



MINUTES OF THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2020, National Archives, Kew, London

Present:

John Adams, Sherry Bates, Paul Beckett, Karen Butti, Jill Channer, Keri Dearmer, Paddy Elson, Julian Harrap, John Hudson, Jackie Heath, Alan Johnson, Juliet Johnson, Sinclair Johnson, Colin Kerr, Sarah Khan, Jean Letherby, Stephen Levrant, Roger Mears, Elizabeth Moore, Hedy Parry-Davis, Robyn Pender, Paul Prentice, Matthew Stevens, Joe Thompson, Charles Wagner, Virginia Wedgwood, Richard Woolf

The President Jean Letherby welcomed members to the 2020 AGM and took the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES

Malcolm Aires, Michael Beare, Ian Bristow, Anthony Fensome, Alasdair Glass, Diana Rowsell, James Miller.

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-ninth Annual General Meeting, held on 15 March 2019 at Museum of Docklands, were accepted as a true record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Activities

Friday 15 March 2019 - Conference

The Conservation of Industrial Archaeology, Buildings and Sites in Industrial Use Conference This was at the Museum of London, Docklands. Papers were presented by Shane Gould, Michael Nevell, Henrietta Billings, David Went, John Tanner, Charles Vagner, Malcolm Tucker, Nick Hill, Stephen Clarke and Paul McMahon. Case studies included Elsecar and Wentworth Woodhouse, London Docklands, Shrewsbury, Flaxmill Maltings. Middleport and Whitechapel Bell Foundry, Sir Neil Cossons gave the end note and after the conference Malcolm Tucker led a short Docklands walking tour.

Meetings and Visits since last AGM and Conference

Last Season

Tuesday 9 April 2019 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 Pitzhanger Manor
Judy Allen Julian Harrap Architects

This Season

Tuesday 24 September 2019 The Whitehall Banqueting House since RUSI
Jane Spooner, Historic Royal Palaces

Tuesday 15 October 2019 Forum: cleaning historic masonry
Latest in thinking and updates on current research

Tuesday 19 November 2019 Brackley Town Hall
Tom Gibb, Haverstock

Tuesday 21 January 2020 After Glasgow and Paris: an update on fire risk
Steve Emery, Oxford University

Tuesday 18 February 2020
ASCHB Forum: aesthetics and conservation

Friday 6 March 2020
09:00 ASCHB Annual General Meeting
10:00 ASCHB 2020 Conference Conserving Knowledge: Recording, archiving and retrieving the historic environment for future generations.

Still to Come

Tuesday 17 March 2020 Cuba, communism, and conservation
Anna Joynt, Allies & Morrison

Tuesday 21 April 2020 The archaeology of the Mithraeum
Jane Sidell, Historic England
At Historic England's office with a site visit combined.

Tuesday 19 May 2020 Providence Chapel, Charlwood
Robert Bowles, RPB Services

Tuesday 16 June 2020 Earth mortars: latest thinking, and the repair of the Dovecote at Barham, Lincolnshire
Alison Henry, Historic England Peter Rawlings, Peter Rawlings Architects

Visit to Turner's house Twickenham on Tuesday 5th May 12 noon - 4 pm

Visit to Wentworth Woodhouse and Elsecar on 19 June

Transactions

The Chairman congratulated Alasdair Glass and Matthew Williams on the publishing of volume 42. Alasdair Glass continues as Editor assisted by Matthew Williams. With Volume 42, it is 17 years and 17 volumes since Alasdair Glass joined the editorial team and 13 since he became the lead editor and, having been fully retired for five years, he is looking to plan for his succession. Before Christmas John Hudson, former head of publishing at English Heritage and a longstanding member of ASCHB, agreed to join the editorial team as a deputy editor with a view to taking over from Alasdair who is planning to retire from the journal editorship. It is likely that Alasdair will continue for a further two editions before handing the reins to John. Matthew who has started his own surveying practice does not want to extend his commitment and will continue as a co-editor. Cathedral Communications have notified us that they cannot commit to more than two further editions. So the tasks of managing editor and production will move elsewhere in a little while. John's help will be invaluable to ASCHB as we make that transition.

Cathedral Communications has been responsible for the production of Transactions since Volume 33 in 2011, and shares much of the credit for its current high standard. However, they have now indicated that they do not wish to commit to more than another two volumes. Happily for ASCHB, John Hudson is well

equipped to manage the transition to other producers.

Volume 42 of Transactions was published in February. It is dedicated to the memory of Hugh Feilden, who was to have contributed an article on Norwich Castle before his unexpected and untimely death last August. Its 80 pages contain seven articles, all but the first originating as talks to ASCHB. We are grateful to the authors who have contributed to it, the peer reviewers and to the other copyright owners who have permitted the use of their images. The articles are:

The Emmeline Pankhurst Memorial: Unmoved and Upgraded by Hannah Parham and Sarah Bridger
The Restoration of Soane's Pitzhanger Manor by Judy Allen
Conserving Stirling's Red Trilogy by Thomas Pearson
Alexandra Palace West Yard Project by Dante Vanoli
The Royal Academy at 6 Burlington Gardens
Saving the Facades of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles by John Fidler
Conserving Pugin's St Augustine's Church Ramsgate by Karen Butti

For the first time, it has been perfect bound (with a spine) having exceeded the 68 pages maximum for saddle-stitched (stapled) binding. Coincidentally, there has been the most substantial revamp of the design template since Transactions went digital with Volume 27 in 2005, tightening it up and improving legibility, particularly with a change of typeface.

Volume 43 already has nine confirmed and several unconfirmed contributions, so even allowing for some slippage and/or non-delivery it can be expected to be at least as substantial as Volume 42. Volume 43 is now in progress.

Committee Matters

Current Committee members are Karen Butti, Keri Dearmer, Paul Beckett, Robyn Pender, Anthony Fensome, Jackie Heath, Colin Kerr, Diana Rowsell, Alex di Valmarana, Richard Woolf and Sherry Bates.

Hedy Parry-Davis and Malcom Dickinson resigned during the course of the year.

Karen Butti, Jackie Heath continue in their roles as treasurer, secretary.
Committee members will be standing for re-election at this AGM, I would also encourage any members here 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 me or one of the other committee members.

Membership

13 honorary
Current members 302 (292 last year before)
Removed None so far, after last year's bonfire of 24
Resigned 2 (4 last year)
New members 15 (16 last year)
Our membership drive continues

Died: Hugh Fielden to whom volume 42 of Transactions is dedicated. Memorial Service 15 April 2020 in Norwich Cathedral.

Trevor Proudfoot of Cliveden Conservation, who sadly was only 65. He was a stone mason and conservator of international renown, particularly skilled at the conservation of statuary.

Ashley Barker OBE 11th March 2019. We did not know before the last conference. Surveyor of Historic Buildings at the GLC and taught on the AA conservation Course. He was my predecessor as founding chairman of ASCHB.

We also have a number of subscribers largely North American and European Universities. We are still short of email addresses, but a lot of our communications are by email and our mail continues 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.

ASCHB Name

The committee have considered amending the name of ASCHB to reflect more accurately what we engage with as an Association. The committee acknowledges that we are fundamentally interested holistically in the historic environment. In that sense the reference to buildings in our title may be misleading and under value the concerns of many of our members, However, ASCHB has longstanding recognition as a brand name and therefore the committee did not wish to change it. However, they did think that we should add an additional strapline:

The Forum for All Aspects of the Historic Environment.

This we shall now use. However, we shall keep this and our name under review so that it reflects our current practice and focus.

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. We are currently considering event insurance for the future conferences.

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 social media 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 this is still used but twitter has dropped out of favour with the general public as a primary mode of communication.

Mail Chimp and Eventbrite

We use these for communication with members and for ticketing. Their use is increasing.

Live Feeds

The committee is still considering livefeeds. We are generally in favour of live feeds for events, providing that speakers and audience members are happy for them to take place. In some instances where Chatham House rules apply they may be inappropriate. The problems here are largely technological, finance and resource.

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. Karen will report in detail on the Association's finances.

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. We have had recent talk of a trip to the Veneto in North Italy. For those reasons we are proposing an increase in the subscription this year. We will be presenting a paper on the proposed subscription increase later.

President

Jean Letherby has been president for a year now and has played a very active role in the leadership of the Association. She has kindly agreed to continue and we on the committee all look forward to working with her again next year.

4. REPORT FROM THE HONORARY TREASURER

The Treasurer, Karen Butti presented the income and expenditure for the annual accounts for the year end August 2019. Accounts for 2018 /19 were proposed by Sherry Bates and Seconded by Alex di Valmarana.

Income similar as last year, deficit on the year £770 although part of that was dues to unbanked cash. Statement of assets show £53, 476. The accounts have not been examined yet.

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 Charles Wagner and Jill Channer.

6 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Alexandra di Valmarana, Colin Kerr, Anthony Fensome, Robyn Pender, Richard Woolf Diana Rowsell, were re-elected unanimously. Proposed by Sinclair Johnston and Paddy Elson

7 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Richard Woolf proposed that ASCHB raises annual subscription from £35 to £50. Although our finances are in good shape we should keep ahead of inflation.

A paper had been circulated by Richard Woolf and Diana Rowsell.

Robyn Pender spoke in support of the motion , emphasising that we do not have a cushion. We are a professional organisation with volunteers supporting the committee. It has become increasingly difficult to manage the membership and meetings. We could continue limping along, however we would like to be expanding what we do. For example, we would like to run a student prize, we would like to stream events, and support the new northern group. We would like to move some of the administration tasks to a paid agency allowing the committee to spend time on more creative activities. Looking back at the historic subscription rate there has not been a rate rise since 2006.

SL asked if there was a corporate membership, to which the answer was no.

PE said she had no idea that it had not raised since 2006 and supported the motion.

The motion was proposed and P Beckett seconded; the motion was passed unanimously.

8. AOB

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