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**Cambridge Society of York**  
**Chairman's End of Year Report October 2017**

I have at last got some very pleasant things to report. During the past year we have found a new Secretary, Rachael Mather. She has already organised one event with great success, as I shall report later.

We have got a Treasurer in Dr. Michael Haslam, now recognised as our Treasurer by the bank. We have still got the same Events Secretary, Shirley Haslam, and the Chairman. During the year we have organised two very successful events.

The Dinner at the Hilton Hotel in York was attended by 41, of which 12 were new members, some of whom had only just left Cambridge and who told me that they had experienced a thoroughly enjoyable dinner.

As a result, we have decided to keep the same formula of time and place until circumstances force a change. In this way, everyone will know the approximate date well in advance and can adjust their diary accordingly. We have already booked the Hotel for **Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

The Committee Meetings have also been very positive and helpful this year. Our other event was suggested by the Committee and organised very efficiently by Rachael and Shirley. It was our Summer Party visit to Shandy Hall, Coxwold, on Yorkshire Day. We were given a very lively guided tour of the church and then also of Shandy Hall. It was followed by a Yorkshire afternoon tea at a local tea room, which we filled to capacity, had a lovely selection of sandwiches and cakes and celebrated Yorkshire Day by singing all the correct verses of "*On Ilkley Moor Baht' At.*" All joined in with great gusto, even with appropriate descants!

I therefore think I can assert quite safely that the Cambridge Society of York is now functioning on all cylinders and that the future looks very promising. This will, of course, to some extent depend upon the continued cheerful support of all our members to make the events successful, and indeed memorable.

We are planning, and saving, for a special event to mark our 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2019.

From this new foundation, we should try to build some positive structures. We need new members each year, including those who have just left Cambridge. In this we are very grateful for the publicity and new contacts provided by the Alumni Office in Cambridge. It would also be good to have more people actively engaged in running the Society, even as Assistant or Deputy to the various offices. In this way we would have continuity of experience and have help when needed. We already have one offer and would welcome some more.

We have always kept to the pattern originally laid down by John Dronfield in 1939 when he started the Society, namely, to have an official Dinner and an informal Summer Party. By doing this, we do not make too many demands on purses and diaries whilst affording the opportunity for some very good friendships to develop. This should remain our objective, but it does not rule out any members organising an informal kind of 'get together' if they would like to meet others of whom they have made the acquaintance.

At the AGM, we agreed to raise the subscription from £8 to £10 as from 2018. We have never tried to make a huge profit but we cannot afford to make a loss. Our expenses on postage and printing have gone up while we have kept the old subscription for many years. It is still very good value for membership of a Cambridge Society and we do encourage all on our mailing list to let us have their contribution to keep us solvent. We constantly update our membership list and all possible emails. If you discover any errors, do let us know.

My thanks to all who have taken office or helped in any way this year. This expression of gratitude is not just a formality, I am indeed very grateful for the help and cheerful support given by so many faithful members.

Do spread the word about the Cambridge Society of York, it is in good shape and has a happy fellowship.

Finally, I wish you a very enjoyable Christmas season and every happiness in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

*Eric G. Thompson*

(Chairman, the Cambridge Society of York)