



**The Historical Association**  
**Minutes of the 111th Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday 28 June 2018**  
**Foyles Bookshop, 107 Charing Cross Road, London WC2**

**Present: As list**

**Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Andrew Foster, Roy Hughes, Dorothy Meade and Terry Rickson, and from all those HA members currently on the Cardiff tour.

**1. Report on Membership**

- 1.1 The CEO Becky Sullivan explained that as members were still in the process of arriving, a report on membership would be given first to ensure that the meeting was fully quorate once the official business was discussed and voting required.
- 1.2 **Current membership statistics:** Emily Randall (Membership Manager) reported that there are currently 5,847 full members of the HA, a figure which has remained quite stable over the past 12 months. The largest numbers were around major cities – Greater London, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Birmingham, and also where there were active branches or regular continuing professional development events. The HA also has an international presence, mostly through university libraries, but also with some individual members in such diverse places as Brazil and Ethiopia.
- 1.3 **Demographics:** 12% of UK secondary schools, 2% of primary schools and 65% of universities are HA members. Emily reported that school membership is a current focus but acknowledged that the current economic climate was rather challenging.
- 1.4 **Membership survey:** A membership survey was undertaken in 2017, the first for many years, and this has been valuable in informing the HA about members' changing needs. Many of those respondents who take *The Historian* had been members for a very long time, and saw their membership as a way to further their knowledge of history, but were also motivated by a desire to support the Association's mission to promote history. Secondary members saw membership as a way to keep up to date with the latest issues in history education, while primary members thought it helped inform their subject knowledge. Encouragingly, all would recommend membership to a friend or colleague. Emily stressed that every member is an important advocate for the Association, as word of mouth is very powerful.
- 1.5 Becky thanked Emily for her presentation, and said that the Association had been challenged by its Council to reach the target of 8,000 paying members by 2021. She also reiterated that members are the best ambassadors.

The meeting now being quorate, the formal business began.

## **2. Welcome from the President**

Professor Badger welcomed everyone to the AGM, explaining that holding this prior to the Awards Evening was an experiment as it had become increasingly difficult to squeeze the AGM into the full programme of the Conference.

He said it was a great privilege to go round to Branches, and he was never in doubt about the vitality of the organisation and its diverse membership. He was acutely conscious that the HA owes a huge debt to Becky and the staff at 59a, who worked very hard. He also gave particular thanks to Richard Walker, the retiring Treasurer, and Mike Maddison, the retiring Vice-President, for whose guidance in the past year he had been very grateful.

## **3. Minutes of the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 12 May 2017**

- 3.1 **Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous year's AGM had been circulated, and no queries or comments were raised. Anne Curry proposed, and Katharine Burn seconded, the approval of the Minutes, which was **agreed**.
- 3.2 **Matters Arising:** At the previous AGM, the following motion had been raised by Nicholas Tyldesley: *'The HA should address the vital issue of declining branches by establishing a strategic action plan to revitalise grassroots activities'*. Becky explained that this had been put into action by the Branches and Members Committee, who have put a strategy in place to identify branches which may be at risk and ways to support them. This remains a high priority.

## **4. Report from the Chief Executive**

- 4.1 Becky explained that as all the activities of the year ended 30 September 2017 were covered in the Annual Report, she would give an update on developments in the first 9 months of the current year, highlights of which were:
- 4.2 **Chartered Teacher Awards:** Following agreement at the previous AGM of changes to the Association's Charter which permitted these, a pilot project had been run and, very recently, the first awards had been made, with the full programme being rolled out in September. Melanie Jones would be speaking about this at the Awards Evening.
- 4.3 **Projects:** The Association were involved in a number of projects.
- **The RAF 100 Schools Project** run in partnership with the Institute of Physics and has its own website, including a wonderful interactive map of airfields.
  - **Suffrage Resources:** The HA had won a grant from the Government's Equalities Office to do a to develop teaching resources to support women's suffrage, and would be trialling materials in the next couple of weeks. Melanie Jones was managing this and working closely with Maheema Chanrai.
- 4.4 **Teacher Fellowships:** The 'Age of Revolutions' Fellowship, which had a primary stream, led by Karin Doull and a secondary stream, led by Ben Walsh and Katie Hall was nearing its end, and there will be a couple more Fellowships coming up in the next year. The Association intends to develop these further.

4.5 Becky invited questions, and the following were raised:

- Sylvia Usher asked how soon the Association would be circulating more information about the women's suffrage project. Becky said that some information had gone out in *Teaching History* but the database is only very basic at present.
- Justin Champion asked if the HA had contacted the Citizens 800 project about the 'Suffrage' and 'Age of Revolutions' projects; Becky confirmed this had been done.

## **5. Committee Reports**

### **5.1 Branches and Members Committee:**

5.1.1 Colin James reported that the Committee considered had reviewed how they could support the HA's strategic priorities;

- Encouraging a diverse range of talks, sharing good practice, welcoming school members to the branches and encouraging members to visit the HA website.
- Encouraging and supporting a greater diversity of students to study history by offering a diverse range of topics related to the curriculum
- Engage with community and heritage organisations by encouraging branches to collaborate with other organisations
- Encourage branches to review the location of meetings, undertake visits and other social activities to ensure meetings and events are accessible.
- Develop a strategy for reviving dormant branches and encouraging the development of new ones.

5.1.2 Colin reported that support for Branches was at the forefront of the Committee's collective mind, and in order to consider what help is needed in individual circumstances, they devised a pro forma report, which takes the form of a list of key questions, the most important of which are the number of branch committee members and their potential to seek out new membership; the attendance at and success of branch events. This pro forma was used for the first time in 2017 and a slightly revised version has been issued this year, which hopefully all branches will use to structure their Annual Reports.

5.1.3 The Committee had discussed how to encourage more Branches to send delegates to the Branch Officers Meeting, accepting the need to produce the agenda early and to carefully consider the venue, structure and networking opportunities. This year they would target the thorny subject of data protection.

5.1.4 The Committee were attempting to hold one meeting per year outside of London and invite branches in the area to join them. This year the January meeting was held in Birmingham and was attended by officers from Hereford, Northampton, Nottingham and Nuneaton Branches. They hoped this would encourage more branches to get involved going forward.

5.1.5 In the coming year the Committee will consider such items as the improvement of branch/school relationships, the celebration of important anniversaries, public engagement, and the impact of the HA website on Branches.

5.1.6 The Committee congratulated Professor Champion on being awarded the Medlicott Medal – Norton Medlicott had in 1929 been Branch Secretary of the Swansea Branch. Colin thanked the members of the Committee and the HA staff and explained that, as he was now stepping down as Chair, this role would be taken over by Mike Short, with Jenni Hyde as deputy chairholder.

## 5.2 Secondary Committee:

- 5.2.1 Katharine Burn reported that whilst there were no significant curriculum changes in the near future it had been a turbulent time, with substantial GCSE change which included more content and more students taking them, which in turn led to more pressure on teachers. The pressure of GCSE history seemed to be having an effect on Key Stage 3 and the entitlement of all young people to study history for at least 3 years. Secondary Committee had decided to run the annual survey later this year after GCSE results were in to gain a better picture and would know more about the impact on Key Stage 3 once the survey had been analysed.
- 5.2.2 There are some signs that in some areas, such as London, there is a growing shortage of history teachers, which makes 'history for all' a bigger challenge.
- 5.2.3 Katharine thanked Melanie Jones and Maheema Chanrai for their work in developing the Fellowship Programmes and other funded projects. The Fellowship programme is a really exciting development, connecting teachers and historians, and providing structured support.
- 5.2.4 Turning to membership, Katharine explained that key factors were how to make membership work in the face of the new structures of schools, and also how to retain trainee teachers once their 2 year concessionary membership ended. The opportunity to become a Chartered Teacher, after a few years in the profession, could be an incentive. Members of the Committee had acted as guinea pigs for the pilot programme!
- 5.2.5 In addition to the conference, the Committee were trying to run different kinds of continuing professional development, such as webinars and 'teach meets'. Katharine commended Helen Snelson's work in co-ordinating the 'one big history department' blog. So many Committee members contributed to different activities in many different ways, and she congratulated Steve Mastin and Gareth Brown for being awarded a well-deserved FHA and the members of the *Teaching History* editorial team for all their hard work.
- 5.2.6 Finally, Katharine explained that she would now be stepping down as Chair, and welcomed Helen Snelson, who would be taking on the role. Helen was already the liaison person between the HA and Euroclio, and in her role in the York Branch she provided a link between schools and Branches.

## 5.3 Primary Committee:

- 5.3.1 Jerome Freeman explained that the Committee had welcomed two new members Stuart Tiffany, a primary teacher who was already involved with the Yorkshire History Forum and the Annual Conference, and Yvonne Thomas, a senior lecturer in primary history education. The Committee had considerable expertise in diversity in history. Jerome's own term of office was ending at this AGM, and Bev Forrest would be taking over as Chair, with the unanimous support of the Committee and the HA Executive. She had been a very keen HA member for many years, and currently leads the Northern History Forum and sits on the editorial Board of *Primary History*.
- 5.3.2 Jerome thanked the Committee as a whole, and Mel Jones in particular, who continues to give brilliant support to the Committee. He also thanked Becky Sullivan, who had helped him a lot in the early days of his Chairmanship.
- 5.3.3 The last year's activities were in the Annual Report, but looking back over the past 7 years, Jerome said that he thought the Committee had made considerable progress. Circulation of *Primary History* is now 1,500, almost double of what it had been a few years ago, and the HA had managed to hold on to its new members, partly because of the wealth of support now provided to schools, and it was

encouraging that despite cuts, many schools were managing to keep up their membership. The journal *Primary History* had been transformed over the past few years, thanks to the work of the Editorial Committee. The Committee have also been active in developing practical and inspiring support with a whole series of schemes of work covering all aspects, from Early Years to upper Key Stage 2.

- 5.3.4 The Committee had now carried out and published three national surveys of primary history teachers, and were the only organisation in England to have a comprehensive picture of how they were faring. The HA is the only organisation with the authority to talk about what is going on in primary schools.
- 5.3.5 CPD for primary teachers had featured strongly in the Committee's work from contributions to the annual conference and regional forums, and courses on primary subject leadership and practical approaches to primary history which had received positive feedback. The Association are now in a position where they can showcase best practice in primary history. Jerome concluded by saying that the Committee could be proud of the contribution that primary history makes to the HA's activity and its positive impact. It had been a pleasure to be involved in this.
- 5.4 Tony Badger thanked all the retiring Committee Chairs for their work and their reports.

## **6. Consideration of the Annual Report and Accounts**

- 6.1 The Annual Report and Accounts for the year 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017 had been circulated in paper form to those present and made available on the HA's website, and by post on request, to all members.
- 6.2 The Hon. Treasurer, Richard Walker, drew members' attention to pages 14 and 15, explaining that overall the figures for the year ending 30 September 2017 had been very static, with income about the same as in the previous year (£842,370 compared to £841,711), and a slight drop in expenditure (£810,852 compared to £814,183). The surplus of £55,107 was slightly down on that in the previous year. The cash at bank and in hand figure of £463,817 was good – solid membership drives cash in the bank. The balance carried forward at 30 September 2017 was £955,198 which means that in the foreseeable future, the HA is likely to have a balance sheet showing £1 million.
- 6.3 Richard explained that he had now served two terms as Treasurer, and so was standing down. He had also previously been the HA's Treasurer between 1999 and 2006, which put him in the same category as Glover Cleveland, the USA President who had served two non-consecutive terms. Franklin Roosevelt had been elected into office four times, and though Richard said he could not claim for the HA what President Roosevelt claimed for the USA, he could claim that he had left the HA's finances in a far better state than when he came!
- 6.4 Tony Badger thanked Richard for his hard work and his support.

## **7. Election of new Hon. Treasurer**

Tim Lomas proposed, and Mike Short seconded, the election of Michael Brooks as Hon. Treasurer. This was unanimously **agreed**.

## **8. Election of new Deputy President**

Professor Badger thanked Mr Maddison, who had been a fantastic Deputy President for the past 3 years, and really supportive. Richard Kennett then proposed, and Mike Maddison seconded, the election of Katharine Burn as Deputy President. This was unanimously **agreed**.

## **9. New Committee Chairs**

The meeting noted the appointment of the following Committee Chairs:

- Primary Committee: Beverley (Bev) Forrest
- Secondary Committee: Helen Snelson
- Branches and Members' Committee: Mike Short (with Jenni Hyde as Deputy Chair).

## **10. Reappointment of Auditors**

Mike Brooks proposed, and Richard Walker seconded, the re-appointment of Kingston Smith as the Association's auditors.

## **11. Discussion of business raised by members**

No business had been raised prior to, or at the meeting.

## **12. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m., and was followed by the Awards Evening which included the presentation of the Medlicott Medal.