

NEW YEAR REVIEW – from the Chair

Thanks to all our members for your continuing support during 2022, and we wish you all a happy New Year.

The committee was pleased to restart the Friends post-Covid in 2022 with a series of successful talks in the second half of the year and plans to restart the film group in early 2023.

However, there have been significant changes in our operating environment in recent weeks and 2023 is going to be a challenging year which we hope that you can support.

Firstly, several trustees have had to stand down for various personal reasons. We are therefore reaching out to the membership for volunteers to join the committee. Trusteeship is not an onerous job and only involves a short review meeting four times a year plus willingness to help out at the occasional talk or film event. Please volunteer if you can.

To volunteer email carolallen004@gmail.com (mob 07971514091)

Secondly, Northwich library has moved into the museum and taken over the boardroom and other spaces. The museum also has to accommodate various interest groups that used to convene in the library. This will obviously affect the facilities available to the Friends. We are in discussions with the museum about the timing and use of facilities, but it is inevitable that there will be some changes until the library returns to its previous premises in about two years time. Please bear with us if we need to revise our programme schedule or location.

Thirdly, increased fees for speakers, film licences, refreshments and other inflationary pressures post-Covid have significantly increased our costs. To avoid running at a loss in 2023, leaving no surplus funds to support museum projects, we will be increasing membership fees to £10/person (£18/couple) at the annual renewal date on May 1st 2023.

We hope that you will continue to support us in future years, as you have in the past, and look forward to meeting you at our talks or films.

John Glaister (Chairman)