



Draft Minutes
LLS Committee Meeting, 19 January 2019

- 1) **Welcome**
- 2) **Apologies:** Jenny Bavidge, Emma Hayward, Dassi Elber Aviram, Rebecca K. Hahn, Craig Melhoff
- 3) **Minutes of previous meeting:** Approved
- 4) **Matters arising:** None
- 5) **Items for Report:**

a) President:

Nothing specific to report, but will comment on various matters as they arise on the schedule.

b) Vice President:

Reports that he needs to look into the Presidents' Prize. Possibility of collecting a feedback survey by emailing post-graduates who were nominated. Will plan to send an email to all about this.

c) Secretary: LR reports that the usual activities have continued, with regular email enquiries and basic administrative functions. There has been a technical problem with Mailchimp, and all of the templates for the newsletters and announcements are unusable due to a bug; this has put a significant delay on sending newsletters. Reports that she will look into an alternative platform such as Constant Contact.

d) Treasurer: MD reports that EH will have to step down from the role due to a full-time teaching job. The society will need to recruit a full-time replacement for her, and

The Literary London Society was founded in July 2011 to foster interdisciplinary and historically wide-ranging research into London literature in its historical, social, and cultural contexts, to include all periods and genres of writing and representation about, set in, inspired by, or alluding to central and suburban London and its environs, from the city's roots in pre-Roman times to its imagined futures.

For *The Literary London Journal* and other information about the society, please go to www.literarylondon.org

President: Dr Martin Dines | **Vice President:** Dr Peter Jones | **Secretary:** Dr Lisa Robertson

she will be happy to work with a replacement.

e) Journal Editor: NB is still carrying on to produce the next journal. One special for 2019 that was the issue for the conference; and then move to two issues for the following year. SU is engaged in conversations with CM in order to approve the submission process. Pushing for greater interdisciplinarity

f) Reviews Editor: FJ reports that next issue will clear the backlog from Susie. At present, she is focusing on working on publishing a review of exhibition London Nights.

g) Conference Organiser: EC reports that excellent speakers have been confirmed for the conference. We will have an 'Alexander Baron Panel' at the conference and the Annual Lecture will be delivered by Marina Warner, as well as a plenary from Allison Blunt. The Baron Panel will also function as a new format for one plenary. There is also the possibility of involving a playwright from Greenwich to speak about poet Phillis Wheatly. She would also like to attract more post-graduate students to the conference if possible, and notes we might speak about expanding bursaries. She is also looking into alternative spaces for the venue as we will continue the boycott of Senate House. Our options might include Birkbeck, UCL or Queen Mary but both size of venue and catering are considerations. Would appreciate student helpers to be around on the day. EC commends AG on his excellent tweeting and promotional activity.

h) Web Editor: Nothing to report.

i) Overseas Rep: RH is still running LLRG Tuebingen chapter, and is open to collaboration.

j) Postgraduate and Early Career Reps: AG reports the LLRG has held three meetings and a Christmas meeting (which was remarkably successful) that was hosted by Michael Slater. AR notes that having two speakers changed the dynamic in a positive way, as it created a dialogue around the subject that supported conversation. This might be a good format for the future. AG notes there is still some struggle with numbers especially outside of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. AR suggests the programme might go for heavy hitters in early modern period to help attract attendees.

IES provided the LLRG with a letter with regard to the Senate House Boycott. IES suggests that they will continue to provide administrative support for the group if another space is organised. UCL would be ideal due to its location; QM is also a possibility, but it is a significant change of location. NB notes that the new Treasurer should be kept in the loop about costs associated with the reading group if it is to change location. Also an issue with collecting the wine from the IES: does this constitute a breach of the boycott? LG proposes contacting the boycott organisers to ask about the arrangement around getting the sign in sheet and wine. AG notes that

The Literary London Society was founded in July 2011 to foster interdisciplinary and historically wide-ranging research into London literature in its historical, social, and cultural contexts, to include all periods and genres of writing and representation about, set in, inspired by, or alluding to central and suburban London and its environs, from the city's roots in pre-Roman times to its imagined futures.

For *The Literary London Journal* and other information about the society, please go to www.literarylondon.org

President: Dr Martin Dines | **Vice President:** Dr Peter Jones | **Secretary:** Dr Lisa Robertson

advertising has stepped up and has improved the attendance, but there will need to be work to ensure this continues. Any event with Dickens continues to attract interest, especially from the non-academic community.

6) Items for Discussion

- a) **The 2019 Conference:** LG: There are costs for QM and they have changed policies. If the organisation proposes early, there is no charge for booking a space if QM catering is used. However this would require details of the organisation and would be a charge for events management support (at cost). Another cost is for the porter after 5pm, and there are particular costs associated with different rooms. Might be difficult to supply adjacent rooms unless was localised in the Graduate Centre, which has a series of room and also a lecture space. MD suggests looking into alternatives just in case another space might turn out to be cheaper. AG will look into the possibility of using UCL as a space. FJ will look into Birkbeck. MD will investigate Kingston as a point of comparison. MD suggests making investigation and reporting back in two weeks. NT will explore Quaker Meeting House. Also question of whether the IES could continue the support in a different venue. Important consideration of whether speakers and delegates will withdraw from the conference due to its location. EC commends LG, DEA and NT for their excellent efforts.
- b) **Committee Vacancies:** Treasurer role needs to be filled. This requires expenses, day-to-day concerns with membership, and presenting financials at the AGM. Also maintains the chequebook for the Society. We would also like to attract more Ordinary Members, but the Treasurer is the key role that needs to be filled. MD will draft a sketch of what the role involves and send this to committee members. EH will help in the handover, but it is unclear how long she will remain in this role. LG also notes data protection issues, and that we need to be careful about the data we have and how we use it. LR currently data controller for the committee. NT is currently Ordinary Member and this post will need to be renewed at the AGM. Otherwise there are no positions that need to be renewed.
- c) **The Journal:** SU appreciates feedback on the journal. Changing CMS will be a good point to rethink the journal's direction and content. Emphasis on interdisciplinarity will allow for inclusion of creative work and image. There is the question of copyright, but this can be avoided by using original work. SU asks whether an editor of photography / artwork / creative work about London would be a position that we could create. This might appeal specifically to post-graduate students doing creative work who might want their work included. LG also suggests that we might consider capacity for video streaming and whether the format will support this. PJ notes that having the text on website, but also a PDF available to download, would be fitting with convention of other journals and also help for searching and cataloguing. NB notes that there have been three or four submissions for the journal but not all were accepted. MD notes there is also the consideration of the REF and how quickly we can turn around submissions. NT also notes that we will need to think about how quickly we can incorporate media into the new platform.

The Literary London Society was founded in July 2011 to foster interdisciplinary and historically wide-ranging research into London literature in its historical, social, and cultural contexts, to include all periods and genres of writing and representation about, set in, inspired by, or alluding to central and suburban London and its environs, from the city's roots in pre-Roman times to its imagined futures.

For *The Literary London Journal* and other information about the society, please go to www.literarylondon.org

President: Dr Martin Dines | **Vice President:** Dr Peter Jones | **Secretary:** Dr Lisa Robertson

LG also notes that it would be significant to have a launch event to bring attention to the journal in its new iteration. PJ suggests partnering with other creative organisations.

- d) **The Newsletter:** LR reports that due to a formatting glitch in all of our templates, which has required quite a significant amount of time to try and fix, there are been delays to the newsletter. This is a bug that has apparently impacted accounts across Mailchimp as they try and update their platform. She has been looking into alternative servers such as Constant Contact, but would require building everything from scratch. MD expresses thanks and suggests that while it's great to have the newsletter not to spend an excessive amount of time sorting out the formatting issues.

7) **AOB:** None.

ACTION POINTS

President	Confirm 11-12th July 2019 as next conference Give EC conference schedule notes
Vice President	Collect feedback on Presidents' Prize
Secretary	Arrange Summer Committee Meetings
Journal Editor	Content Management systems – investigate costs etc.
PG Reps	Continue to monitor issues with Senate House and IES
All Members	Promote LLRG

8) **Date of the next meeting:** 10 July, 2019

The Literary London Society was founded in July 2011 to foster interdisciplinary and historically wide-ranging research into London literature in its historical, social, and cultural contexts, to include all periods and genres of writing and representation about, set in, inspired by, or alluding to central and suburban London and its environs, from the city's roots in pre-Roman times to its imagined futures.

For *The Literary London Journal* and other information about the society, please go to www.literarylondon.org

President: Dr Martin Dines | **Vice President:** Dr Peter Jones | **Secretary:** Dr Lisa Robertson
