

Annual Report

As you are no doubt aware, at the beginning of this financial year (April 2017 – March 2018) we had to reluctantly increase our membership fee from £15 to £25 (Single) and £40 (Joint) to take account of the increase in capitation fee from £10 to £20 per member. Our reserves, accrued over the past 10 years, should help to support any shortfall in income over expenditure at the end of this financial year.

So, I am pleased to announce that there will be no increase in the membership fee this year, but we will have to review our membership fee next year should our bank balance fall significantly.

However, more importantly, we received membership fees from 109, a decrease in membership from last year's 135, but impressive support considering there are so many other sources for your hard earned pensions!

St Brigid's

We had to seek temporary accommodation earlier in the year when St Brigid's Hall had both a heating problem and a leaky roof.

Fortunately most members were not inconvenienced by the short term relocation to All Saints, Rhiwbina.

Speakers

Hopefully we continue to offer a varied speaker programme which has been well supported throughout the year with steady meeting numbers.

Hilary, as always, puts together an interesting programme of speakers / topics, something I'm sure that satisfied most members' interest.

Events

The events programme is constructed from suggestions made available at the start of the year and from the level of interest shown a programme evolves, again, with sufficient variety to hopefully interest the majority.

We are of course restricted by the time taken to travel from our pick up points to the chosen destination.

Events, ideally should be cost neutral, but it's often an educated (?) guess how many of those originally interested are confirmed with follow up payment in proportion to the coach seating capacity required - which has to be booked in advance! New this year was the 3-day break to Dorset, suggested and organised by Don Ribeiro.

Special Interest Groups

Ornithology

The year consisted of Quarterly outings to Cosmeston, Forest Farm & Taff Trail, Amelia Trust Farm and Slimbridge. Details of forthcoming events are available on our website or from Don Ribeiro.

Walking

The 'Bay City Strollers' continue to meet on the following Tuesday after the Wednesday monthly branch meeting, at 10.30am at the Mount Stuart Restaurant, for a walk round Cardiff bay.

Additional walks are frequently held, these and further suggestions for additional walks can be made by contacting Bob Holbrook.

Welfare

This continues to be an important benefit to our members. It is, of course, dependent on our need to know if a member would benefit from contact by telephone or home visit or a card and/or flowers would be beneficial. Please contact (in confidence) our Welfare Officer, Marion Mardell.

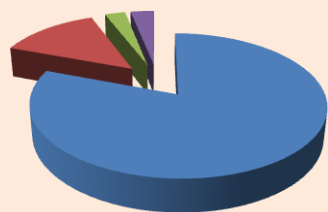
Congratulations

For their success in the National 'Landscape' Photography Competition congratulations go to three of our members: Highly Commended Awards went to Jill Evans, Maureen Salmon and Honourable Mention Certificates went to Peter Elkington and Maureen Salmon.

Congratulations also to David Manning for his design of a Logo to be used in this the Fellowship's 40th Anniversary.

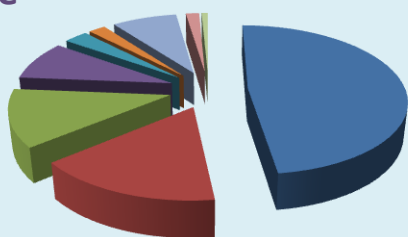
Accounting For Your Money

Income



■ Membership Fees	£2,725.00
■ Donations / Visitor Fees	£453.00
■ Book Sales	£92.43
■ Gif Aid Return	£106.25
	£3,376.68

Expenditure



■ Capitation Fee	*£1,350.00
■ Hall Hire	£450.00
■ Speakers	£345.79
■ Newsletter	£240.00
■ Raffle Prizes	£80.66
■ Refreshments	£58.31
■ Office	£221.50
■ Audit / Other	£45.49
■ Welfare	£20.75
	£2,802.50

As you can see from the above diagrams the branch has very limited income streams. There are many expenses to be met in order to allow the branch to function satisfactorily.

If expenditure exceeds income the only solution to address the shortfall would be an increase in membership fee.

*A concern for 2018 – 2019 will be an increase in Capitation Fees from £1,350 to £2,180.

Not illustrated above is Income & Expenditure for Events.

Wherever possible this should be cost neutral, we would prefer not to make any profit from organised events, to keep the charge as low as possible, as we believe this is a desirable benefit to our members.

Events 2017-2018

Income	£8,608.30
Expenditure	£8,395.60
“Profit”	£212.70

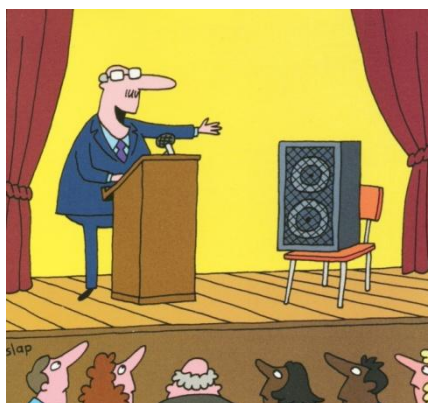
Norman

Forthcoming Speakers

May 2nd
Brian Davies:
Cardiff's Forgotten Castle

June 6th
Alan Rosney:
The Glamorgan Swift Project

July 4th
George Brady:
Secrets of a Private Eye



“It gives me great pleasure to introduce today’s Speaker...”

For their success in the ‘Landscape’ Photography Competition,

Congratulations

go to three Cardiff branch members. ‘Highly Commended Awards’ went to Jill Evans, Maureen Salmon and ‘Honourable Mention Certificates’ went to Peter Elkington and Maureen Salmon.

Forthcoming Events

Chavenage House, Tetbury

Tuesday 1st May. £38 (including 2-course lunch)

The Elizabethan house and is a Grade I listed building. It was built originally in 1576 by Edward Stephens. It has an E-shaped plan



with a porch at the centre of the east side. Its rubble stone

construction has two storeys, attics and a stone slate roof. It was enlarged and extended over the centuries in keeping with the original style and materials so they appear as one consistent building and the new areas are not obvious.

Chavenage House has appeared in many films and television cameos, including the last Poldark series as Trenwith House.



Malvern Spring Show

Friday 11th May. £35 (if tickets purchased in advance)

Hosted annually at Three Counties Showground in Malvern, the RHS Malvern Spring Festival is a partnership between the Royal Horticultural Society and Three Counties.

The Festival is the fastest growing RHS show following an ambitious repositioning in 2014. Whilst it is the gardening show for the Midlands and South West region, it attracts a national spotlight.

There will be many diverse attractions with catering facilities and toilets spread throughout the grounds.



Brecon Mountain Railway & Brecon Canal Friday 8th June. £30

The Brecon Mountain Railway is a narrow gauge tourist railway starting at Pant, two miles north of Merthyr Tydfil. There are splendid views of the Brecon Beacons from the train's all-weather carriages as it climbs northwards alongside the Pontsticill and Pentwyn Reservoirs to Torpantau.

At Pontsticill Station you can visit the cafe and admire the view across the Reservoir.



For lunch we visit Brecon town and the Monmouth & Brecon Canal Basin, where the canal trip is optional.



Forthcoming

Somerset Weekend, 20th–22nd July 2018

As detailed in Newsletter no. 8, and on page 1 of this newsletter, it has been suggested that we follow up the success of the Dorset weekend by visiting Somerset for 3 days / 2 nights. The Accommodation will be based preferably in Glastonbury (Premier Inn) which gives ideal access to the following:

Places of interest

Cheddar Gorge & Wookey Hole, Glastonbury Tor, Street (Clarks Village), Wells, Yeovilton (Fleet Air Arm Museum).

Coast

Wachet, Minehead and Porlock

Gardens

Kilver Court (Shepton Mallett), Cannington Walled Gardens, East Lambrook Manor, Hestercombe.

National Trust

Barrington Court, Coleridge Cottage, Lytes Cary Manor, Montacute House, Stembridge Tower Mill, Tintinhull.

Wildlife

Avalon Marshes, Westhay Moor, Ham Wall, Secret World Wildlife Rescue, Steart Marshes.

For ease of managing the weekend, members will arrange their own travel and accommodation.

Further information – Norman.

Your Committee & Others

Chair	Norman Bishop 029 2057 2237 chairman@nhsrffcardiff.org
Secretary	Bob Holbrook secretary@nhsrffcardiff.org
Treasurer	Pat Bishop treasurer@nhsrffcardiff.org
Welfare	Marion Mardell welfare@nhsrffcardiff.org
Events	Norman Bishop chairman@nhsrffcardiff.org
Speaker Sec.	Hilary Fairney
Refreshments	Sharon Roth
Newsletter	David Manning
Meeting Registration	Christine Lewis
Raffle Organiser	Norman Bishop

Special Interest Groups

Walking	Bob Holbrook
Ornithology	Don Ribeiro
Theatre	Vacant



WANTED

Black & White Photographs



We want to see the earliest photographs of you when working for the NHS. These will probably be Black & White and for publishing in our Celebration Issue of the Newsletter in July.