

Secretary's Report 2020

Review of Constitution

Again this has no major changes, but prompted by recommendations from the Charity Commission in the light of the current Covid-19 situation, the Executive Committee recommend alternative means of voting.

A marked up version, with proposed changes shown in red, appears on our website. The Committee recommends that you vote in favour of this change (item 2 on voting slip)

We have intentionally not included appointment of Auditor on the voting slip. I refer to my report last year when I mentioned Independent Examiner as our appropriate form of Scrutiny. We are compliant, however this highlights yet another area where our Constitution (first written in 1991) needs to be brought into line with guidance - CC31 Aug 2019 replaces an earlier version.

An Administrative Change to Part 1 was anticipated at the AGM last year and subsequently approved by Charity Commission (CRM:0001539) however it did not make it to the voting form this year so will carry forward.

Financial Matters

Following the resignation of our Treasurer I have worked with Peter Richards - your Chairman to ensure that the financial matters of the Society were kept in 'good health'. The current account from which we pay our bills was prevented from 'going into the red' by transferring a total of £8,500 from our Investment account.

At the end of the financial year our financial position was such that the amount temporarily transferred earlier could be earmarked for return and still show a healthy balance in that current account. Full details appear elsewhere.

I would like to thank Stephen Frost who has been fulfilling our requirement for financial Scrutiny for 18 years now.

Administration

Following the resignation of the Treasurer, confirmed at the Saturday Meeting on 08th February, it was announced that the remaining Trustees, who have always supported Carol Masters as a member of their TEAM, were considering their positions. Subsequently we each confirmed that we could see no way to continue to serve the Society as previously.

I again refer to my report last year when I listed some of the Legislation applicable within the phrase "**Best practice**"

I have done my best to meet my commitments this year by bringing to the attention of the prospective Trustees the Guidance available from Charities Commission - especially those relating to Trustees

CC03	Essential Trustee	May18	40pp
CC30	Finding Trustees	May18	20pp

and by transcribing and making available for distribution, the details of the Trustee Declaration Form that they are each required to sign accepting their responsibilities.

Membership

It falls to me to report on Membership - thanks to Barbara for providing the figures throughout the year - below is an up-to-date summary

There are currently 151 paying members of the society.

This is made up of 106 standard members, 41 over 80's and 4 overseas. There are an additional 4 honorary members which brings the total to 155.

During the last year we have welcomed 10 new members and 3 have passed away, Ivan Downer, Edie Ramsden and most recently Sheila Friend.

There is to be NO CHANGE in Membership fees for next year.

Finally

I was 'invited' to join the Committee and by the following year (2007) was elected Secretary. The Team grew in strength and achieved many good things for the benefit of the society some of which had become established as regular 'events' featuring in the Chairman's reports of Peter Richards over the seven years of his tenure.

I always acted in what I considered to be the best interests of the society.

I am proud to consider myself part of that Team and hope to continue to keep history alive in my own way.

end