Speaker Secretary's Report 2026

I have enjoyed my time as speaker secretary over the last three years. My intention was to provide a wide range of interesting topics given by well-informed people with good presentation skills. I consider I achieved the first and second but leave my fellow members to judge how well the third hit the mark.

There were 27 speakers during the year, four of whom gave talks to the ladies group. Two speakers did not require a fee, one of these being our own John Burke who, thankfully and without fuss, stepped in to give a fascinating talk on the making of Amoxicillin when our booked speaker did not arrive due to there being no trains from Marylebone station.

My thanks go to John and other members who are willing to give talks with little notice in such circumstances. Fortunately, these are very rare. I would also like to thank those members who suggested speakers or suggested topics for talks and to all of you who cleared away the tables and chairs at the end of each meeting.

The total cost of speaker fees was £2654 giving an average cost per speaker of just over £106, up by nearly £16 (15%) on last year.

I am delighted that Sandy and Peter have agreed to take on the role and I am sure they will serve us well.

Geoff Bourne