

## Treasurer's report 2019-2020

Unlike that nice Mr. Sunak, from whose largesse I trust many of our members have by now benefited, your treasurer can report that, once again, the Network ended the financial year 2019-2020 in a healthy financial state. In contrast to the previous year, when the bulk of the expenditure on the new website occurred, income exceeded expenditure by a margin that would have delighted Mr Micawber himself. As at 31 March 2020, taking both the current and savings accounts together, the network had at its disposal around £19,000, more than sufficient for any conceivable eventuality.

So much for the general picture. Let us turn now to a few of the individual items of income and expenditure. One of the most striking figures on the income and expenditure account is the apparent fall in revenue from member subscriptions, which is by far our major source of income. A total of £3450 received compared with £4874.04 in the previous year would appear, on the face of it, to represent a significant drop in membership. It should be remembered, however, that in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant loss of work and income for many of our members, the Committee decided in its wisdom to extend the membership year for a further six months until September 2020. It would seem that a number of members have taken advantage of this offer to postpone payment of their subscriptions. Consequently, the true picture will not emerge until later in the year.

Other than that, there is little of note to comment on. Committee members appear to have been reluctant to claim the nominal sums they can claim for all the unpaid work they do on members' behalf – I expect next year's accounts will show a different picture now I've highlighted their reticence! Expenditure on the website has fallen considerably this year and we are no longer paying a regular monthly sum for maintenance (for which the service received was not always satisfactory, it has to be said). Members appear to be as reluctant as the committee to claim what they are entitled to – only two members claimed the £25 grant towards the cost of CPD to which all full members are entitled each year. As treasurer, I am somewhat reluctant, for obvious reasons, to point this out, but it bears repeating that every full member can claim this grant once a year as a contribution towards the cost of attending a CPD event. Apart from anything else, this puts the £50 subscription into perspective, since half of that sum can in fact be claimed back. Another point worth making is that the "Room hire" item of expenditure includes payment in full for the hire of a room and other facilities for the postponed Boost Day and a substantial deposit for the postponed 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner. At the time of writing, it remains uncertain when these postponed events might take place but we remain hopeful that it will be possible to hold them in the not too distant future.