

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE AGM March 11th 2024

Our society has had a satisfactory year since the last AGM, on March 13th 2023. This has included a full programme of speakers giving interesting talks on a wide variety of subjects and very enjoyable outings to Shaw House near Newbury and Hughenden near High Wycombe. We also maintained the twice-yearly production of our Journal containing a wealth of interesting and informative articles. I must also mention our enjoyable summer party in July and our well-organised Christmas party in December.

These activities are a great credit to the management committee and on behalf of our society I express my sincere thanks for all their hard work and dedication to our interests during the year.

I have to report that our society has had to face challenging financial circumstances since the last AGM, largely as a result of the very substantial and unexpected increase in the cost of electricity used by the archive store which has caused a significant deficit of expenditure over income. The problem has been addressed by switching off the electricity to the equipment using it. Nevertheless, the finances remain sound and income should be more than enough to cover expenses in the coming year.

I can report that work on the conversion of the Old Boys School building into a library and community hub which I referred to in my report for the 2023 AGM, started several months ago and is proceeding steadily, with completion being expected in May or June. The committee intends to ensure if possible that storage space for the archives of the society will be included in the refurbished building, but this will depend on the outcome of negotiations with Wokingham Borough Council.

In spite of the financial challenges, the past year for our society has been interesting and enjoyable. I look forward with to continuing the activities with our members over the forthcoming year.

JAMES FORT
CHAIR