

Library Report for AGM 2014

I continue to be grateful to three other members of the Library Working Party (Alan Roy, Dave Cree and Peter Dix) for the ongoing work which we are carrying out in devising our own cataloguing system and allocating every book the Society owns to this system. This continues to be developed, with new subsections being added at just about every meeting!

We generally meet once a month, usually the third Thursday morning, if we can get access, but at other times if necessary. We are now half through the penultimate cupboard, and continue to make discoveries about some of the wonderful books and other materials “hidden” within these cupboards.

I am grateful to members who have been continuing to donate books they no longer need, and I am also pleased to report that books are being borrowed by attenders at both evening and morning meetings. This year I have been getting used to being asked if we have such and such a book. This happened rarely in the past. So our library is being used more than ever, which is great.

Some new purchases have been made – and I am also getting requests to buy books in areas we are reckoned to be “thin” on. This is more likely to happen more regularly once we have completed our current work, and know exactly what we have, as long as we make sure the Treasurer remains happy!

To finish with, there are two outstanding issues which I bring to members’ attention.

- (1) The Society own some non-philatelic items. These are the remains of the Bullough collection - 73 books on “water transport”. They are currently housed in a member’s home. Suggestions for disposing of these have been made and some contacts made, but it requires someone with some time to investigate it more thoroughly than is currently possible. There is a complete list available for anyone who wishes to know more – see me and ask me!
- (2) Once the current phase of work is finished we then move onto several other phases. One is how we make the contents of the Library known to everybody as easily as possible. In the past we have used many dense pages of lists, which can have their place. However now that we have a really good website, there is a possibility that we could employ this but using an intranet aspect that is available to members only. Or we could supply every member with their own disc. Updating would make the former of these easier to manage. Allied to this business is another aspect, which is that many of the books fall into more than one category and therefore we need to have a decent cross-referencing system. Using a database with each book separately listed has been suggested, and this is definitely a possibility, but with the number of books now at least 650 and rising to possibly 700 or more, this would take some time. The Working Party will be happy to continue receiving suggestions, and thanks all members for their support in maintaining this valuable asset of ours.