

Print on Demand, which had improved considerably in quality, and Boydell & Brewer had been asked to produce a sample for consideration by the Council at its next meeting.

4 The Hon Treasurer's Report

Dr David Lewis presented the accounts for y/e December 2016. The total income was similar to that for y/e December 2015, with the caveat that although income from book sales appeared higher in 2016 the figure did not represent a profit. Dr Lewis noted that Boydell & Brewer were selling at a loss, especially in the US. Expenditure on digitisation had been high because volumes had to be rekeyed and checked, but the volumes which remained to be digitised were held as electronic files and so would be cheaper to digitise as part of the Society's charitable purpose. However, reprints would retain their importance, as we are a book society. Some £9,412 had been used from reserves, which stood at just over £42,000 but were dwindling. Subscriptions had not been covering costs of £25 per copy plus increased postage, payments for storage and other costs incurred with Boydell & Brewer.

Dr Robin Woolven proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Mr Ashley Badcock, and the accounts for y/e December 2016 were accepted.

5 The Hon Secretary's and Membership Secretary's Report Dr Penny Tucker reported that as of 18 Sep 2017, subscription payments have been received for 235 members, viz. (end-of-year figures for 2016 added alongside for comparison):

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Institutional Members	116	124
Personal Members	119	126
Complimentary	8	8
<i>Total</i>	<i>243</i>	<i>258</i>

The difference reflects a mix of non-renewals and natural wastage (8 deaths, sadly, plus 2 cancellations) which have not been fully compensated for by new members. A number of the Personal Members are now quite elderly. There are 6 members from last year who have not yet renewed.

The 2016 totals have been adjusted to reflect the end-of-year figures. The present 2017 figure is similar to that given at the 2016 AGM (at which point the total was 239). It is therefore possible that we will end up with a total that is closer to last year's end-of-year ones. But recruitment remains difficult, and any help in bringing the Society to the attention of those who might like to become members is greatly appreciated.

Dr Tucker added that the Society has to comply with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (maximum fine 20 million euros or 4% world turnover, whichever is the greater) by May 2018, and the UK government proposes to introduce a Data Protection Bill to provide continuity under UK law. What emerges from the information available from the Information Commissioner's Office (and from the reasons why one UK historical society was fined recently)

is the importance of having policies in place to deal with storage of personal information. The Secretary and Membership Secretary have worked through a checklist produced by the Information Commissioner's Office, and a short statement of policy will appear on the Society's website.

Along with the change to the subscription level, the Society will move to a system of Direct Debit so that members are not put to the trouble of altering Standing Orders at their banks. The system will give members control of the debit, and the Society will not hold financial information on any of its members. Reminders of payment of the subscription and details of the changes will, as usual, be sent to members. This year, members will need to move from Standing Order to Direct Debit, but in subsequent years members need take no action.

Dr Helen Bradley reminded members that the Society's volume for 2016, *'The Angels' Voice': the newsletter of the young men's Bible Class at Trinity Congregational Church, Brixton, on the eve of the First World War* ed Revd Dr Alan Argent (volume 51), had been launched at Trinity Congregational Church, St Matthew's Road, Brixton, London SW2 1NF, after our AGM in June 2016. The church was a very handsome building. The Society's members had enjoyed a warm welcome, and are grateful to Reverend Argent and his congregation for permission to hold the AGM and launch at the church, and for the generous provision of refreshments afterwards.

Dr Bradley reported that the Society's publications up to 2010 are now available free to readers through British History Online. This includes the volume for 2010, *London Inhabitants outside the Walls 1695* ed Patrick Wallis (volume 45). Although digital availability does stimulate sales, it is clear that the Society holds more copies in stock than it is likely to sell. The Society proposes to sell off the excess stock in the near future.

Dr Bradley added that the Society looked forward to the launch of the volume for 2017, *The Diaries of Anthony Heap* ed Dr Robin Woolven (volume 52), after the AGM at a joint meeting with Camden History Society.

- 5 **The Hon Gen Editors' Report** Professor Jerry White reported that Volume 52, the London Diaries of Anthony Heap is now published. Robin Woolven, himself a member of the LRS Council, deserves great credit for editing a very large volume that is nothing short of a labour of love. This compilation of the voluminous Heap diaries covers the decade in the run-up to the Second World War and provides some of the most informative insights yet available to us into the experience of living through the London Blitz.

By way of contrast, Volume 53 for 2018 is likely to be the Dinner Book of the Drapers' Company, 1563-1602, edited by Sarah Milne: this important set of sources demonstrates the organizational and financial management of Election Day dinners by the Company from the mid-sixteenth to the dawn of the seventeenth century. The text is expected to be completed in early 2018 and we anticipate publication in time for next year's AGM. Subsequent volumes are likely to include documents from the nightly

watch of St James's Piccadilly from the end of the eighteenth century into the post-Napoleonic period, to be edited by Elaine Reynolds, offering insights into frontline policing in the late-Georgian 'West End of the Town'; a volume of translated journalism exploring the realities of the Edwardian Jewish East End, seen through Russian eyes and edited by Anna Vaninskaya; the diary of the Ordinary of Newgate in the 1820s and 1830s offering insights into life (and death) in an early 19th-century prison, edited by Simon Devereux; the 'Boke of Remembraunce' of the 16th century London mercer Thomas Kytson, edited by Colin Brett; and the rediscovered 14th-century London 'Jubilee-Book'.

Professor White added that although the Society is constrained by financial considerations to print one volume a year, several prospective volumes will be reaching maturity soon and a number of unsolicited book proposals are received by the Hon General Editors every year. Many of them are accepted. Professor Caroline Barron agreed that the Society was in a fortunate position with regard to proposals, and emphasised the importance of making documents accessible as translations. It was necessary to continue efforts to raise money to cover publication costs, although patterns of book ownership were changing and most members could no longer house a collection of books. Dr Henry Summerson commented that the Camden Society's current policy is to offer volumes at a reduced rate to members who wanted to receive them, and Dr Penny Tucker confirmed that she had explored this idea with Professor Vanessa Harding.

- 6 **Election of Hon Chairman** Dr Helen Bradley proposed that Professor Caroline Barron should be re-elected, and was seconded by Dr Penny Tucker. Professor Barron was unanimously elected.
- 7 **Election of Hon Gen Editors** Professor Caroline Barron proposed that Dr Hannes Kleineke, Dr Robin Eagles and Professor Jerry White should be re-elected. Miss Sharon Tuff seconded the proposal, and they were unanimously elected.
- 8 **Election of Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary and Hon Membership Secretary** Professor Jerry White proposed that Dr David Lewis, Dr Helen Bradley and Dr Penny Tucker be re-elected respectively as Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary and Hon Membership Secretary. The proposal was seconded by Mr Dudley Badcock, and they were unanimously elected.
- 9 **Election of Council Members** Professor Caroline Barron said that Mr Stephen Freeth was due to retire from the Council this year, and that his extensive knowledge of livery company records had been very useful. Dr Ian Archer (16th century history, Keble College) and Mrs Dudley Buchanan (Past Master, Skinners' Company) had been nominated. Professor Barron proposed that Dr Archer and Mrs Buchanan be elected. Mr Stephen Freeth seconded the proposal, and they were unanimously elected.
- 10 **Election of Hon Independent Financial Examiner** Dr David Lewis proposed that Dr Clive Burgess (medieval historian, London) be re-elected as Hon

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Independent Financial Examiner, and was seconded by Dr Robin Woolven. Dr Burgess was unanimously elected.

11 **Any Other Business** There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 7.00 pm

Signed:

Hon Chairman

Hon Secretary