

Secretary's Report

2020 has been a difficult time for everyone and the pandemic has brought unique challenges for the Society.

I took up the role of Secretary at the February A.G.M. Mr Brian Booker stepped down as treasurer. We extend our thanks to Brian for his years of service to the Society.

The government restrictions meant that the planned book show 'Joseph' was unable to go ahead during the year and was further postponed to 2021. Regular contact was kept from March 2020 with the government department for Covid regulations, the rights holder and the theatre in order for the committee members to be able to make informed decisions regarding the show. The committee is grateful to the production team and also to the members and cast who have shown dedication and loyalty throughout the year.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the passing of John and June Dixon in the summer. In September a short ceremony was held outside the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate where John's name was added to the plaques on the ROS memorial bench. The plaques, which were kindly donated by Pam Hayfield, also include the names of other well respected and loved ROS members, Michael Kendrick, David Mossman and Pam and George Martin.

Our honorary members have been contacted during the year and are mostly in good spirits although Aldwyth Humphries remains in poor health. I am very grateful to Eve Frampton for also keeping in touch with some of our more vulnerable members on a regular basis.

The trustees were only able to meet in person on a few occasions but were able to complete business by using email and video conferencing.

By the end of the year, membership had increased to 32 members with 13 honorary members. Among the recent members, we welcome back some old friends and those who are new to the Society.

The Society website has been developed further and is now regularly used for enquiries by the public, various organisations and for those who are interested in photos and information about ROS in general.

Over the last year a Members Handbook along with a Code of Conduct has been produced for the benefit of new members. Our policies and procedures have been overhauled and extended. This has made the Society more attractive for insurers and potential funders. Opportunities have been taken where possible to secure, save and reclaim funds.

A number of future projects are in the early stages of development including concerts and popular book shows.

I am grateful to the entire committee for all their efforts during the year. I believe we now have the foundations for a secure and strong Society and that we can all look forward to a healthier and more certain 2021.

Ken Pickett (Secretary)