

HiARA Chairmans Report April 2022

Ian, our Vice Chair and Treasurer has advised the committee that he will be standing down at the Annual General Meeting and we thank him for 7 years of dedicated service. He will still be joining us to enjoy our meetings.

In view of this, if anyone would like to take on the role of Treasurer, please let me know. This is an essential role in the running of the club and without one, we could be in severe jeopardy of being able to continue.

There was no main meeting in March, our apologies for any disappointment and any inconvenience.

At the AGM we will be welcoming the committee for 2022/23, a reminder that membership fees are now £15.00 per person and are due now. At our committee meeting, we discussed the amount of work involved in chasing up balance of payments on coach trips. In order to avoid this, full payment will be required at time of booking please.

This month marked our first coach day trip through the Sussex countryside to Bexhill and Normans Bay for lunch. The weather wasn't all that favourable, but the lunch was good along with the company on the coach. By the time you read this, we will have had our Cockney Rockney social evening, we have a number of guests attending for the first time. Report on that next month.

I am a member of the Gravesend Town Twinning Association, which is a social group established many years ago to partner with similar towns to Gravesend in different parts of the world. Cambrai in France, Jandlaha in India, Neumunster in Germany and because of the Pocahontas connection, Chesterfield in the USA. Currently we meet via Zoom regularly but there are plans to meet our friends from France later in the year. In order to raise funds and keep the group connected, members recently had the opportunity for a guided tour of the Sikh Gurdwara temple in Gravesend. We were made very welcome; the building is stunning and very interesting. Following that we had refreshments in their Langar. The Sikh community in Gravesend had provided 150,000 free meals to the NHS, marooned lorry drivers on the motorways, the homeless, elderly and those less fortunate and many more during the Covid pandemic. Quite a feat. If you'd like to join this friendly social Association, ask me for more details.

The committee will be arranging a date for club members to visit the Gurdwara one morning later in the year. No cost involved, just make your own way there. When date is set, it will go on the Events board.

Liz Jeffery