

LONDON RECORD SOCIETY

**Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting of the London Record Society
held at 5.30pm
on
Tuesday 24 September 2019
at
11 Bedford Square
London WC1B 3RF**

Present: Professor Caroline Barron Hon Chairman
Professor Jerry White Joint Hon Gen Editor
Dr Helen Bradley Hon Secretary
Dr Penny Tucker Hon Membership Secretary
Mrs Dudley Buchanan
Dr Sarah Milne

and 4 members

- 1 **The Minutes** of the AGM held on **18 September 2018** were approved.
- 2 **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising.
- 3 **The Hon Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts**
On behalf of the Hon Treasurer, Dr Penny Tucker presented the accounts for y/e December 2018. Dr David Lewis had reported as follows:

The increased subscription rate had raised the income from members by £1,000 while the amount yielded by book sales had fallen by approximately £200. The donation from the Scouloudi fund continued to be vitally important, and the subsidy from the Drapers' Company for volume 53 *The Dinner Book of the London Drapers' Company, 1564-1602* edited by Dr Sarah Milne had effectively cut the cost of production by half.

Conference costs covered attendance at the North American Conference on British Studies. Storage costs had doubled as a result of the pallet-based system adopted by Boydell & Brewer and their distributor Wiley.

There was a surplus of income over expenditure of more than £3,000 for the year, and reserves at the bank were sufficient to cover costs for the next three years.

Professor Caroline Barron commented that the substantial increase in storage costs was a cause for some concern, and there was a clear need to reduce

the stock held by the Society. Boydell & Brewer had agreed to help with a book sale, and a new contract was being negotiated in order to tackle other areas where the company's service might be improved. Professor Barron added that the Society would check that stock was consolidated rather than stored on a one-pallet-per-title basis. Professor Barron also mentioned that the Council was considering a project for repair or digitisation of fragile documents with an overall expenditure of £10,000 in mind.

Dr Christopher Kitching proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Dr Stephen O'Connor, and the accounts for y/e December 2018 were accepted.

4 **The Hon Secretary's and Membership Secretary's Report**

Dr Helen Bradley read the report for the year October 2018-October 2019 on behalf of both Hon Secretaries:

AGM and Council Meetings

Our previous AGM, held at London Metropolitan Archives in September 2018, was followed in April 2019 by the launch of volume 53, *The Dinner Book of the London Drapers' Company, 1564-1602* edited by Dr Sarah Milne. The Society was enormously grateful to the Drapers' Company for their generosity in making Drapers' Hall available for the event, which was attended to capacity and created a great deal of interest in the volume.

The Council met as usual in Spring and Summer, in addition to holding the Autumn meeting on the afternoon of the AGM. An outstanding issue with Boydell and Brewer concerning missing stock has been satisfactorily resolved and a new contract for publication and distribution is under discussion. Volumes which are available through British History Online continue to sell in hard copy. Work to improve the website is still in progress, with the aim of including extracts from the reviews of our most recent volume.

Membership

As of 3 September 2019, subscription payments had been received for members, viz. (the figures as at the 2018 AGM [and at the end of the year] are added alongside for comparison):

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018 [e-of-y]</u>
Institutional Members	112	110 [118]
Personal Members	106	109 [114]
Complimentary	8	8 [8]
<i>Total</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>227 [240]</i>

So far this year there are 9 members who have not cancelled but have yet to pay their subscription; one of those has notified us of payment so will have renewed shortly. That means that the figures for 2019 are effectively identical to those at this stage in 2018.

The 2018 end-of-year figures ended up being only slightly lower than those for 2017, although the trend remained downwards. I am unfortunately more doubtful this year than I was last about persuading those who have yet to renew to do so, as I am having difficulty contacting the non-renewers. We may therefore not achieve an end-of-year figure which is as high as last year's.

Dr Penny Tucker confirmed that she had not been able to contact those who had failed to renew, possibly due to the increasing age and infirmity of some personal members. Professor Caroline Barron pointed out that although the increased subscription rate combined with book sales currently produces enough revenue to meet costs, many people prefer to buy single copies rather than to subscribe for a series of volumes. The continuing difficulty with renewals and recruiting new members reflects that the Society is gradually moving from a subscription society to a publishing society.

5 **The Hon Gen Editors' Report**

Professor Caroline Barron announced the retirement of Dr Robin Eagles as Honorary General Editor and expressed the Society's gratitude to him for the all the time and effort he had contributed in bringing titles to the point of publication.

Professor Jerry White reported that the Society's next publication, volume 54, will be an early modern text. The 'Boke of Remembraunce' of the London mercer Thomas Kytson, edited by Colin Brett, is currently with Boydell & Brewer and will appear as volume 54 early next year. He was pleased to say that there is a full publication schedule for the following few years, which will see the publication of volumes covering Russian journalism before the First World War, part of the calendar for Newgate, and a rare survival detailing the work of the night watch in Piccadilly.

Professor Caroline Barron added that an edition of the Hundred Rolls, revealing the progress of a royal inquiry into London's government in the late thirteenth century, was well advanced and that the place-names had made a useful contribution to a recent Historic Towns Atlas map. The Jubilee Book volume, which includes the oaths of officers from 50 Edward III in English, is expected to be published as volume 55 next year.

6 **Election of Hon Chairman** Dr Helen Bradley proposed that Professor Caroline Barron should be re-elected, seconded by Dr Christopher Kitching. Professor Barron was unanimously elected.

7 **Election of Hon Gen Editors** Professor Caroline Barron proposed that Dr Hannes Kleineke and Professor Jerry White should be re-elected. Dr Stephen O'Connor 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 Dr Justin Colson, and they were unanimously elected.

9 **Election of Council Members** Professor Caroline Barron said that there were several vacancies and welcomed suggestions to fill them.

- 10 **Election of Hon Independent Financial Examiner** Dr Justin Colson proposed that Dr Clive Burgess (medieval historian, London) be re-elected as Hon Independent Financial Examiner, and was seconded by Mrs Dudley Buchanan. Dr Burgess was unanimously elected.
- 11 **Any Other Business** There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 5.58 pm

Signed:

Hon Chairman

Hon Secretary