



11 August 2021

Dear Member,

Having endured the pandemic for more than a year, we are still living with the emergency. For ASCHB, at least, this has had the benefit of spurring us to launch our webinars, which have been very successful and well received across the world. Irrespective of our return to meetings in Cowcross Street we shall continue to include webinars in our future event programmes. Please send us any suggestions for events or lectures. It is a format with which we are still experimenting that offers new modes of presentation and interaction and also reaches a wider and even international audience. There will be more webinars this autumn. They will be announced by email and on our website. So please ensure that we have your email address and do look at the website.

Meetings at Cowcross Street and other events largely remain on hold. We therefore shall not issue a formal meetings card this year. Understandably the Gallery remains closed and no date has been set for its reopening. Further the committee has taken the view that many members will not feel ready to attend meetings in person for some time. We will continue to review the situation and aim to reinstate them after Christmas. A visit to Turner's House was postponed on account of the pandemic and we are seeking to rearrange that either early autumn this year or late spring next year. Details will be posted on our website and will also be issued by email. Paul Beckett and Matthew Williams are working hard to plan visits in the north of England. Sadly, the first planned visit to the North, to Wentworth Woodhouse, had to be postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. But Paul and Matthew are currently looking at visits both within the Manchester area and South Yorkshire. However we wish to cover the whole of the North of England and would encourage all northern members to propose site visits or talks on projects complete or in progress that may be of interest. Please contact either Paul (creasser@creasser.karoo.co.uk) or Matthew (matthew_w25@hotmail.com) with any proposals.

The website now has a members area, which is an exciting new resource. We propose to place there all back issues of Transactions prior to the last 3 years. These will be readable, but low resolution for copyright protection reasons. This facility will enable members to look at back issues for interest or research purposes to check the relevance of an article to their work. Higher resolution copies will be available as usual. Just contact information@aschb.org.uk. We are also refreshing the images on the website.

So if any of you have good photographs of interesting conservation projects that you would like to be considered, do email them to us.

Due to Covid we have not had an AGM in 2021 so far. We are proposing to have one by Zoom this autumn. The papers for the AGM are included with this letter. This will be on 21 September. Usually our annual conference follows the AGM. However the committee has decided to defer that until the spring of 2022, when we hope, subject to Covid rules and availability of suitable venues, to be able to meet in person.

The Treasurer's report for the AGM is included with this letter as a separate document. However our expenditure and income for the last year has been much in line with previous years, including the subscriptions to Zoom. We foresee that increasing slightly on account of paying for administrative support in future years. That increase however should be paid for by the increase in subscriptions which the membership has already agreed to. The committee deferred raising the subscription to the agreed level last year but it will be raised to £50 for the coming year, 2021/2022. Please remember to alter your standing order

John Hudson, our new Transactions Editor has led negotiations on a change of publisher following an announcement by Cathedral Communications that they would not be able to continue publishing our journal. That was due to changes at Cathedral Communications not on account of loss of good will on either side. The new publisher will be Hall McCartney, who have many similarities to Cathedral Communications and have other clients in the heritage sector. Volume 44 is currently in production and will be the last published by Cathedral Communications.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming months whether on screen or face to face.

Yours faithfully

Sherry Bates
ASCHB Chair