

Ranmoor Society AGM January 2024 – Chair's Report

It has been very encouraging that we continue to have a supportive membership. Whether it is by subscribing, by attending meetings or by offering help with talks and archive work your engagement is much appreciated. I believe we have had a successful year of meetings that started with a talk on the humble fork which included some intriguing examples of unusual cutlery. There was a culinary theme to our final evening as well when we learnt the history of relish and, in particular, Hendo's.

The average attendance each month was 45 and we are mindful that sometimes the room is quite full. The creative placement of the chairs has helped us manage this, so far. We finished the year with 124 members (that includes 7 new members) and this number is split 57%/43% between individual and household membership. This means that we have over 178 people engaging with The Society. This level of support results in us maintaining a sound financial base at a subscription level of £10 (individual) or £15 (household). It is something of an anomaly that we have asked for your agreement to the level of subscriptions 12 months in advance. It seems much more sensible to have 3 months' notice. Therefore, we propose that the current rates will be reviewed in September for the following year. We hope you will support this change of timing.

Through the writing and editing of Gerald Eveleigh we have been able to produce several issues of Ranmoor Notes which have featured a number of interesting articles. Members have written some pieces and we continue to look for more such contributions. We are very grateful to Stuart Barratt who provided a searchable index to all the articles and this can be found on our website. The work of our volunteer distributors is very welcome and saves us a considerable sum in lieu of postage costs.

We have an extensive collection of local history material, much of it gathered and organised by Peter Warr when he was writing his book *The Growth of Ranmoor*. Sadly, Peter died last year and we are keen to build on his legacy. With this in mind we have latterly has been working with Sheffield University to define a project proposal to attract a post graduate student studying in library & information management. They would undertake an internship and work with us to make the archive accessible to members and the wider community.

I am pleased that all current committee members are willing to continue for a further year and we always welcome any interest in joining this group. We have

another year of interesting and varied speakers booked, as can be seen on the membership card and website, and we look forward to your continued support.

Mike Killingley,

Chair