



The Literary London Society

Minutes

LLS Annual General Meeting, 22 July 2015

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Apologies: Simon Goulding, Brycchan Carey, Mita Choudhury, Nicholas Tredell
- 3) Minutes of previous meeting: approved
- 4) Matters arising: none
- 5) Reports on the year's work from:
 - a) **President:** Thanks members of the committee, in particular the conference organiser, for all their hard work. Highlights future aims of Society to expand international research and develop website.
 - b) **Vice President:** Thanks the Officers for their continued hard work. Announces that the winner of the President's Prize this year is Charlotte Stroud (University of Roehampton) for her paper on the female flâneur in Sarah Waters's *Tipping the Velvet*. On another note, the recipients of three PG bursaries – Allan Rae (University of Stirling), Patrick Preston (University of East Anglia) and Emma Hayward (University of Liverpool) – will be announced at the end of this year's conference.
 - c) **Secretary:** Reflects on continued success of the Society. Announces that she will be migrating to MailChimp due to problems with Freeola; welcomes contributions to the quarterly Newsletter.
 - d) **Treasurer:** In this financial year, the Society received membership subscriptions of £1983.55 (net after PayPal charges) and gave awards and prizes to the value of £100. The Society's unrestricted reserves at 30 June 2015 amounted to £4226.25. There were 92 paid-up members of the Society at 30 June 2015. Net movement suggests we're down a little in terms of net gains so finances are healthy but modest.
 - e) **Journal Editor:** Reports that the latest issue of *LLJ* (volume 11, issue 2) was published in autumn 2014 and the next issue, which will include articles on George Orwell and Jean Rhys, is due imminently. Welcomes submissions from members, including of a creative nature, for even though the focus is

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still mostly on academic writing, the journal could widen its scope. Journal Editor also invites suggestions for an editorial assistant.

- f) **Reviews Editor:** Reports that there will be 9 reviews in next issue of the Journal and reiterates the call for editorial assistance.
- g) **Conference Organiser:** Delighted to announce that there will be 91 speakers at this year's conference. Confirmed plenaries are Gregory Dart, Kate Flint and Imtiaz Dharker. Changes in room fees means registration fee has gone up, however, to £100 (standard); £70 (concessions); £60 one-day. Speakers are coming from across the globe and there will be an eclectic range of papers as well as a lot of dedicated panels. Twitter account "We are the Humanities" has been set up as an outreach for the conference. IES administrative support has been very good so organiser suggests we continue to use current venue in near future. However, one concern is that overseas candidates found the fees a bit steep this year and, more importantly, getting their visas sorted in time proved difficult as CFP didn't go out early enough. This will be addressed next year. Re: 2016, the theme will be the city and the globe and dates are tbc. The Organiser hopes to attract more international candidates and a larger delegation then.
- h) **Overseas Reps:** Reiterate need to send out CFP sooner for the sake of overseas candidates and suggests flyers are prepared by Oct/Nov. 2015
- i) **Postgraduate and Early Career Reps** (including LLS Reading Group): Report that in this academic year they have organised six successful and diverse sessions, all of which were well attended and drew different crowds on every occasion. In March, Dr Laura Wright offered a personal reflection on her own engagement with the novels of Anita Brookner; Prof. Patrick Wright led an enthusiastic discussion about Iain Sinclair's London writing; and the final session in June considered the relationship between the satirical mode and its representation in literature and film. It was led by Duncan Carson of Nobody Ordered Wolves. Facebook (409 up from 238 members) continues to be a useful place to advertise sessions, but does not draw out information exchange as much as Twitter (277 up from 219 followers). Reps announce that they are beginning to draft next year's invitations for sessions; these include Oskar Cox Jensen for London and Music; Mark Turner for another London Walk; and David Roberts on Art/Architecture and Documentary Film; and others

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j) **Web editor:** N/A

6) Receive the audited accounts of the Society: Accepted by Auditor Philip Tew.

7) Elect officers and ordinary members to vacant positions on the Executive Committee:

Nominations for the following positions were approved:

Treasurer: Nick Bentley (nominated by David Parker; nomination seconded by Jenny Bavidge)

Journal Editor: Susan Fischer (nominated by Susie Fischer; nomination seconded by Martin Dines)

Ordinary members: Simon Goulding, Matthew Beaumont and Nicholas Tredell (if he accepts)

No nominees for Overseas Reps so the search continues.

8) Ratify the appointment of appointed members of the Executive Committee
The following posts were ratified:

Treasurer: Nick Bentley

Journal Editor: Susan Fischer

Ordinary members: Simon Goulding, Matthew Beaumont and Nicholas Tredell (if he accepts)

Reviews Editor: Susie Thomas

Auditor: Philip Tew

9) Provide a formal occasion for members to question the Executive Committee

One member raised the issue of conference registration fees saying they consider them reasonable, however they would appreciate a new retired category. Another member asked whether English UGs are made aware of the Society and suggested the LLS needs to increase membership and mailing list.

10) Transact any other business of an annual nature: N/A

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