



# The Literary London Society

## Minutes

LLS Committee Meeting, 17 July 2013

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Apologies:
- 3) Minutes of previous meeting: agreed
- 4) Matters arising: none
- 5) Items for Report:
  - a. President: Reflects on success of the Society and thanks members of the committee for all their hard work. Looks forward to final year as President and to seeing the Society achieve future success. As Web Editor, he reports on improvements to LLS webpage and the setting up of Facebook page.
  - b. Vice President: Thanks the Officers for their continued hard work. Announces that President's Prize has gone to James Harriman-Smith who delivered a paper on the *Vagabondiana* at last year's conference. Vice President requests the Committee to look out for possible candidates at this year's event.
  - c. Secretary: Reflects on continued success of the Society and her role within it which involves: responding to general enquiries, sending agendas, taking minutes and putting together the Newsletter.
  - d. Treasurer: Starts by circulating balance sheet and financial report which auditor, Philip Tew, has approved. Comments that we're still a modest society with 106 paid-up members and a current balance of £2,308.40. Reports on need for the Society to make £5,000 in order to register as a charity and raises issue of how to spend money in future. At present, the Reading Group, the President's Prize and travel expenses for members based in the UK are the main outgoings. Proposes the Society (which must retain approx. £2,000 in reserve) begin to offer 4 Postgraduate bursaries worth £100 each. All in agreement.
  - e. Journal Editor: Pleased to announce the publication of the Spring issue and expresses aim to publish next issue (Autumn) in September which will include 4

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articles. Announces appointment of 2 new board members: Graham MacPhee (West Chester University) and Nicolas Tredell (Freelance). Board membership to be reviewed further. Comments on desire for more interdisciplinary, mixed-media work and the need for a better balance as there are often more reviews than articles. Editor also highlights need to draw up a Consent to Publish form for contributors and informs of upcoming special issue on Conrad to be edited Robert Hampson (Royal Holloway). She welcomes ideas for other special issues. Raises possibility of making Journal available via EBSCO and reflects on need for more online links to be made to journal.

- f. Reviews Editor: Pleased to report success and informs Committee that there are 10-15 reviews in the pipeline, 9 of which will be published in next issue of the journal. Welcomes more reviews of theatre, film and poetry in order to improve the interdisciplinary nature of *LLJ*.
- g. Conference Organiser: Delighted to announce that the 2014 LLS conference has now kicked off and even though we had a successful year in 2013, this year we have almost 100 speakers (up 60% on last year) many of whom are addressing the theme, 'London in Crisis and Disorder'. Panels are thematically organised and there are more 4-paper panels than before so the importance of Chairs keeping to time is stressed. Requests members to start tweeting during events on Thursday.
- h. Overseas Reps: Both welcome playing a more active role and suggest organising small-scale, off-shoot events at their home institutions in Turkey and Geneva (New York). Both to set up links to LLS page from their institutions too as a way of attracting more attention and widening participation. It was mentioned that money might be spent on sending LLS committee members to give talks at Overseas Reps' universities in future.
- i. Postgraduate and Early Career Reps (including LLS reading group): Report on 6 successful sessions which, despite having a core group of attendees, managed to attract quite a few 'newbies'. Feedback on sessions has been very positive with several academics commenting on the excellent format of the group. Lara Atkin has decided to step down from her formal role as an organiser this year, though. Reps also reflected on success of new Facebook page and the Mrs Dalloway event – a themed walk – which took place during Women's History week. Perhaps the same walk could form part of LLS Conference next year? Ideas for future themes and events welcome.

## Action Points:

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President (Web Editor)	Set up web analytics for the LLS website. Back date all LLJ articles
Secretary	Add to next agenda job descriptions. Organise a 'Wiki' afternoon
Journal Editor	Produce Permission to Publish. Circulate a Call for Papers. Ask new contributors for Abstracts and Keywords. Post details of editorial board online
Overseas Reps	Explore possibility of small-scale, off-shoot events

## 6) Items for Discussion

Item	Discussion	Action Point
Registration with Charity Commission	Charity Commission registration not a possibility at present – a bigger bank balance is needed (£5,000). Society at present is an unincorporated, non-profit making organisation.	
The Journal	See above	See above
The Newsletter	Need for more notices of walks, talks, events and exhibitions etc. stressed, in addition to the introduction of an In Memorium section.	Secretary to include Obituary in Newsletter
The 2014 Conference on 'Ages of London'	Mark Ford, author of <i>London: A History in Verse</i> , suggested as plenary speaker. Other possible candidates incl. David Amigoni (Keele University) and Jane Miller, author of <i>Crazy Age</i> . Related activities welcome – walks etc. incl. book stands Souvenirs and other advertising 'gimmicks' which might be a good way of promoting the Society at next year's conference. It is suggested that conference packs include flyers, bookmarks and pens etc. as way of drawing in a bigger crowd. Delegates to be questioned on where they heard about society etc. (via online survey)	Committee members to email Conference Organiser names of suitable speakers.  Conference organiser to explore new ways of 'branding'
The Internet Forum	Success of new Facebook page mentioned: Committee thank Early	

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	Career Reps	
The Reading Group	Mary Coghill requests funding to run seminars on London in Poetry at Senate House. Despite concerns these seminars and the existing Reading Group won't complement one another and the budget won't stretch that far, it was agreed that poetry sessions can/will be accommodated within the existing structure on a trial basis.	Reading Group to propose to Jon Millington (and find out cost of) the hosting of a few extra sessions which Mary will be responsible for organising. Mary and the Reading Group to work together in organising schedule.
Funding Opportunities	President reiterates that we're now in a position to provide small bursaries for PGs. It is agreed that 4 bursaries @ £100 each would be made available next year.	Application form to be put together by President and Treasurer. A member of the committee will be allocated the task of choosing successful applicants at next meeting

7) AOB: Review of roles. Election of new VP coming up. Creation of new posts within the committee.

**Action Points:** All committee members to consider their future role. Anyone with ambitions to become VP should contact President.

8) Date of next meeting: 18 January 2014.

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