

**The Martineau Society
(Registered Charity No. 1064092)**

Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting:

Held at the Channing Unitarian Chapel, Sheffield, Wednesday 20th July, 2022, 11–12.00hrs.

- 1. Present:** Sue Brown, Bruce Chilton, Carol Chilton, Sharon Connor, Dee Fowles, , David Hamilton, Geraldine Locise, Josephine McQuail, Victorine Martineau, Valerie Sanders, John Vint, Gaby Weiner, Ann Peart, Beth Torgerson, Ellie Smolenaars, Michele Cunneen.
- 2. Apologies:** Catherine Bird, Bob Gamble, Ruth Watts, Stuart Hobday, Chris Valeo, Jeremy Martineau and Valerie Doulton.
- 3. Minutes of the 26th AGM** (held at the Crown Spa Hotel, Scarborough 20th July, 2021). Accepted with minor alterations and submitted to John Vint (chairperson) for his signature and safe keeping.
- 4. Chairperson's Remarks:** John Vint welcomed everyone and, in particular, reported on the relocation of the conference from Broadstairs to Sheffield (because suitable accommodation was not available in Broadstairs); and on changes to the programme in the light of the very high temperatures forecast for 19th July.
- 5. Secretary's annual report.** Sharon Connor shared the following report of the Society's work in 2019-20.
 - (a) Membership:* The Society's current membership is 66, with three members having sadly died since the last AGM.
 - (b) Committee and Conference Planning:* The Committee successfully operated during the year. Enormous thanks are due to John Vint and Dee Fowles for pulling everything together for the 2022 conference in Sheffield.
 - (c) Internet Web Site:* Gaby Weiner continues to encourage members to keep her updated on all events, reviews or news relevant to The Martineau Society. Thanks are also due to Gaby and Valerie Sanders for their editorial work on Elisabeth Sanders Arbuckle's biography of Harriet Martineau and its inclusion on the Society's website. Thirty-three of fifty-five chapters are now available on the website.
 - (d) Links with other Societies:* The Martineau Society is a member of the Alliance of Literary Societies whose newsletter is distributed to members via email; and also the Friends of Key Hill Cemetery. Further electronic links exist with English Heritage, Unitarian Historical Society, Friends of Highgate Cemetery, The Huguenot Society, The Gaskell Society, The Bronte Society, The Carlyle Society, The Wordsworth Trust, the British Association of Victorian Studies (BAVS), the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals (RSVP) The Huguenots of Spitalfields Society, The Blake Society and The Browning Society.
 - (e) Meetings and Events:* We were pleased to support again the Annual Harriet Martineau Lecture held in Norwich, which was this year delivered by novelist and activist Kit de Waal. We have also recently been made aware that the University of Tasmania hold an annual James Martineau lecture, which we hope will continue to be made available via Zoom. Ellie Smolenaars has had her article on

Harriet Martineau published (in Dutch). Our Twitter page has just 56 followers – so please do follow us. Finally, the Alliance of Literary Societies will be featuring The Martineau Society as its 'Society of the Month', in their May 2023 newsletter.

(f) *Newsletter*: The latest (47th) edition of the Newsletter has been circulated. Our thanks go to the Editors, Bruce Chilton and Valerie Sanders, who have continued to assure its editorial standards. As always, the editors welcome new material to ensure the Newsletter's regular appearance.

(g) *Public Benefit*: Mindful of the wishes of the Charities' Commissioners, 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 interested in the history, culture, and social movements and campaigns of the nineteenth century. Contact details for anyone interested in the Society can be found on the Martineau Society's website.

6. Treasurer's Report: Dee Fowles tabled the Society's account for 2020 and 2021. In her oral report, she noted that the Society will make its triennial Gift Aid claim later in 2022 which is likely to yield a refund of about £300. She also reported that the accounts do not include a £600 donation to support the annual Martineau Lecture organised by the Norfolk and Norwich Festival This amount will appear in the Society's 2022 statement of accounts. Currently, the available bank balance remains around £8000, i.e. the same as in 2021.

7. Newsletter editor's and administrator's report: Bruce Chilton and Valerie Sanders reported delays in the publication of issue 48, largely due to a 20-page shortage of articles and the reluctance of academic authors to publish via the *Martineau Society Newsletter*. In response, various suggestions were made: only one issue per year? Inclusion of extracts from Elisabeth Arbuckle's Harriet Martineau biography? Rename the Newsletter as the *Martineau Society Journal*?

Valerie Sanders also reported that she expected to bring the indexing of Newsletter articles 'up to date' within a few weeks. These data will be passed to Gaby Weiner who will publish them on the Society's website.

8. Society's Administrator: Gaby Weiner reported that her work embraces: (1) maintaining contact with the Charities' Commission; (b) keeping the list of Trustees up to date; (c) submitting the Society's Gift Aid claim; and (d) maintaining the 'living' status of the Society's website (with the help of Brian Homer, as technical support). She also plans to report the usage statistics for the website (as in 2021).

9. Election of officers and committee: the bulk of the committee and office-holders agreed to continue in post. The exception was David Hamilton who asked to step down from his post as AGM minute secretary: Valerie Sanders agreed to take up the post whose responsibilities will commence with the 2023 AGM.

President: Valerie Sanders

Chairperson: John Vint

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Dee Fowles

Secretary - Sharon Connor

Administrator- Gaby Weiner

Newsletter Editor: Bruce Chilton

Newsletter Administrator: Valerie Sanders

Minute Secretary: Valerie Sanders.

Other Committee members: Beth Torgerson, Josie McQuail and Stuart Hobday.

10. **Annual Conference:** It was AGREED that the 2023 annual conference be held in Norwich, with Bob Stillwell and Stuart Hobday as organisers; and that the 2024 conference be held in Brighton and organised by Gaby Weiner & David Hamilton.

Signature of Chair:

date:

ACTION CHECK LIST

Item	Responsibility	Task
5	Gaby Weiner & Valerie Sanders	Editing the last third of Elisabeth Sanders Arbuckle's biography of Harriet Martineau prior to each chapter being posted on the Society's website.
7	Valerie Sanders	Updating <i>Newsletter</i> index
6 & 8	Gaby Weiner & Dee Fowles	Submission of gift aid claim
10	Gaby Weiner & David Hamilton	Preparation for 2023 annual conference (Brighton)
10	Bob Stillwell & Stuart Hobday	Preparation for 2022 annual conference (Norwich)
8	Gaby Weiner	website statistics