

Report for the AGM: This is a report on the work of the committee for the 2019 – 20 Session.

As most of you will know, the main work of the committee is to organize the speakers for the Winter session and the outings for the Spring and Summer. Our thanks are due to Barry Witcher for identifying and organizing informative, but also entertaining speakers. Uncertainty about the availability of the Pavilion forced a change of venue to the Church Hall. As uncertainty still exists we plan to hold at least the first half of the 2020-21 Session in the Church Hall.

It has been our practice for a number of years to plan the three outings on the basis of one very local, hopefully possible by public transport, one by car which gives participants the opportunity to make the most of the day out if they so wish and one by coach. While for the first two costing is a simple matter the committee have to predict the number participating when setting the cost of the coach outing. Because more people took part than expected we made a small surplus on the visit to Peterborough. There will, no doubt, be future occasions when the reverse occurs.

Our Treasurer's Report will show that we had a satisfactory financial year with a small surplus attributable in the main to the Peterborough outing. Our thanks are due to Anthony for his diligent overseeing of our affairs.

The membership number is now approaching 90. As reported last year, this is important because to attract good speakers we have to be able to pay increasingly high fees. Our speakers have all said how pleased they are to have such a large audience.

Anthony continues to manage and monitor our website and is already planning improvements in the near future while still keeping the cost affordable for a society of our size and significance. We are aware, of course, that there are still shortcomings in the sound system and we intend to have those overcome for the new session in September.

As always, we have members to thank, particularly Jackie Marquart, Daphne Ashton and Peter and Joan Mitchell who have made coffee for us after each meeting. It is noticeable that more members are staying after the talk to chat. More help would welcome, especially with the washing up, so if you could help on an occasional basis, it would be much appreciated. No doubt you will have noticed that we are now serving at no extra cost what our secretary describes as real coffee. It was, of course, Pat's idea.

We must also thank Chris Hopper who validates our accounts for us.

Help setting out and putting away the chairs is always welcome and Les Pye especially does sterling work. Thank you to him and everyone else who has helped with this chore.

Finally, thank you to you, the members who loyally come to meetings, sit and chat happily before hand, ask interesting questions of the speakers and stay and make coffee time a sociable part of the evening.

We are looking forward to enjoyable outings this summer and we hope to see you all in September in the Church Hall.