



## Draft Minutes

### LLS Annual General Meeting, 14 January 2017

#### 1) Welcome

#### 2) **Apologies:** Brycchan Carey, Mita Choudhury, Martin Dines, Bianca Legett

In attendance: Jenny Bavidge, Nick Bentley, Eliza Cubitt, Lisa Robertson, Susie Thomas, Peter Jones, Nicholas Tredell, Rebecca Hahn.

#### 3) **Minutes of previous meeting:** Approved

#### 4) **Matters arising:** None

#### 5) **Reports on the year's work from:**

a) **President:** JB reports has been busy with conference preparation and thinking about building up the website through Youtube channels, but especially the hand-over of roles that will take place in July. Explains that MD will take over as President, but that the Society will need to solicit interest for a new Vice President to be elected at the Committee Meeting in July and ratified at the AGM. Announces that the Society may also be looking for a new Treasurer, and that Dan Weston (Greenwich) may be interested. JB also notes she and MD have been working on the Presidents' Prize, which has yet to be selected.

b) **Vice President:** JB shares report by proxy that Martin has not yet been able to select the winners for the Presidents' Prize.

c) **Secretary:** LR reports that she has been familiarising herself with the role, but has been mostly occupied with establishing connections with other organisations (in particular, the London Society) and reconfiguring the newsletter, an edition of which will be mailed Winter 2017. LR notes that she has also been helping out with some administration of the Reading Group when needed, and helping to promote the Conference.

d) **Treasurer:** NB reports that the society has a reasonably healthy budget £4080.70 budget, despite expenditure on the website last year. Notes that there are currently 43 paid-up members, but many need to pay and will likely do so before the

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Conference and projects that we may increase membership this year. Explains that he is seeking an Auditor for the accounts, and that both David Rogers and Jago Morrison have declined. Will approach Susan Bruce in the coming months. JB suggests he may contact Brycchan Carey or Lawrence Phillips for this role

e) **Journal Editor:** AH reports *in absentia* on the development of the Special Issue, for which he has made several suggestions for review. ST comments that she is in communication with AH, and that there are enough articles for the Special Issue to be viable; the editors are at this stage expecting some revised contributions.

f) **Reviews Editor:** ST has sent to BL several reviews for the last issue, but an autumn issue has not yet materialised. ST intends to communicate with the Journal Editor, BL, in coming months. JB, ST and NT all comment on the possibility of creating a position for an Assistant Editor. ST plans to discuss with BL exactly what such a role would entail.

g) **Conference Organiser:** PJ reports that he has secured a plenary for the public lecture: Darren Anderson who is the author of *Imaginary Cities*. He has also contacted Caroline Edwards (Birkbeck) and Catherine Spooner (Lancaster) who is deliberating. Reports also that the rooms for the Conference have been booked. PJ has been in contact with Leila Kassier, a research librarian at Senate House, who would like to put together an exhibition on the theme for the conference from the Senate House's special collection. Notes that Duncan Hay (Bartlett) is also interested in developing an interactive exhibition for the conference that includes bluetooth technology as beacons, which would provide information to conference attendees. Explains he would ideally like to integrate both exhibitions, and will meet with both Duncan and Leila to discuss this. Also comments on the possibility of using the spaces provided by IHR and the CMH in the future. Also notes that he plans to continue the promotion of the conference.

h) **Web Editor (*in absentia*):** CM reports that now the website is up and running, he is looking into a method of using it to publish live content of a general scope. This might take the form of a blog, on which things of interest to the society could be published (interviews, announcements, podcasts, etc), but it remains for him to figure out details of presentation and the best method of seeking content. PJ notes that the LLRG produces regular content on its own website, which might be integrated into the LLS blog. CM asks that committee members shares ideas for development. In conjunction with EC, CM has been thinking about developing a Youtube channel as a space for active content.

**Overseas Rep:** (via Skype): RH reports that she is planning to host a chapter of the LLRG Tubingen, which would follow the format of the LLRG sessions. RH explains that she is in the English Literature department and therefore the sessions will be English Literature, rather than German Literature or authors, and be conducted in English. EC to host the first session. JB encourages RH to make use of the LLRG and LLS logos for advertising.

j) **Postgraduate and Early Career Reps** (including LLS reading group): EC reports that the LLRG has had good introductions this year from Lisa Mullen (in what's becoming the annual Orwell session) and Naomi Hetherington on Amy Levy. Attendance has been as usual, 12-15 people. Next session is Heather Scott, UCL, (*Victorian Cemeteries*) and then we have Helena Goodwyn in March, playwright and co-founder of Don't Fail Safe Theatre Company Chris Woodley in April and Lauren Elkin, author of *Flaneuse*, in June. EC suggests that if she still running it next year she has some ideas for speakers already. Hannah

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Chappell has been helping this year but likely not in UK and finishing studying MA in September so has politely declined being put forward to this meeting as new postgrad rep. She has been very helpful on Twitter and increased followers from 419 to 459 since the end of September. (Similarly, the LLS twitter has increased to 2,151 at last count). LLRG hopes to develop podcasts that will be based on texts discussed in previous and forthcoming sessions. The idea is to record a couple each month and then release them monthly (so as not too arduous). EC suggests will work on a similar format to New Yorker Podcast (with amendments for copyright considerations). Successors as postgrad reps are potentially Wendy Toole and Lucie Glasheen. EC notes that there is an IES meeting on 1st Feb which she will attend, and report back to committee about outcome.

## 6) Items for Discussion

**a) The 2017 Conference:** Committee decides to hold the Committee Meeting the day before the conference begins (12 July) and the AGM after the plenary on Day 1, so as to encourage delegates to attend. PJ notes that several bursaries will available for students, and suggests that we ask these students to do either a review or a response to the event, which will be published in the journal. NB and NT comment on sessions with low turnout, and committee deliberates the possibility of having fewer parallel panels; PJ will take this into consideration in drafting the schedule. PJ and JB encourage everyone to help promote the conference. Confirmed theme for 2018 Literary London Society Conference is 'Conflict and Resolution', which will mark the conclusion of WWI and also the centenary of women's enfranchisement.

**b) The Website:** Committee explores the possibility of establishing a 'work in progress' section on the website that would function like a blog. This blog would draw content from the LLRG, its Youtube channel, the LLS journal, and also be a location for interviews, and announcements. other sources. JB suggests it would be helpful to come up with a map that would allow us to visualise where we publish the different kinds of content society generates. A basic version of this might be The Journal (long-read articles and reviews); LLRG Blog (content for people connected to the Reading Group); LLS Blog (brings together all of this information, and more). ST notes that it would be helpful to know who and how many visit the site, as this will inform our changes to the website. ST and JB suggest that it would be helpful if CM could provide webstats next meeting.

**c) The Journal:** Committee members agree that creating links from Wikipedia to LLS Journal articles would help widen audience. EC suggests that all articles published from this point are automatically logged and linked to Wikipedia. Committee agrees with this method. JB outlines options for linking past articles: pay someone to undertake the full task; organise Wiki training for committee, and a day to do the work together ourselves; or, this becomes an aspect of a second editorial position for the journal. Committee discusses the possibility of creating a new role on the committee for an Assistant Editor. On the subject of expanding readership for the journal, NT suggests we circulate a Call for Articles (via email and on UPenn CFP website).

**d) The Newsletter:** LR explains that the newsletter has been updated and re-formatting to be mailed using Mailchimp, and asks whether the newsletter is still relevant or whether the new website (and blog) will make it redundant. JB suggests continuing with the newsletter until the July AGM, at which point the committee can invite feedback on this subject from members.

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**e) Future roles and responsibilities:** Committee discusses the possibility to establishing a future committee role for a membership secretary, which would alleviate some of the work of the incoming treasurer. NB agrees to draft a description of what this role might entail. PJ suggests that the committee invite Leila to the a future committee meeting, and wonders if there might be an opportunity for her to join the committee as a representative of Senate House. As EC's tenure as PG Rep is drawing to a close, committee discusses the possibility of her taking up the soon-to-be vacant role of conference organiser. PJ notes that if possible he would like to continue in this role, and suggests there might be scope for a Conference Assistant. After discussion, committee agrees that the conference organiser role needs to be expanded in some way, and that a new model must be developed. JB plans to speak to MD about the creation of new roles for the committee.

**f) Future Collaborations:** NB suggests the LLS might look to offer research bursaries in the future, which would allow students from abroad or elsewhere in the country to reside in London and undertake research. EC suggests that establishing a connection with Senate House might also permit us to allow the Student access to the library while in receipt of the bursary. JB notes that after tenure as President she would like to remain involved with the Society, ideally to establish resources for 'Teaching London'. Proposes undertaking a project that would involve putting together resources for Teaching London and making these available on the website.

### Action Points:

All officers	Promote conference and LLS Journal
President (JB and Treasurer (NB)	Find new auditor
President (JB) and Vice-President (MD)	Discuss Future Roles
President (JB) and Journal Editor (BL)	Discuss creation of Assistant Editorial role
Treasurer (NB) and Secretary (LR)	Look into expanding membership options
Treasurer (NB)	Draft Job Description for Membership Secretary
Conference Organiser (PJ)	Investigate opportunities for collaboration with IHR and SH; Speak to Web Editor about LLS conference photos
Web Editor (CM)	Provide webstats for next committee meeting
PG Rep (EC)	Contact potential new PG Rep

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7) Date of Next Meeting: 12 July, 2017

8) AOB: None.

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