

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL RNHS MEMBERS

Dear Members,

After an extremely difficult and challenging 18 months I hope that you remain well and in good spirits. As I mentioned in the recent newsletter, membership fees that would normally be due at the end of December have, for the time being, been suspended and if you usually pay by standing order no payments will be requested. We recommend however that you cancel your existing standing order as the Society is closing its accounts with HSBC.

RNHS is continuing to experience a huge amount of uncertainty regarding the best and safest way to proceed with its regular programme of talks and visits.

As a Committee we are increasingly concerned about the future of the Society. Membership has fallen from c100 in 2017 to just over 50 at the start of this year and several long serving members of the Committee will be retiring soon. This includes Joan Sherratt who for a number of years organised the very popular and successful annual photographic competition. Paul Hodges and Janice Tolley-Hodges have given advance notice that after more than 20 years as joint programme secretaries and field trip leaders they will be standing down. In addition all four executive officers (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor) have expressed their intentions to stand down as soon as new post-holders have come forward. In the event of no-one putting themselves forward for election it is highly likely that these posts will become vacant. We urgently need new committee members so if you are able to volunteer please let me know by email lyn.classey@hotmail.co.uk

Without a fully functioning and pro-active committee, it is extremely difficult to see a way forward for the Society. This leaves the current committee in something of a dilemma in that after 60 years the Society's continuation in its present form may no longer be a viable proposition.

Our intention is to hold an AGM in February 2022 when new committee members can be voted for. If we are unable to get sufficient members to form a new committee we will have no alternative but to wind-up the Society and this would be done at the end of the AGM.

I very much regret having to write to you in these terms as I am only too well aware of all that has been achieved by the Society since it's inaugural meeting in January 1961. The Society has increased our knowledge of natural history and helped create many long-standing friendships and professional exchanges which would be greatly missed by us all.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or any member of the committee, should you have any comments or suggestions to make.

Lyn Classey,
Chairman,
1st November, 2021