**CNHS Library, publications stock and archive material**

The CNHS Library has been in a parlous state for some years. Its future was discussed in depth at Council and at the AGM in 2017. In 2019 we had to move this material into a small ground floor room in Herbert Atkinson House, Abbey Street. At the time there were no other demands on the space, and we had hoped to re-evaluate the library with a view to disposing of unwanted material and providing storage cupboards and shelving for the remainder. At present, and partly due to the Covid episode, we have made little progress. The room meanwhile remains completely unusable.

Tullie House now needs more administrative space in HAH and has taken over an upstairs office used by CBDC. CBDC will need additional space as new projects develop, which will put even more pressure on their accommodation. We need to make the room available as office space for CBDC as soon as we reasonably can.

There has been extremely little evidence of demand on this resource despite its listing on our website over many years. Most titles are obtainable from libraries or through inter-library loans. Some are even available online. The Council unanimously agree that we have no option but proceed with the following proposals:

1. With the exceptions noted in point 2 below, the books and journals that make up the Libraryshould be appropriately disposed of, with the aim of completion by Christmas 2021. Any titles donated by a present member of CNHS will offered back to that donor in the first instance.

2. An archive of the Society’s publications should be retained, along with a limited number of books and other publications relevant to the history of the Society, including publications by its members. (Personal material such as notebooks, reports, etc may be placed with the Society’s existing Archive at the County Record Office.)

3. The disposal processes would begin with opportunities for all members to make sealed bids for items for their own interest. We would organise this by email announcement to members and through the private Facebook site, which would carry lists, announcements and details of timings and processes. Books valued at £50 or more will have a reserve price. Journals cannot really be valued, although we shall ask for sealed bids even if nominal, or even nil, amounts are offered. Approvals of bids will be managed by the Society’s officers. Books not acquired by members would be auctioned insofar as this is possible.

4. Any journal runs not acquired by members would be offered (free or otherwise) to relevant local organisations before disposal - which may have to be recycling, as a last resort.

5. Secure storage cupboards would be acquired to house the archive material mentioned in 2 above, as well as stocks of back-issues of the Society’s publications.

6. The Council will keep costs in carrying out the above to a minimum, in the expectation that income deriving from disposals should much exceed the expenditure.

*This will be a challenging undertaking for our limited manpower resources. We ask for everyone’s forbearance. We apologise to non-users of the Internet and will do what we can to accommodate them. Browsing stock at Herbert Atkinson House will unfortunately not be an option.*