



## POST PANDEMIC

From the Chairman, Andrew Huntley

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Many things in the Society world have imperceptibly changed since early 2020 – some due to adjusting to the circumstances, some which have become acute through time. As you might expect, some of them involve funding, some require a change in the way in which we operate.

### Committee Demands

It is increasingly difficult, for a variety of reasons to get members to take on the work of the committee; this is particularly true of the key roles of Treasurer and Secretary. If we cannot fill these places at the AGM in November, we will consider getting professional people to do the work. We estimate that this might cost as much as £1000 per annum.

### Archive Storage

The Society has always had a [growing] archive and until recently stored it at West Malvern Village Hall; it is now growing to such an extent that we will have to consider hiring storage space – an estimated cost of £1200 per annum.

### Meeting Venues

The criterion for our venues includes good audio-visual equipment, preferably supervised, coffee provided and chairs set out and stacked afterwards. You might think that we set high standards but it relieves the committee from these jobs and allows them to circulate and meet people. Rooms of this standard are difficult to book and cost; we estimate that the additional cost for next year could be as much as £500 not including free coffee.

### Charging for Events

We would like the annual subscription to cover the cost of meetings, Bandstand and access to the programme of visits, walks and excursions. This means that we would abolish the meeting cost except for guests. This would have the effect of reducing our income by some £800 per annum.

### Booking System

Midsummer Malvern and Heritage Open Days have established TicketSource as an acceptable way of booking events. As you will know, Ann Bartlett has fulfilled this role for many years and has now decided to retire – again! Our considerable thanks to Ann. We have yet to decide if we make a booking charge, like the Theatre, or absorb it in the ticket price.

### Conclusion

Our basic annual income is about £4,000; the above changes would incur a net additional expense of about £3,000 per annum. In addition, we have restricted funds of about £30,000 which we use for heritage related projects like the award scheme, tree/bulb planting and local worthy causes like grave maintenance and Blue Plaques.

However, we have to balance the current account and have decided to recommend to members that we increase the annual subscription from £10 per head to £20. This will be discussed at the AGM.