



# The Literary London Society

## Minutes

### LLS Committee Meeting, 12 January 2013

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Apologies: Mary Coghill, Allison Lin, Susan Fischer and Simon Goulding
- 3) Minutes of previous meeting: approved
- 4) Matters arising: none
- 5) Items for Report:
  - a. President: Thanks officers for their work. Reports on improvements made to Society website. Informs committee of 250+ members on Twitter. Urges all to continue to 'plug' society.
  - b. Vice President: Thanks officers for their hard work, in particular the secretary and the conference organiser
  - c. Secretary: Reflects on various administrative tasks and the putting together of the LLS newsletter
  - d. Treasurer: Informs all that Society has 81 members now and an account balance of £1180.52. So far, membership fees constitute the Society's only source of income, whilst outgoings relate solely to the Reading Group (which costs the Society £200 annually) and the PG Prize (which costs £100). Treasurer also suggests fixing 1 Sept. as membership start date. Committee agreed this was sensible.
  - e. Journal Editor: (report delivered via email)
  - f. Reviews Editor: Reflects on increased success with publisher since obtaining a LLS email account. Informs committee that 18 reviews (of academic and non-academic books) are currently in the pipeline. Suggests deadlines have previously been too strict and asks all to send her notification of any appropriate new publications.
  - g. Conference Organiser: So far, he has received several proposals and two of the speakers – Vic Gatrell and Matthew Rubery – are confirmed. 2 plenary slots are still to be filled. Informs committee that rare books librarian @ Senate House, Karen Attar, has been in touch to arrange a display.
  - h. Overseas Reps: none present / no report
  - i. Postgraduate and Early Career Reps (including LLS reading group): Peter Jones reflects on successful of Reading Group and thanks Lara Atkin and Lisa Robertson for their support. Also thanks the society for its support and invites ideas/suggestions for future sessions.

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For *The Literary London Journal* and other information about the society, please go to [www.literarylondon.org](http://www.literarylondon.org)

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**Action point:** Treasurer to send out a call for members. President to amend website to reflect decision to make 1 Sept. membership start date. President also to show Reviews Editor how to set up links to Wikipedia.

## 6) Items for Discussion

- a. Appointment of Lisa Robertson as PG/Early Career Rep. Appointment must be ratified at next AGM (17 July)
- b. Membership and attendance: extraneous point on the Agenda
- c. Expenses policy: At present, cost of reasonable travel to meetings is covered, but not travel to conference and nor overseas travel.

**Action point:** Treasurer to circulate expenses policy and claims forms and put on website.

- d. The Newsletter: suggested improvements to Newsletter are: using Mailchimp, including notice of forthcoming publications (Secretary to get in touch with Reviews Editor about this), including Officers' reports and conference reviews, and making the Newsletter more conversational/less formal. More illustrations, perhaps even cartoons, would also help 'spice up' the Newsletter.

Action point: Secretary to circulate more firm and demanding emails to Committee Members (the Newsletter should be a group effort). Secretary also to look into training in IT design. President to set up website archive into which Newsletters as well as Minutes etc. can be deposited.

- e. The Journal: new issue to be published within the next few weeks. President and Journal Editor suggest skipping a year (rather than play 'catch-up') but continue sequence. So the next issue will be Spring 2013 (10.1). Decision agreed. Other problems: quantity *and* quality of submissions are poor, and contributors are not resubmitting revised work. There is also a shortage of peer reviewers. Perhaps the Journal needs more prominence on website. The production of more special issues was also discussed, issues which tie in with other events etc. That way, the Journal could make more use of guest editors... The editorial board could do with including 'bigger' names... thus everyone to email Editor with possible suggestions. The production of a flyer which includes a list of Journal contents and which could be distributed at the forthcoming conference was also debated as was the possibility of sending round a call for contributions to English departments worldwide. The latter idea was dismissed. It was agreed the Conference Organiser is to send emails inviting contributions from conference attendees after July.

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**Action Points:** Conference Organiser to produce flyer and send emails inviting contributions from conference delegates. President to work on website so Journal more prominent. Everyone to email Journal Editor with names of potential peer reviewers

- f. The 2013 Conference: Date: 17-19 July. Theme: 'London in Crisis and Disorder. And confirmed speakers: Vic Gatrell (who'll address delegate on the morning of the 18 July) and Matthew Rubery (who'll speak on the morning of 19 July). Keynote speaker for Wednesday evening slot is still needed: John Lancaster or Hanif Kureishi proposed.

For the fourth (special) session (held on Thurs. afternoon), a roundtable/panel discussion = a possibility. Suggested writers include James Miller, Alex Preston, Amanda Craig and Henry Sutton, the author of *Get Me Out of Here*.

Re Restaurant: tbc

Pub: tbc

**Action Points:** Organiser to contact John Lancaster, Hanif Kureishi, James Miller, Alex Preston, Amanda Craig and Henry Sutton. Organiser to put together feedback form which includes question asking how delegates heard about the conference. Organiser to publicise the conference via <http://www.englishpen.org>

- g. 2014 Conference on 'Ages of London': ideas for plenary speakers: Peter Ackroyd, an archaeologist perhaps?, curator from the Museum of London, Gerry White, Charlie Fletcher (author of the *Stoneheart Trilogy*), Owen Hathaway, Max Saunders (expert on life-writing), and Vesan Goldworthy.  
Theme for 2015? Vice President's proposal, 'London in Love', unanimously agreed.
- h. Internet: the existing website needs a bit of a facelift – President agreed to work on this. The committee also discussed the possibility of setting up a Facebook page and possibly an academia.edu page as well. The use of Google Docs. in the future is something all would be interested in too.

**Action Points:** Early Career Rep, Lisa Robertson, to set up Facebook group and Secretary to look into setting up an academia.edu page. Brycchan create online archive and new front page for the Journal. Early Career Rep, Peter Jones, volunteered to work on designing a new logo and produce 5 for the next AGM.

- i. The Reading Group: Keen to become more interdisciplinary, and plans to organise field trips / walking tours. Possible future speakers include Stephen Poliakoff.
- j. Rupa Huq book launch: proposal rejected, however Reviews Editor to email writer that she's welcome to advertise her book in the form of a flyer/display at the conference in July.

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7) AOB: N/A

8) Date of next meeting: 17 July 2013 (1-3pm for Committee Meeting and 3-5pm for AGM)

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