

Honorary Secretary's and Honorary Membership Secretary's Report for the year September 2019-October 2020

Honorary Secretary's Report

After the AGM held at 11 Bedford Square in September 2019, members of the Society enjoyed a highly informative talk by Dr Andrew Byrne. Dr Byrne's subject was the architecture of Bedford Square itself, including details of its construction and the adjustments made to accommodate the differences in taste and wealth of the purchasers. A familiar place to most of his audience, Bedford Square was presented in an entirely new light and with a focus on details above ground level which many of us had not previously noticed.

The Council met early in March, before the government announcement of a general lockdown due to the public health emergency, and again on the afternoon of this year's AGM. The resignation of Dr Hannes Kleineke as Honorary General Editor has been accepted with regret, and we shall welcome a new Honorary Independent Financial Examiner. The book sale to members announced at last year's AGM has raised £200 and further sales of stock at various prices brought in almost £650. In addition to the money from these sales, we have made a total saving in storage costs which amounts to just under £87, storage being charged at 36p per volume per annum. The terms of a new contract with Boydell and Brewer, who publish our volumes and distribute through Wiley, are still under consideration.

Membership Secretary's Report

Our subscription payments have been quite badly affected by the fact that I was ill during February and March and thereafter, once the severity of the pandemic was clear, with the Chairman's approval decided that it was not the moment to be pestering individual late-payers. I have however continued to try to persuade institutional members with agents to pay. That decision was also influenced by the delay in the publication of the volume for 2019.

Once it is clear that we will be able to make up for lost time, I will invite individual late-paying members to subscribe in order to receive the 2020 volume.

As of 5 September 2020, subscription payments had been received for 191 members, viz. (the figures as at the 2019 AGM [and at the end of the year] are added alongside for comparison):

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019 [e-of-y]</u>
Institutional Members	103	112 [116]
Personal Members	88	106 [106]
Complimentary	8	8 [8]
<i>Total</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>226 [230]</i>

As predicted at the 2019 AGM, we did not achieve an end-of-year figure which was as high as that for 2018, ending up with 10 fewer members.

Helen Bradley

Penny Tucker