

The Martineau Society

Registered Charity No. 1064092

Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting, 23 July 2013, 11.30-12.30, Alicia Hotel, Liverpool

The meeting was chaired by John Vint, with about 20 members in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence:

Sophia Hankinson, Iain Crawford, Val Doulton, John Warren, Rod and Iris Voegeli.

**2. Approval of Minutes of 18th Annual General Meeting, 26 July 2013, 11.30-12.30,
Oxford Hotel, Oxford**

Correction: Item 5 should refer to Sanders' not Sander's. The Minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the agenda

Highgate Cemetery, London - James Martineau's grave

Rod Voegeli reported in writing that there was no need for the society to become a member of the cemetery, but might offer a donation.

4. Chair's remarks – John Vint

John reported that, in addition to being honoured to serve his first year as chair of the Society, he had also been active in preparing publicity material - posters and leaflets - available also on the Society's website (the Treasurer added that such publicity in Unitarian settings had yielded new members). He also indicated that the onerous duties of Society secretary will, henceforth, be shared among a website administrator, a scientific secretary and a minute secretary. John also contributed to the organisation of the Liverpool conference, in particular the visit to Bodelwyddan Castle and church. John was warmly thanked for his efforts on behalf of the Society.

5. Secretary's Annual report – Jane Bancroft

Jane's annual report for 2013 was welcomed and formally accepted, having noted that the middle name of Elizabeth Reid is Jesser not Jessica. She also reported that Harriet Martineau's name has been given to a Hall of Residence at Aston University, although no formal opening ceremony had been arranged.

Jane also thanked Sharon Connor and John Vint for their contribution to the Liverpool conference.

Jane's overall contribution to the well-being of the Society was universally acknowledged – particularly as she is demitting secretarial responsibilities after the 2014 AGM.

6. Treasurer's report – Gaby Weiner

The Statement of Accounts for 2013 was included in conference folders. This report highlights the following specific items:

- a) She has continued the practice of putting the previous year's figures alongside current finance - as has been the custom; yet, as pointed out last year, receipts and expenditure for conferences cross calendar years, making comparison difficult. Conference income and expenditure were higher in 2013 because payment for accommodation passed through the society's books.

- b) The CCLA investment is still flat-lining due to the low rates of interest. Thus, only £27.97 was added during 2013.
- c) Gift Aid has not been collected during 2013.
- d) *Oxford Conference*: Income= £7008.00; expenditure £7752.00 (deficit: £744.00). Expenditure included busarries and secretarial support for attendance at the AGM.
- e) *Membership (to date)*: *Life membership* 20; *Annual Membership* 32 (paid), 12 (unpaid); institutional membership 5. Overall there is a small increase in membership; and the Treasurer continues to chase 2013 subscriptions.
- f) *Annual membership subscriptions*: the Treasurer requested that, wherever possible, these be paid annually by direct debit on 1st January.
- g) *Audit*: thanks were extended to Despina Cristofis for checking and auditing the 2013 accounts.

The accounts were approved unanimously; and thanks were conveyed to Gaby for all her efforts as Treasurer on behalf of the Society over the last year.

7. Newsletter Editor's report – Bruce Chilton

Bruce reported that the July 2014 Newsletter was shortly to be mailed to members. He asked contributors to ensure that copyright clearance for photos and illustrations is included wherever relevant. He also indicated that there was space for more colour illustrations, both within articles and as stand-alone features.

Thanks were conveyed to Bruce and Valerie Sanders for all their work in producing and distributing the Newsletter, ensuring its continued success.

8. Election of officers and committee:

The following Committee members were proposed and agreed:

- Chairperson: John Vint (remaining)
- Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Dee Fowles (proposed G. Weiner, seconded J. Bancroft)
- Scientific Secretary - new position: Sharon Connor (proposed J. Vint, seconded, G. Weiner)
- Administrator- new position (Gaby Weiner, proposed J. Vint, seconded B. Chilton)
- Newsletter Editor: Bruce Chilton (remaining)
- Minute Secretary - new position : David Hamilton (proposed J. Vint, seconded, G. Weiner)
- Other Committee members: Elisabeth Arbuckle (remaining), Valerie Sanders (remaining), Jane Bancroft (remaining), Sharon Connor (remaining), plus Ruth Watts as President (remaining).

The appointment of office-holders were agreed to general acclaim.

9.1 Other matters:

Website:

It is generally accepted that the Society's website www.martineausociety.co.uk is central to publicising the work of the society and, in the process, crucial to fostering further research on the Martineaus. Gaby Weiner reported receiving an estimate of £1000 for the revision of the website; and it was AGREED that she should arrange for such work to proceed. Bruce Chilton requested that Gaby should also investigate the 'searchability' of the website, particularly with reference to material stored as pdf files (notably past Newsletters).

9.2 Publicity and membership:

It was AGREED that the call for papers for the 2015 Conference be communicated to Beth Torgerson who would, in turn, arrange for its circulation on the UPENN network: *18th & 19th century women writers* (Action : Sharon to notify Beth).

9.3 Cost, format and future venues of Martineau Society conference:

AGREED for the 2015 meeting, that:

- it should take place in July and should be of the usual length;
- it should be held in Norwich, celebrating the 21st Anniversary of the Society;
- it might include a 'public event'; and
- every effort should be made to hold the 2016 conference in Dublin.

Bruce and Stuart volunteered to carry out preliminary work on conference organisation for 2015 and 2016, with the expectation that conference dates would be communicated to the administrator and scientific secretary as soon as possible.

9.4 Bursaries

It was AGREED to continue the bursary system (action: conference organisers)

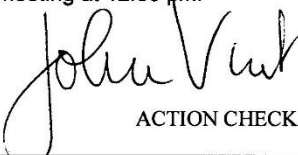
9.5 Harriet Martineau Lecture (Norwich, 2014).

Stuart Hobday and Sharon Connor reported on the success of the lecture, given by Kate Mosse, which had highlighted that Harriet Martineau's writing provided a model followed by many women writers in the nineteenth century.

9.6 It was AGREED that Sharon Connor become a trustee of the society.

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.30 pm.

Signature of Chair:



date: 25/07/2015

ACTION CHECKLIST

Item	Responsibility	Task
6	Administrator & Treasurer	Gaby to transfer treasurer's responsibilities to Dee (by end of 2014)
9.1	Administrator	Gaby to arrange update of website
9.2	Scientific Secretary	Sharon to Inform Beth of conference dates and call for papers
9.3	Conference organisers	Bruce and Stuart to arrange conference and notify Gaby (for website) and Sharon (for Beth Torgerson) regarding dates and location.