



The
Victorian
Society

Minutes of 2024 Birmingham & West Midlands AGM

held at The Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham

10.30 am on 10th February 2024

In attendance

Officers:

Stephen Hartland	Chairman
Joe Holyoak	Vice Chairman
James Fletcher	Honorary Treasurer
Akil Dowe	Honorary Secretary
Nina Hatch	Programme Secretary
Tim Bridges	Conservation Officer

Committee Members:

Mark Bench <i>(co-opted)</i>	Regional Executive
Andy Foster	Regional Executive
Jasna Jaksic	Regional Executive
Celia Potts	Programme Committee
Helene Pursey	Regional Executive
Gill Sockett	Regional Executive
Rob Allan	Casework Committee
Mary Collins	Programme Committee

Members not in office:

Fiona Adams	David Low <i>(Trustee)</i>
Margaret Clewett	Carole McKewan
Cherry Coleman	Pat Orme
Stephen Dyson	Peter Orme
David East	Nicky Rathbone
Hilary Grainger <i>(National Chair)</i>	Janet Richard
Martin Haslett	Carol Sockett
Judith Hurst	Ruth Vyse
Anne Jones	Michael Wilson

Apologies

Matthew Bannister	Paul Spicer
Jeremy Handy	Margaret Hale
Anna Hallett	Barbara Shackley
John Latham	

Minute Taker

Akil Dowe

1. Welcome & Approval of 2023 Minutes

- 1.1. The Chairman asked if anyone had any corrections to the Minutes. There were none. The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

2. Chairman's Annual Report – Stephen Hartland

- 2.1. A printed report was circulated to members and the SH summarised the contents;
- 2.2. SH expressed his thanks for the work and support of everyone involved in the regional executive committee;
- 2.3. SH thanked Joe Holyoak, Tim Bridges and the Casework committee for their work;
- 2.4. The programme of events for the year had been well attended. SH thanked Nina Hatch and the Programme Committee for all their work in organizing interesting day schools and various visits;
- 2.5. Membership has remained consistent with 31% of members based in Birmingham, the highest suburb being Edgbaston.
- 2.6. Social media engagement is high with the largest following on Facebook and X increasing steadily. Younger users tend to follow online rather than joining the Society.

3. Treasurer's Annual Report – James Fletcher

- 3.1. JF added his congratulations to the Programme Committee for bringing in a healthy income from events;
- 3.2. JF thanked members for supporting the programme of events, which translates into income;
- 3.3. Gill Sockett proposed that the Treasurer's Annual Report be adopted. Seconded by Michael Wilson. The motion was carried.

4. Election to Regional Executive Committee

- 4.1. With their consent, Helene Pursey, Gill Sockett and Joe Holyoak were proposed for re-election to the Regional Executive Committee which was carried;
- 4.2. With their consent, Matthew Bannister and Mark Bench were proposed to be elected to the Regional Executive Committee by David Low and seconded by Gill Sockett. All were elected to the Executive Committee unanimously until 2027.

5. 2023 Conservation Award

- 5.1. SH gave a summary of past winners and thanked Hortons' Estates Ltd for their sponsorship which has been almost £20,000 since 2015;
- 5.2. The 2023 Winner of the award is Tudor Grange, Solihull (Grade II* since 2008, 1887, Thomas Henry Mancell) aka 'Custard Hall'. Bought by MACC Group in 2018. Architects: PCPT Architects and DC Construction.

- 5.3. Vice-President Sir David Cannadine proposed a celebration of ten years of the Conservation Award, gathering previous winners, which he would be happy to attend.

6. [Dame Rachel Waterhouse Archive](#)

- 6.1 The family of Dame Rachel Waterhouse has agreed to donate the archive to The Birmingham and Midland Institute;
- 6.2 The Institute Librarian will set up the Dame Rachel Waterhouse collection to preserve the archive and her DBE.

7. [Closing remarks and adjournment](#)

- 7.1. SH said that it had been a positive year for events and casework, with numerous successes;
- 7.2. The final surplus had exceeded expectations;
- 7.3. The meeting closed at 11.20 am.