

September 2020

## LAUNCHING THE 2020/2021 SEASON

Dear Members

I am delighted to enclose the lecture programme for 2020/2021.

Detailed planning is underway to prepare for the start of our new season. The Society has benefited greatly from the preparatory work done by the team at Lowther Pavilion and we have supplemented this with our own thoughts on how best to organize events and continue to bring our lecture programme to you. Attached is guidance on how things will operate to comply with regulations and for the protection and convenience of everyone. We ask you to read it carefully, retain it for future reference and cooperate with us to ensure we can meet together safely.

Many of you have kept faith with us and renewed your membership from August 1st and we will do all we can to bring you our lecture season in full. Social distancing means that numbers are limited in the Auditorium – hence the reason for asking you to indicate, in advance, if you plan to attend. Visitors or guests will not be permitted. Once we know how many plan to attend and how many are singles or are able to sit in clusters of 2 or more we will design a seating plan to take into account your wishes. If numbers exceed the capacity of the theatre we will operate a priority for those booking first. The attached guidance explains how this will operate.

Some lecturers are prepared to repeat their talk on the same day which could enable us to spread attendances (in which case timings may vary from the usual 2pm start). We are also working on the option of live streaming lectures to view at home through ZOOM. Such innovations take time to plan and implement so, for the moment, we are trying to keep things simple. We will keep you informed of these developments - please keep an eye on our website and check our regular emails to you.

**So we can test our procedures and provide an interesting social outing for our members we have organized a film show on Wednesday 23 September and I enclose an invitation and response form.**

If you have not already renewed your membership then I hope this letter inspires you to do so before 1<sup>st</sup> October. Not only are we planning a full schedule of 10 lectures in Fylde, your membership also enables you to access many excellent activities through The Arts Society nationally - of particular note is the introduction of 4 one hour lectures live on line on from September to December.

For the future we will all have to show flexibility as we are having to do in all aspects of our lives. We may need to adjust the programme- we may need to change timings- we will not have opportunities to socialize as we have done habitually. Nevertheless we hope you will participate, enjoy our excellent lectures and support us in keeping the Society going in the best way we can.

**Our President, Hugh Ellwood, an accredited lecturer who lives locally, will give the opening lecture of the season on Wednesday 7 October 2020 at 2 pm in the Lowther Pavilion. We look forward to meeting up soon - with all best wishes from your Committee.**

*Pat Corless Chair*