

EMAS

Archaeological Society

The Committee's Report for 2020

1. Introduction

This report formally covers the period from January to December 2020, the first full EMAS year following the reformation of the society and the establishment of a new committee in September.

It was a year that started normally with a number of events already planned but which, with the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent restrictions on travel and meetings, saw a major reduction in the society's activities.

2. The committee:

At the AGM in February 2020, the following were elected as members of the committee: Les Andrews, Christine Balyuzi, Hushang Balyuzi, David Beard, Colin Duck, Linda Parry Christine Woodford, and Rosemary Yeaxlee. Covid-19 restrictions meant that the committee was unable to meet in person during 2020, but the committee was able to communicate and make decisions electronically.

In September 2020, Rosemary Yeaxlee announced her retirement from the committee and stood down from her roles as organiser of day trips, visits, and talks.

3. Membership

On December 31 2020, there were 71 ordinary, 32 joint and 11 honorary members. There are no associate members. These compare with 63 ordinary and 26 joint members at the end of December 2019.

At the 2020 AGM, the following subscription rates for the subscription year October 2020 to September 2021 were presented: Ordinary (single) membership: £18; Joint membership: £28.

Because it was necessary to cancel all events already planned for 2020 and it was not possible to organise any meetings, visits, trips, or tours for the rest of the year, it was decided that neither existing nor new members would be asked to pay subscriptions for the 2020/21 subscription year.

4. Finance

The independent examiner of the society's accounts, Stephen Hatton, who was appointed at the 2020 AGM stood down from the role for personal reasons. In his place the committee was pleased to agree to Janet Smith taking over the role and she has approved the accounts for the period from January 1 to December 31 2020. Copies have been sent to members with the papers for the 2021 AGM.

The accounts show the total net assets at that date to be £15,673. This is an increase of £408 but, since in practice most of the year's financial transactions took place in just two months, it is not possible to attach much significance to this. Last year the committee said that it wanted to get a better understanding of the income and expenditure over a full financial year before considering what should be an appropriate

reserve and the uses to which a surplus, if any, might be put. This of course was not possible, but it remains the committee's intentions to do this once normal activities resume.

Given the lateness of the AGM, it was not possible to produce a financial projection for 2021 but, provided activities return to a semblance of normality, one will be produced for the 2022 financial year.

As required by the constitution, all payments must be authorised by two of the registered signatories. Following a recommendation from the independent examiner, their number has been increased from three to four, who currently are Christine Balyuzi, Colin Duck, Linda Parry and Christine Woodford.

5. Communications

In the past communications with members were largely by post, supplemented to a degree by email. In 2020, email became the primary medium of communication but, where appropriate, mailings continue to be sent by post to those members for whom the society does not have an email address. This has not only saved on postal charges but also the time of committee officers that would have been spent on secretarial activities.

The Mailchimp system was adopted for the creation and sending of emails. This not only removed the possibility of accidentally divulging the email addresses of members, but also provides an insight into the reliability of the system.

Between March and December 2020, nine email messages were sent. These included a number which included guidance to archaeological resources on the Internet and an archaeological quiz, both put together by David Beard

The EMAS website continued to be managed and supported by David Beard.

6. Events

EMAS events comprise study tours, field trips, half-day visits and lectures. The role of the study tours organiser is undertaken by Christine Woodford. To date, it has not been possible to find anyone to undertake Rosemary Yeaxlee's former roles of day trip, visits and talks organiser.

In 2020 there were two lectures prior to the introduction of the Covid-19 restrictions but all planned tours, trips and visits had to be cancelled.

7. Thanks

Thanks are due to Rosemary Yeaxlee on her retirement from the committee, having almost single-handedly led and guided EMAS for over 30 years. In recognition of this the committee unanimously awarded her life membership of the society. Thanks also to the Museum of London for the use of the Clore Centre for our talks.

**The EMAS Committee
December 2020**