

## **M&LFHS and the Coronavirus Outbreak**

### **STATEMENT BY THE M&LFHS TRUSTEES ON THE COVID-19 [CORONAVIRUS] OUTBREAK**

The Society's Trustees have considered the risks presented to our members, and the general public with which they engage, by the imminent escalation of the spread of Covid-19 [Coronavirus]. Most of our members belong to the most vulnerable and high-risk group among the population.

Latest forecasts predict the peak will come during April, the Easter holiday period and afterwards, where the Society has a number of events scheduled.

Accordingly, the Trustees have decided on the following **precautionary measures** to safeguard our members and volunteers as well as the general public with which they engage in the UK:

#### **Help Desk**

The Society Help Desks in Manchester and at the branches will be closed from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 until further notice.

#### **Volunteers**

Help Desk volunteers will be given sufficient notice when a return to their roles may be safely resumed. Project volunteers who perform their roles at Manchester Central Library and other libraries and archives are strongly advised to refrain from visiting those locations unless absolutely necessary. They are reminded that travel by public transport may represent a higher risk than working in isolation in an archive. Volunteers carrying out projects from home may wish to continue their work whilst remaining in touch with their Project Manager using their usual email contact. Office volunteers will operate on a much-reduced timetable and this will inevitably lead to delays in handling enquiries and correspondence.

#### **Cancellation of Meetings**

The Trustees have decided, again **as a precautionary measure**, that all Society meetings will be cancelled or suspended from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 until further notice. The Society Annual General Meeting [set to take place as part of the April Quarterly Meeting] will be postponed until the July Quarterly Meeting set for 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Visitors who have paid for bookings through Eventbrite for the April Quarterly Meeting will be refunded.

Members who associate with the Anglo-Scottish, Bolton and Oldham branches are advised to consult the appropriate branch website for further details of any cancellations.

#### **Bookshop**

Please note that Bookshop orders may be delayed if volunteers are not available to carry them out. Please be patient.

#### **Membership**

Registration of new members and some renewals may be delayed longer than normal. Please be patient.

The Trustees have taken these **precautionary steps** solely in the interests of members, their close families and others considered to belong to the category exposed to high risk of infection. It is hoped that normal working can be resumed when health risks diminish before too long. Please consult the Society website or Facebook page for progress reports as the outbreak unfolds.

David Muil, Chairman