



IPSWICH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL TRANSPORT SOCIETY

Autumn 2021 Update

Dear Members

As promised in my 'Chairman's Chat' article in the last edition of Transport Matters, we have several positive things to update you about.

Most importantly we have now confirmed the 27th October and the 24th November for presentation evenings at the Salvation Army Citadel venue, with possible Zoom meetings for December and January if there is sufficient support from the membership for Zoom meetings. The resumption of face-to-face meetings from February till May, with a possible additional meeting in June if the membership would support that event, further details included in this update. As we need to see how things pan out with attendance over the next couple of meetings and consider the outside influences of this winter's effects on the pandemic, we will review and subsequently book presenters for the remaining year, in January 2022.

As explained in my last update, we are aware that around 15% of feedback from the membership have stated that they will not be able to attend meetings, along with a reduction of around 15 members, has resulted in the need to review our finances. We have not increased our Membership fees for five years and the Committee has reluctantly agreed that we need to increase Membership fees. These will be the Single membership to £12 and Joint membership to £15 for the 2021/22 year. Even with this increase, we estimate membership fees will now only cover the cost of producing Transport Matters, other printing costs, insurance and around 70% cost of hall hire. The remaining costs for hall hire and all the speaker costs will need to come through 'entry/door fees' and book sales, therefore we have also agreed to increase meeting door fees to £2.50 for members and £4.00 for non-members. We know any increase in fees is never popular, but even with these increases, it's likely we will use some of remaining bank reserves to keep us going through out the 2021/22 year, so we hope you can continue to support us. You will find the 2021/22 Membership Application form with this letter, if you are unable to attend the Society Meeting in October, we do ask that you either send a cheque for Membership or direct bank payment by the 31st October (as detailed on the attached form). Unfortunately, anyone that has not paid by that date, will not receive the Autumn Transport Matters that is sent out in mid-November.

The remaining issue of concern now is on the need to recruit essential new Committee members, we have had three offers to help on the Committee which has been very helpful, this includes the role of Membership Secretary, but as yet, we have had no offers for taking the Treasurer and Publicity Officer roles which again is a 'make or break' issue. Therefore, we are again urgently appealing for members to help on the Committee. David Kerridge has volunteered to temporarily take on the Treasurer role until the Spring 2022 as Pat has now retired. We will need to recruit a permanent Treasurer or a replacement Secretary by next Spring. As we have not been able to recruit a Publicity Officer as yet, our publicity efforts could be less effective, which could impact our goal of attracting new members. Due to the unresolved committee recruitment issues, we have also agreed to postpone the AGM normally held at the start of the IDHTS year, this is now likely to take place in March 2022.

I look forward to seeing as many as possible that can make it to our first meeting on the 27th October, our first for over 18 months! Though we have postponed our formal AGM for the first meeting, I will be giving a short 'welcome presentation' at the start of this meeting, which will include the opportunity for you to ask questions about this update.

As I have stated in the past, we need additional support if we are to have a long-term future. Unless we increase our membership and attract additional committee members, things could be very challenging. So, I will say again, **THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY DEPENDS ON YOU!**

Kind Regards

Sylvia

Sylvia Kerridge