

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2020 AGM and MEMBERS' DAY**

In these uncertain times it is unclear whether large gatherings will be possible in the foreseeable future. Our intended venue for the 2020 AGM and Members' day was York and it seems highly unlikely that we would be able to hold these in the way we had planned in accordance with social distancing requirements. To give venue and members plenty of notice, we have therefore reluctantly had to cancel the planned Members' Day and AGM in early October. To ensure we do not disappoint our members who were looking forward to visiting York, we now plan to hold the 2021 Members' Day and AGM in York.

In the meantime, we do have a legal responsibility to hold an AGM. However, Companies House has stated that more flexibility on the timing and format of AGMs will be allowed due to the current corona virus situation.

The Board is very mindful that 2020 is an important year for the Society. We need to discuss any necessary amendments to our Articles of Association and agree the operating Rules, as we continue the transition to operating as a Company Limited by Guarantee. In addition, feedback from members highlights important issues to be considered this year. Accordingly, the Board considered that holding a virtual AGM via the web would not be optimal. The contingency plan is therefore to hold a smaller AGM (with no associated Members' Day) later in the year. For simplicity, it is planned to find a venue in central London where a physical meeting can be held later in 2020 or in early 2021 when Government restrictions permit. (Members may be aware that London would have been our likely venue for our 2021 AGM, so we are in effect reversing our venues for the two years.)

The Board fully understands that fewer members than usual may be able to attend, depending upon the COVID-19 situation at the time. In these unusual circumstances, exceptionally and without creating a precedent for the future, the Board proposes to designate all AGM motions as requiring a membership wide vote. This means a postal vote of all members will be held to ensure that those who cannot attend the AGM are still able to have their voices heard. Candidates standing for membership of the Society's Board will also be voted for by the entire membership via the same postal ballot.

We will be sending out the draft Rules (which will sit alongside our Articles as the governing mechanism of the CLG) for comment so that we can take members' views into account in the AGM proposals.

We share members' disappointment that we will not be able to get together in quite the same way as usual this year. However, we hope that you will understand that our options are limited during these challenging times.