

# ANNUAL REPORTS FOR HENRA SEASON 2020-2021

(October – June)

(Our 66<sup>th</sup> year)

(Replaces reports normally presented at AGM)

## General Note from Chairman

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, all meetings from April 2020 onwards have had to be cancelled until further notice.

Our 66<sup>th</sup> AGM and Election of Committee should have been due to take place at our May meeting but as this was not possible, the three reports that would normally have been presented to members at the AGM are shown following this and will be put up on our website in the Members' Area (under "Minutes")

Committee at end of 2020-21 season

Chairman	Avril Ogden
Vice Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Brian Miller
Secretary	Vacant (Temporarily by Avril)
Membership Secretary	Avril Ogden
Henra IT and Website	External
Meet & Greet	Vacant
Socials - In House	Miriam Monaghan
Socials - External	Avril Ogden
Annual Programme & Publishing	Avril Ogden
General Committee	
Hon President	Tony Yates

Avril Ogden (May 2021)

The Reports that Follow are:

Membership Secretary's Report  
Treasurer's Report & Accounts  
Chairman's Report

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2020-2021 SEASON

As we are not able to meet in person and thus the Membership report cannot be presented verbally, I have perhaps been more detailed than might be necessary so that all members have a clear view of how our organization as a whole is progressing.

In my report for the 2019-20 season, I provided detailed information regarding the memberships from March 2018 onwards, so I won't repeat this here.

It goes without saying that the Covid Pandemic has affected the means by which subscriptions are usually collected. In the previous two seasons, I had managed with help from a few volunteers to get a membership application form delivered to every household in our area. We couldn't do that this season because of the pandemic. As it was not possible for us to call on anyone in person, I had to work out a plan to try and get members in.

So from my membership from last season, I contacted all those members who had provided an e-mail address and the remainder had letters delivered by hand or via the postal system.

Last year, we'd also put a Membership Application form onto the website and this year, we added the option for people to pay their subscriptions by direct bank transfer and/or set up a standing order. This has worked really well and just over half the subscriptions have been received by a direct transfer.

Despite all the difficulties, I managed to get most of last year's members to re-join and although the numbers were slightly less than the previous year, the figures are good at just under 1000. Amongst the members, I also managed to find over 70 households completely new to HENRA, quite a number of these being the owners of Beach Huts on Mudeford Sandbank.

Since commencing this report, several members from last season have now re-joined and next year (Covid permitting), I hope to be able to report that the number of members is back over 1000 again. Once things get back on an even keel, I'll attempt to increase the membership even more.

The figures at the end of April 2021 are as follows, with more coming in daily:

	This season Oct 2020-April 2021	Last season Oct 2019-March 2020
Number of Households	535	658
Number of Individuals	969	1232
New Members by Household	74	138
Pre-Paid by Household (No actual income from these)	129	129
No Email Address Provided	34	71

Membership application forms are still available at Hengistbury Post Office/Shop in Broadway, Tuckton Library, St.Nicholas Church (in Foyer), St.Katharine's Church Hall, and inside St.Katharine's Church. I have also continued to promote HENRA in every issue of the Southbourne Eye magazine.

So coming to the end of the 2020-21 season, I'm starting to think of ways to get members to renew and also to attract new members. The best way to do this will obviously depend on how matters progress with the pandemic and what restrictions will be in place.

I would like to end this report by thanking all those people who have continued to support HENRA by paying a membership subscription and hope you will continue to do so. Your support is very much appreciated.

Avril Ogden, Membership Secretary (May 2021)

## Treasurer's Report for year ended 31 December 2020

The accounts are compiled on the Cash basis which means they simply show amounts paid out and received in the year with no account taken of expenses incurred but not yet paid or vice versa. This makes no material difference to the figures. Every entry is documented by invoices, paying in slips and bank statements.

Turning to the individual entries for income:

Membership fees These reflect the fall in membership explained in the Secretary's report (*Avril – I assume you will deal with this*). The main other feature is the massive increase in members paying by bank transfer, usually by direct debit or standing order. We know some banks made it difficult for members to set up payments and appreciate your efforts. We would like to further reduce the number who pay in cash. It is both more secure, and in these COVID times less risky

Advertising Considering the effect COVID is having on small business, this has held up well.

Lottery This now looks like being a reliable source of income.

Compensation from NatWest This time it is for their failure to accept bank transfers in the name HENRA - see my article in the last Newsletter.

Expenses Our expenses for the year are substantially reduced for obvious reasons.

Audit Once again these accounts are unaudited. As I said in my report on the 2019 accounts, there is no legal requirement for an actual audit by a qualified accountant but it is in the interests of all members for the figures to be checked.

My plea for a volunteer then went unanswered. I expect COVID dissuaded volunteers back then but we still need someone to check the figures. **Any HENRA member who is not involved in collecting or handling membership fees could do it, so could anyone else you can persuade!** Please contact Avril if you are willing to do this. It will only take a couple of hours in February each year.

Outlook We are in a strong position financially. Income has held up well, while expenses have fallen because our normal activities like meetings, speakers, socials have had to be cancelled. When things return to normal, members will need to decide how our funds should be used. At the moment I hope members will agree they are still getting good value for their subs, notwithstanding the lack of events. Avril spends a great deal of time keeping us all informed without any financial reward.

**Brian Miller**

**Treasurer**

henra accounts

	<b>2020</b>		<b>2019</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Membership Fees (note 1)	1266.00		1560.00
Advertising income	470.00		406.00
Lottery receipts	1472.50		1173.00
Compensation from NatWest	75.00		200.00
Donations	21.00	3304.50	15.00
			3354.00
<b>Expenses</b>			
Printing (note 2)	525.00		591.00
Socials (note 3)	0.00		198.75
Speakers	52.23		213.00
Administration (note 4)	245.81		249.96
Web Site	76.77		59.99
Gifts to retiring committee members	0.00		75.52
Hall Rent	0.00	899.81	300.00
			1688.22
<b>Surplus for year</b>	2404.69		1665.78
Add Reserves brought forward	4043.29		2377.51
Reserves carried forward	<u>6447.98</u>		<u>4043.29</u>
<b>Represented by</b>			
Cash at bank	<u>6447.98</u>		<u>4043.29</u>

Sheet1

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>		<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Note 1 : Membership Fees</b>			<b>Note 3 : Socials</b>		
Bank transfer	774.00	72.00	<u>Annual Dinner</u>		
Cash	228.00	1114.00	Gilbeys Restaurant	<u>546.00</u>	784.00
Cheques	<u>264.00</u>	<u>374.00</u>	Members Cheques	<u>546.00</u>	784.00
Total Membership Fees	<u>1266.00</u>	<u>1560.00</u>			
<b>Note 2 : Printing</b>			<u>BBQ cruise</u>	cancelled	
Application forms	0.00	220.00	Bournemouth Boating Services		980.00
Newsletter & Programme	<u>525.00</u>	<u>371.00</u>	Members Cheques		980.00
Total printing	<u>525.00</u>	<u>591.00</u>			
<b>Note 4: Administration</b>			<u>June Social</u>	cancelled	
Photocopying	14.25	24.30	entertainment		54.00
Postage	85.85	20.96	raffle prizes and wine		116.50
Stationery	127.43	146.66	Less raffle income		<u>53.00</u>
Telephone	6.88	29.84			<u>117.50</u>
Travel & parking	<u>11.40</u>	<u>28.20</u>	<u>Christmas Social</u>	cancelled	
	<u>245.81</u>	<u>249.96</u>	entertainment		60.00
			raffle prizes and wine		85.25
			Less raffle income		<u>64.00</u>
					<u>81.25</u>

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON (Oct 2020 - April 2021)**

HENRA is now in its' 66<sup>th</sup> year and it has been my privilege to serve as Membership Secretary since March 2018 and additionally as your Chairman since September 2018, both posts I am more than willing to continue so long as the membership wishes me to.

This report is being made in writing only as it has not been possible to have our AGM and Election of Committee at our May meeting as hoped because we are still in a lockdown situation due to the Coronavirus Pandemic that is affecting the whole world. We also had to take the decision to cancel all meetings from April 2020 onwards until further notice. I can only hope and pray that by the time of our next AGM in May 2022, life will have returned to normal. The report I now make, therefore, only covers the period of October 2020 to April 2021 inclusive. As this is a written rather than a verbal report, I will be a bit more detailed than would possibly have been the norm although as we have been unable to meet up in person, there is not a great deal to report.

Looking back, it's difficult to imagine that it was March 2020 that the first lockdown happened here in England. Over the past 15 months, very few people were seen out and about, very little traffic in the streets and apart from going to the shops for food, the area was seemingly deserted. Many people, myself included, preferred to be safe rather than sorry and have been self-isolating. When we do go out, everyone is still very cautious but noticeably in our own area, people are mostly abiding by the various Government-imposed regulations.

During this enforced isolation, I have tried to keep everyone informed as to what's been happening by e-mail. For those not on e-mail, I have copied them important information about once a month if they've provided me with postage stamps.

At the start of the lockdown, I asked for volunteers and I had several people who were willing to help out with things like shopping, collecting prescriptions and when asked for assistance by members, I was able to put them in touch with each other. So thank you to all the volunteers who have helped out.

What has surprised me over the past few months was the number of members who made totally unreasonable requests; for instance to put their dustbins out for them or to clear away dog mess. Really??!!

During the whole period of the pandemic, I've received an average of around 50-60 e-mails every day, all of which I have answered. The inbox on my computer system still has over 6500 emails, which I haven't yet found time to save anywhere. I dare say I'll find time one of these fine days.

Normally in this end of season report, I would highlight things that have been discussed at our meetings and also talk about the speakers we've welcomed but with no meetings being held, this isn't possible so I'll just briefly mention a few of the things that have cropped up over the period, not in any particular order.

Brian Heppenstall, the Senior Ranger at the Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre has departed from the centre to pursue a new and exciting career as an educator at KMC, teaching the future generations of conservationists. I am informed that it is not yet known who will replace him, if at all, as there is some restructuring going on within BCP. As soon as I hear anything further, I will let our membership know.

In the meantime, the staff at the Head Centre have been partnering with as many other teams as possible to help patrol the site to try and minimise damage and anti-social behaviour like that seen last year. This includes other ranger teams within BCP, Dorset Fire & Rescue, Dorset Heathland Partnership and Bournemouth Seafront, with all parties offering patrols off site to assist the team there.

Despite the continuing lockdown situation, there are still a lot of anti-social activities in our area, one of the main ones being the continual noise from motor bikes speeding along our roads in the evenings, mainly along Broadway. Where possible the Police are notified immediately it happens and in some instances the PCSOs have been able to talk to the offenders.

The Land Train should be starting a service again around the middle of May.

There have been numerous scams, both by e-mail, phone and text, even by post. There are too many to mention here but just a word of warning to take care and please don't get caught out.

On the day following what should have been our AGM this year, we went to the Polls to elect a new Police & Crime Commissioner and David Sidwick was subsequently elected. We are lucky in that David lives in Southbourne so, if he isn't already, he should quickly become aware of the major problems affecting our own particular area.

Various planning applications have come to the fore, some of which have been or will be somewhat controversial.

The application to replace the Beach House Café on Mundeford Sandbank had hundreds of objections but I understand that new plans have been submitted and I believe have not been objected to.

The application to erect a 5G phone mast with ancillary equipment on the grass verge outside the Post Office in Broadway has been refused. Again, there were numerous objections to this application.

There are two further applications in the pipeline which, I believe, should be considered together. The first one is the removal of the Southbourne Crossroads Car Park to make way for yet more flats. Although there is an official planning application in front of BCP Council, I have so far been unable to find anything definite that the land has actually been sold. My personal feeling is that I suspect that it might be a similar situation as with Broadwaters and that it is more likely to be sold subject to getting planning permission. There are several hundred objections to these plans already.

At the same time as the Crossroads Car Park, there also seem to be plans afoot to redevelop the Bistro on the Beach and at the same time, demolishing the beach huts and building new ones. Initial plans were to put in a lift from the car park but I believe this part has now been scrapped.

There is already a real problem with visitors parking in this area and if the Crossroads Car park is demolished and more visitors come into the area, where will people park?

I know that the development of the Hengist Caravan site has been a cause for concern for a few years now but I understand that the new owners of the site, Royale Life, have now come to some arrangement with the final tenant on the site and that the site is due to start being cleared around the middle of this month.

Due to Covid-19, we were unable to hold our Annual Dinner in February 2021 and this would have been the last time at Gilbeys Restaurant as Diane and her husband have decided to retire. I am currently investigating an alternative venue for February 2022 and will let you know when this is finalized.

Our Summer Social meeting in June has been cancelled as we are still unable to meet in any number at the moment but at the time of writing, it looks like we might be able to go ahead with our Annual Boat Trip & BBQ in July. This will be the last meeting of the season.

Last year I reported the success of the BH Coastal Lottery and that from the sale of tickets for this, HENRA receive 50p for each ticket sold. As a result, we receive some funds each month and next season, we hope to start distributing some of these funds to worthwhile causes within the HENRA area. At the time of writing this report, nobody has yet won a weekly prize of £25,000 although several of our own members have won smaller amounts and also free tickets. Thank you to everyone who has supported HENRA by buying tickets.

In these uncertain times, it is difficult to predict when we will be able to meet up again regularly although I am working on the basis that we can start our monthly meetings again in October 2021. In the meantime, I will do my best to keep members up to date with anything happening in our area.

Despite these troubled times, I hope you will continue to support HENRA and will renew your subscription. It is still only £3 per household which by any standards is good value for money. I have tried to make our Annual Brochure interesting and am currently working on the next one.

So thank you to every one of you that has continued to support us and hopefully we can welcome you back as members for our next season commencing in October. Memberships can be renewed any time from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 onwards via our website. If you could set your application to pay via standing order in the future, this will be an enormous help.

Finally, as you will see from the front page of this report, we are in urgent need of volunteers to join us on the Committee. Next season should prove interesting as we will be deciding on how best to distribute some of our funds within the community. Please let me know if you can help out.

Stay safe everyone

Avril Ogden, HENRA Chairman  
(May 2021)