

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

BIRMINGHAM & WEST MIDLANDS

Minutes of 2023 AGM

Held at The Birmingham & Midland Institute
10.30 am on 11th February 2023

In attendance

Officers:

Stephen Hartland	Chairman
Joe Holyoak	Vice Chairman
Barbara Shackley	Vice Chairman
James Fletcher	Honorary Treasurer
Dr Jake Scott	Honorary Secretary
Nina Hatch	Programme Secretary
Tim Bridges	Conservation Officer

Committee Members:

Akil Dowe	Regional Executive
Jasna Jaksic	Regional Executive
Helene Pursey	Regional Executive
Gill Sockett	Regional Executive
Rob Allan	Casework Committee
Gillian Roberts	Casework Committee
Mary Collins	Programme Committee

Members not in office:

Janet Barson	Martin Haslett
Mark Bench	Judith Hurst
Hazel Bonham	Carole McKewan
David Bullock	Pat Orme
Ann Carr	Peter Orme
Steven Dyson	Niky Rathbone

Apologies

Fiona Adams	Lewis Hobbs
Paul Barker	David Low
Anthony Collins	Michael Pope
Charlotte Davies	Janet Searle
Richard Dean	Sue Warren
Jeremy Handy	

Minute Taker

Dr Jake Scott

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1. Welcome & Approval of 2022 Minutes

- 1.1. The Chairman asked if anyone had any corrections to the Minutes. There were none. Nina Hatch proposed that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Seconded by Mark Bench. The motion was carried.

2. Chairman's Annual Report – Stephen Hartland

- 2.1. A printed report was circulated to members and the SH summarised the contents;
- 2.2. SH expressed his thanks for the work and support of everyone involved, with special thanks to Barbara Shackley (BS) who was standing down from the Regional executive and as Vice Chairman after forty or so years service [following round of applause];
- 2.3. SH thanked Joe Holyoak, Tim Bridges and the Casework committee for their work;
- 2.4. Programme has been successful this year – especially as WM group is one of the most active (most active outside of London);
- 2.5. Membership has remained consistent and increased;
- 2.6. Social media engagement is high;
- 2.7. Conservation award will be announced shortly and go online at midday;
- 2.8. The Chairman gave recognition given to Andrew Todd, loyal member of the society, who passed away in 2022;
- 2.9. There were details about Mary Heath appended to the Chairman's Report, which had been written by Niky Rathbone.
COMMENTS:
- 2.10. Carol McEwan commented that Mary Heath (nee Richards) was compelled to join the society by her husband and could well have been doing her work in her husband's memory.

3. Treasurer's Annual Report – James Fletcher

- 3.1. JF reminded the meeting that we receive no central funding from the main society; our organising committee has done very well regarding funding our efforts;
- 3.2. There were seven events this year, all of which have resulted in a surplus;
- 3.3. JF expresses thanks to support from all members;
- 3.4. Thanks especially to Andrew Todd (bequest), and Historic England (grant);
- 3.5. There was a surplus of £2,976;
COMMENTS:
- 3.6. Nina Hatch commented that We do pay speakers fees, whereas Priory Gardens don't – which is worth recognising;
- 3.7. Mark Bench asked if funding from Historic England represents a conflict of interest?
- 3.8. Reply from Joe Holyoak: Not a conflict of interest, we are acting in a way that promotes the society's interest. This position was supported by Tim Bridges.
- 3.9. Note from SH: We don't always agree with Historic England (Grand Hotel example)

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3.10. Martin Haslett proposed that the Treasurer's Annual Report be adopted. Seconded by Carole McEwan. The motion was carried.

4. Financial Statement from the Mary Heath Trust – Dr Jake Scott

- 4.1. In the absence of David Low, who is a trustee of the Marty Heath Trust, Jake Scott gave a presentation on the Trust;
- 4.2. Joe Holyoak clarified that the four Trustees are split between 2 from Priory Gardens, and 2 from the regional group (currently David Lowe and David Shackley) – problem arose over whether there should be a time limit, and what happens if DL and DS need to be replaced;
- 4.3. Time limits: “sound in principle” but any amendment “would incur legal fees” (shelved over possible and unknown cost);
- 4.4. How regional appointments would be renewed: “terms of appointment could be arranged amicably among any individuals wishing to stand”;
COMMENT:
- 4.5. Mark Bench asked if there any progress on the Mary Heath Trust being set up as a registered charity? SH replied that it is probably not worth revisiting due to the reducing funds, but if things change substantially, then yes;
- 4.6. Nina Hatch also commented that the benefit of having the MHT under the Victorian Society keeps costs low;

5. Election to Regional Executive Committee

- 5.1. With their consent, Nina Hatch, Andy Foster, Eva Ling and Jasna Jaksic were proposed for re-election to the Regional Executive Committee by Carole McKeown and seconded by Helene Pursey. All four were re-elected to the Executive Committee unanimously for a further three years.

6. 2022 Conservation Award

- 6.1. SH gave a summary of past winners and thanked Hortons' Estates Ltd for their sponsorship which has been around £15,000 over the past eight years;
- 6.2. The 2022 Winner of the award is The Steamhouse (formerly the Belmont Works of Cardigan St, 1899)

7. Closing remarks and adjournment

- 7.1. SH expressed his thanks to all contributions to the AGM, and reiterated thanks to Barbara Shackley for her work since for the Victorian Society since 1978;
- 7.2. Nina Hatch reminded members that the next event is the visit to the Police Museum on the 11th March 2023.
- 7.3. The meeting closed at 11.10 am.