

The Book Society

Accounts – year to 31 December 2018

Treasurer's Report

The result for the year is a surplus, before donations, of some £5,600 compared with £5,700 in 2017. At 31 December, our cash reserves stand at £13,500 compared with £11,400 at the previous year end.

Subscription income increased to £13,500 from £11,800, following the rise in the subscription rate to £55 from £45. At the end of the year, there were 279 (2017 – 295) full and honorary members.

Costs for the year were as expected and this year included a charge for the use of the room facility at the Savile. We were warned that the rate for 2018 was an interim measure and that there will be an increase for 2019, which the club need to levy due to the rising costs experienced by the club.

The Savile has continued to provide a good service to the Society and we gave the customary Christmas gratuity of £1,000, which is very much appreciated by the Club.

Average attendance at all events was up at 94 compared with 91 in 2017. At the six dinners, average attendance was 81 (2017 – 78) and, at the two drinks parties, was 131 (2017 – 131). The charge for dinners increased to £40 from £38. A small uplift in the dinner cost charged by the Savile is made to contribute towards the cost of guests and the annual gratuity.

Our administration and accounting continue to be managed expertly by Jo Dawson, who very capably deals with all eventualities, including website crashes, calmly and with good humour.

As reported last year, we made a donation to Give a Book and, as in past years, we also made a donation of £1,500 to the Book Trade Charity.

This is my last report as Treasurer as I stand down from the Committee after the AGM. James Long, publishing director at Macmillan, takes over from me. I have enjoyed my years as Treasurer and should like to thank the various Committee members during that time for their support. The Society is in good shape to face the future, whatever that may bring in somewhat unsettled times. I wish James every success and I know he will receive as much support as I have done.

I am happy to receive any queries members may have.

Greg Craig Waller
1 April 2019