Rotary, our club and gain an understanding of their expectations. The responsibilities of membership, attendance and cost will be explained as will the benefits and privileges of being a Rotarian.

**Assuming the candidate likes us and we like them, a proposal form will be completed.** At this stage it should be explained this does not commit the candidate, they may withdraw at any time, nor does it commit the club to accept them. The completed proposal form is then passed to the membership committee who will make a recommendation on the applicants suitability.

**If at this stage candidates still wish to continue their application for membership**, a classification will be assigned and the Secretary will issue a 7 day letter to every member. This informs members of the application, gives the candidates personal details, business address, qualifications for membership and their classification. Any member may object to the application stating the reasons in writing to the Secretary.

**Electing a new member requires a quorum of two thirds of council members** and the application will be discussed at the next available meeting. All reports will be considered and Councils decision is final.

**Induction of a member is just the beginning for a new Rotarian**, the sponsor or mentor has a special responsibility to ensure the successful candidate is properly integrated into the club and wider Rotary at large. Involvement in activities and committees of relevant interest that reflect their skills and expertise is key, as is putting "Service above Self" and developing fellowship and friendships with other members.

So that's the process, now how do the Rotary Club of Banbury recruit new members.

**Both Council's and the Membership Committee's view is that the quality of new members is far more important than the quantity**, so personal recommendation from existing members is the preferred method of recruitment.

In that way we can be reasonably confident that the person they are putting forward will get involved with the club, support events and carry out their respective duties rather than just appear at lunchtime meetings.

Of course individuals may also approach the club directly electronically or in writing if they have seen or read positive comments about any of our events. Or as suggested earlier Rotarians moving into the Banbury area are sometimes recommended by their previous clubs.

**So fellow Rotarians we need your help** to achieve our membership target of 70 -75 by inviting at least one person to one of our meetings in the next Rotary year.

### **Phil**

How do we do that?

**Well you need to think about what it is that has made you a lifetime Rotarian** and for every one of us it's probably different.

Malcolm Douglas was membership chair person when I joined, I only went into Henry's to buy a suit and came out thinking about joining Rotary.

**For me, I was grateful for my good fortune and having just retired** wanted to get to know my local community better, give something back and help others less fortunate than myself.

**When I see the massed choirs at Children Singing for Children** concerts proudly singing the “World in Union” it brings a lump into my throat.....for me that’s Rotary!

**When I hear how much people enjoy the Party for the Blind** events driving them home..... that’s Rotary as well!

**When I see Shelterbox tents** on television news after an earthquake in Haiti or Alan Wolstencroft receiving an award for his exceptional work in Sierra Leone at District Conference.....that’s Rotary!

**When I heard that we were the only non-government organisation** invited along with the founding 11 countries to draft the founding charter for the United Nations in 1945.....that’s Rotary!

**So fellow Rotarians you have to think about what is it that makes you feel good about Rotary** and communicate that to friends, acquaintances and relatives that may be of a similar ilk to yourself and ask them along to a meeting.

**The new R.I. President, Ron Burton, made a speech at the District Governors Assembly in San Diego where he focused on two key points Future Vision and Membership.** He said, “I really believe that this is an incredibly exciting time to be a Rotarian — probably the most exciting time since Rotary was founded, more than 107 years ago. We’re closing in on our great goal of a polio-free world. We’re working harder than ever, with more partners than ever, to be sure that we keep that Rotary promise. And, while we focus on finishing that job, we’re also looking ahead — past polio, to a future where we will dream bigger, achieve more, and make a more lasting difference. That’s why our Rotary Foundation has chosen to launch Future Vision — to be sure that we are doing absolutely the most we can, with every resource we have.”

**The new R.I. President concluded his acceptance speech by saying**

**“Being a Rotarian, well, it’s like a lot of things in life** — it is what you make of it. But Rotary isn’t like anything else in our lives. Every day that we are a part of Rotary, we have a choice to make: whether we’re going to take full advantage of the opportunities that are open to us as Rotarians, or whether we’re going to let those opportunities pass us by. Because Rotary, for each of us, is nothing more than potential: the incredible potential to change lives, to help others, to be better people ourselves. And what we do with that potential — what we do with the opportunities that Rotary offers

— that’s a decision that’s up to each one of us.”

**“Engage Rotary - Change Lives”, its a great vision.** It’s every Rotarians job to recruit new members.

Help us to keep the Rotary Club of Banbury a vibrant and fun service club.

**As the new R.I. President said, “you just have to ask”. Ask one person to meeting in the next 12 months!** If we get 30, 40 or even 50 along I am sure we can recruit 5 from that number.

## **Speaker Report.**

### **ICE TRACKS EXPEDITIONS**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June we were entertained by two delightful and attractive young ladies who run Ice Tracks Expeditions – a sort of tour operator specialising initially in tours to Antarctica and latterly also to the Arctic. Carolina Mantella, in spite of her young years has undertaken more than 100 voyages to those two polar regions. Her presentation was quite dramatic and spectacular bringing to life images of incredible colour and variety in the coldest driest and windiest continent. She showed us photos of amazing birds and animals with huge seals whales and penguins and penguins and the enormous albatross with its 10 foot wingspan. The tours normally depart from Ushuaia on the southern tip of Argentina or from the Falklands and last 10 to 18 days. In recognition of the age profile of the club she pointed out that one of her most frequent customers is 84 years old, but did not say whether she was one of the enthusiasts who insisted on their dip in the Antarctic Ocean, nor whether she was one who took every opportunity to camp ashore. BRRRRRR!!

The Arctic has very different wild life – no penguins but instead walrus, muskox, polar bears and a huge variety of flora plus an indigenous people who have 50 different words for snow.

A thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining talk from two young ladies who whilst running a commercial enterprise made no attempt at any hard sell.

The vote of thanks was given by Rtn Michael Banks

## **Committee Reports.**

### **Community and Vocational.**

The “Help for Hero’s” concert with Banbury Symphony Orchestra will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary’s Church.

See John Bennett for tickets. The next event is the Broughton Castle Cycle Festival where we will have a stall.

The Christmas Organ collections will again take place with 50% being raised for Katharine House Hospice the remainder for Rotary Charities.

## **Foundation.**

**The Foundation targets have been met this year with £4540 to Foundation and a further £1000. to Polio.**

We are attending The Old Ford Rally at Gaydon with a number of fund raising ideas..

Stephens Summer Steaming is to be held on 11th. August at Marston St Lawrence.

The Family Festival of Christmas Music is to be held on 14<sup>th</sup>. December. Other items to include Donations for Christmas cards and the Frugal Lunch.

## **Sports & Entertainment.:-**

The Bigwood Trophy is to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

**Youth Opportunities.** Youth Exchange, a candidate has been interviewed and submitted to the District organiser. RYLA, Calvert Trust It is hoped to support two students from Frank Wise school again next year. School interviews are on schedule. Children Singing for Children, The committee are asking for suggestions for possible recipients for the proceeds from this event.

## **Fellowship and House.**

**As chairman of the Fellowship & House Committee I thought that I would put a note in the Bulletin so that all club members, especially the newer ones, can have the opportunity of understanding what goes on.**

It is expected that members will attend the Friday lunchtime meetings unless they apologise by 5pm on the previous Wednesday as it is that evening I pass the numbers on to the caterers to give them a chance to do the shopping on Thursdays. My contact details are in the directory and at the end of this note. If apologies are not received in time members will receive an envelope asking for the cost of the meal prepared but not taken. This is not a fine, merely a reimbursement of the meal cost the club would otherwise have to pay. If I am going to be away members will be advised who to contact instead.

**The rotas that you see for table duties etc. will still be prepared by Rtn Stan Crump. It is each members own responsibility to arrange for someone else to stand in for them if they are unable to fulfil the duty allocated to them.**

**Rtn Tony Wiltshire is in charge of the books for attendance and visitors/guests as he pulls together the statistical figures for Council which you all see. I take this opportunity to thank both of them for their support. I look after the apologies book which you can fill in ahead of time to save having to ring or e mail me.**

**When you are on the rota for Fellowship & House Member-in-charge, you are officially relieved from the table duty and cash desk rotas, although on the days when you are the nominated member in charge you are, amongst other duties, responsible for ensuring that the table duties are properly covered which may in fact involve you in helping wait at table. Fellowship may also come your way from time to time. Because of the overall responsibility of the F & H Member in charge I have set out all Friday duties below.**

## **Fellowship and House Committee Member in Charge:**

The Member in Charge is responsible for ensuring that all equipment is set up and that all duties are carried out.

- a) Endeavour to arrive at mid-day.
- b) Place on appropriate tables the following items, to be found in the "Rotary Cupboard" (key on board behind the bar).
  - President's and Speaker's reading desks.
  - The bell.
  - Unveil the Rotary wheel and banners and open the Past Presidents Board.
- c) The loudspeaker system, which is kept in the Rotary cupboard is normally set up by Rtn John Bennett or someone he nominates to stand in for him.
- d) Ensure that the Fellowship officer is present and the cash desk is manned, or appoint someone to cover.
- e) Check arrival of Rotarians on table duty and allocate duties including tables to those on Table Duty, it is important that the top table is well covered and that the President and guest speaker and any other top table guests are served first. If a member is absent, appoint a replacement from those Rotarians present.
- f) Sit near to the door, so as to be available for late arrivals, and ensure that the front lobby door is locked before the meeting and after "early leavers" have left for security reasons.

- g) When meeting closes, draw curtains over Rotary wheel and banners, all equipment, and replace tidily in the Rotary cupboard. Lock cupboard and return the key to the bar.

## **Fellowship**

- a) Endeavour to arrive no later than 12.15 pm.
- b) Ensure that ALL visitors are welcomed by the President or one of the Vice President, and give visiting Rotarians attendance cards if requested. See that all visitors sign the Visitors Book.
- c) Confirm details of ALL visitors present to the Hon. Secretary by 1.00 pm.
- d) Say Grace.

## **Cash Desk (This and the following included because of your supervisory role).**

- A. Arrive no later than 12-15 pm, earlier if possible.
- B. The current meal charge being £11 a few £1coins and £5 notes may be useful in the float. Cheques are to be made payable to Pink Peppercorn.
- C. Tick off names of members on list provided as they pay, adding names of visiting Rotarians and any other visitors and of any who are being paid for by the Club, e.g. the Speaker. Record the number of people present and number of members who have paid.
- D. Any "brown envelopes" not handed out should be put in the cash tin to be given out the following week.
- E. At one o'clock, balance total cash against number present, give cash to the caterers and pass the list to me or if I am not there I will deputise somebody to take it.

## **Table Duty**

- a) Arrive no later than 12.45 pm
- b) Service the table allocated to you by the Fellowship and House Members in charge.

**Naturally if anyone has any constructive criticism please let me know.**

Yours in Rotary fellowship

Malcolm Dibb

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E mail: [malcolmrotary@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolmrotary@btinternet.com)

**Rotarian Bob Thompson** is presently in the chair of the Cherwell Masonic Lodge, Banbury's oldest of all the Lodges; founded in 1852.

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September the annual Ladies Festival Dinner Dance will be held at the Wroxton House Hotel and Rotarian Graham Anker, who is involved in organising the event, wonders if any Rotarians would like to join Bob and Sue at what should be a very happy occasion.

A black tie event in lovely surroundings and with live music.

Tickets at £50 a head are available from Graham. Cheques payable to 'Cherwell Lodge Festival Account'.

**HON. SECRETARY – Paul Gardiner**, 7 The Rydes, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4EJ

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**After 6 years as Editor it is time for a change.** Thank you all for your contributions, which make the editors job so much easier. I trust you will give the same support to David Sullivan and make his task easier and even quite enjoyable. David S. is a working man unlike me so it is essential that you all help him to fulfil the task by presenting him with copy in plenty of time to meet the regular monthly deadline. Signing off Rotarian David Hitchcox.