

Orpington and District Caledonian Society
PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER
September 2020

This newsletter is a brief update of your Society. I hope everyone is keeping fit and well and managing to stay positive despite the ongoing restrictions to our lives and not being able to dance.

We recently held a (outdoor) committee meeting mainly to make decisions on Hall bookings. Maggie Talbot, through Angela House, is dealing with bookings and had recently been asked to renew our contracts for St. Paul's, PWMH and the Harris Academy (for Don's improver classes on 2nd Wednesdays). We decided that under the current circumstances we could not commit to hiring any hall until further notice due to the Covid pandemic. Angela H has written letters to the people responsible for the bookings explaining the situation and pointing out that we are long established hirers for Mondays and Thursdays, over 20 years for St. Paul's, and 50 years for PWMH. Fortunately we have Linda Scothern and Roger Brown on the board of trustees for PWMH so I am confident that we can continue our good relations with the board and take up our regular Thursday evening slot once we are able to restart dancing. The recent tightening of social gatherings means that it is most unlikely that the halls will have any other potential customers who could take our regular bookings. We also decided to cancel our provisional bookings for Hogmanay and Burns' Supper neither of which involved a cash deposit. We don't believe we will be able to resume dancing until next Easter so we have also cancelled the band for our March On Dance.

If a vaccine is found by the end of the year and we all get treated we may be able to resume dancing before March and we can get a programme together and dance to CDs, we may even be able to have our Ceilidh in February!

Although we were not able to hold our AGM this April, our annual accounts were produced by Di Lewis and duly checked. I set out below the current state of our accounts for September which Di put together for our committee meeting:

Business Money Manager £2,097
Benevolent Fund £2,280

Some of you have enquired about NT of Scotland tickets. Di has made enquiries and found that the NT offices are closed and therefore we will have to wait until March 2021 to renew our application for tickets.

I would like to thank all the committee for continuing to me and especially Deirdre for her regular updates to you all from RSCDS and other communications.

Not great news I'm afraid, but everyone is in the same boat and we shall just have to be patient and hope that the testing for a vaccine comes good as soon as possible.

Best regards
Hadyn