



The Literary London Society

Minutes LLS Committee Meeting, 22 July 2015

1) Welcome

2) Apologies: Simon Goulding, Brycchan Carey

In attendance: Jenny Bavidge, Nick Bentley, Mita Choudhury, Eliza Cubitt, Martin Dines, Susan Fischer, Adam Hansen, Peter Jones, Adele Lee, Lisa Robertson, Susie Thomas.

3) Minutes of previous meeting: approved

4) Matters arising: none

5) Items for Report:

a) President: Announces Brycchan Carey's resignation as web editor and reflects on the pressing need to find a replacement for him and to develop and maintain the Society's webpage. Thanks members of the committee, in particular the conference organiser, for all their hard work.

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 flaneur 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. The reason for this includes website development and conference meal.

e) Journal Editor: Reports that the last issue of LLJ (volume 11, issue 2) was published in autumn 2014 and the next issue, which will include articles on George

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Orwell and Jean Rhys, is due imminently. Producing the Journal is a time-consuming task for one person and the creation of an Editorial Assistant role may well be required. Further, the style guide needs to be updated.

f) Reviews Editor: Reports that there will be 9 reviews in next issue of Journal. Reiterates that editorial assistance would be very useful.

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 electric 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, he is open to suggestions regarding alternative (cheaper) venues.

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.

h) Overseas Rep: Reiterates need to send out CFP sooner for the sake of overseas candidates and suggests flyers are prepared by Oct/Nov. 2015.

i) Web Editor: no report

j) 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)

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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

Action Points:

Conference Organiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Check if plenary speakers got paid by IES ➤ Ensure CFPs goes out earlier this year, i.e. before Oct./Nov.
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Start using Mailchimp ➤ Turn Editorial Assistant into an appointed post of Committee; update constitution
Journal Editor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepare and distribute new CFP ➤ Explore Mita Choudhury's suggestion that the journal include new, more creative types of publications, e.g. poetry, podcasts or "in conversations"
Reviews Editor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explore possible sources of funding, e.g. British Academy, for PGs.
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contact Philip Tew to check if he will continue to act as auditor and ratify the Society's 2015 accounts. ➤ Email all new members a copy of LLJ (if full issues can be converted into PDF)

6) Items for Discussion:

a.) The 2016 Conference: It was agreed by all that, in a nod to the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, next year's conference theme should appeal more to Shakespeareans and early modernists. The theme "The City and the Globe" was therefore chosen. In terms of dates, the 2016 conference will take place in late July (exact dates tbc) and perhaps run over the weekend for a change. Re. 2017 conference: the theme of dreams and fantasies with China Miéville as plenary speaker was discussed. Particularly popular was the conference theme, "Fantastic London."

b) The Website: a number of options re. future development, kindly put together by Lisa Robertson, were discussed and option 1 (which includes the services of Silke Vanbeselare) was chosen as the best. The total cost of this option amounts to £525 while the migration to wordpress premium would cost £85/year, i.e. less than current annual costs. Regarding appearance, a new logo is to be explored.

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c) Future Roles and Responsibilities: The nominees for positions up for election this year are:

Treasurer: Nick Bentley

Journal editor: Susan Fischer

Ordinary members: Matthew Beaumont and Nicholas Tredell

Overseas Reps: none

d) Travel and Expenses Policy: Currently, Committee members' travel, but not accommodation, costs are covered. However, Treasurer suggests that in case of the President and Conference Organiser travel and accommodation should both be covered. Committee agrees on fee waivers for members of the committee, esp. PGs and unwaged, who are not giving papers or a flat fee for committee members to cover food/drink. Exact sum to be agreed at next committee meeting.

Action Points:

All Officers	➤ To come up with possible candidates for roles of Web Editor and Editorial Assistant
PG Rep (Lisa Robertson)	➤ To put Brycchan Carey in touch with Silke Vanbeselare
PG Rep (Eliza Cubitt)	➤ To ask her brother to come up with suggestions for new logo

7) AOB: it is agreed that PG bursaries go to at least one international student in the future.

8) Date of the next meeting: 16 January 2016 @ 11am. Venue: 6 Great James Street, London.

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