



RAFHAA NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020

Your new Council has been working hard over the past 2 months and this letter will cover some of the key matters we are dealing with and let you know of our plans and recent news.

As our workload expanded, it has become necessary to co-opt further members to our Council pending formal ratification at our next AGM. Steve Coleman (127th) has joined us and taken up responsibility for Halton Grove at the Arboretum and will be the new point of contact for memorial pavers. The next issue of the Haltonian (due mid-August) will carry a revised application form. Charles Challinger (100th), while still undergoing some difficult medical treatment, has felt well enough to join our ranks, and has taken up the role of Deputy Chairman and Development. Shortly, John Hygate (93rd), will join us as Events Organiser to manage our events diary besides providing you with a point of contact when planning your own branch events. Our Treasurer, Tony Whittaker is retiring in September after 6 years of hard labour and we thank him very much for his extraordinary contribution. We are pleased to announce that Alan Bell (201st) has agreed to replace Tony. Finally, we are looking for a Marketing man and hope to appoint someone suitable soon. We think there are huge opportunities to market Brat memorabilia and boost the funds we need to ensure a worthy Halton Apprentice heritage programme.

One of the key tasks we are currently working on is a Heritage Policy Statement; once completed, we will ensure it becomes available for all members to view. Be sure to let me have your thoughts on what you think should be included in our plans. For my part, I would like to see a 15ft bronze statue of an apprentice in No 1 uniform slap bang in the middle of a new Main Point roundabout! This, like any other ambitious project, will take money and that is why we need to be business minded in our endeavours.

We have reviewed our Membership categories and fees. In the next Haltonian, (with you by mid-August), we propose changes to life membership and renewal membership categories, and these will be included as a motion for approval at our virtual AGM on 19th September. Many of you have already indicated you would happily contribute more to our Life Membership, and the opportunity has just arrived! We have created a new Heritage Life Membership category. It is voluntary, and if you do not wish to pay more, then you do not have to. An Application Form is attached to this Newsletter. Annual members may also transfer to Heritage Life Membership by donating £75 and paying an annual fee of £15.00. As these are voluntary contributions, we can start the scheme immediately, and I am pleased to say our Vice-Patron Sir Dusty Miller was the first to contribute. That is what I call leadership!

The next issue of our Haltonian will be a bumper package as it will contain loose leaf pages of the motions and instructions required for you to vote in our virtual AGM. You will be able to vote on-line or by returning your votes by snail mail. The results of your

voting will be announced at the virtual AGM attended by all the proposed Trustees and Council members. We will record the meeting and it will become available for download from our Old Haltonian web site together with the minutes. We are following the Charities Commission (CC) advice on virtual meetings.

As most of you are aware, most of the new Council has been co-opted following CC guidance. For clarity, I attach the letter your General Secretary received from the CC shortly after the new team started work. There can be no dispute that we are legally constituted subject to your endorsement at the AGM. (See attached letter following)

We hope to launch a new 500 Club private lottery in October and more details on how to apply will follow soon.

Our Constitution had not been amended since 2009 and I am pleased to say that the mammoth task to revise has now been completed and each of you will receive a copy in the next Haltonian. You will be asked to approve the new Constitution by voting on the appropriate motion at our virtual AGM.

In reviewing our membership database, it is clear we need to modernise the way we contact our membership. The new Council values membership opinions, and to make this work we must energise exchange of information and switch from snail mail to electronic mail. Besides, the cost of mail especially overseas is prohibitive. Many of you will be surprised to know that over 600 members do not have a contact email address listed in their personal details. Please may I ask all of you to send an email to membership@rafhaa.co.uk advising the best address for us to contact you. In some cases, you might prefer to use your partner's address or indeed your children, grandchildren, or close family relatives. While writing about membership fees, may I remind those who have not yet paid, 20/21 fees are over-due.

Many of you know there has been a dispute over monies transferred to RAFHAT without direct RAFHAA membership approval. When I became Chairman, I wrote to all RAFHAT Trustees to find a solution. You will be pleased to know that RAFHAT have offered a substantial donation to our Association plus the return of £25,000 earmarked for maintenance of Halton Grove at the Arboretum. Your Council agreed unanimously to accept these donations and close all further debate on the subject. RAFHAA will reassume responsibility for Halton Grove maintenance and each Charity will stand alone and be independent of each other.

I trust you all are surviving the lock down restrictions wherever you are in the world. We are investigating trying to bring you all a little closer by starting a chat capability on our web site. As soon as we have something workable, I will let you know, electronically of course!

Best wishes

Frank Denton-Powell

Chairman RAFHAA

90TH

Attachment

Email received from the Charity Commission confirming that the matter of dissolution is now closed.

Wed 06/05/2020 08:09

RC Landing & Correspondence (Queue) <RCCorres1@charitycommission.gov.uk>

RAFHAA Charity No. 292523 CRM:0380810

Leslie Shardlow <secretary@rafhaa.co.uk>

Dear Mr Shardlow,

Thank you for your email updating me on the appointment of new trustees and confirming the dissolution of the charity is no longer a live issue.

The information is noted and my case is now closed as there is no further need for charity commission involvement in the matters which were brought to our attention.

Yours sincerely

Case Manager, Regulatory Compliance Team

W: <https://www.gov.uk/charity-commission>

NB The name of the Case Manager has been deleted to comply with data protection.