



The Literary London Society

Minutes

LLS Committee Meeting, 24 January 2015

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Apologies: Martin Dines, Adam Hansen, Brycchan Carey, Eliza Cubitt

In attendance: Jenny Bavidge, Nick Bentley, Simon Goulding, Adele Lee, Peter Jones, Lisa Robertson

- 3) Minutes of previous meeting: Approved
- 4) Matters arising

Issue	Action Point
It was noted that the three postgraduate bursaries have not been arranged yet	<p>President to liaise with Vice President regarding this matter. If the VP feels it is viable to organise bursaries for this year, then the Conference organiser will email PGs whose abstracts have been accepted if they want to be considered for a bursary.</p> <p>If they do, they are to email the Vice President, who will judge abstracts on the basis of originality and confer the awards <i>after</i> the conference</p>

- 5) Items for Report:
 - a. President: Thanks the committee for their hard work, especially the Conference Organiser, Peter Jones. Reflects on ongoing discussions about the conference and suggests we might look into the possibility of finding an alternative venue for the 2016 conference. Informs committee of her plan to continue building the Society on a local rather than international level and proposes we look into securing external funding for future activities.

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- b. Vice President: Apologises for not to be able to attend the committee meeting this time. Informs the committee that he has reviewed all of the entries for the Presidents' Prize, and the overall standard is very high. The judges will be ready to announce a decision about the winner very soon. VP takes opportunity to commend members of the committee for all their contributions this year – especially Pete for laying the groundwork for the 2015 conference and for Eliza and Lisa for putting on an excellent programme for the Reading Group. He regrets that work commitments have kept him from attending many of the events.
- c. Secretary: Joins VP in commending the efforts of Peter Jones and the PG reps, Eliza and Lisa, who have been wonderfully active in building a network of scholars. Reflects on continued success of the Newsletter and its use in showcasing the work of the Society. Continues to oversee the day-to-day administration of the Society.
- d. Treasurer: Reports that the current balance is £3,378.87 (it was £2527.50 last year) and at the moment we have 42 paid-up members (and 254 overall). Informs that a renewal email has recently gone out and another one will follow soon. There is money available for bursaries and to support the Reading Group.
- e. Journal Editor: Apologises that next issue is a bit late (due to unreliable contributors), but will be sending the Web Editor it this weekend. Promised next issue of *LLJ* will be on time and is in good shape – 3 papers have already been accepted and 1 or 2 more are hoped for. Suggests the need for an Editorial Assistant, someone responsible for formatting, final edits, referencing etc. and proposes Eliza Cubitt. Journal Editor will put together a new CFP as soon as the next issue is out. Suggests style guide needs to be updated.
- f. Reviews Editor: Seconds the suggestion for an Editorial Assistant since there are too many reviews at present and some help is needed. Confirms there will be 12 reviews in the next journal and at least 12 for the next issue. Highlights some copyright problems when quoting from poetry.
- g. Conference Organiser: Confirms plans for 2015 are well underway. 3 plenary speakers are confirmed: Gregory Dart (University College London), Kate Flint (University of Southern California) and Imtiaz Dharker (poet, artist and documentary film-maker). Assures committee he is working on publicising the conference with the help of built-in mail merge.
- h. Web Editor: no report
- i. Overseas Reps: no report
- j. Postgraduate and Early Career Reps (including LLS reading group): In this academic year the Reps have organised three successful and diverse sessions, all of which were well attended. 3 further sessions, including one

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dedicated to Literary London in film, and 2 collaborative events, 1 with Queer London Research Forum and another with the Institute of Modern Languages Research, are planned. October's session in honour of Black History Month attracted several new attendees. November's session drew many stalwarts and produced lively debate. The Reading Group had a distinct presence at "In Harkness' London" held at Birkbeck in Nov. January's session – a Dickensian walk – was the Group's best-attended session ever with a whopping 41 people. Twitter rebranded a link clearly with the LLS and has provided us with a platform for our own activities and involvement with other events (such as at Tonybee Hall or the Prefab Museum). Facebook (238 members) continues to be a useful place to advertise sessions, but does not draw out information exchange as much as Twitter (219 followers).

6) Items for Discussion

a. The Conference

There are some issues re fees, rooming and the conference programme. In particular, there was some discussion about how much to charge delegates and it was agreed that we charge £100 for full conference (£70 for students) and £60 for single day. We also discussed where best to hold the AGM, plenaries and roundtable discussion and whether a 60-seater hall would be large enough... It was also agreed that we explore alternatives to Senate House in the future and consider schools and colleges as possible venues. It was suggested a book table be arranged for the conference, perhaps we could invite the Palgrave, Bloomsbury City Studies etc.? Future themes were briefly touched upon with "The City and the Globe" as well as "The World(s) in London" suggested as the 2016 theme.

b. The Journal: see above

c. The Reading Group: see above

d. Future Roles: several posts are renewable this year, including Journal Editor, Reviews Editor, Treasurer and Web Editor. Susan Fischer confirmed she would be happy to carry on as Journal Editor and Susie Thomas as Reviews Editor. Nick Bentley is also happy to continue as Treasurer. Simon Goulding expressed interest in becoming Editorial Assistant.

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We also need another Overseas Rep (the President suggested we look to somewhere in Europe for this, perhaps Paris, Berlin or Dublin) and an Ordinary member. A few names were put forward re latter - including Matthew Beaumont, Nicholas Tredell and Richard Dennis – and the Secretary is to approach these individuals.

7) AOB

How to develop the Society's website: it was agreed that although Brycchan was kindly continuing to act as Web Editor for the present the role is up for re-election in July so this might be a good moment to consider the look and style of the current website. However, it is important that we can maintain the website in the future without the assistance of an external manager.

The plan, therefore, is to come up with a few possible models for the future (e.g. stay as we are, attempt a move to a platform such as wordpress, pay someone to redesign for us), cost such proposals and bring them to the AGM in July.

Going forward, the role of Web Editor may need an incentive such as free attendance at conference or a one-off fee (£100) to write report and provide suggestions.

Issue	Action Point
Conference	<p>Conference Organiser to send provisional programme for 2015 to committee.</p> <p>Conference Organiser to check out rooms in Senate House and decide which Hall to hold plenary/ roundtable discussion in.</p> <p>Conference Organiser to email committee for suggested helpers</p> <p>Committee to email Conference Organiser with suggested publishers for the book table.</p>
Journal	Journal Editor to put together CFP and update style guide
Future Roles	Secretary to contact potential new Ordinary Members

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	Treasurer to check if Philip Tew is willing to continue as Auditor.
Website development	<p>Fact-finding: Committee to come up with a few possible models for the future (eg. stay as we are, attempt a move to a platform such as wordpress, pay someone to redesign for us). If a consultant could be employed for a small fee that would be ideal.</p> <p>Secretary to contact Digital Humanities group at UCL for potential Web Editor</p> <p>PG Rep, Lisa, to research other Societies' webpages and to experiment with new logo.</p>
Wikipedia	Members of the Committee to register themselves as Wikipedians

8) Date of the next meeting: 22 July

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