



Draft Minutes
LLS Committee Meeting, 2 February 2018

- 1) **Welcome**
- 2) **Apologies:** Nicholas Tredell, Jenny Bavidge, Daniel Weston, Craig Melhoff, Rebecca K. Hahn, Adam Hansen

In attendance: Martin Dines, Nick Bentley, Dassi Elber-Aviram, Susie Thomas, Lucie Glasheen, Wendy Toole, Flore Janssen, Alex Grafen, Lisa Robertson, Peter Jones

- 3) **Minutes of previous meeting:** Approved
- 4) **Matters arising:** Secretary to speak to Treasurer regarding Society's membership responsibilities.
- 5) **Items for Report:**
 - a) **President:** MD reports the good news that since the conference he has been in touch with DEA and LG to help with the conference, and FJ to perhaps take over the role of Reviews Editor with the *Literary London Journal*. Notes that in our previous minutes the Past President stated it was important for the President to keep an eye on the *Journal*, which MD notes that he has done, but explains that recently he has been unexpectedly diverted to the role of Conference Organiser. MD has produced a CFP with the help of other members which has been published on the website, and which has been sent out in an email advertisement. This year's keynote speakers include Max Saunders from KCL, and David Caute, the author of *1968*. MD thanks CM and LR for the design and dissemination of the CFP, and also to all members for their input in the CFP. MD states he has confirmed the dates (28-9 June) and the rooms for conference, including Chancellor's Hall for the keynote, with the IES. He asks how we might include the reports from bursary winners on the LLS website, and suggests we might involve a banner under the 'Conference' drop-down menu and this could be paired with an eye-catching image.
 - b) **Vice President:** PJ reports that he has spent time since July handing over the responsibilities of Conference Organiser to MI, but unfortunately that hasn't worked out and instead Martin has taken over the central responsibilities of this role. Notes that he would like the opportunity to take a step back from organising the confer-

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ence this year, and would instead like to work with the IHR and SAS. PJ notes that he is also interested in exploring opportunities to work with the Association of Urban Studies, which is based out of Finland and of which Jason Finch is President. PJ notes that the AUS is organising a conference in May with the IHR and suggests that the LLS might look to pair up with this group and in the future and perhaps to combine efforts and representation at each other's conference. PJ would like to emphasise the Society's expansion, progress and development in the context of the changing nature of academia. He suggests collaboration may be the way to do this. Notes that he will look into the nominations for the Presidents' Prize.

c) Secretary: LR reports that she and NB were rather busy in the months after the conference responding to contributors' enquiries about the status of their submissions to the *LLJ*. The volume of these enquires has since diminished, and NB notes that we seem to have reached sort of resolution with this issue. LR reports that otherwise there have been increasing numbers of emails from individuals and organisations that are interested in pairing with the LLS in some fashion; for instance, George Fort has asked whether the LLS might be interested in working to create a podcast for a new app called Gonooza. LR suggests the increasing number of emails is likely a response to our new website and our active web presence. LR also reports that she has been working to continue publishing the newsletter seasonally. MD points out that the newsletter is an important aspect of the Society, and DEA comments that it is one newsletter she *does* look forward to receiving.

d) Treasurer (via email): DW reports that the Society has a reasonably healthy bank balance of **£3846.03**. There are currently 21 paid-up members for 2018 (compared to 92 for 2017) but many people still need to pay and will likely do so before the conference in the summer. NB confirms that this is the regular cycle for membership. DW explains that he will need to recruit an auditor for the accounts this summer and welcomes the committee's suggestions for who he might ask to do this. NB points out that Nick Hubble at Brunel University has agreed to be the Auditor for the Society (including for this year, 01 July 2017 - 30 June 2018). DW also explains that the Co-operative Bank has been in touch to let him know that they are currently reviewing the LLS account in line with their regulatory obligations. He is liaising with them to confirm what information they need and may be in touch with committee members to provide details as and when this becomes necessary over the next few weeks. Lastly, DW would like to record his thanks to our previous treasurer Nick Bentley for all of his assistance in what is a new role for him.

e) Journal Editor: NB explains that he has taken over the LLS journal for the interim, but progress is slow as there have been some difficulties making connections with the previous Journal Editor. He reports that the Shakespeare edition of the Journal was published to very good reception. NB notes that there are three articles and four reviews for the Autumn 2016 issue; while Autumn 2017 issue has three articles, two of which have been peer reviewed, and three reviews; six submissions have been received for the special edition *Fantastic London* but these have not yet been peer reviewed. NB also announces that we have a new member of the edito-

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rial board: Sarah Upston, from Kingston University. He would like to registers that the role of Journal Editor is hard work and any assistance would be appreciated, whether this is someone to take over the role or the help of an assistant.

f) Reviews Editor: ST notes that we have a many reviews for the forthcoming issue, and asks whether it would be better practice to publish the reviews on the website rather than wait for the journal. This way, the reviews will be available when they are current; this is a problem at present, as reviews are sometimes published more than a year after the book has been released. PJ notes that because having a journal publication is important to early-career scholars. ST suggests that she will speak to SF and CM regarding expediting some aspects regarding turning articles into PDFs and putting them onto the website. MD acknowledges this is a good development in moving forward with the Journal.

g) Conference Organiser: MD reports that he has taken over the role of conference organiser. Discussion about the 2018 Conference, including delegating responsibilities, will continue under Items for Discussion.

h) Web Editor (via email): CM reports that everything has been ticking over with the website. There has been an issue with online submissions for conference abstracts, as there was last year, but this matter has been circumvented for the time being. The Society may wish to develop a different system for the long term.

i) Overseas Rep: (via email) RH reports that the LLRG in Tübingen is going well. Luke Davies (former UCL, now teach@tuebingen fellow) led the last seminar and Professor Christoph Reinfandt (Tuebingen) will be leading the next. LR notes that RH has been active in updating the LLRG blog, which helps to emphasise the Society's activity.

j) Postgraduate and Early Career Reps: AG notes that the Reading Group has had excellent speakers this year, but that attendance unfortunately has been down. Those people who do come seem to really appreciate the sessions, and many have commented that they are important and interested. WT suggests it might be helpful to produce posters or contact departments directly in order to get the word out about the group. PJ notes that the format of the reading group can shift if this would be helpful for demand. PJ and LR comment that it may also be the case that there are, unfortunately, fewer post-graduate students now than there were several years ago as a result of the changing nature of higher education. MD and PJ suggest that integrating walking tours with regular seminar sessions might be helpful to attract new attendees. LR mentions contacting MA programmes in London that might be able to promote the Reading Group to their students; also, asking speakers to publicise the event to their own students may also help.

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6) Items for Discussion

a) The 2018 Conference: MD notes that in addition to our two confirmed keynote speakers (David Caute and Max Saunders) he has approached Laura Schwartz at Warwick but has not heard back from her yet. Her representation is important because it would be excellent to have someone to speak on the centenary of suffrage. MD suggests that it would be helpful to delegate roles so that we are organised for the conference; LR agrees suggests that it would be most productive to carve out roles for major tasks and then fill these roles based on interest. PJ notes that MD could oversee the broader framework, but that he would not need to be responsible for the specific organisation. DEA is happy to take on the role of administrator and responder to emails; LG will contribute to the programming; LR suggests that EC may be a good candidate for social media promotion. MD notes that for vetting abstracts the best may be to meet as a subcommittee and judge these together. DEA suggests that Conference Workshops might be an attractive feature for post-graduates, especially if it were to focus on working to publish a paper or other training components. LG suggests it might be interesting to have an activist group in to speak at the conference, such as the London Renters' Union as it would be an opportunity for them to raise awareness and membership. FJ notes that Senate House Library is keen to promote their activist archives, and may present materials from the collection at the conference. MD notes that we might think about the organisation of future conferences, and who will be responsible for conference organisation: although we are bound to have an organiser, how we interpret this role is flexible. PJ suggests 'London Compared' as a theme, as a conference that would look at London in a comparative framework and thereby possibly open up the event to new delegates. LR notes that JB had suggested 'Sounds of London' at the meeting in July, and NB adds that Sensory London might be a broader approach.

b) The Journal: MD notes we need to think seriously about the future of the journal, particularly as Nick will not be responsible for the journal after the date of the [July 2018] conference. NB points out that it is important to keep the journal going, but that its responsibility should be expanded beyond one person's role. MD asks whether publishing reviews on the website as soon as they are ready will help to obviate some of the difficulties. PJ asks if we might limit the journal to one issue a year. NB agrees this will be more manageable. MD expresses that one Special issue per year, based on the theme of the conference, seems to be our best option; all committee members agree. FJ notes that it would make sense to have rolling reviews for the website, but also included in the journal along with the articles for the special issue. PJ notes that listing comparative approaches for the journal (with other cities and other disciplines) might be a good idea to draw wider interest from scholars working on other cities. NB states that emphasising the society's interdisciplinary approach would also be helpful.

c) The Newsletter: Society feels the newsletter is valuable and should continue in its current incarnation.

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d) Strategies and Priorities: DEA notes that it might be good to have a policy that delegates shouldn't have other people read their papers for them. PJ notes that this is sometimes a problem with numbers and budgeting, and that for this year we might have to lower expectations; however, in the future it may be a good idea to keep in mind. MD notes that there are individuals who apply for the conference year after year but who don't turn up; we should also keep an eye out for these people.

MD asks to confirm that that the Executive Committee appoints DEA as Conference Assistant. Society confirms; to be ratified at the AGM.

MD asks to confirm that that the Executive Committee appoints LG as Conference Assistant. Society confirms; to be ratified at the AGM.

MD asks to confirm that that the Executive Committee appoints FJ as Reviews Editor. Society confirms; to be ratified at the AGM.

7) **AOB:** None.

ACTION POINTS

President	Write Eliza Cubitt regarding her assistance with the conference, and also Nicholas Tredell who wrote to explain he is willing to help in any way necessary. Also check the tenure of the ordinary members, who may be up for re-election this year.
Vice President	Attend to the Presidents' Prize, including sorting out the nominees. Also contact George Fort regarding the walking tour app.
Secretary	Contact CM about including previous years' conference reviews on the website (copy in Martin, Nick and Flore).
Journal Editor	Work to have the back-log of articles and reviews, and eventually move toward a one issue per year model.
PG Reps	Write CM to update the website with the most current LLRG schedule.
All Members	Promote the Literary London Reading Group.

8) **Date of the next meeting:** 27 June, 2018 (venue tbc)

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