

LONDON RECORD SOCIETY

**Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting of the London Record Society
held at 5.30pm
on
Monday 19 October 2020
as
a virtual meeting on Zoom**

Present: Professor Caroline Barron Hon Chairman
Dr Helen Bradley Hon Secretary
Dr David Lewis Hon Treasurer
Dr Penny Tucker Hon Membership Secretary
Dr Ian Archer
Mrs Dudley Buchanan
Dr Clive Burgess co-opted
Dr Stephen O'Connor co-opted

and 7 members

1 **The Minutes** of the AGM held on **24 September 2019** were approved.

2 **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising.

3 **The Hon Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts** The Hon Treasurer, Dr David Lewis, presented the accounts for y/e December 2019 and reported as follows:

Subscription income for the year has remained much as in 2018 at a little over £6,000, with only book sale income showing an increase of £441, from £1,659 in 2018 to £2,100 in 2019.

Owing to the delayed production of the 2019 volume, the publication costs for the year are estimates based on information provided by the publisher. Any excess or shortfall against actual costs will be adjusted in the 2020 accounts.

Other expenses of the Society are £408 lower than 2018, at £1,140 (2018 £1,548), mostly owing to a non-recurring conference expense in 2018 of £386.

The Society had a surplus of income over expense for the year of £1,694 and an accumulated unrestricted reserve of £48,672. It is the trustees' opinion that this reserve is adequate to meet the forthcoming operating expenses of the Society. The Society holds stock of previous publications, held in the balance sheet at a value of £1 per copy. It is the intention of the trustees to reduce this holding to save storage costs and simplify the Society's administration.

Dr Lewis added that the production cost of a new title was approximately £5,000 depending on size, with additional cost for distribution to the membership reaching £1,000. The implementation of public health measures earlier in 2020 had not had any impact on sales.

4 **The Hon Secretary's and Membership Secretary's Report** Dr Helen Bradley reported that:

After the AGM held at 11 Bedford Square in September 2019, members of the Society enjoyed a highly informative talk by Dr Andrew Byrne. Dr Byrne's subject was the architecture of Bedford Square itself, including details of its construction and the adjustments made to accommodate the differences in taste and wealth of the purchasers. A familiar place to most of his audience, Bedford Square was presented in an entirely new light and with a focus on details above ground level which many of us had not previously noticed

The Council met early in March, before the government announcement of a general lockdown due to the public health emergency, and again on the afternoon of this year's AGM. The resignation of Dr Hannes Kleineke as Honorary General Editor had been accepted with regret, and the Society will also be welcoming a new Honorary Independent Financial Examiner. The book sale to members announced at last year's AGM had raised £200 and further sales of stock at various prices brought in almost £650. In addition to the money from these sales, a total saving in storage costs had been made which amounts to just under £87, storage being charged at 36p per volume per annum. The terms of a new contract with Boydell and Brewer, who publish our volumes and distribute through Wiley, are still under consideration.

Membership Dr Penny Tucker reported that:

Subscription payments had been quite badly affected by the fact that she was ill during February and March and thereafter, once the severity of the pandemic was clear, with the Chairman's approval decided that it was not the moment to be pestering individual late-payers. She has however continued to try to persuade institutional members with agents to pay. That decision was also influenced by the delay in the publication of the volume for 2019.

Once it is clear that we will be able to make up for lost time, she will invite individual late-paying members to subscribe in order to receive the 2020 volume.

As of 5 September 2020, subscription payments had been received for 191 members, viz. (the figures as at the 2019 AGM [and at the end of the year] are added alongside for comparison):

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019 [e-of-y]</u>
Institutional Members	103	112 [116]
Personal Members	88	106 [106]
Complimentary	8	8 [8]
<i>Total</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>226 [230]</i>

As predicted at the 2019 AGM, we did not achieve an end-of-year figure which was as high as that for 2018, ending up with 10 fewer members.

Professor Caroline Barron reminded those attending that the Society was experiencing a degree of change. The personal membership was smaller and sales by Boydell & Brewer to non-members had increased, and she welcomed ideas designed to encourage more individuals to join the Society. Mrs Dudley Buchanan suggested that new methods of working had opened different avenues of communication, and that it might now be possible to offer a talk on each new volume to a wider audience. Professor Barron added that the British Association for Local History invited others to send in talks to be featured on their website. Members contributed a variety of helpful ideas, suggesting that book launches could be put online to make them available to more people. Dr Ian Archer pointed out that although events could easily be recorded, there might be more difficulty in finding a suitable platform. It was remarked that some organisations had been revitalised by on-screen meetings, and Mr John Finn particularly mentioned London Historians and City Guides in this connection, while Mrs Lynne Taylor-Gooby spoke of the Bristol Record Society and the potential for interest among mature students' groups. After some discussion of online access to talks, launches and events and the impetus which could be created through the internet, it was agreed that the editors and Hon General Editors should be asked to offer talks on the Society's volumes.

- 5 **The Hon Gen Editors' Report** In the unavoidable absence of Professor Jerry White, the Hon General Editors' report was presented by Dr Clive Burgess after his election (see Item 11).
- 6 **Election of Hon Chairman** Dr Helen Bradley proposed that Professor Caroline Barron should be re-elected, seconded Mrs Dudley Buchanan. Professor Barron was unanimously elected.
- 7 **Election of Hon Gen Editors** Professor Caroline Barron thanked Dr Hannes Kleineke for his many years of painstaking work on the Society's volumes, particularly mentioning Extra Series 1 *Seals in Medieval London, 1050-1300: A Catalogue* and volume 47 *The Great Wardrobe Accounts of Henry VII and Henry VIII*. She also expressed the Society's gratitude for Dr Kleineke's continued work to bring the London mercer Thomas Kytson's 'Boke of Remembraunce' to publication.

Professor Barron proposed that Professor Jerry White should be re-elected, and that Dr Clive Burgess should be 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 Caroline Barron 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 Mrs Dudley Buchanan, and they were unanimously elected.
- 9 **Election of Council Members** Professor Caroline Barron proposed that Professor Vanessa Harding and Dr Stephen O'Connor should be elected. The proposal was seconded by Dr Ian Archer, and they were unanimously elected.
- 10 **Election of Hon Independent Financial Examiner** Professor Caroline Barron proposed that Dr Stephanie Hovland (previously Hon Membership Secretary, whose thesis was on medieval apprentices in London) be elected as Hon Independent Financial Examiner. The proposal was seconded by Dr Penny Tucker, and Dr Hovland was unanimously elected.
- 11 **Hon General Editors' Report** Firstly Professor Caroline Barron explained that the volume for 2019, Thomas Kytson's 'Boke of Remembraunce' edited by Dr Colin Brett, was a complex technical volume currently in final proof and expected to be published before Christmas. Dr Ian Archer added that the volume only awaited its cover illustration; Kytson was a London Merchant Adventurer and the builder of Hengrave Hall in Suffolk, whose accounts demonstrated the scope of his business activity and opened up a better understanding of the sixteenth-century London economy.

Dr Clive Burgess reported that the volume for 2020 will be the records of the elite fraternity of the Holy Name edited by Dr Elizabeth New. The Jesus Guild in the crypt of St Paul's had national membership. Charting the devotional development of the late fifteenth century, the volume will include material from St Faith's parish (which moved into the space which the Jesus Guild had vacated) as well as biographies of wardens of the fraternity. It was hoped that publication would be early next year.

Dr Burgess also reported good progress on the records from St Nicholas Shambles edited by Mrs Helen Combes, Dr David Harry and Dr Christian Steer. This was a rich parish offering very full information on its chantries and priests in the years approaching the Reformation. After the parish was disbanded in the 1540s, its records were preserved by St Bartholomew's Hospital.

Professor Caroline Barron mentioned that other prospective volumes featured early twentieth-century reports by Russians in London, Newgate in the early eighteenth century, and a guitarist's workshop of the nineteenth century. The Society was keen to publish good collections from whatever period and would be able to publish two volumes a year if the texts were ready. Professor

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Barron concluded by thanking members for joining by Zoom and hoping to meet them at the launch of Kytson's 'Boke of Remembraunce', for which more information would be circulated in due course.

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

Meeting closed at 6.09 pm

Signed:

Hon Chairman

Hon Secretary