



# The Literary London Society

## Minutes

LLS Committee Meeting, 18 January 2014

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Apologies: Nick Bentley, Allison Lin, Lisa Robertson, Nicola Minott-Ahl
- 3) Minutes of previous meeting: approved
- 4) Matters arising: the four PG bursaries proposed at the last Committee meeting.
- 5) Items for Report:
  - a. President: Reflects on the achievements of the Society, in particular, on the success of the conference in July and the publication of the *LLJ* in Autumn. Thanks members of the committee for all their hard work. Looks forward to handing over his Presidency to the Vice President.
  - b. Vice President: Thanks the Officers for their continued hard work. Announces that the nominations for the President's Prize are underway and shall be announced on Facebook and the Society's website soon. Reflects on the forthcoming 'transfer of power'.
  - c. Secretary: Reflects on continued success of the Society. Welcomes suggestions for improvement and more contribution from members when it comes to the quarterly Newsletter.
  - d. Treasurer: (Report delivered via email) Current balance of funds: £2,527.50. Current number of members for 2013: 110. Current number of members for 2014: 25. Total number of members past and present: 173. Asked the committee whether they are happy to continue banking with the Co-operative. Committee said yes.
  - e. Journal Editor: Pleased with the publication of the Journal in September 2013. Comments on high volume of submissions last year, presumably due to the REF, and on the significant drop in article submissions (but not reviews) in 2014. The Editor is working on the Spring issue at present, and suggests a Call for Papers be included in the next Newsletter. The Deadline for the Spring issue is early February. The Editor also suggests that articles (which are currently published in HTML format) be published in PDF form in future. All agreed.

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- f. Reviews Editor: Pleased to report on success and informs Committee that there are already 15 reviews in the pipeline, included 2 on poetry and 2 on film. Requests that writing style guidelines regarding reviews be included on the website.
- g. Conference Organiser: Delighted to report that the plans for 2014 are afoot and plenary speakers include Lynne Segal and Mark Ford, with Terry Deary, David Skilton and Bernandine Evaristo as potentials. Welcomes ideas for possible panels. Mary Coghill suggests one based on the war poet, David Jones, to coincide with the centenary of the WWI. Other themes put forward are Alan Hollinghurst, 'the Idea of North London' and 'Teaching Literary London'. Dates for 2015: 22-24 July with Linda Troost's name mentioned as a possible plenary. Dates for 2016: 20-22 July? Themes for 2016 explored: Sensory London, Style and London, London on the Move. Agreed provisional theme for 2016: 'World City'.
- h. Overseas Reps: both suggest organising small-scale, off-shoot events at their home institutions in Turkey and Geneva (New York). However, it was agreed that the former location would prove too difficult for delegates to travel to and that a conference at the Graduate Centre, Fifth Avenue, would be preferable. Nicola Minott-Ahl and Susan Fischer are to look into organising this. It was suggested that future overseas reps are ideally based in metropolitan centres given the nature and interests of the Society.
- i. Postgraduate and Early Career Reps (including LLS reading group): Report on successful sessions on London underground, women's housing and the graphic novel this year. However, there is some confusion regarding Mary Coghill's Poetry Group and whether this is supposed to be integrated with / fall under the umbrella of the Reading Group. So far, 2 additional poetry sessions have been organised but advertised as relatively separate to the Reading Group. This, it was agreed, should not be the case and in future Peter, Lisa and Mary are to work closer together and the Reading Group is to promote the poetry sessions as special or additional events.
- j. Web Editor: Distributes Google analytics which reveal that the Society remains a largely British outfit and that the most popular articles – revealing the interests of our readers – are on canonical writers. It is suggested that a young and more technologically-savvy web editor is needed and the President is to advertise this post on the Society's website. The Secretary is also to advertise this post in the upcoming Newsletter. Finally, it was

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suggested that a 'wiki day' be organised in the immediate future to help generate more traffic.

## Action Points:

President (Web Editor)	Look into offering 4 PG bursaries ahead of the 2014 conference; advertise for a new web editor;
Conference Organiser	Email David Skilton and Bernandine Evaristo; organise 'wiki day'
Secretary	Start using Mailchimp; add web editor to Items for Report
Journal Editor	Publish articles in PDF; circulate call for papers
Reviews Editor	Put together writing style guidelines
Overseas Reps	Look into possibilities of organising conference in New York
PG Reps / Reading Group	Work closer with Mary Coghill and the 'Poetry Group'

## 6) Items for Discussion

Item	Discussion	Action Point
The 2014 Conference on 'Ages of London'	See above	Conference organiser to explore new ways of 'branding'  Invite David Skilton and Bernandine Evaristo to deliver plenaries at the 2014 conference.
The Journal	See above	Articles to be published in PDF  Call for papers to be sent out to members  Writing style guidelines regarding Reviews to be included on the <i>LLJ</i> website
The Newsletter	Need for more notices of walks, talks,	Secretary to start

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	events and exhibitions etc. and also for more photos/illustrations.	using Mailchimp.  Possibly attend relevant training session.  Archive the Newsletters.
The Reading Group	See above	Podcasts / recordings of sessions to be made.  Photographs to be uploaded  PG organisers to work closer with Mary Coghill
Facebook	More competitions, such as 'Favourite Lines', needed	
Branding	It was suggested that T-shirts, mugs, pens, bookmarks or other such merchandise be used to promote the Society. Perhaps a T-shirt could be linked to the 'favourite lines' competition	Reviews Editor to explore possibility to having T-shirts printed with the Society's logo or the competition winner's 'favourite lines' printed on it.
Outreach and Diversity	The need for more ethnic diversity is needed. Maybe it would help if the theme of the 2016 conference and the topics covered in the <i>LLJ</i> is more multicultural. Perhaps, too, the committee should try to reach out to different ethnic minority groups in the city and/or invite panel contributions from, for instance, the Black Cultural Archive.	The committee is to explore ways of expanding reach and reaching out to minorities.
Future Roles (Elections)	Secretary to stay on for another 3 years. Treasurer, Journal Editor and Reviews Editor have another year left before election. 1 new PG rep is needed; more Overseas rep are	Expressions of interest to be sent to the President  Web Editor post to

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	needed; one ordinary member to be replaced; a new web editor is to be advertised.	be advertised
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7) AOB: None

8) Date of next meeting: 23 July 2014.

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