

11th June 2020

Dear Arts Society member,

The situation with Covid-19 continues and it remains very difficult to plan when we shall be able to hold Arts Society meetings again. Meanwhile we are very grateful that you have continued to send us your subscriptions. We have already missed four meetings and it now seems likely that we shall miss several more. Understandably one or two of you have wondered why you should still pay full subscriptions when we are not able to hold meetings

The committee did give this a lot of thought at our last meeting, almost six weeks ago now. Whilst we were unanimous that there should be no reduction offered at present, it was also agreed that we should review the decision at our next meeting in July.

We based our decision on the following:

1. There has been no reduction in our contributions to head office. Our annual income from subscriptions is roughly £11,000, of which approximately £4,500 goes straight to head office.
2. We felt it would be honourable to continue payments to our regular helpers and to the village hall who have always been very accommodating.
3. Although we have not so far had to pay any cancellation fees to any of our speakers, the savings are not huge – amounting to roughly £7 a head – the cost of a glass of wine in a restaurant, to put it into perspective
4. In the longer term, any “profit” this year will enable us to postpone any future rise in subscriptions.
5. Our laptop computer, projector and screen are all outdated and will need to be replaced soon – at an estimated cost of £3-4,000.
6. Many of our members pay by standing order, and the complexity of altering them, and then remembering to change them back seemed out of proportion to the sums involved.
7. Finally, we anticipate some fall in membership this year and the Society can only continue if it remains solvent. The next few months are very uncertain and obviously we may change our position if there are more cancellations.

There are many interesting items in the Arts Society online newsletter, and I do recommend that you visit the Arts Society “connected” at theartsociety.org. and sign up for the monthly newsletter.

Here is an interesting article about the Borgias from this month’s newsletter, just click on this link - <https://theartsociety.org/arts-news-features/become-and-instant-expert-borgias>

The committee are meeting again towards the end of July and we will keep you posted on developments. Meanwhile, stay well!

Kind regards

Paul White (chairman).