

The Coggeshall Society

An Occasional Newsletter

It has not been an easy year for anyone and when I last wrote at Christmas 2020 none of us had much idea of when life might return to some sort of normality. As I write this there does appear to be some light at the end of this long and dark tunnel which is wonderful in so many different ways for us all.

Your Committee has met on several occasions (by Zoom of course). I am delighted to tell you that **Dudley Maughan** has agreed to join the Committee to assist in our deliberations.

We have decided that on the basis of the current information some events can resume later this year:

8th September - *From Denton to Colchester* by local author James Henry.

Annual General Meeting on 13th October.

10th November - *William Beckwith: 19th Century Coggeshall Silk Manufacturer* by Mary Schoeser

Christmas Charity Evening on 8th December

Of course all these are subject to the Government guidelines in force at the particular date.

With some reluctance we have decided to put Outings on hold this year. Your Committee is already working hard on a full programme of Lectures and Outings for 2022.

In my last Newsletter I mentioned that we would be working up a scheme to enable members to pay their annual subscriptions straight into the bank, thus saving the Treasurer a great deal of time.

We are now recommending the following:

- As from 1st January 2022 the financial year of the Society shall run from January to December. It currently is from July to the following June;
- Subscriptions will be due annually on 1st January and members will be encouraged to pay electronically to the bank. Members will be asked to use their name and the 2nd part of their post code to identify their payment; and
- We will continue to welcome subscriptions from those who wish to continue paying by cheque/cash.

Although these proposed changes do not under the constitution appear to require the approval of you all, the Committee is keen to have your endorsement and the matter will be on the Agenda for the AGM in October.

A few other items:

We have learnt that Essex County Council are busy working up the specification for the repair of **Nunn's Bridge**. Work may be completed by the end of the year.

We have expressed our concern to the Parish Council about the lack of consultation over the proposed **Skate Park**. This has been accepted and the Council have confirmed the whole community will be consulted.

The **Neighbourhood Plan** has been approved by the Inspector appointed by Braintree Council. The rules provide that a local Referendum has to be held to endorse the plan. This is going to be held at the same time as the local council elections on 6th May. Please vote in favour of the Plan and encourage others to do so. An enormous amount of work has gone into its preparation: it is a highly professional document and its adoption will be of great benefit to all who live and work here.

Your Committee, with the endorsement of the President and Vice President, decided to give financial support to **CRAQ** now that external costs for lawyers and other experts are being incurred. If the Quarry scheme goes ahead it will dramatically change the historic setting of Coggeshall. Do look at the CRAQ website for more information.

I hope that some of you were able to view the recent on line tour of the **Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust** base at North Weald and learn more about their work. I found it most informative. They remain our chosen charity for 2021 and are extremely grateful for all our donations.

Membership numbers have held up well, so thank you all for your continued support. We are always delighted to welcome new members.

I do hope to see many of you during the Spring and Summer. Please continue to take care and stay well.

Julian Prideaux March 2021