

*** This is a redacted version of a letter posted to all TAST members and appears here for information only, without enclosures. ***

23rd March 2020

Dear All,

We have been waiting to see how things developed over the last few days and waiting for guidance / directives from the Government, Public Health England, The Arts Society head office and Tarporley Community Centre. Unfortunately and regrettably it has now become very clear that we cannot continue to meet for our lectures for the next few months. The Community Centre has now cancelled all meetings and The Arts Society has directed us not to meet. The Government's advice about gatherings/social distancing and the vulnerable age demographic are all serious considerations. Your health and wellbeing is of course our top priority and we can't just soldier on.

The Committee have decided to postpone our lectures in April, May and June, this will include our A.G.M. The outing to Portmeirion has also had to be cancelled, but we propose to rebook and try again in May 2021.

Obviously none of this news will come as a surprise to you, as it is an unprecedented, exceptional time. The challenging situation is inevitably creating uncertainty, isolation and anxiety, but we can try to support each other with kindness. If any of you need help in any way please do not hesitate to contact one of us and we will help if we are able. I urge you all to care about each other and pick up the phone to any members who you fear may be feeling isolated, or just keep in touch with each other in friendship.

We are planning to reopen for business in September. Let's hope by then the situation will have improved and we will be able to resume our programme. We propose to move our A.G.M. to after the September lecture. Nearer the time we will keep you updated by email and via our website if things change.

Despite these measures we must remain positive to ensure the future of our thriving society, therefore please find enclosed the Membership renewal form. We had decided to increase this year's subscription to £45 (£4.50 still being excellent value for money for each lecture), however taking into account the unforeseen disruption to our programme we have decided to keep the subscription at £40. It would help us tremendously if you could return the form with your cheque promptly, by return of post if at all possible. There is no need to enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your programme card this year, as we have decided to post

all the programme cards (as soon as they are printed) to you on receipt of your cheques.

The new programme is really exciting and let's hope we can start afresh in September with renewed energy and enthusiasm after our enforced hibernation.

Try to keep positive and cheerful, counting our blessings not our disappointments. Take care of yourselves and be kind and understanding to others if you can. Not everyone will react rationally to the challenges. Compassion and patience will be needed over the next few months I am sure.

Fondest regards Freda x

(Freda Markham – Chairman)

THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TARPORLEY