



MINUTES OF THE FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2019, Museum of London, Docklands

Present:

John Adams, Sherry Bates, Paul Beckett, Karen Butti, Paddy Elson, Jenny Freeman, Alan Frost
Tom Gibb, Jackie Heath, David John, Alan Johnson, Colin Kerr, Jean Letherby, Roderick Maclennan David
McDonald, Gez Pegram, Robyn Pender, Owen Plummer, Diana Rowsell, Edward Sargent, Charles Wagner,
Alexandra Valmarana, Richard Woolf, Virginia Wedgwood,

The President Charles Wagner welcomed members to the 2019 AGM and took the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES

Malcolm Dickson, Alasdair Glass, John Burton, Laura Stevens, Roger Taylor, Rosalind Taylor, Elaine
Blackett-Ord, Donald Insall, Bob Kindred, James Clair, James Miller, Rosemary Shery

ACTION

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Corrections: The minutes were a correct record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

The minutes of the forty-eighth Annual General Meeting, held on 16 March 2018 at St Martins in the Field,
were accepted as a true record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Activities

2018 conference: Conservation-The Future of Building? at St Martin's in The Field 16th March 2018

Our golden jubilee conference examined the enormous developments for all aspects of conservation over
the previous 50 years to consider what has been achieved and what happens next. We had speakers from
a wide range of conservation bodies as well as a telling report on global materials shortages from Chris
Twinn. The conference questioned repeated demolition and rebuild as a sustainable mode of operation for
the construction industry.

Meetings and Visits since last AGM and Conference

Last Season

Tuesday 10th April 2018 Talk: How Building Conservation Has Changed Over 50 Years Graham King
Tuesday 15th May 2018 Forum Key Projects Or Occurrences That Made a Difference Chaired by Ian Bristow
Tuesday 2nd June 2018 Visit: To Dennis Parr House, Kettles Yard and Antarctic Survey in Cambridge

This Season

Tuesday 25 September 2018 Talk: The Royal Academy Lyall Thow, Partner at Julian Harrap Architects
Tuesday 16 October 2018 ASCHB Forum: Insulation in Historic Buildings Chaired by Anthony Fensome
Tuesday 20 November 2018 Talk: Alexandra Palace Dante Vanoli, Purcell
Tuesday 8 January 2019 Talk: Norwich Castle Hugh Feilden of Feilden and Mawson

Tuesday 12 February 2019 ASCHB Forum: The Value of Posterity

Tuesday 12 March 2019 Talk: Colouring London: Citywide Metadata Polly Hudson, The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis

This season still to come we have

Friday 15 March 2018 Annual General Meeting(9.00am) & Conference: The Conservation of Industrial Archaeology, Buildings and Sites in Industrial Use

Tuesday 9 April 2018 Talk: Turner's House, Sandycombe Lodge Gary Butler of Butler Hegarty Architects

Tuesday 14 May University Buildings of James Stirling and James Gowan Thomas Pearson, Arup

Tuesday 11 June 2019 Pltzhanger Manor Christina Kominski Julian Harrap Architects

Transactions

Alasdair Glass Continues as Editor assisted by Matthew Williams

Richard Woolf is working with Alasdair on the Proceedings of the Golden Jubilee Conference.

Volume 41 of Transactions was published in February including:

Refurbishment Of The Long Wards At The Royal Hospital Chelsea Laura Morgante

Restoration of Brompton Cemetery, London Richard Davies

Second Thoughts On Masonry Bridges Bill Harvey

Fulham Palace: The Tudor Courtyard David Hills and Louise Mark

Fifty Years of Conservation Areas: Their Origins and Development Graham King

St Albans Town Hall: The Next Chapter Laura Levitt

Conservation: Pioneering a Discipline for Architecture Roger France

Volume 42 is now in progress.

Committee Matters

Committee Karen Butti, Malcolm Dickson, Robyn Pender, Anthony Fensome, Jackie Heath, Colin Kerr, Jean Letherby, Hedy Parry-Davis, Diana Rowsell, Alex di Valmarana, Richard Woolf & Sherry Bates.

Karen Butti, Jackie Heath continue in their roles as Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary.

Committee members will be standing for re-election at this AGM, with the exception of Jean.

SB would also encourage any members who can to volunteer to join the committee too or to offer their help in a supporting role. The committee stands at 10. ASCHB as an organisation can only operate if its members step forward to help run it. Anyone interested please talk to SB or one of the other committee members.

Membership

11 honorary members, Current members 292 (309 the year before), Struck off 23 (disappeared + no payments for a long time, 2 last year), Resigned 4 (same as last year)

New members 16

Our membership drive continues

Died: Peter Carey

We also have a number of subscribers.

We are still short of email addresses but a lot of our communications are by email and our mail continue to reduce.

Many still pay by standing order but internet transfers are increasing.

Constitution

No proposed changes to the constitution, for next year but the committee will continue to review the constitution on a regular basis.

Karen Butti noted that, previously, committee members did not pay for the conference, however the Charity Commission rules have changed so going forward the committee will pay and KB suggested that this should be changed in the future in our constitution

Insurance

During the last year we have renewed insurance to cover members and third party liabilities and trustees indemnities. This is a special charity insurance package underwritten by Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Social Media & Communications

The Website The web site has been up and running at www.aschb.org.uk for several years

We owe a deep gratitude to all the committee members who keep it up to date. This together with twitter has greatly helped to raise the public profile of ASCHB and increase awareness of our activities. We shall continue to use these tools to disseminate what we do.

Twitter Our twitter account has had a number of glitches recently.

Mail Chimp and Eventbrite We use these for communication with members and for ticketing.

Live Feeds The committee is currently considering web-based methods of broadcasting our lectures live on the internet, thereby to reach our members beyond London, there has been some advance on this.

Bequests and Finances

The Paul Calvocoressi bequest remains secure and we still wish use it to endow a prize or bursary. Currently it is insufficient in itself to endow a significant prize or bursary. Some of it might be used to fund a volume of proceedings of last year's conference, as a publication separate from Transactions.

Karen will report in detail on the association's finances which are in good shape.

However, we still seek to build up funds to give us a cushion to enable us to underwrite events and Transactions to raise the profile of the Association and to pursue initiatives that might be of benefit to our wider membership beyond London. For those reasons we are proposing an increase in the subscription next year. I also note that the subscription has not been increased since I became chair in 2010.

The Paul Calvocoressi bequest remains secure and we shall announce in due course the committee's detailed proposals for its use to endow a prize or bursary that I discussed with you last year.

Subscriptions SB proposed that we should raise the subscriptions from £35 to £50. Incremental increases are difficult to manage. Raising subscriptions would enable us to underwrite events that have greater financial risk. It would also enable some paid help for administrative tasks. SB emphasised that we recognise that this will make a significant difference to some members particularly retired members, hence it was proposed to keep a £35 rate for retired members and £50 for others.

KB highlighted that this does complicate matters and some people retire gradually. The committee should make a proposal for consideration by the members.

Gez Pegram commented that, as a prospective new member from the north, it would be good to know what is happening in the north. SB responded that ASCHB recognises that it can seem London centred but encourages members from elsewhere to arrange events.

Paddy Elson suggested that there should be a survey across the national membership to get feedback from members who are not at the AGM. SB responded that although it can be difficult to generate responses from the membership, at the committee meeting we will consider this.

Clive Bowden proposed a student rate. KB noted that full time students are rare because we are a professional organisation.

Alex de Valmarama suggested a sub-committee to consider rates and fees.

Ed Sargent agreed student rate good idea and may need to change constitution. He proposed regional groups and suggested Birmingham as a start. SB agreed this was a good idea, however, it is dependent on local contacts to lead and engage. SB would be very happy to discuss an

President

Finally SB thanked Charles Wagner on behalf of the association, as he has completed four years as our president.

Charles has played a very active role in support of the association, as member, trustee and latterly president and has been instrumental in the organisation of this conference. Charles is now stepping down. On behalf of this Association SB gave Charles this small thank you card with the promise of a bigger one inside. Charles will become an Honorary life member.

SB announced that Jean Letherby has agreed to be our new president and provided we elect her will take up the post today.

4. REPORT FROM THE HONORARY TREASURER

The Treasurer Karen Butti presented the income and expenditure for the annual accounts for the year end August 2017 and August 2018

Accounts for 2017 were proposed by Sherry Bates and Seconded by Alex Valmarana

The 2018 conference for our 50th birthday was a large event made a loss of £2000 slightly less than expected.

The membership income has decreased due to rationalising payments.

We have been working hard to improve collection of payments of subscription from members and for Transactions.

Finances generally in good shape although we generally spending about £1000 a year more than income.

Charles Wagner proposed acceptance of the accounts Jean Letherby seconded.

5 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President proposed the officers:

Election of the Office of Chairman-Sherry Bates, Office of Honorary Secretary -Jackie Heath, Office of Honorary Treasurer - Karen Butti were agreed unanimously. Proposed by Ed Sargent and Paul Beckett.

6 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Alexandra di Valmarana, Colin Kerr, Anthony Fensome, Robyn Pender, Richard Woolf Diana Rowsell, Hedy Parry Davies were re-elected unanimously. Proposed by Jenny Freeman, Juliet Johnson

7 SUBSCRIPTIONS

A general discussion around the subscription took place:

Richard Woolf compared ASCHB subscriptions with other similar organisations: Victorian Society £47, SPAB £49, C20 £57 and proposed £50 for 50th year. There was a murmur of agreement from the floor.

Charles Wagner believed we need to demonstrate that we are doing more for our members, eg live web broadcasts.

Karen Butti suggested we might pilot such initiatives first as if members receive increase without having seen the benefits they might be less likely to carry on with membership.

Colin Kerr thought that broadcasting was an excellent idea, provided it is sufficiently well publicised in advance. He wondered whether there is a case for having two rates perhaps young professional at current rate then post 30 years old pay the higher rate, and ask people who can afford to top up subscriptions

Ed Sargent said we should be cautious about what would appear to be a large increase, it would be better to increase incrementally. Victorian Society is not comparable as it has an office. We should look at Society for Nautical Research whose sub is £40. There is a risk that increasing by too much could see a loss in memberships numbers. Suggest increase to £40.

SB responded that if you have more members you have more costs but you can spread the cost. We have a small committee that works hard, but we cannot afford external support, so work is done by volunteers. We could go to a multi-tier subscriptions but this is complicated, it is easier to have the top up. The step change is large but we have not done it for many years, we are aware of risk of losing members and suggest that the meeting vote to delegate to the committee the right to increase if they think it is right after we have tried to increase the service we offer.

Juliet Johnson highlighted that it would be good plan to rise from a low base.

Paddy Elson noted most people at the meeting are London based, and wondered if we should take a straw poll of members who are not here. The idea of trialling is a good idea. We should involve members widely. It could be a large proportional increase.

Karen Butti explained that now we have Mailchimp we could mail out all the members to check their response to inform decision

It was also suggested that there could be different rates, modest increase say £40, and £10 extra to have the web access.

Sherry Bates suggested that it would be premature to push to a vote, we will progress with consultation and we will bring back to next AGM.

8. AOB

Jenny Freeman noted it good thing to be able to book via Eventbrite

Charles noted we will mail membership re subscription, We will also reach out to regional groups in the past we have tried to publicise local event by other organisations and suggested we try this again.

Charles thanked ASCHB for having him as President and invited Jean to take the floor. Jean said she was delighted and honoured to take on the role. Having been looking back over the last 50 years we will now be looking forward to see what skills are needed for the future and that ASCHB will be the place to come and discuss these matters.

There were no matters of any other business. The President thanked the Chairman. This concluded the meeting.

Signed..... (Chairman Sherry Bates)
Prepared by Jackie Heath Hon Sec