



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury
District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415



SERVICE Above Self

President Ron Barnett

October 2010



THE ROTARY CLUB OF BANBURY

Celebrating 75 years of service

The Gaydon Motor Heritage Centre was the venue for the 75th anniversary of the Club Charter presentation. The original charter was presented in Banbury Town Hall by Rotarian Rev. W.P. Float to the first President of our club Sidney Ewins it was attended by a gathering of 160 people from Banbury and District. At our celebration dinner Past District Governor Terry Kenyon presented our President Ron Barnett with a citation commemorating the event from Rotary International President Ray Klingensmith, again the event was attended by 160 people. The evening began with an excellent dinner and a very social atmosphere backed by the playing of Geoff Smith. After the dinner it was time for the speeches.

The toast to the Rotary Club of Banbury was proposed by Past District Governor Terry Kenyon. Our current District Governor Laurie Cunningham was unable to attend. Terry reminded us of the first Rotary lunch of the proposed Rotary Club of Banbury with 19 prospective members attending a lunch costing 2 shillings and 9 pence. Four months later the Club received its charter. Soon after we entered the war years with members of the club supporting the war effort, in the Home Guard and adopting a minesweeper No. HM MMS15, also parcels of goodies were sent to needy an early forerunner of our shoe box campaigns. In 1957 we began to form our twinning with continental Rotary Club's until we now have four partners in Germany, France Switzerland and Italy. Terry congratulated our Honorary Member Ken Gibbard on his 50 years as a member of our club. After presenting the citation from Rotary International Terry proposed the toast of "The Rotary Club of Banbury".

Our President Ron Barnett then stood to respond on behalf of the Club. He thanked Past D.G. Terry for her kind words and her recognition of our club's achievements over the past years. Ron then told how our club, although many years old and with a number of active older members, kept looking forward and found new projects and fundraising events. The fact that we are able to maintain our membership is proof of the great atmosphere and friendliness within the club. This is a time when many service clubs are having difficulty in recruiting new members. It is our members that make us such a success, and that if we continue to hold fast to our commitment to fellowship and particularly "Service above self" this Club will grow even stronger and more successful for at least another 75 years.

Next was the Toast to our guests this was given by 1st Vice President John Bennett. He welcomed the Chairman of Cherwell District Council George Parish, who although he is not a Rotarian he had been presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his work in the community. He also welcomed Banbury Town Mayor Colin Clarke, the members from our daughter clubs, representatives from two of our contact clubs Biella and Olten, David Fuller President of Brackley Rotary Club, the President of Banbury Inner Wheel Club Linda Clarke and the other members of service clubs in Banbury who attended.

The response was given by Linda Clarke President of the Banbury Inner Wheel club. Linda congratulated the Banbury Rotary Club on its many years of service to the community and spoke of the special relationship of Inner Wheel and Rotary past, present and future.

The guest speaker for the evening was Nigel Rees who has presented "Quote Unquote" for the BBC on Radio 4 for 35 years. He gave a humorous and interesting talk incorporating many of the unusual quotes he has gathered over the many years on the programme. He kept the audience laughing and enjoying the various reminiscences and quotes, he was an excellent choice to end what was a very exceptional evening.

The final toast was given by our President Ron Barnett "Rotary and Peace the World Over." This report would not be complete without mentioning our Master of Ceremonies, Rotarian Jonathan Meredith who ensured the evening ran smoothly, and was interspersed with his usual wit and humour.



FROM THE PRESIDENTS PAD



September 2010

It hardly seems possible that we are already a quarter of the way through the year, and even more unbelievable that things just seem months tick by.

This month with our 75th Charter Dinner just has to be the highlight of the year. The final Rotary Meeting in August seemed such a warm friendly atmosphere during the meeting, even more so than usual. Perhaps it was the news that the Club had just won the annual inter-service club Bigwood Golf Trophy for the sixth year running that did it. Congratulations to Malcolm Nutt and the team. A very interesting talk from Helen Robins about the Banbury Health Centre. Thanks you Andrew for hosting Helen. August Bank Holiday Monday was the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell annual Beer Festival at Banbury Rugby Club - an extremely well organised event and a great afternoon's entertainment for young and old alike.

Very many congratulations to the Banbury Cherwell Club for a brilliant event. Friday 3rd September. Rotary Meeting - A great atmosphere at the Club meeting again today. Our guest speaker was District 1090 Governor Laurie Cunningham, it was good to hear what is happening at national and international level, particularly how close Rotary was getting to achieving the goal of the eradication of Polio from the world. On Thursday 9th September John Bennett and I attend the District Council Meeting at

Benson. A good meeting with some really interesting presentations about projects being undertaken by some of the Clubs in District 1090.

10th September:- Rotary Meeting – Some good humoured banter at today's meeting and a welcoming warm friendly atmosphere. Our speaker was Henry Sleight, our first Brodey Bursary recipient, who gave us a very interesting talk. It really is nice to know that the Club is able to help such a great young man further his education/career. Mike Budd hosted Henry. On 15th September I attended the Youth Opportunities Meeting - A well run committee with some excellent planning being done for the Children Singing for Children Concerts in November. The apres-meeting meeting was most enjoyable.

16th September the Charter Dinner Committee - with only 1 week to go, 155 people attending and final details to be agreed, a productive and constructive meeting. Many thanks Tony Brace, Ian Rodrick, Richard Watts and Jonathan Meredith for your invaluable support. Our next Rotary meeting on the 17th September, another good hearted enjoyable meeting, and we were pleased to receive as our guests President John Vickers, Rtn Kevin Kiernan and Rtn Denis Straw from the Rotary Club of Rugby.

An inspiring and interesting talk by Wendy Griffiths, Headmistress of Tudor Hall School on the highlights in education. Many thanks Richard George for hosting Wendy.

Battle of Britain Parade and Service - It was a real privilege to be able to represent the Club in the Town Mayor's Parade and the Service in St. Mary's to remember such an important event in the history of our country.

It was also pleasing to see so many members of the Cherwell Club turn out to hold up the traffic to allow the President of

their mother club parade through the streets. The third Council Meeting of my year- It's such a wonderful feeling to be part of such a positive, enthusiastic and hard working team. All of our regular event's planning is well in hand and some new and exciting ideas are being brought forward for consideration.

The 24th September Rotary Meeting – Was a fellowship meeting and a chance for us all to mingle and chat amongst ourselves. For me a real treat to be able to have the opportunity to chat with so many Club members who when I'm sitting in the "chair" I don't get the opportunity to talk to. 25th September Our 75th Charter Dinner - 160 distinguished guests, friends and Rotarians gather at the Gaydon Motor Heritage Centre for what has to be the highlight of the year. It was a genuine pleasure to have so many guests from other organisations and Rotary Clubs wish to join us for our celebrations.

Immediate Past District Governor, Terry Kenyon, surprised us all when proposing the toast to the Rotary Club of Banbury when she presented us with a certificate from Ray Klingensmith the Rotary International President in recognition for our "dedication to the Object of Rotary and " our "commitment to the ideal of Service Above Self".

Other surprises were to follow when Linda Clarke, President of the Inner Wheel Club of Banbury, in responding on behalf of our

guests presented us with an engraved pen holder and pen along with a donation of £100 the charity work of Rotary Foundation. This was followed by a donation of £75 towards Life Straws from the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell, and a donation of £500 from the Rotary Club Olten (Switzerland), towards a Club project. These most wonderful gifts are very much appreciated and we extend our thanks to all those associated with them.

For me the success of the evening was due to three reasons: that each and every person present had come along to help celebrate our anniversary; that each and everyone present contributed to creating such a wonder atmosphere; and that each and everyone present had a most enjoyable evening. A huge, huge thank you to you all. 26th September was the Harvest Songs of Praise St. Mary's Church - It was an honour and delight to be invited not only to attend St. Mary's Harvest Songs of Praise but to be asked to select a hymn to be sung during the service, and it was wonderful to hear the congregation fill the church with "Morning has broken" sung to a tune written by one of Tricia's ancestors Mary MacDougall, and words in memory of my late brother-in-law, Angus More, who lived each day as a fresh new day.

I think it's going to be difficult to top September's events.

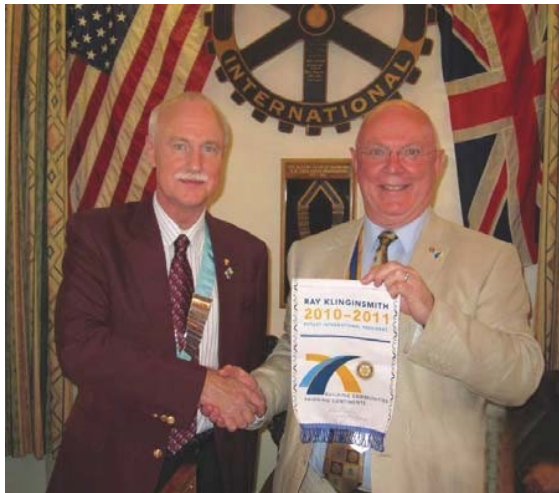
President Ron September 2010

Emergency Rapis Response Team.

Following the recent disaster in Pakistan it was felt that we needed a way of responding quickly to similar disasters. A meeting was convened with John Bennett, Andrew Fairbairn, Nigel Randall and Alan Wolstencroft to consider ways to implement future responses. It was agreed that a committee should be set up, to be chaired by the First Vice President. When a disaster occurs the committee would decide what response we should give, street collections or similar actions and to get the necessary permissions from local councils. There would be a fast track donation of £500 for immediate use in exceptional circumstances.

DISTRICT GOVERNORS VISIT.

On the third of September we welcomed our District Governor, Rotarian Laurie Cunningham. Laurie of course is Past President and a member of our local Rotary Club Banbury Cherwell.



Laurie spoke of the various themes that past R.I. Presidents had used over the years. This year's theme is meant to connect with the public as well as Rotarians, "Building Communities - Bridging Continents" and as Rotarians it is an easy way of stating what Rotary is doing. He had been to Romania with other Cherwell members to support a Habitat for Humanity project. He spoke of the support that clubs had given to Shelterbox in Haiti but now it is important to look to the long term. Habitat for Humanity are planning to build more permanent housing at a cost of only \$1,300 per house.

Haiti, Pakistan - an update

The Haiti earthquake was on 12th January 2010, the Pakistan flood in July, but the need for emergency aid has been a continuous one for two reasons:

1. The scale of the disasters precludes a quick fix in terms of basic necessities (shelter, food, medical facilities, clean water and sanitation); and
2. The numerous other events throughout the world this year which have not hit the headlines to the same extent but nevertheless have generated the need for help (floods [Kenya, Egypt, Brazil and Niger], landslide [Peru], cyclone [Fiji], earthquake [Mexico, Western China and Chile] and mudslides [Uganda and Guatemala]).

He then emphasised the need to connect with younger people with opening new Rota Kids and Interact clubs which hopefully would provide a future for Rotary. The Pakistan disaster was on our minds with many Aquabox's being sent also 30,000 Life Straws which enable people to immediately cleanse their drinking water. Thanks for Life is again happening in February, with locally Upton House involved in planting as well as our own planting. A total of around 5 million are to be planted with 25,000 already ordered in our District. There is to be a mass planting in Trafalgar Square this should also be a great boost for Rotary's image. The Polio campaign has been so successful that this year to date there has only been 13 cases in Afghanistan ,39 in Pakistan, 30 in India and only 6 in Nigeria. Rotary has now raised \$144 million towards the Gates target of \$200 million.

The other motto proposed by R.I. President is Bigger Better Bolder. Something for Rotarians and their clubs to try to attain.

A vote of thanks was given by our President Ron Barnett.



The Rotary Club of Banbury has sought to recognise this. As members will be aware, much of the response from the Club has been through supporting Shelterbox who have distributed in excess of 34,000 boxes to date in 2010. Fortunately, we obtained a Shelterbox on a 'semi-permanent' basis earlier this year for fundraising purposes and in addition to the Clubs own street collections, there have been at least 30 events during 2010 so far at which Shelterbox has been promoted by members.

Date	Event	Organiser	S/A*	Rotary Involvement
	Coffee morning	The Bell, Great Bourton	s	Attendance
5 th Feb	Assembly	Hanwell Fields School	S	Presentation
8 th Feb	Assembly	St Leonard's School	S	Presentation
9 th Feb	Assembly	St Loys School, Weedon Lois	S	Presentation
9 th Feb	Assembly	Harriers Ground School	S	Presentation
10 th Feb	Assembly	Shennington School	S	Presentation
12 th Feb	Breakfast	Bishops Carpenter School	S	Display
26 th Feb	Assembly	Kings Sutton School	S	Presentation
27 th Feb	Fete	Kings Sutton School	S	Display
5 th Mar		Sibford School	S	Display
6 th Mar	Young Musician	Rotary Club of Banbury	S	Display
27 th April	Assembly	Bure Park, Bicester	S	Presentation
22 nd May	Children's camp	Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell	S	Sleepover
25 th May	Assembly	Chacombe School	S	Presentation
29 th May	BBQ/sleepover	Rotary Club of Banbury	S	Display
30 th May	Dragon Boats	Rotary Club of Banbury	S	Display
13 th Jun	Banbury Show	Banbury Town Council	S	Display
26 th Jun	Go-kart racing	1 st Grimsbury Scouts	S	Display
3 rd July	District Camp	Scouts	S	Display
17 th July	Fete	St Mary's Church	S	Display
25 th July	Vintage Fords		S	Display
20 th Aug	Street Collection	Rotary Club of Bicester	S	Display
28 th Aug	Family Fun Day	Sunrise Multicultural Playgroup	S	Display
30 th Aug	Beer Festival	Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell	S	Display
4 th Sept	BBQ	Rotary Club of Banbury	S	Display
5 th Sept	Fete	Tadmarton Parish Council	S	Display
24 th Sept	Assembly	St Loys School, Weedon Lois	S/A	Presentation
24 th Sept	Rotary meeting	Rotary Club of Banbury	S/A	Display
25 th Sept	Cubs competition	1 st Grimsbury Scouts	S/A	Display
26 th Sept	Fete	Bodicote Scouts	S/A	Display

*Shelterbox/Aquabox

Given the emphasis for the requirement of clean water to reduce the chance of the outbreak and spread of diseases as highlighted by the flooding in Pakistan, the Club has also now negotiated through its effective Shelterbox track record the acquisition of a Gold Aquabox (complete with contents) and an empty Family Aquabox with filter. The purpose of the latter is to demonstrate water filtration. Both of these were used for the first time on 24th September at St Loys School. We are hoping to obtain a Community Aquabox filter later this year which

will be coming into production shortly and constitutes a substantial improvement for filtration in both capacity and longevity.

It is proposed that future events will promote both Shelterbox and Aquabox and those currently booked are at Canal Day (3rd October) and the AGM of 1st Sibford Scouts (12th November). Other leads are being followed up including, inter alia, the Sunrise Multicultural Playgroup, Dashwood Road School, 7th Banbury Scout Group, another Scout Group where Cub Scouts have been undertaking a project based upon the Scouting Section on the Shelterbox website and Chenderit School.

The feedback we have experienced has been very positive as the demonstration of actual aid that donations can be used for is a powerful tool. We are frequently approached at events by children with their parents in tow, the former informatively explaining what the concept is all about.

Certificates have been prepared for organisations recording what they have funded and who has benefited i.e. where the shelterboxes have gone. One was recently awarded to St Loys School on 24th September for funding two shelterboxes.



We are hoping that the presentations will provide additional opportunities to update the recipients of certificates with progress in deployments by Shelterbox as well as to introduce Aquabox.

2010 (the current position) – we have funded 25 Shelterboxes (£490 each) and have an amount towards another. We are also aware that other donations have been made direct to Shelterbox as a consequence of the presentations and displays that have been given. £500 has already been donated by the Club for two Community Aquaboxes with a further sum of £1,000 proposed for more boxes and water filtration units. Hopefully, we will be successfully collecting additional funds at the forthcoming events.

Fundraising is one aspect, awareness is also an important factor and we have made Shelterbox, and are intending to make Aquabox, significantly better known within the local geographic area. If you know an organisation (school, youth group, interest group, service group, firm etc.) who might be interested in a demonstration of disaster relief equipment, then please let us know.

Whilst this is primarily an international matter, the education and encouragement of children and young adults to learn about, and help, people sorely in need, represents an important contribution to the local community.

Review – notwithstanding the myriad of activities described above, there is always room for improvement. In autumn 2009 Council decided to set up a system whereby street collections could be undertaken in the immediate aftermath of a major natural disaster. This was implemented for the first time after the Haiti earthquake. In some ways the policy has been successful and in others it has been found wanting. It has been successful in that it has developed far beyond how its original remit. As part of their policy, both Shelterbox and Aquabox seek to stockpile an element of boxes in readiness of a disaster. Therefore, the continuous activities carried out by the Club since January 2010 have meant that we have been contributing towards the emergency relief for major disasters even before they have occurred.

In contrast, it has been found wanting in that there has been uncertainty within the Club with regard to lines of responsibility. Hence the opportunity to street collect after the Pakistan floods was missed. Accordingly, it has been proposed to the Club that an Emergency Rapid Response Team reporting direct to Council should be established, led by the First Vice President, which should have the unequivocal responsibility for arranging and coordinating the initial activities after a disaster and thereafter handing over the role to the International Committee.

Whilst 2010 has seen great strides in the extent of the service given by the Club where major natural disasters are concerned, there is the potential for 2011 et seq to be even more effective.
Andrew Fairbairn

Sports Report Golf

The Four B's Golf competition

The annual golf match between Banbury, Bicester, Brackley and Buckingham Rotary Clubs took place at Bicester Golf and Country Club on Tuesday 28th September. Like the Bigwood Trophy, teams of 6 players play, with the best 4 scores to count.

The day was quite warm and some players were just in T shirts, remarkable for late September. Banbury were slightly handicapped by only having 4 players to start with, so we all knew that every point we scored was vital. We could not afford too many mistakes. Other teams had 6 players, so they could drop their lowest scores. Bicester is a course with lots of lakes and ponds, and many players lost golf balls in the watery places.

The final result was Brackley in 4th place with 78 points, Buckingham 3rd with 104, Banbury 2nd with 113 and Bicester just won with 115 points. So Banbury only just missed out on retaining the trophy they won last year. Mike Daniels of Bicester won the best individual score with a high scoring 38 points; Richard George won nearest the flag at the 12th and Malcolm Nutt nearest the flag at the 8th holes. Banbury was represented by Richard George, Phil Cavill, Brian Croft and Malcolm Nutt. Many thanks to those four players for being able to play for the Club. The event is organised in strict rotation and it is Banbury's turn to do this next year.

Malcolm Nutt

SPEAKER REPORT.

MYLIFE/MYJOB -ROTARY TALK -FRIDAY 3JULY 010

This is a wonderful opportunity to let you know a little bit about Helen Morris from the 'horse's mouth'.

My sister was a strong factor in my early years as my Mother suffered with rheumatic heart conditions and strokes and sadly died when I was 13. I also have a brother who is 16 months younger than me.

My father was Ralph Cooke was born in Birmingham he was in the Royal Air Force. When he was posted to St Athan in South Wales he met and married my Mother who came from Cowbridge so now you know I am half Welsh.. The comedy Gavin and Stacy is based in my home town of Barry and in fact I lived at the bottom of the hill where Stacey (the girl) lives. After school I went to the Barry College of Further Education on a Secretarial Course and left in

1969. My first job at 18 was with a small engineering company based in Cardiff (David T Pickett & Sons Engineers Limited). After they relocated further out of Cardiff I left and joined the Midland Bank, Regional Head Office in Cardiff.

After a time I decided to look for a job abroad and answered an advert in The Times. It was a retired New York Solicitor who travelled the world writing cook books and I was to travel with him and be his 'secretary' but it turned out he thought I would be his mistress so I was left without a job, a home or my car!

I managed to get the rented flat back, found a secretarial job at a local Estate Agents the following week-end but had no car!!!!!! Until I got my Jubilee Mini.

However, I soon returned to the Midland Bank in Cardiff on a part time basis as Secretary for an outgoing Assistant Regional Director. This was to allow me to continue looking for a job overseas, but after quite a few interviews in the London I rejoined the Bank.

Six months later, because of my job interviews in London, the Personnel Manager suggested I might be interested in a job in Head Office in Poultry London (opposite the Bank of England) as they were short of ladies - never quite understood that.

I had various PA/Secretary posts starting off in the Public Relations & Advertising Department, Personnel Department and Inspection and Card Operations, Planning & Project Control.

Moving to London I met up with the Controller of Advances that I had worked for in Cardiff and had first met the day I joined the Bank - Ron Morris and I became a couple and married in 1983. When Ron took early retirement in 1989 he was head hunted by The National Bank of Abu Dhabi. I said "go along and enjoy the experience of the interview". He rang me and said "start packing, its paradise". I think it was because he was offered a drink after midnight at The Intercon Hotel after thinking it would be a no alcohol country. Two months later he started work there. We went for a 3 year contract and we stayed 10 wonderful years.

Abu Dhabi

I loved Abu Dhabi from the moment I stepped off the plane and felt the warm temperature and still feel the benefit of having lived there today. It was the time of the Gulf War and there were a lot less ladies there due to the evacuation of many who had not yet returned after the Gulf War and I joined a ladies group called WIAD (Women in Abu Dhabi). It had various activities to keep ladies, from all parts of the world, entertained while their husbands worked and I became the Cook Demonstration organiser and recreated the visits to the various hotels. The following year 1991 I was asked to be Vice President but in fact was voted in as President.

In 1992 I met a fellow Welsh lady together and with our husbands we founded The St David's Society which is still going strong after 18 years. I was Secretary for the first two years and then I became the President in 1994. At our functions we raised money for Welsh charities. I became involved with Guiding and was Brown Owl and the Assistant District Commissioner and on my return I joined the Bodicote Pack.

Other activities were helping to found another ladies group called Abu Dhabi Ladies and I was also a golfer - but on sand.

I have three wonderful stepchildren, six lovely grandchildren, and two godsons aged 19 and 18 who still think I'm 'cool'.

My life in Abu Dhabi was fabulous. One night you'd be playing scrabble with friends and the following night you'd be at the British Embassy meeting senior people from the UK and UAE. In 1992 Ron had to have a heart bypass. He recovered well and was back in work within 2 months and we decided to continue living in AD but over the years his health deteriorated albeit very slowly.

Two years later, whilst still living in Abu Dhabi we moved from Thorpe Bay, near Southend to my current home in Waller Drive and we called it 'The Dirhams' as that is where we got the extra money from to buy it.

Over the years we had house and garden parties whenever we were in the UK just to let the new neighbours know who we were in anticipation of our eventual return. Something I have continued and love doing - bringing people together.

Leaving Abu Dhabi in 2000 was dreadful for me but thankfully my nature is very positive and although I have been back to AD every year since I returned I have developed a lovely life back here in the UK.

Unfortunately in January 2003 I lost my husband who did not survive his third heart operation.

I spent the first Summer alone at the villa in Spain with friends from the UK visiting but whilst I got to know a lot of local people I thought my life should continue back in the UK. So I returned and decided to let the villa so that I could keep it as well as my home here.

In 2004 I joined the HSBC Pensioners Club in Cardiff and was also invited to the Thames Valley branch where I became Secretary a year later in 2005. I only recently stood down as Secretary after 5 years having also been acting Chairman for the last six months. It is a luncheon club that meets 3 times a year and a few extra events during the year and I am still a member.

I enjoy and do a lot of travelling abroad and around the UK to family and friends including visiting my stepchildren, two of whom now live in Melbourne, Australia with their families and mother. This year has seen some friends reaching significant birthdays so I have been to Las Vegas and Venice with them. I enjoy Scottish Dancing with the Caledonian Society and for the last 18 months have been attending dog classes with my rescue Tibetan Terrier - Monty. Slimming World is another club I belong to - oh yes, the purpose of that one is that one is supposed to lose weight every week!!!!!!

I now have a new man in my life who works for the MOD at Worthy Down near Southampton and I enjoy the army connection he has, like going to Founders Day at the Chelsea Pensioners Home and Trooping of the Colour, Regimental Balls and I have visited the Arboretum for a remembrance service where the Duchess of Gloucester was presenting the Elizabeth badges to some of the widows of those lost in service.

I was very surprised when Malcolm Douglas suggested I come along to a Rotary meeting but when he and Phil talked me through what Rotary is all about, I warmed to the idea of being part of the club, meeting more local people, getting more involved with the local community plus the social side, and so here I am.

The welcome I received was lovely and I love the opportunity of being part of such an established group in the community with its involvement in so many things and the wonderful sense of humour I enjoy every Friday lunch time. Thank you so much Malcolm.

Helen Morris

HON SECRETARY:- Dr. Ian Rodrick

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COPY DATE is the penultimate Friday of the month.