The Martineau Society
(Registered Charity No. 1064092)

**Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting: 26 July 2018,
Dr Williams’s Library, 14 Gordon Square, London.**

1. **Present:**

Elisabeth Sanders Arbuckle, Sue Brown, Bruce Chilton, Carol Chilton, Sharon Connor, Valerie Doulton, Dee Fowles, Keiko Funaki, David Hamilton, Stuart Hobday, Geraldine Locise, Josephine McQuail, Jeremy Martineau, Judy Martineau, Kate Martineau, Victorine Martineau, Kinsey Potter, Michael Purches, Valerie Sanders, Ellie Smolenaars, Beth Torgerson, John Vint, Iris Voegeli, Rod Voegeli, Gaby Weiner, David Wykes.

 **2. Apologies:**

Rob and Ruth Watts, Lesa Scholl, Maggie Dickinson, Margaret Marks, Bernard Omar, Iain Crawford, Maiko Ohtake. John Drysdale and Susan Hoecker Drysdale.
It was also agreed to send a get well card to Rob Watts.

 **3. In Remembrance:**

 The sad news of the deaths of members Janet Middleton and Ron Fiske was conveyed to the conference.

**4. Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting: 28 July 2017, Britannia Royal Hotel, Hull:** The Minutes were approved by the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

**5. Chair's remarks – John Vint:**

John opened with a brief report. He welcomed new members and participants; thanked the trustees of the Dr Williams’s Library; and concluded by thanking the Conference Organisers Gaby Weiner and Stuart Hobday.

**6. Secretary’s Annual report – Sharon Connor:**

*Public Benefit of Society* (relevant to the terms of the Charities Commission)**:** The Society continues to provide an important information source, particularly through its website, annual meeting and newsletters, for students, scholars and members of the public in general, interested in the history, culture, and social movements and campaigns of the nineteenth century.

*Membership:*Enquiries and membership applications to the Society are initially received by the Treasurer, who then sends updates to the Secretary and newsletter editors. Current membership is 71 members.

*Committee and Conference Planning:*The Committee successfully operated during the year predominantly by email, as in previous years. Elisabeth Sanders Arbuckle was elected as our new President in 2017, our thanks to Ruth Watts who stood down last year. Gaby Weiner and Stuart Hobday have organized the London conference this year, which has proved a popular venue. No venues have been so far confirmed for future conferences, with the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Society due in 2019.

*Internet Web Site: G*aby Weiner continues to manage the Society’s website which provides a valuable source of publicity and knowledge-exchange for the society. Meanwhile, Gaby is keen for members to keep her updated on any Martineau events, reviews and news.

*Links with other Societies:* The Martineau Society is a member of the Alliance of Literary Societies and the Friends of Key Hill Cemetery and regular contact is maintained with the Harriet Martineau Sociological Society and the Carlyle, Gaskell and Brontë literary societies. Further electronic links extend to English Heritage, the Unitarian Historical Society, the Friends of Highgate Cemetery, the Huguenot Society, The Gaskell Society, The Bronte Society, The Carlyle Society, The Wordsworth Trust and B.AV.S (British Association for Victorian Studies). We now also have a good working relationship with the RSVP (Research Society for Victorian Periodicals) and The Huguenots of Spitalfields Society and, most recently, connections have been made with the Blake Society and the Browning Society.

*Meetings & Events:* The 22nd Martineau Society Conference took place in Hull in July 2017. The opening lecture was given by Dr Nick Evans, University of Hull and 8 papers were also presented by members. The conference outings included a delighful visit to nearby Beverley.

As part of a district wide exhibition called Women of Cumbria, The Armitt Museum in Ambleside focuses on the work of Harriet Martineau, and the feminist legacy of the village - open until end of October 2018.

Members Maggie Dickinson, Stuart Hobday and Georgina Hale have, respectively, contributed an article ‘Moving and Shaking in Ambleside’ to the May issue of the  *Cumbria Magazine*, given a talk on Harriet at the Nightingale Museum (also in May), and participated in preparations for the ’Huguenots of Spitalfields’ Festival in October, 2018.

*Harriet Martineau Lecture (annually, Norwich)*: may take place in September 2018.

**7. Treasurer's report – Dee Fowles:**

Dee presented the accounts for 2017 (included in the conference folder). She commented as follows:

1. Since many of the figures arise from annual variations in conference expenditure, they are not always strictly comparable from year to year.
2. Overall, the accounts suggest that the Society’s finances are in a healthy state with, moreover, a small increase in funds over the year.
3. Funds have been used this year to finance two conference bursaries (for Jennifer Artaze and Kinsey Potter, both of Tennessee Technology University).
4. Finally, the Society’s thanks are due to Max Wild for carrying out his independent inspection of the accounts.

Subsequent discussion of the treasurer’s report confirmed that, as a charity, the Martineau Society should now budget to reduce its capital resources, held in a long-standing CCEA deposit account, to a smaller proportion of the Society’s annual turnover. In the light of this discussion, it was agreed that office-holders and members should submit suggestions for useful ‘one-off’ items of expenditure to the Chair and that the committee would make appropriate decisions regarding the consequential disbursement of the Society’s savings.

**8. Administrator’s report – Gaby Weiner:**

Gaby reported that:

1. It had been agreed that an annual payment of £120 be made to the designer of the Society’s website to support future development and maintenance of the site. While Gaby manages routine postings to the site, there are times when further professional assistance is needed.
2. The next Gift Aid claim will be made for the years 2015-18 (it is required at least every four years).
3. No changes were required to the Society’s nominated list of trustees.

**9. Newsletter Editor's report – Bruce Chilton:**

 Bruce reported:

(a) A lack of submitted papers meant that the autumn 2017 edition of the Newsletter did not appear but that an excellent newsletter appeared in Spring 2018.

(b) He felt that there was room for improving the appearance of the Newsletter, with greater use of colour and a redesign of the cover.

It was noted that uploading to the Society’s website of Newsletter numbers 32 to 40 was needed and that the online Newsletter index merited updating.

**10. Newsletter Administrator – Valerie Sanders**

Valerie reported that she had reduced the print run for the newsletter from 100 to 80 copies and that she was in full agreement with proposals for improving its appearance.

**Election of officers and committee:**

 By popular acclaim, the 2018-19 committee was elected as follows:

President: Elisabeth Sanders Arbuckle

Chairperson: John Vint

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Dee Fowles

Secretary - Sharon Connor

Administrator- Gaby Weiner

Newsletter Editor: Bruce Chilton

Newsletter Administrator: Valerie Sanders

Minute Secretary: David Hamilton

Other Committee members: Beth Torgerson (North America), Ruth Watts and Stuart Hobday.

It was also noted that Ruth Watts be consulted whether she is happy to remain on the committee.

**11.** **Future venues of Martineau Society conference:**

It was AGREED that:

(a) the 2019 conference be held in Manchester (organised by John Vint).

(b) Bruce Chilton would investigate the possibility of having the 2020 conference in Dublin.

(b) the 2021 conference be held in London.

**12. Any Other Business:**

(a) *Harriet Martineau Biography*: Elisabeth Sanders Arbuckle reported that she is finalising her manuscript and that, in due course, she will send chapters to Gaby Weiner for conversion to a PDF format and inclusion on the Society’s website. At the same time, David Hamilton agreed to establish the size limitations of the PDF format (i.e. would the lengthy biography be a single file or would it need to be broken down into several files/section?) and Stuart Hobday agreed to contact his literary agent regarding the creation of an index for Elisabeth’s biography (who, for instance, would be qualified to do it and how much might it cost?) Note: online PDF files are searchable.

(d) Remaining copies of the Harriet and James Martineau *Miscellanies* have been deposited in the Octagon Chapel, Norwich and should be distributed at future annual conferences.

Harriet

Signature of Chair: date:

ACTION CHECK LIST

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| **Item**  | **Responsibility** | **Task** |
| 2 | John Vint | Get well card for Rob Watts |
| 7 | Members | Suggestion for the disbursement of Society capital |
| 8 | Gaby Weiner/Dee Fowles | Gift Aid application to HMRC |
| 9  | Valerie Sanders | Investigate redesign of Newsletter cover page. |
| 9 | Gaby Weiner | Website maintenance and Newsletter uploads with updated indexing. |
| 10 | Sharon Connnor | Contact Ruth Watts re committee membership |
| 11 | John Vint | Organisation of 2019 conference in Manchester |
| 11 | Bruce Chilton | 2020 conference in Dublin? |
| 12 | Elisabeth Sanders Arbuckle | Submission of Biography chapters to Gaby Weiner |
| 12 | David Hamilton | Check PDF file limitations |
| 12 | Stuart Hobday | Check possibilities for indexing the Biography |