



## **Chairman's Report 2021-22 (John Billman)**

For much of 2021-2 things remains much as they had in 2020-1 with an exclusively online offering, an offering which one again has proved to be very popular and which allowed a range of global speaker to give lectures to the society. In Spring 2021 we finally started the journey towards discovering a "new normal" for the society as our President Dr Chris Naunton launched our return to face to face provision with a well-attended lecture in March, although we are continuing with zoom lectures as well,

This May I was delighted to finally be able to lead the much delayed and re-scheduled TVAES North-West trip. Trips such as this provide an opportunity for special access and we were well received by multiple organizations in the region. The Donation Fund has again been busy, and while for some missions security clearances are currently an issue many of the awards made by the society are being spent by their recipients as I write this report.

At this AGM we will appoint a new treasurer as our existing treasurer Erica Morland retires. This is a critical role for any society and words cannot adequately express the debt the society owes to her. Erica has been Honorary Treasurer since the inception of the society in 1994, she is also an active committee member handling everything from catering to Charity Commission submissions and is always a source of wise and experienced counsel on the committee. I know all members will join me in wishing Erica a long and happy 'retirement' as treasurer and I am delighted that Erica has agreed to continue to serve on the committee. A second change is that Elisabeth Luecking will be stepping down from the committee at the AGM, once again I would like to thank Elisabeth for her service and long-standing support of the society and I am sure Elisabeth will remain with us as an active member.

## **Secretary's Report 2020-21 (Francesca Jones)**

As with many other societies, the year began with meetings online via Zoom. TVAES re-started face to face meetings in Spring, with some lectures still offered remotely. There were four extra Zoom lectures in addition to our usual monthly programme - giving a total of 15 lectures between September and July. Our AGM was held by Zoom online on the 23rd October. The online offering led to an increase in non-local members.

Particularly of note was our first face to face lecture since 2020, when the Society welcomed its President, Dr Chris Naunton. On 12th March, he spoke on the real post-20<sup>th</sup>

Dynasty power-holders in Thebes - Harwa, Montuemhat and Padiamunope and their impressive Luxor 'temple tombs'.

A major event of the year was the long-delayed trip to the North West Egyptology collections, first researched pre-Covid by the late Anne Roberts, and led by John Billman. Another member event was an object handling session and tour of the Egyptian collection at the West Berkshire Museum's off-site store, arranged by Beth Asbury.

TVAES classes in 2021-22 were provided via Zoom by John Billman. He ran two sessions on Ancient Egypt's Pyramid Age, plus a short Hieroglyphs class. John also provided online and face to face tuition for a number of third-party classes with the WEA and OUDCE, which were attended by some TVAES members.

Carolyn Prior produced a second very successful newsletter with information on Egyptology events and exhibitions, Society lectures and outings, and also reported on the sad loss of three members - long serving member John Searson, more recent class and trip member Kevin Stacey, and the Secretary's husband John Jones.

So a very Successful year for the TVAES Society, in what has been a difficult period for all Societies.

## **Chairman's Outlook 2022-23 (John Billman)**

This year we have an enhanced programme of 15 lectures originally designed to be 50/50 in-person and online, although the recent rail strikes have led to a more 'virtual' start to the year than anticipated. During this year we will be looking at attendance at both in-person and online lectures as we seek to define the right mix of formats. We are also hoping to run an in-person study day and will be considering options for further trips. TVAES Classes will remain online as this has proven far more practical for the society than in-person classes, but these still remain available via third-party providers.

This is a year of important anniversaries for Egyptology and these are reflected in our programme, as well as in other Egyptological activities in the UK and beyond. The centenary of the discovery of Tutankhamun is included in both our online and in-person lectures and should be very positive for the promotion of Egyptology. It is also the bicentenary of decipherment, marked by an exhibition recently opened at the British Museum and its curator will visit us in-person in December to introduce the exhibition.

Meanwhile here in Egypt from where I write this report, although the promising start to tourism last year was dimmed a little by Omicron, this year numbers are higher than ever. Indeed, the much-delayed opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum finally expected within this academic year will potentially deliver a further boost.

We remain committed to supporting our local members in the Thames Valley, but with so many virtual events we continue to welcome members from across the country and beyond. I hope that members can enjoy as much as possible of our provision this year and some of the UK and global events around the significant anniversaries.