



MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 19 November 2024, on Zoom video platform

Present:

Jean Letherby, Robyn Pender, Sherry Bates, Jackie Heath, Alexandra Valmarana, Alan Frost, Stuart Page, Alan Frost, Karen Butti, Fiona Raley, John Burton, Alasdair Glass, Juliet Johnson, John Hudson, Paddy Elson, Adrian Ward, Richard Woolf, Jaideep Chakrabarti, David McDonald, Paul Beckett, Max Thomson

The ASCHB Chair, Sherry Bates, welcomed John Burton as our new President and handed over to him to chair the AGM meeting. John welcome members to the Autumn 2024 AGM and took the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES

Louise Bainbridge, Diana Rowsell, Antony Fensome, Brendan Foley, Alex Valmarana, Charles Wagner, Paul Becket, Michael Beare, Keri Dearmer, Matthew Williams

ACTION

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising.

The minutes of the of Annual General Meeting, held on 16 January 2024 on video platform, were accepted as a true record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

President

The Chairman expressed gratitude to Michael Beare for his two years of service as the President and announced that he has agreed to join the committee. John Burton was welcomed as the new President.

Meetings and Visits since last AGM and Conference

A detailed report on events held since the last AGM on 16 January 2024 was provided:

Past Events

- Jan 23: Findlaters Winery by Benny O'Looney (Hybrid)
- Feb 20: Bennerley Viaduct by Andy Savage (Hybrid)
- Mar 19: Nicholas Barbon: Developing London, 1667-1698 by Frank Kelsall & Timothy Walker (Hybrid)
- Mar 26: A Radical New Proposition for Protection by Kate Clarke (Online)
- Apr 18: ASCHB Conference – Heritage, Health and Hospitals (Live and Recorded)
- May 9: Terracotta – A new study of its properties (Hybrid)

- Jun 4: Empowering Custodians to Chart Their Own Sustainable Journey (Online)
- Sep 11: The Regeneration of the High Street (Hybrid)
- Sep 23: ASCHB Conference 2023 - Session 1: Navigating A Wetter World (Online)
- Oct 14: Daewha Kang talk on St Andrew's Holborn (Hybrid)
- Oct 29: ASCHB Conference 2023 - Session 2: Navigating A Wetter World (Online)
- Nov 6: History and Properties of Fibrous Plaster by Dr Richard Ball (Hybrid)

Event Statistics

- Total events hosted: 12
- Total attendees: 340
- Average attendees per talk: 30 (ranging from 5 to 57)
- Total funds raised online: £520 (excluding substantial Eventbrite fees of £1.13 per £5 ticket, charged to the attendee)
- Ticket pricing: Members' tickets free; Non-members £5; Conference replay: Members £5 and Non-members £10
- Predominantly income from non-member tickets

Feedback Request

Feedback was solicited from members on the following:

- Preferred types of talks
- Suitable timing for events
- Accessibility of recorded talks

Future Charges Consideration

A consideration to charge members £5 per talk, similar to SPAB and the Georgian Group, was discussed. Potential earnings last year could have been £1,700 compared to the actual £520, aiding payment for VeryConnect.

Future Events

Upcoming events were announced, including webinars, and other meetings:

- Dec 6, 2024: Venetian Bricks (Online)
- Jan 14, 2025: Exeter College Library Oxford by Alan Dempsey of Nex (Hybrid)
- Feb 11, 2025: Spitalfields Excavation and What We Know About Health In The Past (Hybrid)
- Feb 25, 2025: Measurement of Environmental Conditions by Professor Elizabeth Laycock from York Diocese (Online)
- Mar 11, 2025: Lime Forum Talks by Michael Beare and Gerard Lynch (Hybrid)

- Apr 1, 2025: Storm Damage, RAAC by George Ballard (Hybrid)
- May 14, 2025: ASCHB Conference: Social Housing in The Historic Context at St Botolph's Church (Live and Recorded)

Transactions

John Hudson remains the Transactions editor assisted by Matthew Williams. Volume 45 has been published by Hall McCartney, containing articles by various esteemed authors. Volume 46 is in preparation. Contributions for the upcoming volume are welcomed.

Committee Matters

Current committee members include Paul Beckett, Karen Butti, Keri Dearmer, Anthony Fensome, Jackie Heath, John Hudson, Jean Letherby, Robyn Pender, Alex di Valmarana, Charles Wagner, Richard Woolf, and Sherry Bates. Matthew Williams continues to support Paul Beckett with the northern group.

Resignations included Diana Rowsell and Keri Dearmer and Karen Butti is stepping down and leaving the committee. Gratitude was expressed towards them for their service. All remaining committee members will stand for re-election at the AGM. Brendan Foley will stand for election as the Hon Treasurer, and Jackie Heath for re-election as Hon Secretary. Members were encouraged to volunteer for the committee or supporting roles.

Membership

Current membership stands at 292 (295 in January). Notable details included:

- Increasing subscribers from North American and European universities.
- 9 honorary members.
- 2 resigned and 7 deceased members. Notable deceased members included John Sell, Nick Molyneux, Rosemary MacQueen MBE, Roger Evans, John Earl, Stephen Rickards, and Ken Brown.

Efforts to update email addresses for better communication were emphasized, along with a suggestion to check standing order payments against the current subscription rate of £50.

VeryConnect The new VeryConnect membership system is operational further details later in the meeting.

Constitution No proposed changes for the next year, but the committee will continue regular reviews.

Insurance Annual renewal of insurance to cover members, third party liabilities, and trustees' indemnities was undertaken through Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Social Media & Communications The Website The website at www.aschb.org.uk remains active and is regularly updated, particularly by Jean. Members were invited to submit photographs of conservation projects. The establishment of a YouTube channel and LinkedIn group were announced, with plans to integrate with VeryConnect

4. REPORT FROM THE HONORARY TREASURER

The accounts were presented.

The current bank balance is £31,405.44

Income from subscriptions is £6,261 which is less than half what it should be as people are not paying for a variety of reasons, most of which are oversights.

Main expenditures are for the conference (net cost £6,300), transactions (£9,255), and VeryConnect (£5,400). There was a deficit for the financial year to the end of August 2024 of £4,967.

We are not legally obliged to have accounts examined as our turnover is lower than the threshold and we have not had accounts examined, however, our intention is to have them examined from time to time.

The meeting received the accounts.

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 – Brenden Foley

This was carried unanimously.

6 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The President proposed the committee:

Paul Beckett, Anthony Fensome, Jackie Heath, John Hudson, Jean Letherby, Robyn Pender, Alex di Valmarana, Charles Wagner, Richard Woolf, Sherry Bates were re-elected unanimously, and Michael Beare was elected.

7 VERYCONNECT MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

Jean Letherby updated the meeting on work that she had done with Robyn Pender and Alex di Valderama to instigate this new membership system:

The software we used for the database of members became obsolete over the last few years, so we began a hunt for a better alternative. We have also found problems in recruiting help for the task of keeping the membership records up to date.

Thanks to the efforts of Alexandra Valmarana, with the aid of Rhian Muschett, the VeryConnect organization was found. They are based in Scotland and have been in operation since 2013 specialising in all-in-one membership management software. Not only do they offer a platform to hold our membership database, but also several services which will make our administration and communications much more efficient. All our information will be stored in the UK.

We signed up with them in July 2024 and started the handover. This involved transfer of our database and customisation of the platform to meet our particular needs. VeryConnect have charged a one-off set up fee to set up the platform, migrate the data, training and support. There is also an annual fee for maintenance, updates, support and backup.

We are now ready to start rolling out the platform and will be sending all members an invitation to sign up shortly.

Members will be able to add and edit their own addresses, profile and special interests, and set email and privacy preferences.

We have had some difficulties in sending our email notices to all members with some being rejected and some members unsubscribing. The VeryConnect platform will allow members to set

their preferences for what emails you receive, without missing out on essential notices.

Members will also have access to the latest edition of Transactions and recordings of our on-line meetings as you do through the current members' area on the website.

With this system, we will be able to send reminders to all members individually for payments of their subscriptions – this will allow subscriptions to run annually from the time of joining, rather than 1st January for everyone. Existing members subscription anniversaries will be changed to 5 April to allow time to set up new banking arrangements. We now have facilities for accepting payments via credit or debit cards, as well as bank transfer.

We will still be able to deal with your one-off payment or standing order during transition. Provision of invoices has been made easier.

Another of the features is the ability for members to set up discussion groups for special interests – for example Church Organs, and message each other directly. We will publicise our events on the platform as well as on our website. Tickets will be sold through the platform, rather than through Eventbrite.

8. **AOB**

There were no further matters of any other business and this concluded the meeting.

Information@aschb.org.uk

Signed..... (Chairman Sherry Bates)

Prepared by Jackie Heath Hon Sec