

My report to the AGM

Good Morning

Well here I am for my ninth and final year as your Treasurer.

Hopefully you have had an opportunity to see this year's Accounts which have been circulated. Now I'll just talk you through all what's happened this year.

Please bear with me ... I realise that Accounts are not very stimulating but I need to just explain where we currently stand, money wise! So ... I'll go as quickly as I can!

Let's look first at the Income & Expenditure Account

I am sure you will all appreciate that our activities involve careful planning on how we can provide you with an interesting programme of events, whilst using financial planning as best we can.

Subscriptions : Money paid in for our subscriptions

Visits: These have proved popular this year. Although there appears quite a large surplus, this is mainly due to a large goodwill gesture from Angels (those of you on this trip will remember the coach didn't turn up and there was a very long wait before a replacement coach driver was found) plus we had a substantial surplus amount from the first Stationers' visit, due to their inaccurate costing. Most of the other visits provided simply a small surplus resulting from the planning of the event.

No Music Evening this year.

Holiday: Lis' very accurate careful planning meant that approximately £10 per person was charged over what was required, was planned but not actually needed... quite a feat, I'm sure you will agree.

Study Groups: The take up for Diana's study days is always very uncertain, but the two Study Days this year proved to be very popular resulting in the surplus.

Sundries Income: This is much less than last year as last year included the income from the sale of the Essex 50 Treasurers books. This year the income arose from the sale of the remainder of the books + a £200 gift aid payment from Head Office, from those of you who sign 'gift aid' when you pay your subscriptions.

Donations: Over £500 was received, from you, from the Christmas raffle for St Clares + £250 from the Arts Society. We also received over £500 in donations towards the cost of the children's craft bags which we (with much fun and hard work by a few) provided at Christmas, Easter and the summer to those families who use food banks. I am sure Pam will enlighten you further about this!

Expenditure:

Arts Society, etc: Head Office increased by a small amount what we needed to pay per head.

Lecturers' fees : Very similar to last year

Entertaining Lecturers: The speakers are not present when the meetings are by zoom only.

Hall Hire: Similar to last year ... but we're not charged for the small hall now

Projection Costs: You might remember last year I mentioned that we would have to hire in some paid assistance to help with our zoom services that we offer you .. and this was, indeed, the case.

Coffee/biscuits, etc: Well what I can I say perhaps you have all eaten more biscuits this year!

Stationery: No significant change

Travel: incurred by travelling to official Head Office meetings

Donations: We decided to increase our donations this year due to the large surplus last year from the sale of the Essex books and the very successful Music Evening. Pam will tell you about these.

Sundries: just odds and ends with no place to allocate them. Last year we paid for the bulk of the Essex books.

So overall, it would appear a small negative figure but this is a book keeping figure and is fully accounted for by our increased donations.

The balance is what was in the bank account at the end of last year and the surplus comes directly from the Income & Expenditure sheet.

Our bank balance: stood at £40,417.19 at the 31st July and we made a £10,000 Patricia Fay Memorial Loan to the Arts Society a few years ago.

A small unclaimed expense of £52.50 remains to clear.

Payments in advance : Up to the end of July, we had paid out £2,685 in deposits for this September's holiday.

Subs: We received over £8,000 in subs in June and July for next year ... Thank You.

Holiday: We had in the account over £15,000 for the holiday that many of you recently enjoyed.

So, the end figure for this year is £29,762.69

Whilst trying to reduce our overall reserves, as was suggested at an AGM a few years ago, we need to ensure our income, primarily from subscriptions and self-financing activities continues to cover the expenditure on running the society. We need to keep our membership up and continue to offer additional events, otherwise our subscriptions will need to rise. We actually have one of the cheapest subscriptions in Essex.

But just before I end ... As I said last year, this is my last Treasurer's report. I have very much enjoyed being your Treasurer for the last 9 years, but, mainly for family reasons, it is time for someone new to take on this role.

After a very stressful few months wondering whether or not the Committee and, indeed the Society, would be able to function without a Treasurer, I am delighted (as you heard at our last meeting) that we will now have a new Treasurer (Barbara Lane). You will be in safe hands and I wish her the very best of luck.

I am also pleased to tell you that one of my fellow bowlers from Connaught (who was previously a chartered accountant) has very kindly agreed to prepare our Annual Accounts next year

.. So, at last, thank goodness, you will think ... this is almost the end of my report ... but before I finally finish, I must ask you to join with me in thanking John Humberston for examining our accounts for the last six years.

.. We are also very lucky that a gentleman has volunteered to take on the role of examining the accounts next year.

... All that remains for me to say, is thank you very much for listening!