

## **ASCHB AGM 2020**

A paper to discuss the proposal to increase the annual subscription for membership to the association.

This matter was discussed at the 2019 AGM and a number of opinions were expressed, please see the Minutes of that meeting.

Richard Woolf and myself have conducted some research on the subscription rates of other comparable organisations and these range from £57 down to £12 with the exception of IHBC whose subscription is £124.

The ASCHB rate has not been increased for more than a decade and during that time inflationary growth would have seen a reduction in real value by 30% so this would indicate that a new rate of £50 would be fair and reasonable.

The benefits of ASCHB membership can be of great value. There is a programme of around seven or eight evening lectures delivered by high quality speakers every year at no charge to members. There are also one or two evening forums on topical themes. All of these events cover a wide range of conservation issues and highlight current research and most recent thinking. In addition a number of visits are organised by the committee as follow-ups to the talks and costs are kept to a minimum. The annual conference aims to reflect the aims and objectives of the association and give delegates the opportunity to listen to and question the top-quality speakers.

The ASCHB Transactions are a well-founded and highly regarded collection of fine academic papers bound into a book. The latest No 42 volume is about to be published. Every member is sent a copy free of charge. These transactions are a valuable source of reference over many different subjects. The committee have a desire to expand Transactions and the likely need to have a new media partner in the future may require additional funds. The desire to broaden ASCHB so that it is not so London and the south east centric could entail more expense.

As can be seen in the annual accounts we have a very healthy balance due to pro bono work by members, general goodwill and legacies. In 2020 we intend to establish a scheme that will bring great benefit to an aspiring person in this industry. However we can see the need to 'future- proof' the association to ensure its sustainability and an increase to £50 in the annual rate of subscriptions would achieve this. We believe the benefits from membership itemised above more than justify this increase.

Diana Rowsell and Richard Woolf