

Annual General Meeting November 24th 2017 Report

The AGM this year took place at the home of David and Rosemary Kirkman, and was attended by 35 members and their guests. A list of those attending is circulated with this report.

Secretary's Report

Apologies for his absence were given.

The report reviewed the events that had been organised this year. This can be seen in a separate paper (circulated with this report). This was brief, the intention being to review it in detail under the agenda item Feedback.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the accounts of the Society. The main points were:

- the opening balance was £1164.34, the closing balance £1131.65. This is set against a nominal target of about £1000, which had been agreed at an earlier AGM.
- this apparent small overall change hides the fact that £288 is owed to the Crucible for the Adelphi Room for the Musical next January, and that £125 is ring fenced for future Cambridge Freshers events where we may not be able to rely on Hallam University to provide us with a venue. This is mitigated by the £100 deposit paid to Whirlowbrook Hall for next year's Annual Dinner
- the main loss was of £203.90 for the Annual Dinner; the rest of the events were mainly covered. The Annual Dinner losses are essentially the speaker costs, his rail fares, taxis, accommodation and a small gift. We have obtained a grant from D&AR towards the Annual Dinner from 2018, but this is not guaranteed for future years. Other overheads were the annual third-party insurance, and the purchase of an HDMI connector to ensure that our speakers can always link to the projector.
- as last year, the two walks are paid for by individual members, therefore requiring no movement of money across the Society's account. However donations had been taken at the Summer walk towards the expenses anticipated for the Cambridge Freshers event later in the year
- the meeting accepted the accounts

Feedback

The committee are concerned that it does not produce the same structure of events year on year, and so sought some real feedback from the meeting. The points raised were:

AGM/ Cheese & Wine

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- this was both necessary, and of the right format

Annual Dinner

- the meeting was asked whether the Annual Dinner should be continued in its present form. For instance, it could be made informal, or held at a pub or similar, or changed to a lunch, a garden party etc. The two issues are the fact that it attracts mainly older members, and the fact that attendance seems to be sensitive to ticket price, and so at the current venue we will inevitably make a loss.
- as stated above, the 2018 dinner will be subsidised to an extent by a grant from D&AR, but this cannot be relied upon the following year.
- the feeling of the meeting was that:
 - the present format of a formal dinner should be kept, but that other events could also be considered in addition
 - other venues could be explored, but these should provide the same kind of ambience
 - the meeting was concerned about the socialisation: who sits with whom, and then being limited to that company. This needs to be considered

Annual Musical

- the meeting was content with the idea of the musical at the Crucible, they have been in general very enjoyable: it was felt that with the Adelphi Room it provided a good social event
- a suggestion was made that there could be a pre theatre meal
- there was not much enthusiasm for additional events of this kind, such as opera, ballet, concerts in general

Annual Guest Lecture

- these were liked, and the format accepted

Visits

- these were definitely welcomed. A possible future visit to the Terra Cotta figures: February to October in Liverpool - this might include a visit to the docks, or the Tate Liverpool. Flag Fen was also mentioned: Flag Fen is a Bronze Age site and much of the initial excavation was done by Cambridge University. London St Pancras station has a number of sights nearby, for instance the Wellcome Collection. A visit to the Crick Institute was also suggested
- on the issue of distance, the meeting felt that London, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool kind of distances would be acceptable provided there were coaches, and that the event(s) were worth the length of journey. Regarding the latter, it could be that several places might be visited in one trip, possible including a meal. Two hours one way on a train or coach might be the limit

Walks

- there was some discussion on the timing of walks and whether this was affecting the numbers joining. It was decided that there were too many

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variables (particularly holidays, weather) to make any suggestions better than the current timing

Cambridge Freshers Event

- this is a CU sponsored and we may benefit from it in building a younger platform in time, assuming graduates return to Sheffield. This led to a discussion about spreading the age band of the membership. Informal pub or bar evenings were suggested, perhaps a regular drop-in event, where a core would be guaranteed, somewhere central, say 8pm. It was suggested that in addition to addressing young members, there was a gap in the middle aged. This too needs a focus.

Election of Committee

There had been no nominations for the committee, and the present committee was willing to stand again. The committee, that is:

Michael Waters (Chair)	Jeremy Kenyon
Peter Veal (Secretary & Treasurer)	Carol Rowe
Andrew Coomer	Kevan Scholes
Barrie Jervis	Norman West

were duly elected.

Sir Hugh Sykes (who was not present) had offered to continue as President, and this was welcomed.

The committee were thanked for their efforts.

Any Other Business

David and Rosemary Kirkman were thanked for their hospitality

Peter Veal, Secretary