

Treasurer's report for the AGM 2021

This year has been a good one, from the point of view of the finances of the Landscape Group. We started the year with a bank balance of £22,203 and ended with £41,161.

How we achieved this is due to many different reasons. In basic terms, income has been increased and expenditure reduced, but not in ways that we planned at the start of the year.

Covid and the first lockdown led to the cancellation of many planned events throughout 2020. At first the bookings for these events were held over, but as the year progressed, and it became apparent that they would not be rescheduled as expected, refunds were made to those who had booked.

Very swiftly, the events managers changed their focus, from organising field trips, to providing a varied schedule of online events, many led by the same people who would have run events in person, thus keeping our leaders happy with an income, and providing the chance for far more of our members to participate. Bookings for these events were at a very healthy level, which was maintained for the rest of the year. Membership of the Group also increased, mainly as a result of the programme the Group was offering.

The reduction in expenditure has been another element. Our AGM and Member's Day had to be cancelled, so this expected cost did not happen. Nor did we, the committee, have any of our usual face to face meetings during the year, so another saving.

Looking forward to 2021, with such a healthy bank balance, we have been able to introduce a number of extra benefits to the Group. I'm sure Richard (Chair) will give more detail about these, but they include a prize for the new monthly online competition for at least the first 6 months, a subsidy on the cost of some of the online events and, providing we are able to get sufficient content, an additional issue of the Magazine. These are benefits that are available to all members of the Group.