



The Literary London Society

Minutes

LLS Committee Meeting, 4 July 2012

- 1) **The President's welcome**
- 2) **Apologies:** Nicola Minott-Ahl and Mary Coghill
- 3) **Minutes of previous meeting:** approved
- 4) **Matters arising:** none
- 5) **Items for Report:**
 - a. **President:** congratulates all on the success of the Society so far. Thanks Officers for their hard work
 - b. **Vice President:** supports President's statement. Thanks Officers for their work throughout the year
 - c. **Secretary:** reflects on success of Society and the increasing amount of attention and support it's gaining.
 - d. **Treasurer:** reports on setting up of bank account and the Society's current balance of £977.96 due to the registration of 58 members. Verifies that the Society hasn't spent any money yet, and raises issue regarding the expenses policy and whether it needs to be ratified?

Action point: Secretary to add expenses policy to the next agenda. Treasurer to email committee details about claiming expenses.

- e. **Journal Editor:** confirms she has received several articles and is currently awaiting reader reports. The next issue – Spring 2012 – therefore will be published in late July/early August. The Fall issue will be published at the end of Autumn.
- f. **Reviews Editor:** reports on general success, but seeks advice of committee on how best to get hold of copies of books. Advised contacting publisher best way. Makes excellent suggestion that we link reviews to Wikipedia.

Action point: Start setting up link to Wikipedia

- g. **Conference Organiser:** comments that we are down about 30% on last year in terms of numbers. This is due to short lead-up time. Nevertheless, the programme has come together well and the theme – 'Games, Sports and Pastimes' – has been a surprisingly successful one.



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- h. **Postgraduate and early career reps** (including LLS reading group): Holly Prescott reports on problems with JISC due to there already being 2 Literary London JISC mail accounts. She also announces that she's decided to step down due to other commitments, but she has mentioned the Society in a forthcoming article in the *Birmingham Journal of Literature and Language*.

Peter Jones reports on the success of the Reading Group. There have been four sessions so far. Attendance has been good (on average 15 people). Re financial support for this, the IES requires £200 annually.

6) Items for Discussion

- a. **Membership and attendance:** so far we have 58 Society members and 140 Twitter members. What we currently do to attract new members is make conference attendees join, encourage reading group attendees to join, and inform colleagues about the Society.

Action point: link to other websites – IES, for instance. Simon Goulding to create list of university literary London courses so we can form links therewith. LLS website needs more links/announcements. Make sure call for papers out sooner. Adele to put together Society calendar.

- b. **The Newsletter** – form and content: Adele distributed draft of Newsletter to be sent out at the end of July. Jenny offered to proof read it in future.

Action point: Adele to ensure only Literary London email addresses instead of personal email addresses are included in the Newsletter. She also needs to refer members to the LLS website as opposed to, say, the Reading Group's own website.

- c. **The Journal** (submission and the new advisory/editorial board): name of the journal discussed as needs to be clarified. As it is often referred to as the Literary London Journal (LLJ) rather than its official, rather wordy title, *Literary London: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Representation of London*, it was proposed by Peter Jones that we change the title to the former. His proposal was seconded by Simon Goulding and all then voted in favour of calling the journal, from henceforth, *Literary London Journal*.

On another note, Susan asked the question, 'who qualifies as a reviewer?'. A PhD is essential, we agreed, as well as being 'recognised in the field'.

Action point: Susan to officially change journal title and put together a style sheet. Rest of committee to forward Susan names of suggested readers. Names of board of advisories to



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be finalised before the December meeting. Also, information re publishing agreements to be gathered by Brycchan, Jenny, Adele and Susan.

- d. **The 2013 Conference** (dates, theme, speakers etc.): Date for this is 17-19 July 2013. The theme: 'Crisis and Disorder' and possible speakers include Vic Gattrell and China Miéville. A roundtable of contemporary writers as well as Mary Coghill's poetry panel is another possibility. Conference title debated and whether 'Representations' should be included in it? Committee agree it should.

Action Point: Everyone to email Martin with list of suggested speakers. Adele to add 2014 conference on 'Ages of London' to next committee meeting agenda. Martin to put questionnaires in conference packs in future.

- e. **The Internet Forum:** challenges of JISC discussed again and the need to find someone to take over the reins here...

Action point: find a replacement for Holly.

- f. **The Reading Group:** Peter mentions the possibilities of organising a walk in the future

Action point: All to email Peter with suggestions for future reading groups

- g. **Society's Identity and Logo**

Action point: Brycchan and Adele to work on 'logo'

- h. **BSECS and relationship with other organisations in general:** Brycchan's intention of forming link with BSECS approved.

Action point: all committee members to investigate links with other, appropriate organisations.

- 7) **AOB:** Postgraduate prize discussed. Members to send nominations to Brycchan, Jenny and Adele.

8) Date of next meeting

Saturday 12 January 2013