



Hon. Treasurer's Report to the 2020 Annual General Meeting

I am happy to present the accounts for the year ended 31 October 2020. Firstly, I would like to thank our Hon. Examiner, Mike Fletcher, for once again reviewing these with his sharp eye.

The result for the year shows a small surplus of £74.61, somewhat less than that of last year of £612.94. However, as we received neither a grant from the County Council nor the proceeds of the sale of a mower in the period, together £974 in 2018/19, and donations were much reduced, it compares very favourably.

This is largely due to a significant increase in income for the sale of calendars and cards and our Chairman deserves credit for this. Every calendar was sold, in fact we ran a second print. The income includes the kind sponsorship of local firms which totalled £550, which substantially underwrites the cost of printing. The wider range of cards has proved most popular, thank you to the contributors of the great photographs.

Our income from subscriptions is a little behind last year, but made up by donations from members. However, it indicates the need for us all to encourage new residents to join. The Commons are a wonderful resource for us all to enjoy, as we were reminded during 'lockdown', and a subscription of 20p a week is amazing value!

Our costs, overall, have been stable but some aspects of work have not been carried out during the period, such as pond work (to be undertaken shortly). So, we must maintain and increase our income to ensure these are covered in the future.

The new approach of using a contractor to undertake the heavy work on the Commons has proved successful in terms of cost as well as results and will enable the sale of the Society's tractor in the coming year. Whilst there were no running costs for it this year, its sale will also reduce insurance premiums.

While mentioning insurance it is appropriate to note that Zurich gave a free three month extension to our policy due to Covid-19, at a saving of £80, which was a thoughtful gesture.

So, we end the year on an even keel and look forward to 2021.

Finally, I would like to thank my predecessor Ben Lewis for guiding me at the outset and our Chairman and the Committee for their help throughout the year.

Philip Prettejohn
Hon. Treasurer